



**GOVERNMENT POLICY AND PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT ON  
NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION**

Secretariat of the Prime Minister  
Government House  
November 1995



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**H.E. MR. BANHARN SILPA-ARCHA  
PRIME MINISTER OF THAILAND**



**POLICY STATEMENT  
OF  
THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS  
OF PRIME MINISTER BANHARN SILPA-ARCHA  
DELIVERED TO THE PARLIAMENT  
WEDNESDAY, 26 JULY 1995**

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**Mr. President,  
Distinguished Members,**

Pursuant to His Majesty the King's gracious appointment of myself as Prime Minister, as per Royal Command dated 13 July 1995 and the subsequent appointment of the Council of Ministers, as per Royal Command dated 18 July 1995, and now that the Council of Ministers has already laid down policies for the administration of the country, I shall, hereby, present to you the policies, the intentions and the objectives of the Council of Ministers.

In the course of the on-going process of the development of the country, the aim has mainly been focused on economic development with a view that if the economic system is well developed, the quality of life of the people will also in return be enhanced. From this dimension of development, it can be seen that Thailand has successfully attained the objectives set for economic expansion, yet many problems have also occurred as a result of such development. For instance, the ever-widening disparity of income, the deterioration of natural resources and the environment, the disorientation and the growing materialism within society, low morality and neglect of good Thai values,

and the change of family structure resulting in juvenile and social problems. In conclusion, the previous development has gradually caused the degradation to the environment and deterioration of the quality of life.

The Council of Ministers has, therefore, set the main objectives for national administration with a view to creating happiness within the society and developing mentally and physically healthy people capable of competing in the modern world without neglecting good Thai values. The ten aspects of the Government's policies are the means leading to the development of Thai society to fulfill its potential, to be knowledgeable, to participate in the developmental process and to be conscious and responsible towards society and the environment, which will put all dimensions of development in balance. The details are as follows:

## **1. POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY.**

The Government will uphold and preserve the institutions of Nation, Religion, Monarchy and the democratic form of government with the King as Head of State. The Government will upkeep the independence of the country and the integrity of the territory, strengthen and stabilize the political institutions as well as encourage the people to participate in politics at all levels. The Government will govern the country with righteousness to ensure increased efficiency and accommodate all the divergent interests of the people as well as maintain the Thai identity. The Government will endeavour its utmost to bring happiness and prosperity to the people by pursuing the following policies.

## **1.1 THE DEVELOPMENT OF POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS AND THE PLANNING FOR POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT.**

1.1.1 Draw up plans for political development to comply with the Policy of State and the democratic form of government with the King as Head of State. This includes political reforms to encourage greater popular participation in the national administration and in the political check and balance system.

1.1.2 Support the amendment of the Constitution Article No. 211 by taking into consideration the recommendation from the Committee on Democracy Development.

1.1.3 Support the Parliamentary organ to discharge the legislative function and examine the Executive Branch efficiently.

1.1.4 Promote and support the people, popular organizations, and the mass media to participate in political developmental process.

## **1.2 REFORMATION OF LAWS.**

Expedite the revocation and amendment of laws which are outdated or unsuited to present conditions, especially those depriving the rights and freedom of the people, not complying with the Constitution and obstructing the administration and its good service to the people.

## **1.3 PROMOTING POLITICAL IDEOLOGY.**

Promote and support educational institutions at all levels, all branches of the mass media and popular organizations to participate in disseminating and instilling knowledge;

create understanding of and faith in the process, the content and the roles and obligations of the democratic government with the King as Head of State. Support the way of life which conforms with the democratic principles.

#### **1.4 NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION.**

1.4.1 Modernize central , regional, and local administrative systems by making appropriate improvements in and streamlining the structures of ministries, departments and governmental agencies. Increase efficiency by eliminating duplication of works, amend the system for granting permission or approval by government officials in order to lay down the criteria and set a clear timeframe for implementation so that the public and concerned persons can be informed in advance. This is aimed at eliminating opportunities for corruption and malfeasance in government circles, especially those involved directly in public services.

1.4.2 Effectively prevent and suppress corruption and malfeasance in government circles, by developing and strengthening counter-corruption agencies. Promote internal inspection within governmental agencies. Enhance morale, work ethics and strengthen discipline of government officials. Apply merit system in evaluating performances and granting promotion. Increase the participation of the public, community organizations, and the mass media in monitoring government works.

1.4.3 Raise salaries and wages of government officials as well as district and village headmen to be compatible with the present cost of living. Provide welfare and various benefits for government officials to lead a secure life with honour and dignity.

## **1.5 JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION.**

1.5.1 Create social justice through impartial and nondiscriminatory law enforcement as well as strictly uphold the principles of law and righteousness.

1.5.2 Improve and expedite the judicial process of administrative, civil and criminal codes to enhance efficiency. Modernize the specialized judicial system and guarantee freedom of judicial institutions.

## **1.6 DECENTRALIZATION.**

1.6.1 Delegate more responsibilities regarding the daily activities of the people to local administrative units, especially in providing public welfare. This is aimed at increasing participation by the local people in their administration. Promote cooperation with the local administrative organs in solving specific local problems which have repercussions on the overall national development such as traffic congestion and environmental pollution.

1.6.2 Increase distribution of revenue to local administrative body on a gradual basis to ensure its efficiency. Amend laws and regulations to increase the autonomy and flexibility of local administrative body in budget management to cope with increased revenue.

1.6.3. Organize elections of all levels of local administrative posts, taking into account the roles of district and local village headmen as coordinators between local and regional administrative bodies, in order to maintain cohesiveness of the people.

1.6.4 Allow freedom in policy formulation of local

administration in areas of management, development, natural resources and environmental management as well as city planning.

1.6.5 Support the work of local administration at all levels to respond effectively and efficiently to local needs.

## **1.7 ENSURE THE ORDERLINESS AND SAFETY OF LIVES AND PROPERTIES.**

1.7.1 Prevent and suppress crimes of all types with effectiveness by rendering full support to the factors contributing to the expansion of community and public relations works; increase awareness and promote participation amongst the public, community organizations, sub-district chiefs, village headmen, and voluntary groups in crime prevention; accelerate the suppression of the production and trafficking of narcotics, including the sources of moral deterioration which create criminal acts.

