



LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC  
PEACE INDEPENDENCE DEMOCRACY UNITY PROSPERITY

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President's Office

No. 71/PO

**DECREE**  
*of the*  
**PRESIDENT**  
*of the*  
**LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC**

**On the Promulgation of the Law on the Oversight by the National Assembly**

Pursuant to Chapter 6, Article 67, point 1 of the Constitution of the Lao People's Democratic Republic which provides for the promulgation of the Constitution and of laws which are adopted by the National Assembly;

Pursuant to Resolution No. 09/NA, dated 22 October 2004, of the National Assembly of the Lao People's Democratic Republic regarding the adoption of the Law on the Oversight by the National Assembly; and

Pursuant to the Proposal No. 25/NASC of the National Assembly Standing Committee, dated 10 November 2004.

**The President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic  
Decrees that:**

**Article 1.** The Law on the Oversight by the National Assembly is hereby promulgated.

**Article 2.** This decree shall enter into force on the date it is signed.

Vientiane, 15 November 2004

The President of the Lao People's  
Democratic Republic

*[Seal and Signature]*

Khamtai SIPHANDON



LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC  
PEACE INDEPENDENCE DEMOCRACY UNITY PROSPERITY

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National Assembly

N° 09/ NA  
22 October 2004

**LAW ON THE OVERSIGHT BY THE  
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**Part I  
General Provisions**

**Article 1. Purpose**

The Law on the Oversight by the National Assembly determines the principles, regulations, and measures relating to the oversight by the National Assembly<sup>1</sup> of the activities of the executive organs, the people's courts and the [Office of the] Public Prosecutor<sup>2</sup> to ensure that the Constitution, laws, resolutions of the session of the National Assembly, the socio-economic development plan and State budget plan are strictly implemented[,] and implemented in a transparent and uniform manner throughout the country [and] to ensure political stability, peace in the country, socio-economic development, [and] a civilized and fair society.

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<sup>1</sup> Generally, readers may wish to refer to the Law on the National Assembly (and the translation notes provided there) for more information on the workings of the National Assembly and the various institutions and entities referred to in this law.

<sup>2</sup> The term "Public Prosecutor" has been chosen because it is the English term commonly used in Laos for this title/institution. Readers from common law jurisdictions should note that the Lao Public Prosecutor has considerably more powers than public prosecutors in their home jurisdictions and is more akin to a procurator in socialist systems. Another translation in common use is "People's Prosecutor". Readers should also note that the term is principally used to refer to the "office" or "organisation" of public prosecutors rather than to refer to individual prosecutors. Where the context of a literal translation does not clearly indicate which of these two meanings is intended and it is clear from the original that the office is intended, this translation shall use the term "the [Office of the] Public Prosecutor".

## **Article 2. Oversight by the National Assembly**

Oversight by the National Assembly [refers to] monitoring, examining [and]<sup>3</sup> evaluating the activities of organisations and individuals stipulated in Article 7 of this law in the implementation of the Constitution, laws, resolutions of the session of the National Assembly, the socio-economic development plan and State budget plan and finding measures to solve problems which are inconsistent with the laws and regulations.

## **Article 3. The Importance of Oversight**

Oversight by the National Assembly is important and objectively necessary for creating conditions to enable the people to participate in oversight, State administration [and] socio-economic management in order to ensure that State power, the Constitution [and] the laws are effective, [for] preventing violations of laws and regulations, [for] resolving negative phenomena in the society such as dictatorships, corruption, abuse of power and position, [and] professional negligence [and for] increasing political accountability of organisations and individuals.

## **Article 4. The Oversight Function of the National Assembly**

The National Assembly exercises its supreme oversight function at the National Assembly sessions through the oversight activities of the National Assembly Standing Committee, the committees of the National Assembly, the members' caucus of the National Assembly<sup>4</sup> and the members of the National Assembly.

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<sup>3</sup> In Lao, a comma is often used, without further elaboration, to mean "and". Wherever the intended meaning is clear, the translators have translated such commas in one of two ways: (i) by deleting the comma and substituting it with the word "and" in square brackets (i.e., [and]); or (ii) by retaining the comma and adding the word "and" in square brackets (i.e., , [and]). Where the meaning is more ambiguous, the translators have translated the text literally, retaining the comma alone. In this instance, the translators have replaced a comma with "[and]".

<sup>4</sup> In many places throughout this law, the generic term "members' caucus of the National Assembly" is used without elaboration. This term may be intended to refer generically to various "groups of National Assembly members" that have been formed (e.g., the Women's Caucus). However, the Law on National Assembly only refers specifically to one such group – the Members of the National Assembly in the Constituencies (see Chapter 7 of the Law on National Assembly), and the title of Part II, Chapter 4 of this law (which refers specifically to Members of the National Assembly in the Constituencies) also suggests that "members' caucus" is intended to be a specific reference to "Members of the National Assembly in the Constituencies" rather than a generic reference to generic groups of National Assembly members. However, there is insufficient textual evidence to depart from the literal translation (except in Part II, chapters 4 and 5). The translators have therefore adopted the following convention: "members' caucus of the National Assembly" is translated literally and generically everywhere it appears in this law except in Part II, chapters 4 and 5 where it is translated as "members of the National Assembly [in the constituencies]".

## **Article 5. Types of Oversight by the National Assembly**

The National Assembly performs the following types of oversight:

- General oversight;
- Legislative oversight;
- Oversight relating to the resolution of requests and complaints from citizens;
- Oversight of a specific matter, [of] organisations, [and] individuals, [and of] the location or area where laws or regulations have been violated.<sup>5</sup>

## **Article 6. Oversight Responsibility of the National Assembly**

Oversight by the National Assembly must be carried out openly, objectively, in conformity with the actual situation, within its power and authority and [within] the steps stipulated in the laws.

The National Assembly Standing Committee, the committees of the National Assembly, the members' caucus of the National Assembly and the members of the National Assembly must be responsible for their<sup>6</sup> oversight activities.

The sessions of the National Assembly<sup>7</sup> are responsible for and report on their oversight activities to the voters throughout the country.

The National Assembly Standing Committee is responsible for and reports on its oversight activities to the session of the National Assembly.

The committees of the National Assembly and the members' caucus of the National Assembly are responsible for and report on their oversight activities to the National Assembly Standing Committee.

The members of the National Assembly are responsible for and report on their oversight activities to the members' caucus of the National Assembly, to the committees to which they are attached, to the National Assembly Standing Committee and to the voters in their area.

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<sup>5</sup> The last item of this list appears to be a reference to oversight activities in a physical or geographic location.

<sup>6</sup> The word "their" is a reference to the respective oversight responsibilities of each of the entities in the list.

<sup>7</sup> The term "session" is used interchangeably to mean "a meeting of National Assembly members" and "the body of legislators assembled at a meeting of National Assembly members". Similarly, the term "National Assembly" is used interchangeably to mean "the institution of the National Assembly" and the "body of legislators at any one time".

