



Lao People's Democratic Republic
Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity

Government

No. 238 /Gov
Vientiane Capital, 11 August 2017

**DECREE
ON ASSOCIATIONS**

- Pursuant to the Constitution of Lao PDR (amended version) No 63/NA dated 8 December 2015;
- Pursuant to the Law on Government (amended version) No 04/NA dated 8 November 2016;
- Referring to the letter of proposal from the Ministry of Home Affairs Ref. No. 207/MoHA dated 8 August 2017

Government of Lao PDR issues the following Decree:

**PART I
General Provisions**

Article 1: Purpose

This Decree determines the principles, regulations and measures for the establishment, operations and management of Associations to be used as basic references for the establishment of Associations of Lao citizens, relevant State's organizations, for the management, monitoring, inspections and promotion of Associations to operate in compliance with the Laws of Lao PDR, to contribute to promoting national unity, alleviating people's poverty, assistance to the society and country's socio-economic development.

Article 2: Association

1. Associations that are established and operate under this Decree refer to non-profit civil society organizations established on a voluntary basis that operate, provide mutual assistance, protect the rights and legitimate interests of the Associations, members of Associations or communities, and contribute to country's socio-economic development.
2. Associations can bear different names: federal association, confederation, clubs or are commonly called 'Associations' which are membership-based civil society organizations (except for profitable incorporate business groups)

Article 3: definitions

1. **Non-profit making** refers to assets and revenues generated from Association's activities after deduction of overhead costs with the remaining assets not being shared but further used in line with the purpose of Association's Charter
2. **Federal Association or Federation** refers to collective membership-based civil society organizations that are officially established and operate in the same area or sector, voluntarily and jointly agree to address relevant Government's agency to establish the federation;
3. **club** refers to a civil society organization that gathers individuals or legal entities as members that has been officially established, exercises professional activities or operate in the same area and sector on a voluntary basis and jointly agree to address to relevant government's agency to establish the club;
4. **Community** refers to all citizens living in a defined areas and having similar characteristics and attachment, and relying on each other;
5. **Voluntarism** refers to joining a civil society organization based on good will, aspiration of each members without being forced
6. **Association with legal entity status** refers to an officially established Association that conducts regular operations, has a Charter, an office, a seal and proper bank saving account in accordance with the Laws and Government's regulations;
7. **Associations with non-legal entity status** refers to an Association established by individuals on a voluntary basis or organizations that do not meet all eligibility criteria as prescribed in article 7 of this Decree;
8. **Capital** refers to funds or assets
9. **Asset** refers to buildings, compounds, lands, vehicles, equipment, and objects obtained from purchases, donations and contribution by individuals, legal persons, domestic and foreign organizations or donated by the Government;
10. **Fund donation** refers to the concession, transfer of funds or assets of individuals. legal persons, legal organizations to the Association;
11. **Fund mobilization** refers to organizing meetings or specific events or notification or letters requesting individuals, legal entities, organizations to make donations, provide financial support or assets to the Association;
12. **Independent Audit organizations** refers to external audit organizations that runs audit businesses or independent auditors who are registered as independent auditors with proper enterprise license in accordance with the Laws of Lao PDR;
13. **Association registration** refers to the certifying documents, approval on the establishment of the Association that the Ministries and ministry-equivalent agencies have properly approved in compliance with the present Decree.

Article 4: Government's policy on Associations

The Government applies the following policy to Associations:

1. the Government approves the official establishment of Associations and only the Government's agencies have the right the approve the establishment of Association;
2. the Government encourages the Associations to undertake public services, extend assistance to the society and address people's poverty;
3. the Government approves the mobilizations and acceptance of donations, assets from individuals, legal entities and domestic and foreign organizations in accordance with the Laws, Government's regulations and Association's Charter;

4. the Government approves the interactions, cooperation with international organizations to carry out programs, assistance projects in compliance with the with the Laws, Government's regulations and Association's Charter;
5. the Government provides advice and assistance through the Ministries, ministry-equivalent agencies, sectors, and relevant local authorities in order to ensure effective operations of the Associations in line with Party's policy, Laws and Government's regulations;
6. the Government issues legal instruments to be used as references for Association's proper activities.