1.7.2 Develop systems which serve to protect, relieve and prevent disasters in order to provide swift and effective assistance to disaster-inflicted victims; improve the efficiency of the implementing agencies in terms of equipment, accessories, and increase the capability of personnel, encourage community organizations to participate in the Government agencies concerned; campaign and increase awareness and consciousness in the prevention and restraint of disasters inflicted upon students, road users, labour force, and other high-risk professions.

## **1.8 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.**

1.8.1 Promote awareness of government activities and their implementation within the legal framework, as well as

encourage the free expression of opinions and to disseminate accurate news in a swift and just manner.

1.8.2 Promote the free expression of opinions on important controversial national problems through opinion polls to assist the decision-making of the nation.

## **2. NATIONAL SECURITY POLICY.**

The Government intends to develop and modernize the armed forces to create efficiency in responding to the global changes, by undertaking the following measures:

2.1 Develop and promote the capability of the armed forces to discharge their duties with pride and honour as stipulated by the Constitution, with priority given to the protection of national and people's interests.

2.2 Support the armed forces by providing the necessary personnel, technology, and weaponry which are relevant to modern warfare; promote the research and the development of self - sufficient armed forces for the future.

2.3 Encourage the armed forces to cooperate with other government agencies in national development on the basis of democratic principles for the benefit of the people, particularly with regard to poverty eradication; encourage the people to participate and increase their awareness of the activities of the armed forces.

2.4 Promote the role of the armed forces in the United Nations and establish friendly relations with the armed forces of the neighbouring countries and the international community.

2.5 Improve the spirit and welfare system of all military personnel and their families; promote military sport

tournaments in order to achieve excellence in sports at the national level.

2.6 Enhance the honour of war veterans, particularly those who are handicapped and deficient to be treated with respect by the Thai society.

### **3. FOREIGN POLICY.**

The Government will conduct an independent foreign policy and cultivate friendly relations with the international community. Promote relations and cooperation with all countries in the fields of politics, economics, social issues, technology and culture based on the principles of national interests, peaceful-coexistence, and in accordance with the increasing prosperity of the global community. Upgrade Thailand's image to a realistic and appropriate standard, presenting Thailand as a capable, active, and responsible nation, by undertaking the following measures:

3.1 Promote bilateral and multilateral exchange and cooperation in economic, social, and cultural issues, as well as to foster cooperation in education, technical, human resources development, and environmental protection.

3.2 Increase relations with the neighbouring countries in Southeast Asia, particularly those countries that share a common border with Thailand, for the purpose of development and cooperation with a view to bringing about peaceful co-existence. In this regard, Thailand supports regular and continuous contacts with all Southeast Asian countries, be it the public or the private sector, community organizations as well as military institutions of the respective countries.

3.3 Increase Thailand's role in important international forums, namely the United Nations, the World Trade Organization (WTO), regional economic forums, and organizations of the developing countries with a view to enhancing Thailand's political role and status in the international community.

3.4 Conduct foreign policy with a view to strengthening and complementing Thailand's performance in benefitting from the trend towards a new international and regional trade order, such as the World Trade Organization (WTO) , the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA), and the economic growth areas, in order to link the sub-regions of Southeast Asia with other regions as well as to generate mutual benefit for the prosperity, and progress of the neighbouring countries.

3.5 Promote the role of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) as well as Thailand's contribution in that forum for the promotion of peace and stability in Southeast Asia.

3.6 Increase the role of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in economic issues by supporting trade negotiations, exports, investments; promoting tourism, and protecting the interests of Thai overseas investors and nationals abroad.

3.7 Adjust Thailand's role from an aid-recipient country to a donor of assistance to the neighbouring countries.

3.8 Take a leading role in the conduct of relations with the Southeast Asian countries with emphasis on Thailand's constructive role as a democratic nation which upholds justice and righteousness, respects human rights, and protects the ecological balance.

## **4. ECONOMIC POLICY.**

### **4.1 MONETARY AND FINANCIAL POLICIES.**

The Government intends to build a strong and stable national economic system, to maintain financial and monetary disciplines, to encourage domestic savings, to promote financial liberalization within an appropriate period of time in consistent with other economic sectors, to internationalize the country's capital market, and decentralize monetary and financial authorities to local administrative agencies. This government will implement the following measures:

4.1.1 Control the country's inflation rate at a proper level, in line with the growth rate and economic conditions.

4.1.2 Encourage domestic savings, particularly within households, and long-term savings such as through the establishment of pension fund and provident fund.

4.1.3 Maintain a reasonable foreign exchange rate to stabilize the country's economic system and increase the country's competitiveness.

4.1.4 Develop Thailand as the monetary centre of the region through financial liberalization.

4.1.5 Remove the taxation on people's savings intended for home purchases, children's education, and retirement.

4.1.6 Widen and deepen the capital market consistent with international standards by encouraging businesses in Bangkok and other provinces as well as overseas to be listed in the Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) ; to mobilize capital and to link domestic capital markets with those abroad, particularly the neighbouring countries, and to encourage the issuance of new capital debentures for debts and capitals to diversify and create more options in capital mobilization.

4.1.7 Promote financial decentralization to allow agencies to increase their revenue and efficiency.

4.1.8 Improve the management of the national budgetary system.

4.1.9 Encourage private sector participation in the country's infrastructural development and public services to alleviate the budget burden on the government.

4.1.10 Initiate monetary and financial measures and policies to encourage Thai investments in the economic development of the neighbouring countries.

## **4.2 AGRICULTURAL POLICY.**

The Government intends to develop the potential and increase the standard of living of the farmers. As for the advanced agricultural sector, the Government shall increase its international competitiveness by increasing efficiency and reducing production costs, by opening new agricultural markets, by developing the farm processing industry, and by raising the prices of farm commodities. As for the less developed agricultural sector, the Government shall give emphasis to increasing the income of the farmers by reducing production costs, developing water sources for agriculture, and by resolving the debt problem of the farmers by undertaking the following measures:

4.2.1 Raise the prices of agricultural products to a level acceptable to farmers by expanding new export markets, particularly exports of agricultural products to newly opened markets under the framework of international economic obligations, and support "futures market".