## **Article 7. Organisations and Individuals Subject to Oversight<sup>8</sup>**

1. Organisations and individuals subject to oversight by the sessions of the National Assembly:
  - The President of the State;
  - The President of the National Assembly;
  - The National Assembly Standing Committee;
  - The government;
  - The Prime Minister;
  - The ministers and chairmen of ministry-equivalent organisations;
  - The President of the People’s Supreme Court;
  - The Supreme Public Prosecutor.<sup>9</sup>
  
2. Organisations and individuals subject to oversight by the National Assembly Standing Committee:
  - The government;
  - The Prime Minister;
  - The ministers and chairmen of ministry-equivalent organisations;
  - The President of the People’s Supreme Court;
  - The Supreme Public Prosecutor;
  - Governors, mayors and chief of special zone<sup>10</sup>.
  
3. Organisations and individuals subject to oversight by the committees of the National Assembly:
  - The ministers and chairmen of ministry-equivalent organisations;
  - The president of the appellate court<sup>11</sup>; the President of the Supreme Military Court and the president of the regional military court;

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<sup>8</sup> Generally, readers may wish to refer to the Constitution, the Law on the Government of the Lao PDR and the Law on Local Administration for further information about these institutions of government. Also, readers should note that the Lao language does not strictly require that nouns be in either singular or plural form. The translators have, to the best of their knowledge, chosen the form that reflects the current state of affairs (e.g., singular for Prime Minister but plural for governors of provinces). However, readers should note that the original text may not make such distinction and in a dynamic environment, the translators’ choices may be rendered inaccurate by changes in the composition and structure of these institutions.

<sup>9</sup> The term “Supreme Public Prosecutor” is used to refer to the role or title of the highest-ranked prosecutor in the country (akin to an Attorney-General). In Laos, sometimes, this title is translated as “Prosecutor General”.

<sup>10</sup> There is only one special zone at the time of translation.

<sup>11</sup> Readers may wish to refer to the Law on People's Courts for information on the different levels of court that comprise the Peoples Courts. Even though it may not be apparent from the text in

- Public prosecutors at the appellate level, the Supreme Military Prosecutor and the regional military prosecutors.
4. Organisations and individuals subject to oversight by the members' caucus of the National Assembly:
- Provincial administrations;
  - Directors of provincial divisions [of the ministries]; chiefs of districts, chiefs of municipalities and heads of villages;
  - Presidents of people's provincial courts, presidents of people's district courts;
  - Public prosecutors at the provincial level, public prosecutors at the district level.
5. Organisations and individuals subject to oversight by the members of the National Assembly:
- Raising of questions and interpellation at the sessions of the National Assembly:
    - Raising questions to the President of the State;
    - Raising questions to the President of the National Assembly;
    - Interpellating the Prime Minister;
    - Interpellating the ministers and the chairmen of ministry-equivalent organisations;
    - Interpellating the President of the People's Supreme Court;
    - Interpellating the Supreme Public Prosecutor;
  - Persons stipulated in point 4 of this article.

Apart from the organisations and individuals stipulated in this article, in case of necessity it is also possible for oversight to be performed of other organisations and individuals.

#### **Article 8. Participation in the Oversight by the National Assembly**

The Lao Front for National Construction, mass organisations, social organisations and the people have the rights and duties to participate in the oversight by the sessions of the National Assembly, by the National Assembly Standing Committee, by the committees of the National Assembly, by the members' caucus of the National Assembly and by the members of the National Assembly.

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this law, a reference to "the appellate court" is not a reference to a single appellate court but rather to one of several appellate courts, each serving a geographic area. Similarly, although there is only one military court at the time of translation, the Law on People's Courts envisages several regional military courts in due course.

In order to ensure that the oversight by the National Assembly is accurate, [and that] the solution to the problems is right, is in accordance with the truth and is efficient[,] the National Assembly coordinates with other relevant sectors such as the State Audit Organisation, the National Audit Authority, the people's courts and the [Office of the] Public Prosecutor.

#### **Article 9. Resolution of Oversight Findings**

Once oversight has been completed, if it is found that an organisation or individual has committed an act which violates the laws and regulations,<sup>12</sup> has caused damage to the country or the legitimate rights and interests of the people, the National Assembly and the competent authority must apply efficient measures in order to strictly and timely resolve [such violation] in accordance with the laws and regulations.

### **Part II Oversight by the National Assembly**

#### **Chapter 1 Oversight by the Sessions of the National Assembly**

#### **Article 10. Subjects of Oversight by the National Assembly**

The sessions of the National Assembly perform oversight of the following subjects:

- Reports of the President of the State, the National Assembly Standing Committee, the government, the President of the People's Supreme Court and the Supreme Public Prosecutor;
- Legal acts issued by the President of the State, the National Assembly Standing Committee, the government, the Prime Minister, the President of the People's Supreme Court [and] the Supreme Public Prosecutor which have been found to contradict the Constitution, laws or resolutions of the sessions of the National Assembly. The legal acts issued by the President of the People's Supreme Court and by the Supreme Public Prosecutor which are mentioned above are those which are not related to court procedures;
- Answers provided by the President of the State, the President of the National Assembly and the National Assembly Standing Committee, [and] answers to interpellations provided by the Prime Minister and the members of the government, by the President of the People's Supreme Court and the Supreme Public Prosecutor;
- Resolution of requests and complaints from the people;

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<sup>12</sup> The translators are unable to resolve whether this comma should be interpreted as an "and" or "or".

- Reports prepared by ad hoc<sup>13</sup> committees<sup>14</sup> appointed by the session of the National Assembly in order to perform a detailed oversight of a specific issue.

**Article 11. Formulation of an Oversight Plan of the Session of the National Assembly**

An annual oversight plan of the session of the National Assembly is [formulated] based on the recommendations of the National Assembly Standing Committee, the committees of the National Assembly, the members' caucus of the National Assembly and the members of the National Assembly, the Lao Front for National Construction, mass organisations at the central level and social organisations.

The National Assembly Standing Committee must draft such plan and submit it to the session of the National Assembly for consideration and decision. If necessary, oversight may be exercised outside the scope of the plan pursuant to the decision of the session of the National Assembly.

**Article 12. Examination of Reports of Various Sectors**

During the first ordinary session<sup>15</sup>, the National Assembly[:] hears and considers the report of the Prime Minister on the implementation of the socio-economic development plan, the State budget plan; considers and approves amendments, if any, to the socio-economic development plan, [and to] the State budget for the first six months of the year; hears and considers the report of the President of the People's Supreme Court and the Supreme Public Prosecutor on the implementation of the Constitution and laws during the first six months of the year; [and] hears, considers and approves the report of the National Assembly Standing Committee for the first six months of the year.<sup>16</sup>

During the second ordinary session, the National Assembly[:] hears, considers and approves the report of the Prime Minister on the implementation of the socio-economic development plan, [and] the annual State budget plan and the socio-economic development plan and the State budget plan for the upcoming year; hears and considers the annual reports on the implementation of the Constitution and laws and the plans for the upcoming year of the President of the People's Supreme Court and the Supreme Public Prosecutor; [and] hears, considers and approves the report on

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<sup>13</sup> The literal translation of this term is "temporary".