Article 5: Scope

This Decree is applied specifically to Associations as legal persons of Lao citizens that have been authorized to be established under this Decree.

Article 6: Principle governing the establishment and operations of Associations

Associations are established and operate on the basis of the following principles:

1. Voluntary establishment, fund contribution, joint activities, adhesion or resignation from the Association without constraints or duress;
2. Clear purpose and objectives;
3. Regular activities;
4. Self-management and accountability for all Association's activities before the Law;
4. Financial self-sufficiency;
5. Non-profit activities;
6. Transparency, openness and equality.

Article 7: Criteria for the establishment of Associations

The establishment of any Association requires the following criteria:

1. to have clear objectives and to define areas of activities which are not in conflict with the Lao Constitution, Laws and fine national, local and ethnic traditions, not to represent a threat to national security, social order and individual's freedom;
2. The Association's Mobilizing Committee shall consist of at least 3 members appointed by Association's founder and one of the three members of the Mobilizing Committee shall have certified professional qualifications or work permit relevant to Association's activities;
3. the founder, Founding Committee, Mobilizing Committee, Board's members, inspectors and directors shall be Lao nationals, aged minimum 18 years old and have no criminal record;
4. The name of the established Associations shall not be duplicated with the names of other Associations that are already established in the same region. The names shall be in Lao, clear, easy to understand, not rude and, if necessary, the name can be translated into foreign languages;
5. The office of the Association shall be located in Lao PDR with the certificate of the village authorities of Association's location. the Association's shall have a property certificate or lease agreement in accordance with the laws;
6. the Associations shall have their Charter in accordance with the form provided by the Government

7. the number of registered members who voluntary join the association;
 - 7.1 Associations operating on the national territory require at least 25 members;
 - 7.2 Associations operating at the provincial and capital levels, the minimum number of members is 15 persons
 - 7.3 Associations operating within a district, municipality or village require at least 10 members.

Membership requirements for economic Associations or Association operating within specific regions, sectors, professions or localities will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Section II

Types and Levels of Association's activities

Article 8: Types of Associations

Associations in Lao PDR include:

1. Economic Associations;
2. Professional, technical and creative Associations;
3. Social welfare and development Associations;

Article 9: economic Associations

Economic Associations refer to civil society organizations the members of which are business units with proper business registration in production, trade and services in accordance with the Laws and citizens who voluntarily establish the Associations as prescribed by Laws.

Article 10: Professional, technical and creative Associations

Professional, technical and creative Associations refer to civil society organizations the members of which are professionals, technical people who voluntarily establish the Associations with the view to promoting the professions, technical occupations and creativity.

Article 11: Social welfare and development Associations

Social welfare and development Associations refer to civil society organizations the members of which are voluntarily, humanitarily and highly devote their funds, materiels, intellectual capacity, efforts to assist and develop the society, communities, the poor, disadvantaged people, people with disabilities, elderly people, and victims of natural disasters or wars without any awards.

Article 12: level of Associations; activities

Associations have been classified in 3 levels:

1. Associations registered and operating throughout the country;
2. Associations registered and operating within a specific province or the capital;
3. Associations registered and operating within a specific district or municipality or city or village.

Article 13: National Level Associations

National level Associations are Associations registered and widely operating throughout the country or a region of the country covering more than two provinces.

Article 14: Province or Capital Level Associations

Province or capital level Associations are Associations registered and operating within a specific province or the capital.

Article 15: District or Municipality or Village Level Associations

District or Municipality or Village Level Associations are Associations operating within a district or city or village are Associations that are authorized to be established and operate within a specific district or city or village only.

Section III

Regulations and Procedures for Association Establishment

Article 16: Procedures for Applying for an Association’s Establishment

The application for the establishment of individual or collective Associations shall follow 4 steps:

1. the request for approval on the nomination of Association’s Mobilizing Committee;
2. the request for approval to convene Association’s inaugural assembly;
3. the request for approval on Association’s Charter and Board’s members;
4. the request to register the Association.