4.2.2 Encourage farmers to cultivate marketable crops, particularly those in demand by the processing industry.

4.2.3 Assist farmers in purchasing fertilizers, pesticides, and other chemicals at acceptable prices in order to promote the competitiveness of agricultural products.

4.2.4 Provide a sufficient supply of water for agricultural purposes as well as for general usage and consumption by developing natural water resources and constructing water reservoirs. Cooperate with the neighbouring countries for water utilization from international sources and increase the efficiency of water management.

4.2.5 Promote the growth of the agricultural sector comparable to that of other economic sectors by encouraging farm mechanization through the reduction of import duties on equipment and machinery, and by promoting technical research with a view to improving the quality and productivity of agricultural products.

4.2.6 Strengthen the role of agricultural institutions in the production and marketing of farm goods.

4.2.7 Support and encourage the private sector to cooperate with the government in investment relating to the development and expansion of all agricultural sectors.

4.2.8 Develop and improve the mechanism of the agricultural cooperative system and farmers with an emphasis on the revolving fund for the members.

4.2.9 Solve the debt problems of the farmers by providing long-term credit at low interest rates as well as improve the efficiency of credit management.

4.2.10. Accelerate land reform for impoverished farmers in accordance with laws relating to agricultural land reform.

4.2.11. Accelerate the process of justly resolving the problem of illegal occupation of state-owned land in accordance with the stipulated laws, as well as to consider the community rights in managing the local resources.

4.2.12. Promote projects of the community organizations in acquiring additional income for agricultural families in the rural areas.

### **4.3 INDUSTRIAL POLICY.**

The government intends to maintain and strengthen Thailand's industrial competitiveness in the world market by increasing the capability and efficiency of production along with environmental protection and decentralization of investment to the rural areas through the expansion of infrastructure networks; stress private sector participation in industrial development. The government will undertake the following measures:

4.3.1 Promote and encourage the relocation of industries to the regional and rural areas by establishing industrial estates and special zones. Offer incentives for investment to encourage local employment and distribute income to the rural areas.

4.3.2 Promote and encourage investment in industries of all sizes, especially medium and small industries as well as cottage industries in large urban communities.

4.3.3 Render full support for investment in potential industries which help generate income and employment such as

agro-processing industries, high-technology industries, tourism and export industries.

4.3.4 Develop and upgrade the competitiveness of national major export industries to increase the country's market share and sustain the development of labour skills, marketing, production, quality, design etc..

4.3.5 Accelerate the expansion of public facilities, utilities and infrastructures consistent with the increasing needs of industrial development.

4.3.6 Reform rules and regulations with a view to streamlining bureaucratic procedures regarding the granting of permits to help ease the investors' burdens.

4.3.7 Promote and develop supporting industries to supplement the potential key industries.

4.3.8 Control industrial pollution to sustain and nurture the environment and ecological balance at a standardized level by implementing strict laws relating to environmental protection.

#### **4.4 INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC POLICY.**

The government intends to sustain and increase Thailand's economic prosperity both in the short and long term through the promotion of trade, investment, tourism, and technology transfer and development. To this end, international economic cooperation will be fostered and further expanded, with adherence to international agreements and consistent with economic transformations in the new global community. The government will:

4.4.1 Strengthen Thailand's international competitiveness through the following measures:

4.4.1.1 Promote free trade to increase production and internal markets and create effective remedial measures to assist the sectors adversely affected by economic liberalization.

4.4.1.2 Restructure the tax system and remove hindrances to trade and investment. Accelerate the restructuring of the tariff system and reduce customs procedures, and production costs to enhance the country's export capacity.

4.4.1.3 Promote the service sectors vital to trade and investment, particularly transportation of merchandise, shipping, Thai merchant shipping fleet, and insurance.

4.4.2 Conduct trade and investment policies with a view to reducing the current account deficit through the promotion of high value-added exports, tourism and services.

4.4.3 Seek new markets and sources of funding to increase the economic benefits of the country.

4.4.4 Enhance Thailand's role in the international economic arena to protect the country's interests and raise the quality of life and welfare of the people through the following measures:

4.4.4.1 Prepare for the establishment of a coordinating unit responsible for international economic policy, which will coordinate with other agencies on international trade matters.

4.4.4.2 Strengthen cooperation among member countries of ASEAN and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) to enhance Thailand's role in international economic negotiations.

4.4.4.3 Develop and establish Thailand as the regional hub of production, trade, finance, telecommunications and transportation in Southeast Asia.

4.4.4.4 Encourage foreign investment in Thailand and support the expansion of Thai overseas investment in both the industry and services sectors. Facilitate and protect Thai investors and workers abroad through diplomatic, legal, fiscal, and financial means. A number of agencies will also be established if necessary.

#### **4.5 TRANSPORT AND TELECOMMUNICATION POLICIES.**

The government intends to further expand land-air-waterway transport networks throughout the country with emphasis on the development of transport infrastructure, the expansion of the use of modern equipment and high technology in telecommunications, the reduction of service fees and the support of private sector participation in transport and telecommunications development and management in a free market system. The government will undertake the following measures:

##### **4.5.1 LAND TRANSPORTATION.**

4.5.1.1 Develop, improve and extend highway system and road transports linking Bangkok with the provinces as well as among the different provinces nation-wide by accelerating the expansion of inter-provincial highways from four to six lanes; while the congested routes linking the different regions will be expanded from two to four lanes within four years.

4.5.1.2 Introduce parallel main railway tracks and use appropriate high-speed trains.

4.5.1.3 Accelerate the establishment of transportation networks, both roads and railways, connecting the neighbouring countries, namely the northern part of Thailand

with the southern part of the People's Republic of China, with the Union of Myanmar, and with the Lao People's Democratic Republic; the northeast of Thailand with the Lao People's Democratic Republic, with the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and with Cambodia; the southern part of Thailand with Malaysia.

#### **4.5.2 AIR TRANSPORTATION.**

4.5.2.1 Accelerate the construction of the second Bangkok international airport (Nong-Ngu-Hao). Modernize and improve international and regional airports; increase efficiency of air transportation management to provide convenience, safety, and quick service for the public as well as construct more regional airports, as and when necessary.