<sup>14</sup> Ad hoc committees may be appointed by either the session of the National Assembly (see Article 16) or by the National Assembly Standing Committee (see Article 25). The same term is used interchangeably and sometimes without further elaboration. Readers should look to the context to determine which type of committee is being referred to.

<sup>15</sup> See Article 9 of the Law on the National Assembly. The National Assembly holds two ordinary sessions a year.

<sup>16</sup> For readability, the punctuation of this sentence has been slightly modified.

the National Assembly's annual plan of activities and the plan for the upcoming year.<sup>17</sup>

The last ordinary session of the National Assembly<sup>18</sup> hears, considers and approves the reports on the activities during the entire term of the President of the State, the President of the National Assembly, the Prime Minister, the President of the People's Supreme Court and the Supreme Public Prosecutor.

The session of the National Assembly will request the National Assembly Standing Committee, the government, the People's Supreme Court and the Office of the Supreme Public Prosecutor to provide clarifications on a specific issue when necessary.

The reports stipulated in this article must first be studied, [and] examined by the relevant committee pursuant to the assignment of the National Assembly Standing Committee except the report of the President of the State, the President of the National Assembly and the National Assembly Standing Committee.

The session of the National Assembly hears [and] considers reports according to the following steps:

- The President of the State, the President of the National Assembly, the National Assembly Standing Committee, the Prime Minister, the President of the People's Supreme Court and the Supreme Public Prosecutor submit reports on their activities;
- The chairmen of the committees of the National Assembly which have been assigned by the National Assembly Standing Committee provide comments on the reports of such activities;
- The members of the National Assembly study, give comments, [and] may raise questions or interpellations;
- Persons who have submitted reports[,] including ministers, [and] chairmen of relevant ministry-equivalent organisations[,] provide clarifications, answers to questions or interpellations relating to issues of interest to the session of the National Assembly;
- The session of the National Assembly votes<sup>19</sup> on the reports, clarifications, answers to questions or interpellations if needed.

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<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>18</sup> The term "National Assembly" appears to be used in the sense of the "body of legislators" elected for one term of several years. The "last ordinary session" of that "body of legislators" would therefore be the session immediately preceding election of a new legislature.

<sup>19</sup> The Lao language has two words for "vote". A more formal word which indicates a formal vote (such as a vote that would result in a formal resolution) and a more informal word that might indicate a method for achieving decision or agreement that falls short of recording a formal resolution. The informal word is used in this article.

### **Article 13. Legislative Oversight**

The session of the National Assembly has the right to partially or fully abrogate legal acts issued by the President of the State, the National Assembly Standing Committee, the government, the Prime Minister, the President of the People's Supreme Court, the Supreme Public Prosecutor, the Lao Front for National Construction, [and] the mass organisations at the central level which contradict the Constitution, laws or resolutions of the sessions of the National Assembly pursuant to the proposal of the National Assembly Standing Committee or pursuant to the proposal of one fourth of the total number of the members of the National Assembly as stipulated in Article 3, point 15 of the Law on the National Assembly.

Legal acts which are found to contradict the Constitution, laws or resolutions of the sessions of the National Assembly will be subject to consideration and comments by the members of the National Assembly; thereafter, the person who has issued such legal acts provides clarifications. In the event that the session of the National Assembly does not concur with such clarifications, the session of the National Assembly may vote<sup>20</sup> on the abrogation of such legal acts.

### **Article 14. Interpellation and Answers to the Interpellation**

During the sessions of the National Assembly, questions, interpellations and answers to the questions or interpellations must be conducted as follows:

1. The members of the National Assembly raise detailed questions or interpellations to the concerned person<sup>21</sup> through the Chairman of the session of the National Assembly;
2. The answer to the questions or interpellations during each session must follow the following steps:
  - The person who has been questioned or interpellated must answer the questions raised by the members of the National Assembly directly<sup>22</sup>, in a focused, clear and full manner. In the event that the person cannot provide an answer directly, such person must provide the answer in writing;
  - The members of the National Assembly have the right to raise additional questions or interpellations if the answers to the questions or interpellations are not clear;

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<sup>20</sup> See footnote 19. The informal word is used here.

<sup>21</sup> The literal translation of this term is “the person who is questioned or interpellated”.

<sup>22</sup> The word “directly” is a literal translation. In this context, there are two possible meanings: the more common “straightforward” and the more formal “at once”. The use of “directly” in the next sentence suggests the second, more formal, meaning but there is insufficient textual evidence to depart from the literal translation.

3. After the answers to the questions or interpellation have been heard, if the members of the National Assembly are not satisfied with the answers, they have the right to propose to the session of the National Assembly to further consider [the issue] in that session or in the next session, [and] if necessary [they] have the right to propose that the session vote<sup>23</sup> on the status,<sup>24</sup> mandate of the person who has been questioned or interpellated;
4. The person who has answered the questions or interpellation in the previous session of the National Assembly is still responsible for reporting to the next session of the National Assembly on issues which the person has promised to answer, [and] the members of the National Assembly have the right to raise questions or interpellations as stipulated in paragraph 3 above.

The time allocated for questions and interpellations and the answers to the questions and interpellations is stipulated in the agenda of each session of the National Assembly.

**Article 15. Oversight of the Resolution of Requests and Complaints from the People**

The session of the National Assembly oversees the implementation of laws and regulations relating to the resolution of requests and complaints from the people by the National Assembly Standing Committee, the government, the People's Supreme Court and the Office of the Public Prosecutor.

**Article 16. Establishment of Ad hoc Committees of the National Assembly**

The President of the National Assembly establishes an ad hoc committee of the session of the National Assembly pursuant to a decision of the session of the National Assembly and determines the rights and duties of such committee in order to oversee in detail a specific matter which is found to be necessary pursuant to the proposal of the National Assembly Standing Committee, the Prime Minister, the committees of the National Assembly, the members' caucus of the National Assembly, the members of the National Assembly, the Lao Front for National Construction, mass organisations at the central level or social organisations.

The ad hoc committee consists of some members of the National Assembly and technical staff and shall be dissolved<sup>25</sup> upon the completion of tasks.

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<sup>23</sup> See footnote 19. The informal word is used here.

<sup>24</sup> The translators are unable to resolve whether this comma should be interpreted as an "and" or "or".

<sup>25</sup> The literal translation of this term is "naturally dissolved".

The resolution on the establishment of the ad hoc committee must be sent to the organisation or person subject to the oversight and relevant organisations within seven days prior to the oversight.

The ad hoc committee has the rights and duties as determined in Article 25 of this law.

#### **Article 17. Consideration of Oversight Findings<sup>26</sup>**

The session of the National Assembly considers the oversight findings by the ad hoc committee according to the following steps:

- The Chairman of the ad hoc committee reports on the oversight findings;
- The organisation or person subject to the oversight provides clarifications and explanation;
- The session of the National Assembly studies [and] gives comments;
- The organisation or person subject to the oversight has the right to provide additional clarifications [or] explanations;
- The session of the National Assembly votes<sup>27</sup> on the oversight findings.