Article 17: request for an approval on the nomination of Association’s Mobilizing Committee

The Association’s founder shall nominate at least 3 members of the Mobilizing Committee and submit the following set of documents to the authorizing agency as prescribed in article 22 for consideration and approval:

1. letter of request to approve the Association’s Mobilizing Committee;
2. copy of family book or ID card of each nominee;
3. CV of members of the Mobilizing Committee signed and certified by village authority;
4. home certificate;
5. criminal record;
6. Certificate on professional qualifications or work experiences in a specific area relevant to the purpose and activities of the Association.

Article 18: 2. Request for approval to convene Association’s inaugural assembly

1. **Constitution of documents to get approval to open Association’s inaugural assembly,**

The Mobilizing Committee shall submit the following documents to the authorizing agency as prescribed in article 22 for consideration:

- 1.1 the letter of request to convene the Association’s inaugural Assembly;
- 1.2 draft Charter of the Association following the official template;
- 1.3 Association’s plan of activities or actions plan;
- 1.4 list of candidates for membership;

- 1.5 Certificate on the location of Association's office certified by village authority and summary map of Association's office.

2. Proceeding of inaugural assembly

The Mobilizing Committee shall prepare for the inaugural assembly within 90 days from the date the decision to convene the inaugural assembly becomes effective.

The Association's inaugural assembly is convened to gather all members of the Association to the Association's general assembly with the view to establishing the Association with the following proceedings:

- 2.1 to read out the decision to convene the Association's inaugural assembly;
- 2.2 to present Association's Charter;
- 2.3 to conduct consultations, elect Board's members, inspectors and other positions, as deemed necessary;
- 2.4 to present the plan of activities or Action plan of the Association;
- 2.5 to present the resolutions of the Assembly to establish the Association.

Once the assembly elects Board's members, the Mobilizing Committee will be dissolved automatically

In case the Mobilizing Committee cannot convene the inaugural assembly within 90 days, the Mobilizing Committee shall request the authorizing agency for an extension with written justifications for further consideration.

Article 19: request to approve Association's Charter and Board's members

Within 30 days after the end of the inaugural assembly, the Board of the Association shall submit all documents to the relevant authority to approve the establishment as prescribed in article 22 and consider approving the Association's Charter and Board's members. The Association shall submit the following documents:

1. the letter of request to approve Association's Charter and Board;
2. the Record of the presentation of the Charter, election of Board members and inspectors;
3. Resolutions of the inaugural assembly;
4. the draft Association's Charter that was presented at the inaugural assembly;
5. registration list of participating members;
6. the latest list of Association's members;
7. CVs of Board's members, home certificates, criminal records, copies of ID Cards or Family book (in case the elected members are not member of the Mobilizing Committee and has not been screened and certified by the Ministry of Public Security);
8. The documents about the location of Association's office certified by village authority of office's location and summary map of the Association's office (in case of changes).

Article 20: Association's registration

When the Association's Charter and Board's members have been approved by relevant authorizing agency, the Association shall be registered within 7 days with the Ministry of Home Affairs with the following documents:

1. the letter of request for registration;
2. the approved Association's Charter;
3. the decisions to approve Association's Charter and Board's members.

The Association's registration is valid for one year and can be renewed

Article 21: renewal of Association's registration

For the renewal of the registration, the following documents shall be submitted:

1. the letter of request for registration renewal;
2. the comments from ministry, authorizing authority that approves the establishment;
3. the Annual report on Association's activities;
4. the approved Charter of the Association (in case of changes);
5. the decisions to approve Association's Charter and Board's members.

Section IV

Authority that have the right to approve the establishment, registration and procedure for the establishment and registration

Article 22: authority that have the right to approve the establishment, registration

Economic Associations are approved by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce based on the comments from ministries, relevant sectors. Subsequently, a request is made to the Ministry of Home affair to register the Association.