4.5.2.2 Promote and support the establishment of more airlines and national airlines. Expedite the establishment of a wide-body aircraft maintenance centre and a centre for international air transport.

#### **4.5.3 SEA AND WATERWAY TRANSPORTATION.**

4.5.3.1 Maximize utility of deep sea ports in the Eastern Seaboard; expedite the feasibility studies in the construction of deep sea ports in the South and other appropriate areas such as the west coast of Thailand. Cooperate with the neighbouring countries in joint investment and utilization of the deep sea ports.

4.5.3.2 Promote and organize the water transport system to reduce costs and alleviate traffic congestion as well as establish effective safety control measures.

#### **4.5.4 TELECOMMUNICATIONS.**

4.5.4.1 Develop, improve, and extend telecommunication services nation-wide. Provide modern and inexpensive technology facilities and equipments. Expedite the installation of telephone lines in every district, which may be extended to the sub-districts and villages.

4.5.4.2 Support the application of advanced telecommunication system for the benefit of national defense and economic interests.

#### **4.6 ENERGY POLICY.**

The government intends to ensure a sufficient supply of energy to meet demand at a reasonable price; support private sector participation in energy management, by undertaking the following measures:

4.6.1 Promote an economical and efficient use of energy at industrial and household levels, by supporting the production of highly efficient energy-saving facilities; promote a campaign for energy conservation in accordance with the Energy Conservation Act. Raise public awareness of energy conservation.

4.6.2 Secure a sufficient supply of energy resources for consumption at a fair and stable price. Explore and develop domestic sources of energy resources and enhance the efficiency of government agencies in energy supervision and management.

4.6.3 Conduct feasibility studies on the use of alternative energy for future consumption and promote cooperation with the neighbouring countries to develop and acquire new energy sources.

4.6.4 Improve and develop oil pipeline networks to reduce transportation costs and introduce uniform retail pricing nationwide.

#### **4.7 TOURISM POLICY.**

The government intends to promote and develop the tourism industry to increase national revenue, whilst at the same time, to maintain and preserve the valuable cultural and natural resources of tourist destinations, through the following measures:

4.7.1 Promote and support investment in tourism and related businesses, particularly the hotel industry; upgrade the quality of services to maintain its international competitiveness.

4.7.2 Develop tourist destinations to accommodate the increasing number of visitors as well as provide facilities and safety measures and other basic public utilities. Conserve and restore cultural heritage, historical and natural tourist locations; protect tourists from business malpractices which may affect the country's image.

4.7.3 Promote international cooperation in tourism to create Thailand as a regional centre for tourism.

4.7.4 Encourage Thai travellers to tour Thailand.

4.7.5 Increase the number and quality of personnel to meet the demand of the tourism industry.

### **5. SOCIAL POLICY.**

#### **5.1 POLICY ON PRESERVATION OF THAI CULTURE AND RELIGION.**

The government intends to encourage the preservation of Thai culture; promote and foster religion by encouraging the

people to pay more attention to the essence of religious teachings; promote local skills; preserve indigenous arts and traditional heritage of the nation, by proceeding to:

5.1.1 Strengthen the cohesiveness of the family institution by granting various incentives, such as reduction of tax and service fees on family activities.

5.1.2 Promote local skills to contribute to national development.

5.1.3 Promote national arts such as Thai paintings, carvings and traditional Thai dramas - be it shadow theatre, mask dance, folk-lore shows such as 'Morlam' , 'Likae' etc, including Thai arts and culture in the form of sports, such as 'korlae' , 'long boat' races, and Thai martial arts, by allocating public funds to subsidize these artists in supporting their profession as well as preserving these arts and culture.

5.1.4 Promote the preservation of national and historical sites, particularly sites recognised as world heritage, by allocating a budget for restoration purposes as tourists destinations, by encouraging both the Thai and foreign private sectors to participate in establishing funds for the preservation of relics and historical sites. Separate the zones of the old and new towns in order to control the construction activities in the said area to blend with the existing traditional architecture.

5.1.5 Enhance the various religious activities and encourage the people to pay more attention to the essence of religious teachings rather than on materialistic symbols. The purpose is to create genuine public understanding of the religious principles and teachings, and to practise them towards attaining a peaceful society.

## **5.2 POLICY ON WOMEN, CHILDREN, YOUTHS AND THE UNDERPRIVILEGED.**

The government intends to promote the status of women, to develop children and youth, and to extend care to the underprivileged to enjoy decent living in society, by undertaking the following measures:

5.2.1 Promote those legislations supporting the provision of the Constitutional Law which stipulates that men and women have equal rights. Amend laws, rules and regulations to eradicate any discriminatory treatment against women.

5.2.2 Promote the participation of women in national economic, social and political developments as well as helping define the country's direction.

5.2.3 Impose strict measures to protect the welfare of women and to prevent women and children from being lured into prostitution.

5.2.4 Promote fair treatment for female workers in terms of wages, welfare, particularly, for those non-affiliated female workers.

5.2.5 Provide training and improve the skills of women in rural areas taking into account the socio-economic conditions of the community.

5.2.6 Promote physical, mental and ethical development of children by stressing cooperation between the government and private sector.

5.2.7 Support the establishment of youth groups and youth camps; develop youth centres to play an important role in the development of the potential of youths; improve public libraries

at various levels; upgrade the sports complex to efficiently serve all children and youths.

5.2.8 Encourage the family institution, government agencies, private sector, community organizations, religious institutions and the mass media, to play a crucial role in preventing and solving problems as well as in developing children and youths in hardship to lead a normal and healthy life, including the effective prevention and problem solving of child labour prostitution.

5.2.9 Attend to, rehabilitate and develop the under-privileged and the special group, such as the disabled, to receive education and vocational training in order to attain self-reliance and self-pride.

### **5.3 PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY.**

The Government will improve public health services nation-wide by focusing on illness prevention and on enhancing public health, as well as promoting private sector participation in expanding public health services by undertaking the following measures:

5.3.1 Accelerate the expansion of the primary health care services in rural areas.

5.3.2 Introduce health insurance system, particularly to the elderly, the handicapped and the impoverished in order to increase access to the public health services.