#### **Article 18. Vote Relating to Discharge from Duty or Vote of No Confidence**

The session of the National Assembly has the right to pass a vote<sup>28</sup> on the discharge from duty or a vote of no confidence regarding persons<sup>29</sup> who have been elected or approved by the session of the National Assembly as determined in articles 53 and 74 of the Constitution.

In the session of the National Assembly, the debate and vote relating to any discharge from duty or no confidence must be carried out in accordance with the following steps:

- The representative<sup>30</sup> of the session raises the issue;
- The person who is the subject of the vote of discharge from duty or the vote of no confidence by the session of the National Assembly provides clarifications [or] explanations;

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<sup>26</sup> The literal translation of this term is “outcome of oversight”. It appears to be a euphemistic reference to those problems, which are brought to light in the course of the oversight.

<sup>27</sup> See footnote 19. The informal word is used here.

<sup>28</sup> See footnote 19. The formal word (a vote resulting in a formal resolution) is used here.

<sup>29</sup> This is a reference to those positions which the National Assembly is empowered to approve or elect under Article 53 of the Constitution.

<sup>30</sup> This appears to be a reference to any person leading the vote.

- The session of the National Assembly studies [and] gives comments;
- The person who is the subject of the vote of discharge from duty or the vote of no confidence by the National Assembly has the right to provide additional clarifications [or] explanations;
- The session of the National Assembly passes a vote of discharge from duty or vote of no confidence.

The resolution of the session of the National Assembly on the discharge from duty of the President of the State will be valid only if passed by a vote of at least two-thirds of the total number of the members of the National Assembly[;] for other persons a vote of more than half [of the total members] is required.

In the event that a vote of no confidence regarding the government or a member of the government has been passed by more than half of the total number of the members of the National Assembly, within 24 hours after the vote of no confidence by the session of the National Assembly, the President of the State has the right to request the National Assembly to reconsider. The second consideration must be held 48 hours after the first one. In the event that the new vote of no confidence is passed, the person who is the subject of such vote must resign.

Apart from the above, In the event that other persons have committed a wrongdoing relating to the foregoing matter, the session of the National Assembly will assign the relevant competent organisation to take measures in accordance with the laws and regulations.

The relevant organisation must be strictly responsible for the implementation of the resolutions of the session of the National Assembly and must report to the National Assembly Standing Committee within 60 days.

## **Chapter 2**

### **Oversight by the National Assembly Standing Committee**

#### **Article 19. Subjects of Oversight by the National Assembly Standing Committee**

The National Assembly Standing Committee performs oversight of the following subjects:

1. Reports on the implementation of the Constitution, laws, resolutions of the sessions of the National Assembly; the socio-economic development plan and State budget plan of the government, the President of the People's Supreme Court, the Supreme Public Prosecutor, the provincial governors, mayors of cities and chief of special zone;
2. Legal acts issued by the President of the State, the government, the Prime Minister, the President of the People's Supreme Court, the Supreme Public Prosecutor, the provincial governors, mayors

- of cities and chief of special zone which are found to contradict the Constitution, laws or resolutions of the sessions of the National Assembly. The legal acts issued by the President of the People's Supreme Court and the Supreme Public Prosecutor mentioned above are those which are not related to court procedures;
3. Clarifications made by the Prime Minister and members of the government, the President of the People's Supreme Court, the Supreme Public Prosecutor, the provincial governors, mayors of cities and chief of special zone, if necessary;
  4. Reports on oversight activities performed by the committees of the National Assembly, the members' caucus of the National Assembly and the members of the National Assembly;
  5. The resolution of requests and complaints of the people;
  6. Reports of ad hoc committees on a particular issue.

#### **Article 20. Formulation of an Oversight Plan**

The National Assembly Standing Committee formulates its six monthly and annual oversight plan based on the oversight plan of the session of the National Assembly and pursuant to the proposals of the National Assembly committees, the members' caucus of the National Assembly, members of the National Assembly, the Lao Front for National Construction, mass organisations at the central level, and social organisations.

Once such plan has been approved, the National Assembly Standing Committee allocates responsibilities to the members of the National Assembly Standing Committee, the committees of the National Assembly, [and] the members' caucus of the National Assembly in order to implement and to report to the National Assembly Standing Committee for acknowledgement and for the purpose of identifying methods and measures to resolve appropriately and in due course<sup>31</sup>.

#### **Article 21. Consideration of Reports**

In the period between the two ordinary sessions of the National Assembly, the National Assembly Standing Committee considers the reports of the government, the President of the People's Supreme Court, the Supreme Public Prosecutor, the provincial governors, the mayors of cities and chief of special zone[,] including reports on oversight by the committees of the National Assembly and the members' caucus of the National Assembly; if necessary, such organisations or individuals may be invited to provide additional clarifications on a particular issue.

The session of the National Assembly Standing Committee approves and considers reports according to the following steps:

- Relevant individuals or organisations report;

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<sup>31</sup> This appears to be a reference to making suggestions for improvements in the oversight plan.

- The Chairman of the Committee of the National Assembly which has been assigned<sup>32</sup> gives comments;
- The National Assembly Standing Committee studies [and] gives comments;
- The reporter has the right to provide additional clarifications [or] explanations;
- The National Assembly Standing Committee considers [and] passes a vote on the report.

## **Article 22. Legislative Oversight**

The National Assembly Standing Committee encourages the government, the Prime Minister, the President of the People's Supreme Court, the Supreme Public Prosecutor, the Lao Front for National Construction, mass organisations at the central level, provincial governors, mayors of cities and chief of special zone to issue legal acts to implement the Constitution, laws, resolutions of the sessions of the National Assembly, the socio-economic development plan and State budget plan in due time, and [the National Assembly Standing Committee] oversees and examines such legal acts. Prior to examination, the National Assembly Standing Committee assigns such legal acts to the relevant committees of the National Assembly for study and comments.

The National Assembly Standing Committee has the right to partially or fully suspend the implementation of the legal acts of the government, the Prime Minister, the President of the People's Supreme Court, the Supreme Public Prosecutor, the Lao Front for National Construction, [and] mass organisations at the central level which contradict the Constitution, laws or resolutions of the sessions of the National Assembly and to submit to the session of the National Assembly for the purpose of passing a vote<sup>33</sup> on the abrogation of such legal acts.

The session of the National Assembly Standing Committee examines legal acts in accordance with the following steps:

- The chairman of the relevant committee of the National Assembly gives comments;
- The issuer of the legal acts provides clarifications [or] explanations;
- The National Assembly Standing Committee studies and gives comments;
- The issuer of the legal acts has the right to provide additional clarifications [or] explanations;

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<sup>32</sup> This appears to be reference to allocation of responsibilities to various committees under Article 20.

<sup>33</sup> See footnote 19. The informal word is used here.

- The National Assembly Standing Committee examines and votes<sup>34</sup> regarding such legal acts.