Professional, technical and creative Associations that are related to specific ministries and ministry-equivalent agencies and the ministers of those ministries, heads of those agencies approve the establishment based on the comments from ministries, relevant sectors. Subsequently, a request is made to the Ministry of Home Affairs to register the Association.

Social welfare and development Association or Associations with activities in more than two sectors are approved and registered by the Ministry of Home Affairs based on the comments from ministries, ministry-equivalent agencies.

The Associations can officially operate from the date they are properly registered in accordance with this Decree.

Article 23: procedures for considering approving the establishment of Associations

The procedures for considering the establishment of an Association shall follow 4 steps:

1. to consider approving the nomination or reject the nomination of the Mobilizing Committee;
2. to consider approving the opening of the inaugural assembly or reject the opening of the inaugural assembly of the Association;

- 3.to consider approving or rejecting Association’s Charter and Board’s members;
- 4.to register the Association.

Article 24 Consideration to approve the mobilizing committee of the Association

The authorizing agency, that approves the establishment, considers approving or rejecting the nomination of the Mobilizing Committee of the Association within 60 days upon receiving all proper documents as prescribed in article 17 of this Decree.

Article 25: consideration to open inaugural assembly

After the authorizing agency, that approves the establishment of the Association, properly receives all documents as prescribed in article 18 paragraph 1 of this Decree, it shall consider approving the opening of an inaugural assembly or rejecting the approval to open an inaugural assembly within 30 days.

In case it receives a notification from the Mobilizing Committee to postpone the inaugural assembly, the authorizing agency that approves the establishment of the Association can postpone the opening of the inaugural assembly but should not exceed 60 days.

Article 26: consideration to approve the Charter and Board members of the Association

After the authorizing agency, that approves the establishment of the Association, properly receives all documents as prescribed in article 19 of this Decree, it shall consider accepting or rejecting the approval of the Charter and Board’s members of the Association within 60 days.

Article 27: consideration of registrations and registration renewal of the Association

When the Ministry of Home Affairs properly receives the request for registration as prescribed in articles 20 and 21 of this Decree, it shall consider accepting or rejecting the approval of the Charter and Board’s members within 15 days.

Section 5

Position, role, rights, duties and prohibition of Associations

Article 28: position and role of Associations

The Associations are civil society organizations that play the role in educating and enhancing national solidarity, providing mutual assistance amongst members and assist the society in compliance with Laws and Government’s regulations; the Associations protect the rights and legitimate interests of Associations, member of the Association or communities, contribute to building and developing the country and poverty reduction.

Article 29: rights and duties of Associations

The Associations have the following rights and duties:

1. to properly operate in accordance with Party's policy, socio-economic development plans, Laws, Government's regulations and Association's Charter;
2. to coordinate with line ministries, ministry-equivalent agencies, provincial departments, Vientiane capital, district, municipality, cities offices that are in relation with areas and sectors in which the Associations are involved in the planning and operations at the local level;
3. to mobilize and receive support, assistance, donations from individuals, legal persons, both domestic and foreign, in compliance with the Laws and government's regulations;
4. to consider appointing new members and dismissing members of the Association;
5. to exercise other rights and perform other duties as prescribed in the Charter of the Association, Laws and Government's regulations.

Article 30: Obligations of the Associations

The Associations have the following obligations:

1. to report to the authority that approves the establishment of the Association and government's agencies the status of the implementation of activities, revenues-expenditures on an annual basis;
2. to operate in areas, sectors that are under the supervision of the Government's agencies responsible for those areas and sectors;
3. to mobilize funds or receive donations, assistance from individuals, legal persons, domestic and foreign organizations in line with the objectives of the Association and in compliance with the Laws and Government's regulations;
4. to utilize all funds that the Association has mobilized in accordance with the objectives, targets of the Associations;
5. to strictly comply with the Laws on Accounting, Audit and Association's Charter.