5.3.3 Campaign and publicize the dangers of AIDS as well as enhance public understanding and assisting AIDS-infected people to remain part of society.

5.3.4 Support public and private sector projects which focus on treatment and rehabilitation of drug-addicts in order to reintegrate them into society.

5.3.5 Impose strict surveillance and inspection of environmental quality which may be hazardous to public health in order to contain them at the safety standard level.

5.3.6 Accelerate the treatment of infectious garbage and wastewater emanating from public and private health agencies, as well as provide sufficient amount of cleansed-water for rural usage and consumption.

5.3.7 Enforce consumer protection measures in order to ensure the safety standard of food and pharmaceuticals.

5.3.8 Promote the production and development of efficient and sufficient medical and public health personnel along with the application of modern medical and public health technology for public health services.

5.3.9 Support the establishment of standardized daycare child centres through tax incentives.

5.3.10 Promote public awareness of proper health and self-care.

## **5.4 LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE POLICIES**

The Government will develop workers' skills as well as provide welfare benefits and proper standardized safety system. Support labour union establishment for the benefit of labour relations and protection, and step up appropriate measures on alien labour, by undertaking the following measures:

5.4.1 Promote training and skill development in order to increase the capacity of workers, the underprivileged

and the handicapped. Educate and develop working skills as well as provide rehabilitation through short-term skill training and expand cooperation with the private sector in establishing vocational training institutes for specific skills and expertise.

5.4.2 Promote an effective system on labour relations, labour protection and safety standard measures at bilateral and trilateral levels for good relations between employers and employees. Promote cooperation in settling conflicts and disputes and to ensure that employees be provided with proper and standard welfare benefits as well as good working conditions.

5.4.3 Promote employees' rights and protection in forming labour unions. Revise all related state enterprise labour laws and regulations to ensure that rights, duties and responsibilities are well-defined and comply with the democratic system, taking into account the development policy, the promotion of national economic and social policies, and the prohibition of strikes in any public utilities and activities.

5.4.4 Provide more assistance and care for the elderly, the handicapped, the underprivileged and the abandoned people by setting up public welfare centres as well as introducing social welfare laws.

5.4.5 Accelerate the setting up of labour and welfare information centres in order to provide information on employment and registration of workers in order to increase efficient services for workers in all aspects.

5.4.6 Accelerate research and data collection to formulate appropriate measures on alien labour working in Thailand.

## **5.5 SPORT POLICY.**

The Government will promote and develop sports for the health of the people, improve the standard of sports to an excellent level comparable with that of the international community, by undertaking the following measures:

5.5.1 Promote basic sports for amateur and professional competitions for the health of the people by allocating budget to support sport activities. Encourage private sector participation in management and administration as well as expand opportunities in sport activities nation-wide.

5.5.2 Boost morale and instill pride within sportsmen, especially those who bring honour and fame to the country and those who are members of the national teams, by offering them a good standard of living.

5.5.3 Encourage young people to play sports and support the development of sport equipment quality as well as set up international sport centres.

## **6. EDUCATIONAL POLICY**

The Government intends to develop human resources as the pillar for all other developments through the expansion of basic compulsory educational programmes along with other essential state welfare benefits. Local administrative agencies will be encouraged to participate in managing the educational programmes to conform with the local environment and lifestyles. The Government will promote non-formal education by utilizing modern technology in order to extend and provide education to all rural and remote areas nation-wide. Welfare benefits and

remunerations for teachers and educational personnel of all levels will be improved. The following measures will be implemented:

6.1 Increase educational opportunities to fully prepare children for their primary education.

6.2 Extend the compulsory education from six years to nine years in both formal and non-formal programmes with the objective to extend it to twelve years in the near future. Educational assistance and welfare benefits will be provided to students in need.

6.3 Provide scholarships and educational funds to students in need for higher learning.

6.4 Accelerate the production of a sufficient number of qualified personnel in fields vital to national development such as in sciences, medicine, engineering, and computer science. Universities and vocational colleges will be upgraded, particularly with regard to improving teaching personnel, adopting new curricula and teaching methods. Cooperation among international educational institutes will be fostered in terms of technological exchanges.

6.5 University research and development programmes will continue to be promoted focusing on their practical application, both economically and socially.

6.6 Accelerate the improvement of educational curricula, and teaching and learning methodologies, to conform to the new global era, with emphasis on developing analytical skills, learning from facts and experiences, together with the promotion of moral values and ethics.

6.7 Increase non-formal educational opportunities through the utilization of modern technology and long-distance learning access system, mobile teaching system, as well as the

creation of animal museums, the renovation of history museums, the construction of aquaria and science parks etc..

6.8 Support the decentralization of educational administration by allowing local agencies to play a more active role in managing the types of educational programmes appropriate to local conditions and lifestyles.

6.9 Promote the participation of the private sector, community organizations, and parent-teacher associations in educational planning.

6.10 Encourage the underprivileged and the handicapped to gain access to education and vocational training in order to attain more self-reliance.

6.11 Develop the administrative system of state institutions of higher learning to be more independent, flexible, efficient, and to attain academic excellence.

6.12 Relax official rules and regulations and develop appropriate incentive measures to promote the private sector's role in providing greater investment in education and more vocational training at all levels.

6.13 Increase welfare benefits and morale of teachers and educational personnel of all levels to enhance career security and professional pride.

6.14 Upgrade the teaching standard by increasing supervision and to systematically and continuously develop the quality and ethics of teachers and educational personnel.

## **7. NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY.**

The Government intends to restore, conserve and develop deteriorating natural resources and decaying environment by

encouraging greater participation of the general public, community organizations, and local administrative agencies through the following measures:

7.1 Accelerate the efforts to promulgate laws concerning public parks by providing opportunities for the public and the community organizations to partake in the maintenance and joint utilization of the parks.

7.2 Enhance the effectiveness and strengthen the mandate of the concerned agencies responsible for the management and conservation of natural resources.