**Article 23. Oversight of the Election of the Members of the National Assembly**

The National Assembly Standing Committee elects the National Electoral Committee and oversees the activities of such Committee in order to ensure democratic elections, [and] conformity with the Law on the Election of the Members of the National Assembly and other laws.

**Article 24. Oversight of the Resolution of Requests and Complaints from the People**

The National Assembly Standing Committee oversees the government, the People's Supreme Court, the Office of the Supreme Public Prosecutor, the cabinet of the National Assembly, [and] the members' caucus of the National Assembly in the implementation of laws and regulations pertaining to the resolution of requests and complaints from the people.

Once the oversight is completed, if it has been found that organisations and individuals have violated the laws and regulations, [or] caused damage to the interests of the nation, [or] the legitimate rights and interests of other organisations or individuals, the National Assembly Standing Committee will propose to the relevant competent organisation or person to apply measures to stop such violation immediately and at the same time will propose to take disciplinary measures or use other legal measures against the offenders[,] including compensation of damages caused by them. In the event that the relevant competent organisation or person does not apply appropriate measures, the National Assembly Standing Committee will propose that the relevant competent organisation or person at the next level resolve [the matter]. The relevant competent organisation or person must strictly implement the proposal of the National Assembly Standing Committee within thirty days from the date of receipt of the proposal and must report to the National Assembly Standing Committee on how [the matter] is resolved.

**Article 25. Establishment of Ad hoc Committees**

The National Assembly Standing Committee establishes its ad hoc committees in order to oversee in detail a specific matter which is found to be necessary pursuant to the proposal of the committees of the National Assembly, the members' caucus of the National Assembly, the members of the National Assembly, the Lao Front for National Construction, mass organisations at the central level or social organisations.

The resolution to establish [an ad hoc committee] of the National Assembly Standing Committee must stipulate the content, the rights and duties, including the staff structure of the ad hoc committee, as stipulated in

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<sup>34</sup> See footnote 19. The informal word is used here.

Article 16 of this law and the subject of oversight and such resolution must be sent to the organisations or individuals that are the subject of the oversight and to relevant organisations within seven days prior to the oversight.

During the oversight[,] the ad hoc committee has the following rights and duties:

- To propose that the organisations [and] individuals that are the subject of the oversight submit written reports, provide information, [and] other documents relating to the content of the oversight, [and] provide clarifications [or] explanations on issues of interest to the ad hoc committee;
- To examine and evaluate the reports, information, [and] documents of the persons that are the subject of the oversight;
- In the event that an organisation or individual has been found to be in violation of the laws and regulations thereby causing damage to the interests of the nation, [or to] legitimate rights and interests of organisations or individuals, the ad hoc committee has the right to make suggestions to those that are the subject of the oversight on the resolution [of the problem] and to propose that the National Assembly Standing Committee demand that such organisations or individuals stop violating the laws and regulations and rehabilitate the rights [and] interests of the nation, the legitimate rights and interests of organisations and individuals which [have suffered damage] and demand that relevant competent organisations [and] individuals apply disciplinary measures and other measures in accordance with laws and regulations against the violators;
- To properly implement the content, rights and duties relating to the oversight as stipulated in the resolution on the establishment of the ad hoc committee;
- To submit reports on the oversight findings to the National Assembly Standing Committee within ten days from the date of conclusion of the oversight.

#### **Article 26. Examination of Reports of Ad hoc Committees**

The National Assembly Standing Committee examines the reports of ad hoc committees in accordance with the following steps:

- The chairman of the ad hoc committee reports;
- The organisations or individuals subject to the oversight provide clarifications [or] explanations;
- The representatives of invited organisations give comments;
- The session of the National Assembly Standing Committee studies [and] examines;
- The organisations or individuals that are subject to the oversight have the right to provide additional clarifications [or] explanations;

- The National Assembly Standing Committee votes on<sup>35</sup> the issues that are the subject of the oversight.

**Article 27. Examination and Resolution of Oversight Findings**

The National Assembly Standing Committee has the right to resolve the oversight findings as follows:

1. To request the relevant competent organisations or individuals to stop the violations of the Constitution, laws, resolutions of the sessions of the National Assembly, the socio-economic development plan or the State budget plan immediately and consider applying disciplinary measures or other legal measures against the violators, and at the same time the violators must rehabilitate the interests of the nation or the legitimate rights and interests of organisations or individuals who [have suffered damage];
2. To suspend the implementation of legal acts of the government, the Prime Minister, the Ministers, the chairmen of ministry-equivalent organisations, the President of the People’s Supreme Court, [and] the Supreme Public Prosecutor which contradict the Constitution, laws, resolutions of the sessions of the National Assembly or of the National Assembly Standing Committee and to report to the session of the National Assembly for examination [and] decision on the abrogation of such legal acts;
3. To vote on<sup>36</sup> the clarifications [or] explanations of a particular issue provided by organisations or individuals which have been invited by the National Assembly Standing Committee to do so;
4. To propose to the session of the National Assembly that it pass a vote on the discharge from duty or a vote of no confidence regarding persons who have been elected or approved by the session of the National Assembly.

**Chapter 3**

**Oversight by the Committees of the National Assembly**

**Article 28. Subjects of Oversight by the Committees**

The committees of the National Assembly perform oversight of the following subjects:

1. Reports on the implementation of the Constitution, laws, the socio-economic development plan and the State budget plan of ministries, ministry-equivalent organisations, the presidents of the appellate courts, the President of the Supreme Military Court, the presidents of the regional military courts, the public prosecutors at

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<sup>35</sup> See footnote 19. The informal word is used here.

<sup>36</sup> See footnote 19. The informal word is used here.

- the appellate level, the Supreme Military Prosecutor and the regional military prosecutors[; the committees also] study other reports as assigned by the National Assembly Standing Committee such as: reports on the activities of the government, the Supreme People’s Court, [and] the Office of the Supreme Public Prosecutor; In addition to overseeing the reports, the committees of the National Assembly have the right to invite relevant organisations or individuals to report on issues that are of interest to them;
2. Legal acts issued by ministers, chairmen of ministry-equivalent organisations, the president of the appellate courts, the President of the Supreme Military Court, the presidents of the regional military courts, public prosecutors at the appellate level, the Supreme Military Prosecutor and regional military prosecutors on the implementation of the Constitution, laws, resolutions of the sessions of the National Assembly, resolutions of the National Assembly Standing Committee, the socio-economic development plan and the State budget plan; [the committees also] study legal acts issued by the government, the Prime Minister, the President of the People’s Supreme Court, the Supreme Public Prosecutor, governors, mayors, and chief of special zone pursuant to [an] assignment of the National Assembly Standing Committee; [In the context of this point 2,] the legislative oversight of the people’s courts and public prosecutors concerns those legal acts, which are not related to court procedures;
  3. Reports of the ad hoc committees.

#### **Article 29. Formulation of an Oversight Plan of the Committees**

The committees of the National Assembly formulate their oversight plans periodically based on the oversight plan of the session of the National Assembly, [and] the National Assembly Standing Committee and on the proposals of the members of the National Assembly in those committees. Once their plans have been adopted, the committees must assign responsibilities to their members to implement [them].