Article 31: Prohibitions for Associations

The Associations are prohibited to carry out the following activities:

1. to abuse the right to freedom to establish an Association or on behalf of the Association to operate in conflict with the Lao Constitution, Laws and Government's regulations;
2. to support or carry out activities that threaten national security, social order, individual freedom and fine national, local and ethnic traditions;
3. to carry out activities that will divide national, local solidarity, religions and ethnic groups;
4. to destroy national, collective and individual interests;
5. to falsify, transfer, rent or lend the approval to establish or register an Association in any forms;
6. to borrow or lend money, loan guarantee from financial institutions, legal persons and domestic and foreign individuals;
7. to accept foreign experts and volunteers to have permanent work in the Association.

Section 6

Organizational structure of Association

Article 32: operational structure of the Association

The operational structure of the Association comprises: the administrative office which is the permanent operational structure of the Association and plays the role in assisting Board's members in the management, supervision and facilitation of activities of the Association. In addition, there are technical units established in line with the role, rights and Charter defined by the Association.

Article 33: staffing structure of the Associations

The staffing structure of the Associations comprises:

1. Board's members (President, Vice-President, and members);
2. inspectors;
3. Directors;
4. members;
5. staff in other positions as defined in the Charter of the Association.

Article 34: Association's Board

The Board's members of the Association shall be ordinary members elected by other ordinary members at the general assembly and shall be at least 3 in number with a mandate not exceeding 5 years. They play the role in providing guidance in all activities and importance decisions of the Association.

Article 35: inspectors of the Association

The inspectors of the Association shall be ordinary members elected by other ordinary members at the inaugural assembly and shall be at least 3 in number with a mandate not exceeding 5 years. They play the role in monitoring all activities of the Associations and the administration of Board's members to ensure the compliance with the Charter of the Association, Laws and Government's regulations.

Article 36: Directors of the Association

The Director of the Association is the assistant to the President of the Association who is nominated by the President of the Association based on the agreement of Board's members. The Director plays the role in administrating daily activities of the Association.

Section 7

Members of the Association

Article 37: members of the Associations

The members of the Associations comprise:

1. Ordinary members;
2. Support members;
3. Honorary members.

Article 38: Ordinary members

Ordinary members are organizations or Lao citizens who adhere to the Charter of the Association, voluntarily join the Association and meet all standard requirements to become ordinary members of the Association in accordance with the Charter.

Article 38: Support members

Support members are organizations or Lao citizens who adhere to the Charter of the Association, voluntarily join the Association, contribute, interact with the Association but do not meet all standard requirements to become ordinary members of the Association under the Charter or are not willing to become members yet.

Support members have similar rights and duties as ordinary members except the right to vote, to apply for positions within the Board, inspectors committee, directors and to cast vote for decisions of the Association.

The acceptance or dismissal of support members shall follow the Charter of the Association

Article 40: : honorary members

Honorary members are representatives of organizations or Lao citizens who play the role as eminent, respectful persons and have previously contributed to the Association and the Association has invited them to be honorary members.

Article 41: advertisement and expansion of Association’s membership

The authorizing agency and local authorities shall be informed of the advertisement to expand Association’s membership in writing 7 days in advance.

Section 8

Meetings of Association

Article 41: categories of Association’s meetings

1. General assembly;
2. Annual meetings;
3. Board’s meetings.

Article 43: General Assembly of the Association

The General Assembly is the supreme body of the Association and is convened in the form of General assembly of all members or a general assembly of representatives of members in accordance with the Charter of the Association.

The general assembly is convened in accordance with the schedule defined in the Charter not later than 5 years after the end of the previous session. In case the General assembly cannot be convened, the President of the Association shall provide to the authorizing agency written justifications to postpone the general assembly.

The Association can call for an extraordinary session if deemed necessary to discuss urgent activities of the Association or when more than half of the ordinary members or 2/3 of the Board’s members call for an extraordinary.

The principles and format of the votes during the session follow the principle of majority.

Prior to convening a general assembly, the Board shall inform the authorizing agency in writing of the agenda of the assembly and the staff who will be the chair of the assembly or the Vice president of the Board, attendees of the Association 30 days in advance prior to the date of the general assembly. After the conclusion of the general assembly, the authorizing agency and local authorities shall be informed of the outcomes of the assembly within 30 days.