7.3 Settle disputes regarding the use of natural resources through land usage planning.

7.4 Introduce plan of action and set priority on environment-related investment to serve as the master plan for managing environmental quality nation-wide.

7.5 Accelerate efforts to prevent and solve problems relating to water, air, and noise pollution, as well as treatment of waste from industrial plants, to be based on a premise that those responsible for causing damages to the environment will have to bear the financial costs.

7.6 Promote international cooperation in monitoring and solving environmental problems.

7.7 Encourage the involvement of the general public, community organizations, and local administrative agencies in the conservation and protection of the environment.

## **8. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICIES.**

The Government intends to accelerate the development of science and technology as the basis for increasing productivity

and quality of life of the people, by undertaking the following measures:

8.1 Promote research and development, particularly for commercial, industrial, agricultural and service purposes, to enhance productivity and raise the quality of life of the people.

8.2 Promote the exchanges of appropriate technology with other countries and apply it to national development as well as to increase efficiency in production, distribution, trading and marketing, including the administration of modern information system to enhance international competitiveness of the private sector.

8.3 Expedite the formulation of a master plan for personnel development in the field of science and technology to meet qualitative and quantitative requirements by producing a sufficient number of qualified personnel.

8.4 Expand cooperation with other countries in scientific and technological development.

8.5 Create an integrated network of science and technology information systems at both the domestic and international levels.

8.6 Promote private sector participation in science and technology development and utilization by means of tax incentives, loans and grants.

8.7 Support the initiative to develop a science and technology town as a centre for research and development.

## **9. INCOME AND DEVELOPMENT DISTRIBUTION POLICY.**

The Government intends to distribute income and development nation-wide by expanding economic and social infrastructures to all regions in order to achieve balanced and

sustainable rural development, by undertaking the following measures:

9.1 Expand economic and social infrastructures such as water, electricity, telephone, communication and telecommunication systems, schools, public health centres, and particularly paved roads in every village, and raise the quality of life of the rural people.

9.2 Support and urge financial institutions to diversify and extend more credit facilities to farmers, agro-businesses, small-scale industries, entrepreneurs, and regional self-run businesses.

9.3 Promote and support the decentralization of industries to rural areas, particularly industries related to village and community economy both in rural and urban areas in order to increase employment and raise income of the rural people.

9.4 Improve the public health system to effectively serve and to achieve the objective of creating a more healthy society.

9.5 Support the formulation of strategic plans for provincial and regional development according to their potential and needs, and to serve as a base for transport and communications, as well as trade linkages with the neighbouring countries.

9.6 Support community learning network and self-help in order to enhance the community's readiness and role to participate in the process of economic and social development.

## **BANGKOK METROPOLITAN AND PERIPHERY DEVELOPMENT POLICY.**

The Government intends to promote and develop Bangkok into an environmentally friendly metropolis and as a regional centre of trade and economic activities, by undertaking the following measures:

10.1 Expedite the implementation of Bangkok rehabilitation programmes and projects to solve problems relating to pollution, slum areas as well as to the shortage of public utility and housing.

10.2 Urgently solve Bangkok's traffic problems in accordance with the master plan, by revising and unifying the administrative, management, and decision-making systems. Systematically coordinate the process of solving traffic congestion in Bangkok and the periphery by allowing public opinion articulation and public participation in monitoring the implementation.

10.3 Expedite the problem-solving process relating to the environment, water pollution in the Chao Phraya River and canals in Bangkok, waste disposal, air and noise pollution, by the revision and strict enforcement of laws and regulations as well as by improving coordination among public and private agencies concerned. Expedite the use of unleaded petrol, control exhaust emissions, and provide more public parks to serve as the lungs of Bangkok, including the launching of an awareness campaign for environmental conservation and management.

10.4 Expedite the problem-solving process relating to housing and slum areas by formulating housing development plans, improve living conditions in over-crowded communities and encourage private sector participation in providing low-cost housing for lower and medium income groups by means of special investment promotion, low-interest loans, as well as increasing the role of the Government Housing Bank, including expansion of public utility services.

10.5 Systematically plan and specify land use in Metropolitan Bangkok and its periphery in an efficient and effective manner by means of urban planning.

10.6 Expedite the construction of transportation network connecting Bangkok with the Eastern Seaboard, western region and northern central region areas, second Bangkok International Airport and Bangkok's satellite towns.

10.7 Revise laws concerning urban planning, building inspection, land expropriation, real estate development, new town community, slum areas, and other regulations which are conducive to the development and rehabilitation of Bangkok.

10.8 Support the Public health management by expanding public health centres and increasing mobile public health services.

Besides the aforementioned policies, the government shall pursue previous government's pending policies, tasks and projects which are beneficial to the country and people to achieve the set targets as soon as possible. To this end, the government will attach high priority to the coordination and cooperation among the public sector, private sector and non-governmental organizations to fully achieve comprehensive results.

**President and Honourable Members of the Parliament.**

I can hereby assure you all that this government is determined to strictly and honestly implement the said policies for the utmost benefit of the country and people. I am confident that with your cooperation, this government will succeed in implementing all of the above-mentioned policies.

Thank You.

**Statement of H.E. Banharn Silpa-Archa  
Prime Minister of Thailand  
On the occasion of a keynote speech on the  
Government Policy  
delivered to senior officials of all governmental agencies  
Santi-Maitri Building  
Government House  
4 August 1995**

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**Deputy Prime Ministers.**

**Minister of Finance.**

**Minister of the Prime Minister's office**

**Chiefs of all governmental agencies,**

**Chiefs of the armed forces.**

**Provincial governors, and Chiefs of all state enterprises,**

On behalf of the government, I would like to thank all of you who have turned up in full force. The government policy that has been announced in Parliament will not be effective, and will not yield benefits to the people as contemplated by the government without your expertise, understanding and cooperation from all of you gathering here today. You represent the key machinery of the government, and are instrumental in transforming the declared policy into implementation programs which yield concrete results to the people, happiness or otherwise. We, politicians, have volunteered to serve our country and our people. We have full recognition and respect of your expertise,

seniority, qualifications, your potential, and good will. What we sincerely need from all of you is your cooperation. I invite you all to cooperate to bring benefits to our country.