#### **Article 30. Examination of Reports of Various Sectors<sup>37</sup>**

The committees of the National Assembly examine reports of various sectors according to the following steps:

1. To study, [and] examine reports of the ministers, chairmen of ministry-equivalent organisations, presidents of the appellate courts, the President of the Supreme Military Court, presidents of the regional military courts, public prosecutors at the appellate level, the Supreme Military Prosecutor and regional military prosecutors; if necessary, such organisations or individuals may be invited to provide clarifications on specific matters;

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<sup>37</sup> The word “sector” is often used (as it is used here) to refer to the cluster of government ministries or agencies engaged in a particular activity.

If it has been found that an organisation or an individual has violated the laws and regulations, the committees of the National Assembly have the right to request the relevant competent organisations or individuals to solve the problem and report to the committees of the National Assembly within thirty days from the date of receipt of such request. In the event that no solution has been found or the solution is not appropriate, this must be reported to the National Assembly Standing Committee for consideration and resolution;

2. To study, [and] examine reports of the government, the Prime Minister, the ministers, the chairmen of ministry-equivalent organisations, the Supreme People's Court, the Supreme Public Prosecutor, provincial governors, mayors of cities and chief of special zone pursuant to [an] assignment of the National Assembly Standing Committee;
3. To report to the National Assembly Standing Committee and the session of the National Assembly on the outcome of the study, [and] examination above.

### **Article 31. Legislative Oversight**

The committees of the National Assembly oversee legal acts through their activities as follows:

1. To encourage ministers, chairmen of ministry-equivalent organisations, presidents of the appellate courts, the President of the Supreme Military Court, presidents of the regional military courts, public prosecutors at the appellate level, the Supreme Military Prosecutor and regional military prosecutors, the Lao Front for National Construction and mass organisations at the central level to issue legal acts to implement the Constitution, laws, resolutions of the sessions of the National Assembly, [and of] the National Assembly Standing Committee in a timely manner; and oversee such legal acts;
2. To study, examine, [and] give comments on legal acts of relevant sectors as assigned by the National Assembly Standing Committee;
3. If it has been found that existing legal acts of relevant sectors contradict the Constitution, laws, [or] resolutions of the sessions of the National Assembly, [and of] the National Assembly Standing Committee, the committees of the National Assembly have the right to request the competent organisation or individual to consider amendments [and to] suspend the implementation or partially or fully abrogate such legal acts. Within 30 days from the date of receipt of the request, the relevant organisations or individuals must inform the committees of the National Assembly of the resolution. In the event that no resolution is made or the resolution is not appropriate, the committees will make proposals to the National Assembly Standing Committee for consideration and resolution in accordance with Article 22 of this law.

### **Article 32. Establishment of Ad hoc Units**

In the event that it is deemed necessary, the committees of the National Assembly may establish ad hoc units with the approval of or pursuant to [an] assignment by the National Assembly Standing Committee for the purpose of overseeing a specific matter in detail.

The resolution on the establishment [of ad hoc units] of the committees of the National Assembly must stipulate the content, the rights and duties, including the staff structure of the ad hoc units, as stipulated in Article 16 of this law and the subject of oversight and must be notified to the organisations or individuals that are the subject of the oversight and relevant organisations within seven days prior to the oversight.

During the oversight the ad hoc unit has the following rights and duties:

- To propose that the organisations, [or] individuals that are subject to the oversight submit reports, provide information, [and] other documents relating to the content of the oversight, [and] provide clarification [or] explanation on issues that are of interest to the ad hoc unit;
- To examine and evaluate reports, information, [and] documents provided by the persons subject to the oversight;
- In the event that an organisation or individual has been found to be in violation of the laws and regulations, [the ad hoc unit] has the right to make suggestions to those that are the subject of the oversight on the resolution [of the problem] and to report to the committees of the National Assembly for examination;
- To properly implement the content, rights and duties relating to the oversight as stipulated in the resolution relating on the establishment of the ad hoc unit;
- To submit reports on the oversight findings to the committees of the National Assembly within ten days from the date of conclusion of the oversight.

### **Article 33. Examination and Resolution of Oversight findings**

The committees of the National Assembly convene meetings to study [and] examine reports of ad hoc units in accordance with the following steps:

- The chairman of the ad hoc unit reports;
- The organisations or individuals subject to the oversight provide clarifications [or] explanations;
- The meeting<sup>38</sup> studies, [and] gives comments;

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<sup>38</sup> The word “meeting” is used interchangeably to refer to “a meeting of a committee of the National Assembly” and “the body of legislators present at a meeting of a committee of the National Assembly”. In this bullet point, the second meaning is intended.

- The organisations or individuals subject to the oversight have the right to provide additional clarifications [or] explanations;
- The chairman of the meeting concludes, [and] the members of the National Assembly in the committees who are present in the meeting vote, if necessary.

Once the general oversight is completed, if it has been found that an organisation or individual has violated the laws and regulations, the committees will resolve [the problem] in accordance with Articles 30 and 31 of this law or report to the National Assembly Standing Committee in order to find measures and methods for resolving [the problem] if such problem is beyond their scope of rights and duties.

In the event that a person who has been elected or approved by the session of the National Assembly has severely violated the laws and regulations and thereby caused damage to the interests of the nation, [or] the legitimate rights and interests of organisations or individuals, the committees of the National Assembly have the right to propose that the National Assembly Standing Committee propose to the session of the National Assembly<sup>39</sup> to pass a vote on discharge from duty or a vote of no confidence.

## **Chapter 4**

### **Oversight by the Members of the National Assembly in the Constituencies**

#### **Article 34. Subjects of Oversight**

The members of the National Assembly [in the constituencies] perform oversight of the following subjects:

1. Reports submitted by the provincial administrations, presidents of the people's provincial courts, presidents of the people's district courts, public prosecutors at the provincial level, [and] public prosecutors at the district level on the implementation of the Constitution, laws, resolutions of the National Assembly [and of] the National Assembly Standing Committee, [the implementation of] the socio-economic development plan and the State budget plan of the previous year and the plan of activities for the following year, and the implementation of orders of higher authorities in their localities;
2. Clarifications by the provincial administrations, directors of provincial divisions, chiefs of district, municipal chiefs, village heads, presidents of the people's provincial courts, presidents of the people's district courts, provincial or district public prosecutors on issues that are of interest to the members of the National Assembly [in the constituencies];
3. Legal acts issued by directors of provincial divisions, chiefs of district, municipal chiefs, village heads including legal acts issued by president of the people's provincial courts, presidents of the

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The committees must propose through the National Assembly Standing Committee.

- people's district courts, [and] provincial or district public prosecutors which are not related to court procedures;
4. Resolution of requests and complaints from the people in their constituencies;
  5. If necessary, ad hoc units may be established or the members of the National Assembly [in the constituencies] may be assigned to collect information on a specific issue in their localities.