Article 44: Annual meeting of the Association

The annual meeting of the Association is the meeting that is convened to draw conclusion on the results of the activities of the Association over one year, to present the work plan for the following year, to award individuals for the contributions and to discuss other matters of the Association.

The Associations shall submit its annual report to the authorizing agency and Government's agency for information before 15 December of the each year.

The rules, notification about the meeting, attendance at the annual meeting shall follow the Charter of the Association.

Article 45: Board's meeting

The Board's meeting is convened in accordance with the Charter of the Association at least twice a year with a view to drawing conclusion, reviewing the activities and pursuing the on-going activities and reaching the annual work plan.

The rules, notification about the meeting, attendance at the annual meeting shall follow the Charter of the Association.

Section 9

Merging, separation, dissolution and establishment of Association's branches

Article 46: merging

Merging of Associations is uniting many Associations that operate in similar or different areas and sectors into one Association on a voluntarism basis with the agreement from the ministry, relevant ministry-equivalent agencies and the approval from the authorizing agency.

Article 47: separation

The separation of an Association is the separation of one Association into two or many Associations based on the willingness of the members through the meeting of the Association and with the agreement from the ministry, relevant ministry-equivalent agencies and the approval from the authorizing agency.

Article 48: Dissolution

An Association can be dissolved for 2 cases:

1. dissolution following the order of the authorizing agency
 - 1.1 the Association violates the prohibitions prescribed in article 31 of this Decree;
 - 1.2 the Association operates in serious violations of Party's guidance and policy, Government's regulations and Association's Charter;
 - 1.3 the Association does not operate at least for 12 months or has achieved its objectives or continue to operate after the expire of its mandate;
 - 1.4 the Association does not apply for registration.

2. voluntary dissolutions by the Association
 - 2.1 more than half of the members request for dissolution;
 - 2.2 the Association lacks of funding or cannot pursue activities;
 - 2.3 the Association has completed its mandate as prescribed in the Charter;
 - 2.4 the Association has achieved its objectives as defined in the Charter.

Article 49: duties of the Association after dissolution

1. dissolution following the order of the authorizing agency

After the authorizing agency issues an order to dissolve the Association, the Association's Board shall prepare and submit the following documents to the authorizing agency:

- 1.1 the list of assets, liabilities, revenue-expenditures and remaining treasury;
- 1.2 the plan for debt clearance and how to handle remaining assets;
- 1.3 the decision to approve the Charter, the decision on the approval of the Board and registration.

2. voluntary dissolutions by the Association

When the Association agrees to be dissolved, the Association's Board shall prepare and submit the following documents to the authorizing agency:

- 2.1 the letter of request to dissolve the Association;
- 2.2 the resolutions or record of the general assembly to dissolve the Association;
- 2.3 the list of assets, liabilities, revenue-expenditures and remaining treasury;
- 2.4 the plan for debts clearance and how to handle remaining assets;
- 2.5 the decision to approve the Charter, the decision on the approval of the Board and registration.

Article 50: assets after the dissolution of the Association, termination of the duties and right of the Association

After dissolution, the assets shall be handled in accordance with the Charter of the Association or transferred to other Associations or foundations having similar objectives of activities or the Government receives the assets to allocate to other Associations or foundations.

The duties and rights of the dissolved Association are terminated from the date the authorizing agency revokes its decision to approve the Charter, the decision on the approval of Board and registration.

Article 51: duties of the authorizing agency towards the dissolved Association

The authorizing agency has the following duties towards to the dissolved Association:

1. to issue the decision on the dissolution of the Association;
2. to notify in writing relevant agencies of the dissolution and notify the registration agency to remove the Association from the list of registered Associations;
3. to encourage, monitor and handle the assets, Association's liabilities in accordance with the Laws and Government's regulations and Association's Charter;
4. to exercise other rights and perform other duties in accordance with the laws and Government's regulations.

Article 52: establishment of Branch office

The Associations that operate nationwide can establish their branch offices in other localities based on the agreement of local authorities and the approval from the authorizing agency.