All the details of the government policy reported to Parliament have already been widely publicized, in document forms and through all the media. I am certain you have already heard about them. Therefore, I will not repeat the substance. But I would like to take this opportunity to spell out the key objectives of the policy so that all of you will truly appreciate the intention of the policy and that you may relay the real essence to your colleagues to ensure accurate and precise policy implementation and effectiveness.

We all know that we are now living in a globalized world or “borderless” countries thanks to the rapid development of telecommunications. We are able to know about what happens in other sides of the globe in a matter of seconds. These new trends have also brought about changes to the world community. The new pattern of international trade is now characterized by severe competition. At the same time, we are witnessing Thai society which is increasingly burdened with problems accumulating from the past, be they traffic problems, worsening environmental conditions, pollution, and wealth concentration. All these problems have aggravated the quality of life of everybody.

Please do not misunderstand me in concluding that I am blaming all the past governments for the failure to solve problems. They are real problems that we are all facing and cannot run away from. The key point is how we can make a living in this globalized world, while preserving our cultural heritage in an

integrated manner, without inviting further problems, they are very difficult problems to solve, yet we must all help to solve them.

Therefore, all of you will notice that this government emphasizes a right balance between economic and social development. We emphasize stability under a free market economic system. We emphasize reorientation of both the government and private sectors to compete internationally in the globalization trade. At the same time, we are holding on to the so-called national development strategy, based on local community development. You will notice that the government policies in numbers 9.6, 7.1 or 7.7 as examples, emphasize the importance of local way of life, and local wisdom in education, in natural resources management of the local level and in people's participation in development. All these characteristics in Thai society have helped preserve our diversity which is important for choosing development direction. It is important to encourage the broad range of people to have alternatives in making a living, and develop their local community for a higher standard of living. Therefore, this policy emphasizes balanced integration in national development in line with globalization, while stressing the importance of local wisdom together.

All the issues above will have been clearly reflected in the introduction to the government policy delivered to parliament that this government will strive for social development which brings happiness to the people. These people should be well provided in terms of physical health, intellectual power, emotional well-being, and may compete in the globalized world while preserving all the valuable Thai traits. Therefore, development in the total sense

encompasses three dimensions, including economic, social, and environmental to ensure balanced and sustainable development.

For the details, I would invite the six deputy prime ministers, my Minister of Finance (Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai) and Minister of the Prime Minister Office. Dr. Bhokin Bhalakula to give their respective presentations.

Before going into details, there are a few things I'd like to share with you.

**First**, as I said earlier, our society is facing with so many urgent problems that need urgent solutions. Therefore, I would like to confirm with all of you that my cabinet and myself are determined to solve the problems as soon as possible. This, we will agree, is what the people want and are looking forward to.

**Second**, in administering the country, my cabinet will strictly adhere to the principle of honesty, This principle goes hand in hand with the transparency policy, with monitoring and crosschecks by the media, the people, and non-governmental organizations. Our work must be transparent and may be monitored at all times.

**Third**, my cabinet emphasizes the following issues as important priorities.

## **1. Security of Life and Property**

I mention this issue first because it is very important, and has strong impacts in demoralizing and threatening the ordinary citizens who make their living in an honest way.

Another important aspect is the various kinds of accidents and disastrous occurrences, which happen very frequently and are

very damaging. We have to solve these problems at the root cause. I would like to plead with all authorities to closely monitor your work based on technical soundness and in a straightforward manner. I am not implying that my concern should mean that from now on, all kinds of permits and licenses will not be so easily granted causing delays and inconvenience for the people. I hope you understand what I mean I would like to ask all the responsible agencies to find ways and means to prevent all these untoward incidents and solve the problems in a speedy manner.

## **2. Increase in Opportunities for Education**

This government puts great emphasis on education, especially with regard to increase of opportunities for education. And it should be noted here that, in order to promote further education for children, the extension of compulsory education from 6 to 9 years has been promulgated as a government policy. At the same time, some supportive measures such as free study, scholarships and others have been carried out. As for the poor and the lower income group, the government will rearrange Fund for Education accordingly, on the principle that the fund is for those who are able to study not only for those who can study very well. This is because it is to provide opportunities not rewards.

In addition to increase in opportunities, it is also necessary to determine the right direction for education. Hence, there must be close coordination between the firms and the educational institutes as producers, both with respect to producing required sort of labour and upgrading the unskilled labour to skilled labour. By doing this, it can be assured that labour demand in economic sectors will be properly served and the country development

process is sustainable. It should not be that in the next few years we become short of physicians, jewelers, or engineers. This should not happen, whatever. Therefore these issues should be of concern for relevant agencies.

### **3. Environment**

This issue is very important and affects everyone's quality of life, either at the social, national or global level. We need to cooperate and help each other. For in the past, the environment issue has been ignored and therefore aggravated to become a very serious problem. Suddenly one day, we may pay very much attention to it but, by then, nothing much can be done. And the problem becomes a violent conflict as being now realised.

At this moment, I would like to inform you that this government is aware of how important the environmental problem is, and also realises that it needs to be rectified immediately. Nonetheless, this does not mean that order sectoral development activities have to be stagnant. Environmental preservation must be carried out simultaneously with other development activities by respective agencies. And it should not happen that when an agency is ready to start their work they have to wait another two years for another agency's study to complete. This will not work. If there is any obstacle or conflict between agencies and it is possible to consult and compromise at that level, the problem should be resolved and the work carried through. Nevertheless, if the issue has to be settled at the government level, it has to be rapidly reported to the cabinet so that proper solutions can be found.

### **4. Social Aspect**

The social policy of this government covers Thai cultural preservation, upholding religion, improving social member's

status, especially women, children, young people and those who lack opportunities. It is also concerned with health care, employment, sports, and other social welfare activities. In other words, the policy covers every dimension and aspect of the society.

**The social policy has 5 major objectives:**

1) To retain the uniqueness of being Thai amidst the influence of globalisation and outward-oriented economy, and at the same time keep respect to Thai conventional wisdom. This is necessary and we have to do it together.