**Article 35. Formulation of an Oversight Plan**

The members of the National Assembly [in the constituencies] formulate their own oversight plans on a six monthly and annual basis based on the oversight plans of the session of the National Assembly, the National Assembly Standing Committee, the committees of the National Assembly and the actual situation in their localities pursuant to the proposal of the Lao Front for National Construction, mass organisations, social organisations at the local level and pursuant to the proposal of persons who have the right to vote. At the same time, they should report on their plans to the National Assembly Standing Committee and inform the provincial administrations.

**Article 36. Examination of Reports of Various Sectors**

The members of the National Assembly [in the constituencies] request the provincial administrations, presidents of the people's provincial, presidents of the people's district courts, provincial or district public prosecutors to submit reports on the implementation of the Constitution, laws, the socio-economic development plan and the State budget plan to them for the purpose of study and examination.

The members of the National Assembly [in the constituencies] convene meetings to hear, study and give comments on such reports. If it has been found that a particular issue is not clear, the relevant organisations or individuals may be invited to provide clarifications [or] explanations to the members of the National Assembly [in the constituencies].

If it has been found that an organisation or an individual has violated the laws and regulations, the members of the National Assembly [in the constituencies] have the right to request the relevant competent organisations or individuals to solve the problem and inform the members of the National Assembly [in the constituencies] within thirty days from the date of receipt of the request. In the event that no solution has been found or the solution is not appropriate, the members of the National Assembly [in the constituencies] have the right to propose that the authority at the next level resolve [the problem] and this must be reported to the National Assembly Standing Committee.

**Article 37. Legislative Oversight**

The members of the National Assembly [in the constituencies] oversee legal acts of relevant sectors as follows:

1. To encourage provincial administrations, directors of provincial divisions, chiefs of districts, municipal chiefs, village heads, presidents of the people's provincial courts, presidents of people's district courts, provincial or district public prosecutors to issue legal acts to implement the Constitution, laws, resolutions, orders of higher authorities, the socio-economic development plan and the State budget in their localities, and oversee such legal acts;
2. If it has been found that legal acts contradict the Constitution, laws, resolutions, orders of higher authorities, the members of the National Assembly [in the constituencies] have the right to request the relevant organisations or individuals to suspend implementation of and to improve such legal acts and report to the members of the National Assembly [in the constituencies] within 30 days from the date of receipt of the request. In the event that no resolution is made or the resolution is not appropriate, the members of the National Assembly [in the constituencies] have the right to request the authority at the next level in their localities to consider and find a solution, and this must be reported to the National Assembly Standing Committee.

**Article 38. Oversight of the Resolution of Requests and Complaints from the People**

The members of the National Assembly [in the constituencies] have the right [and] duty to oversee the resolution of requests and complaints from the people in their constituencies as follows:

- To welcome the people and receive requests and complaints from the people;
- To study, collect information and coordinate with local administrations and other relevant sectors in order to find methods and measures to solve [such requests and complaints];
- To request the relevant competent organisations or individuals to resolve the requests and complaints of the people in accordance with the laws and regulations and give written notification to the members of the National Assembly in the constituencies on the resolution of such problem within 30 days from the date of receipt of the request. In the event that no resolution has been made or the resolution is not appropriate, the members of the National Assembly [in the constituencies] have the right to propose that competent organisations or individuals at the next level in their localities consider and find a resolution and this shall be reported to the National Assembly Standing Committee;
- In the event that the resolution of a request is beyond their scope of mandate, rights and duties, this must be reported to the National Assembly Standing Committee in order to find methods and measures to resolve [the problem].

### **Article 39. Establishment of Ad hoc Units**

The members of the National Assembly [in the constituencies may] establish ad hoc units if deemed necessary or pursuant to an assignment by the National Assembly Standing Committee for the purposes of overseeing a specific matter in detail.

The resolution on the establishment [of the ad hoc unit] of the members of the National Assembly [in the constituencies] must stipulate the content, the rights and duties, including the staff structure of the ad hoc unit, as stipulated in Article 16 of this law and the subject of oversight and [such resolution] must be sent to the organisations or individuals that are the subject of the oversight and to relevant organisations within seven days prior to the oversight.

During the oversight the ad hoc unit has the following rights and duties:

- To propose that the organisations or individuals that are subject to the oversight provide reports, information, [and] other documents relating to the content of the oversight, provide clarifications [or] explanations on issues of interest to the ad hoc unit;
- To examine [and] evaluate reports, information, [and] documents the persons that are the subject of the oversight;
- If it has been found that an organisation or an individual is in violation of the laws and regulations, [the ad hoc unit] has the right to make suggestions to the person subject to the oversight on the resolution and this must be reported to the members of the National Assembly [in the constituencies] for examination;
- To properly implement the content, rights and duties relating to the oversight as stipulated in the resolution relating to the establishment of the ad hoc unit;
- To submit a report on the oversight findings to the members of the National Assembly [in the constituencies] within ten days from the date of conclusion of the oversight.

### **Article 40. Examination and Resolution of Oversight Findings**

The members of the National Assembly [in the constituencies] convene meetings to study, examine and decide on the reports of ad hoc units in accordance with the following steps:

- The chairman of the ad hoc unit reports;
- The organisations or individuals subject to the oversight provide clarifications [or] explanations;
- The meeting studies, [and] gives comments;
- The organisations or individuals subject to the oversight have the right to provide additional clarifications [or] explanations;

- The chairman of the meeting concludes, [and] the members of the National Assembly [in the constituencies] who are present in the meeting vote, if necessary.

Once the general oversight is completed, if it has been found that an organisation or an individual has violated the laws and regulations, the members of the National Assembly [in the constituencies] will consider and resolve [the problem] in accordance with articles 36, 37 and 38 of this law or report to the National Assembly Standing Committee in order to find measures and a resolution if such issue is beyond their scope of rights and duties.

## **Chapter 5**

### **Oversight by the Members of the National Assembly**

#### **Article 41. Subjects of Oversight**

[Each] member of the National Assembly performs oversight of the following subjects:

- Reports of various sectors [presented] in the session of the National Assembly, in the session of the committees of the National Assembly and in the session of the members of the National Assembly in the constituencies on the implementation of the Constitution, laws, resolutions of the sessions of the National Assembly, the socio-economic development plan, the State budget plan, resolutions and orders of higher authorities;
- Raises questions<sup>40</sup> to the President of the State, the President of the National Assembly, [and] the National Assembly Standing Committee, [and] interpellates the Prime Minister and other members of the government, the President of the Supreme People's Court and the Supreme Public Prosecutor in the sessions of the National Assembly;
- Legal acts of various sectors;
- Resolution of requests and complaints of the people.

#### **Article 42. Formulation and Implementation of an Oversight Plan**

[Each] member of the National Assembly prepares his<sup>41</sup> own plan and schedule of activities relating to oversight based on the plan of the members of the National Assembly in the constituencies, the committees of the National Assembly, the National Assembly Standing Committee and the session of the

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<sup>40</sup> The translators are aware that this item in the list is inconsistent with the other bullet points because it is framed as a verb.

<sup>41</sup> Readers should note that the Lao language does not distinguish between genders in pronouns. In this translation, a reference to a gender is a reference to all genders, unless the context requires otherwise. The translators' decision to use the male gender was made in the interests of simplicity and consistency.

National Assembly, and at the same time this must be submitted to the members of the National Assembly in his constituency.

In addition to carrying out oversight on his own, [each] member of the National Assembly has the right [and] duty to participate in the oversight activities of the members' caucus of the National Assembly, the committees of the National Assembly, the National Assembly Standing Committee and the session of the National Assembly.

Members of the National Assembly who also hold other positions<sup>42</sup> shall allocate at least one-third of their work time to participate in the oversight by the National Assembly.

#### **Article 43. Oversight Activities**

[Each] member of the National Assembly performs oversight activities as follows:

- Participates in the study of, gives comments on and examines reports on the implementation of laws and regulations, the socio-economic development plan, the State budget plan, [and] resolutions and orders of higher authorities in the session of the National Assembly, the plenary meetings of the committees and the session of the members of the National Assembly in his constituency;
- Participates in the oversight by ad hoc committees established by the session of the National Assembly, the National Assembly Standing Committee, committees of the National Assembly or members' caucus of the National Assembly as assigned;
- Performs oversight activities in accordance with his own oversight plan as stipulated in Article 42 of this law.

#### **Article 44. Interpellation in the Session of the National Assembly**

After hearing the report by the President of the State, the President of the National Assembly, the Prime Minister, other members of the government, the President of the Supreme People's Court [and] the Supreme Public Prosecutor in the session of the National Assembly, [each] member of the National Assembly has the right to raise questions or interpellation to such persons as prescribed in the Constitution and the Law on the National Assembly.

The questions and interpellations must be concise, clear, substantiated and must relate to the rights, duties and responsibilities of the person to whom the question or interpellation has been raised. The questions or interpellations may be in writing or may be made orally.

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<sup>42</sup> This is a reference to jobs or posts that the member may hold, in addition to being in the National Assembly.

The person who has been questioned or interpellated must provide an answer [or] clarifications in response to the questions or interpellations of the members of the National Assembly in the session of the National Assembly either orally or in writing.

**Article 45. Legislative Oversight**

[Each] member of the National Assembly participates in the study of, provides comments on and examines legal acts in the session of the National Assembly, the plenary meetings of the committees of the National Assembly and the meetings of the members of the National Assembly in the constituencies.

**Article 46. Oversight of the Resolution of Requests and Complaints from the People**

[Each] member of the National Assembly has the right and duty to welcome and advise the people, to receive requests and complaints from the people in order to submit to the members' caucus of the National Assembly for examination, resolution in accordance with the regulations on the resolution of requests and complaints of the people and to oversee the resolution of requests and complaints from the people based on the decision of the members' caucus of the National Assembly.

**Article 47. Report on Oversight Findings**

At the end of the oversight, [each] member of the National Assembly must report on the oversight findings to the member's caucus of the National Assembly, the committees of the National Assembly to which he belongs or, if necessary, report to the National Assembly Standing Committee for examination and resolution.

**Article 48. Oversight by the People**

Members of the National Assembly must be subject to oversight by the people by reporting their activities to the people in the constituencies at least twice a year.

**Chapter 6**

**Support for the Oversight Activities of the National Assembly**

**Article 49. The Cabinet of the National Assembly and the Offices of the National Assembly in the Constituencies**

The Cabinet of the National Assembly, [and] the offices of the National Assembly in the constituencies have the duty to provide budgetary support, vehicles, equipment and necessary information to the session of the National Assembly, the National Assembly Standing Committee, committees of the National Assembly, the member's caucus of the National Assembly and

[individual] members of the National Assembly in the performance of oversight activities.

#### **Article 50. Organisations and Citizens**

Party and State organisations, the Lao Front for National Construction, mass organisations, social organisations and all citizens have the duty to participate [and] provide support to the oversight activities of the National Assembly such as: provide information, [and] provide assistance in different areas.

### **Part III Duties, Responsibilities and Rights of Organisations and Individuals Subject to Oversight**

#### **Article 51. Duties and Responsibilities**

Organisations and individuals subject to oversight have the following duties and responsibilities:

1. To cooperate and provide support to the oversight by providing information [and] various documents in a timely manner, [and] by providing clarifications [or] explanations pursuant to the request of the session of the National Assembly, the National Assembly Standing Committee, committees of the National Assembly, the member's caucus of the National Assembly and [individual] members of the National Assembly;
2. To submit their legal acts to the National Assembly at the relevant level of oversight as prescribed in Article 7 of this law within seven days from the date of issuance<sup>43</sup>;
3. To provide clarifications [or] explanations by themselves<sup>44</sup> on issues of interest to the session of the National Assembly, the National Assembly Standing Committee, committees of the National Assembly, the member's caucus of the National Assembly and the [individual] members of the National Assembly. In the event that another person is to be delegated the [task] of providing clarifications [or] explanations, [such delegation] must first be approved by the session of the National Assembly, the National Assembly Standing Committee, the committees of the National Assembly or the member's caucus of the National Assembly;

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<sup>43</sup> The Lao word is a compound word meaning "signature and issuance".

<sup>44</sup> The connotation here is that this is a non-delegable obligation.

4. To strictly and timely implement recommendations, requests and resolutions<sup>45</sup> on the methods and measures to resolve<sup>46</sup> the oversight findings of the session of the National Assembly, the National Assembly Standing Committee, committees of the National Assembly or the member's caucus of the National Assembly.

In the event that an individual or the chief of an organisation subject to the oversight does not perform its duties and responsibilities as mentioned above or objects to the oversight by the National Assembly, [such act] will be considered a violation of laws and regulations and [such individual or organisation] will be warned, subject to disciplinary measures or other measures in accordance with the laws and regulations.

#### **Article 52. Rights of Organisations and Individuals Subject to Oversight**

Organisations and individuals subject to oversight have the following rights:

1. To be notified in advance of the issues which will be addressed during the oversight, the time for the oversight, and the questions and interpellations which need to be answered;
2. To provide clarifications [or] explanations on issues relating to their rights, duties and responsibilities;
3. Not to respond to the questions or interpellations, and not to provide information [or] documents which do not relate to their rights, duties and responsibilities;
4. In the event that the person subject to the oversight does not agree with the decision in the oversight by the member's caucus of the National Assembly or by the committees of the National Assembly, the organisations or individuals subject to oversight have the right to request the National Assembly Standing Committee to reconsider such matter.

### **Part IV Final Provisions**

#### **Article 53. Implementation**

The National Assembly Standing Committee shall implement this law.

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<sup>45</sup> See footnote 19. The formal word is used here.

<sup>46</sup> Here, the word "resolve" is used in the sense of "handle".

**Article 54. Effectiveness**

This law enters into force on the date of the promulgating decree issued by the President of the Lao Peoples Democratic Republic.

All regulations [and] provisions which contradict this law are null and void.

Vientiane, 22 October 2004  
President of the National Assembly

*[Seal & Signature]*

Samane VIGNAKET