2) To improve quality of life. Because the purpose of our development is to make people happy. A good life requires both physical facilities, and emotional, thinking, and mental development, including also, good relationship in family. Apparently quality of life possesses both material and mental dimensions. As such, I would ask governmental agencies to formulate measures in accordance with the policy and implement them arduously.

3) To compensate for civil rights and opportunity and render happiness to those who lack opportunity. This objective is aimed at children, women, young people, old people and the disabled, to make them equal with other and live happily in the society.

4) To take care, rehabilitate, and improve public health. This objective involves not only ministry of public health and ministry of education but also many other ministries. Therefore, it is essential that every ministry has to help each other and work together.

5) To increase social welfare. Social welfare is a necessity for the free and open economy. Under competitive system the state needs to provide adequate welfare in order to strengthen those who lack opportunity and accommodate those who are defeated from the race. In this respect, the government policy thus has mentioned about workers and others with little opportunity.

## **5. Structure, Work System and Personnel**

Major issues need to be mentioned are:

Firstly, decentralisation to the local government. The government pronounced a clear policy in decentralising activities and obligations pertaining to local community, with adequate and appropriate budget, to the local government. This will be done by amending laws and regulations in order to a low local government freer and more convenient administration.

For this issue, I would like every agency to consider if there is any small job or petty work relating to local people's everyday living that can be done or better carried out by local government. If so, would it not be better if we just set standard and let local government do the job? We then will be left with only important work. I think it is time for us to decentralise those jobs to the local government.

Secondly, work system and personnel in the public sector. The country's economic and social growth foster higher demand for public services. What I would like to emphasize is that the agencies responsible directly for public service should urgently improve their efficiency in providing quick and good services with

high quality. They also should take into consideration the social objectives of equity, equality, speedy services and non-discrimination. At this point, you would surely understand which agency is the agency in this regard. We have to change our concept from “governing” to “service rendering” The image of the government must be changed from “commanding state” to “people-oriented” state, implying services to the people.

## **6. Income Distribution and Prosperity Decentralisation**

The government aims to distribute income to the provinces in many ways. Essentially, they are investment and industry promotion, fiscal and monetary measures, and the implementation of mega projects such as Southern Sea Board, Eastern Sea Board, Global Transpark project, and the extension of transport modes to neighbouring countries. In short, there must be enough water, electricity, roads, and telephones. The government will accelerate the distribution of these services to cover every provincial area so that they are equally accessible to good services. To be specific, every village must have asphalted roads.

## **7. Economic Policy Issues**

As I have previously mentioned that in order to sustain economic growth, this government has concentrated on economic stabilization. I have emphasized with the ministry of finance, the Bank of Thailand and the ministry of commerce to closely collaborate to curb inflation persistently. Additionally, problems relating to the current account deficit, which needs cooperation among government agencies, especially from the ministries of transport and communications, commerce industry, Board of

Investment, Tourism Authority of Thailand and Ministry of Finance, have been given close attention.

There are seven objectives of the government's economic policy as follows.

The first is to promote liberalization in the economy through private sector-led development strategy.

Second, to continuously sustain high economic growth

Economic stabilization is the third objective of the policy. Neither high inflation nor volatile appreciation of Thai currency (Bath) should be allowed to occur.

Fourth, the government has endeavored to lessen income gaps between the urban and the rural areas and between the rich and the poor through prosperity distribution and income generation in the regions.

To promote sub-regional and regional economic cooperation is the fifth objective. As Thailand is located among many sub-regions, including East Asia, South Asia, South East Asia and Indochina, integration among countries, especially in trade, can strengthen Thai economic growth. Apart from benefiting Thai economy, it also assists other neighboring countries to consistently develop their economies at a more rapid pace. Looking beyond Thailand's borders, we should seek new opportunities from various international forums where Thailand is a member, such as the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA), the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), and the World Trade Organization (WTO).

These new opportunities, be they in trade or investment will help generate greater employment, and promote economic growth which should also strengthen bargaining power with other regional

economic groupings, such as the European Union (EU) and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). All concerned agencies should jointly devise action plans to support the above policy implementation, and to strengthen our international negotiation teams for greater effectiveness.

The sixth objective is to alleviate environmental damage and revive natural resources. As we may all recognize, Thai economy has so far developed successfully at the expense of natural resources. Consequently, it has triggered many environmental problems. In order to tackle them, the economic strategy based on resource exploitation, should no longer longer be utilized. We have to stop damaging our environment and speed up the rehabilitation efforts.

The seventh objective is on human development. The government considers the people as both a vital factor and a prominent objective for development. Human resource development has therefore been placed as a top priority.

## **8. The Imperative Missions of the Government**

For the benefits of the Thai people there are two urgent tasks, which the government must imperatively proceed, namely the preparation of the royal cremation of Her Royal Highness the Princess Mother. And the fiftieth anniversary (Golden Jubilee) celebrations of His Majesty the King's accession to the throne.

For other issues, Deputy Prime Ministers and Ministers will subsequently mention.

In a nutshell, I would like to reiterate that this government will largely concentrate on prompt course of action. Hence, many chronic problems ranging from regional to national levels must

rapidly be solved either by implementing agencies or at the governmental level, be they concerned with legal, budgetary, or manpower issues. I would like to ask responsible agencies to report to the cabinet for speedy action.

I would like to emphasize once again that all my deputy prime ministers and ministers, and myself, including all the elected members of parliament since 2 July 1995, be they in the government or opposition, all have duties to solve national problems. The government will have to implement policies to bring happiness to the people, while the opposition will have to monitor activities of the government. This is the main task of parliamentary democracy. I have had experiences in various ministries. Personally, I respect all the government officials. I recognize their integrity, honors, and ability. I have no school to teach me. There is no school for politician. But the reason that we can administer government work is because we rely on the bureaucratic machinery. If I can make use of your wealth of knowledge in an abstract sense, then I can translate it into concrete implementation. This is where our differences lie. As high-ranking officials, you may possess technical expertise in an abstract sense. I am a practitioner. I make use of your thought, your knowledge and ability to transform them into real benefits for the people and the country. Therefore, I would like to ask all of you to adhere to your roles and responsibilities. Then the government policy should be successfully implemented.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep thanks and to whole-heartedly encourage you to collaborate on any issues for the sake of our national interest.

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