Section 10

Source of revenue, management and utilization of revenue

Article 53 : source of Association's revenue

The revenue of an Association comes from various sources:

- 1.membership fees;
- 2.funds, assets from domestic and foreign donators;
- 3.other sources by Laws and Government's regulations.

Article 54: Association's membership fees

The membership fees are fees that the members pay to the Association on a monthly or annual basis. The Association can define the appropriate amount of the fees in its Charter.

Article 55: Funds, assets from domestic and foreign donators

The Associations can receive funds and assets from individuals, legal entities or organizations of Lao PDR but they shall be declared funds and assets with transparent sources. The authorizing agency shall be notified of the reception of the assets or funds in writing within 7 days.

The Associations can also receive funds and assets from foreign individuals, legal entities or organizations but they shall be declared funds and assets with transparent sources and shall seek for an approval from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in accordance with specific regulations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs based on the comments from the authorizing agency and Ministry of Home Affairs.

Article 56: Management and utilization of source of revenue

The management and utilization of sources of revenue shall comply with the Laws, relevant Government's regulations and Association's Charter but shall ensure that the gross overhead costs does not exceed 25% of the annual planned expenditures.

Section 11

Assets and management of Association's assets

Article 57: Association's assets

The assets of the Associations are building, compounds, lands, vehicles, equipment and other assets contributed by the members, purchased, donated, grants from individual, legal entities, domestic and foreign donators or handed by the Government.

Article 58 : management of utilization of assets

The management of utilization of assets of the Association:

1. the Government acknowledges and protects the assets of the Association that are legally obtained ;
2. The management and utilization of assets shall comply with the Association's Charter, Laws and relevant Government's regulations.

Section 12

Supervising agencies

Article 59: supervising agencies

The Government ensures central and uniform supervision of Associations nationwide by mandating the following Government's agencies to directly supervise the Associations:

1. Ministries, relevant sectors;
2. Ministry of Home Affairs;
3. Ministry of Finances;
4. Ministry of Public Security;
5. Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
6. Lao Front for National Construction;
7. Provincial, Vientiane capital authorities;
8. Provincial, Vientiane Capital departments;
9. Provincial, Vientiane Capital internal agencies;
10. District, municipality, city authorities;
11. District, municipality, city departments;
12. District, municipality, city internal agencies;
13. village authorities.

Article 60: rights and duties of Ministries, ministry-equivalent agencies

The ministries, ministry-equivalent agencies have the following rights and duties:

1. to examine, provide comments or consider the establishment, merging, separation and dissolution of Associations that are related to areas and sectors under their responsibilities;

2. to coordinate with other ministries, ministry-equivalent agencies, relevant local authorities and provincial departments to supervise, monitor, inspect the organization, activities of the Associations in the sectors under their responsibilities;
3. to examine and consider the approval of programs, projects of the Association and to encourage the implementation of the projects;
4. to coordinate with line ministries, ministry-equivalent agencies to monitor and supervise programs and projects of the Association;
5. to examine and consider addressing Association's proposals within the scope of their rights;
6. to disseminate to Association policies, Laws and regulations relevant to the sectors under their responsibilities;
7. to advise, facilitate Association to conduct activities in accordance with the objectives and role of the Association;
8. to approve or propose to relevant agencies or Government to award Associations with outstanding contribution to the development and assistance to the society in the sector under their responsibilities;
9. to exercise other rights and perform other duties in accordance with the Laws and Government's regulations.

Article 61: rights and duties of the Ministry of Home Affairs

In addition to the rights and duties prescribed in articles 22, 27 and 60 of this Decree, the Ministry of Home Affairs also has the following rights and duties:

1. to act as a secretariat and assist the Government in centrally and uniformly supervising the Association nationwide;
2. to coordinate with other ministries to examine policies, Laws and Government's regulations on Associations for further consideration and approval by higher authorities;
3. to register or revoke the Association from the list of registered Associations after the ministry and sector have approved or dissolved the Association;
4. to consider imposing disciplinary measures to Associations that the Ministry of Home Affairs has approved or request relevant authorities to take actions in case of violation of Laws, Government's regulations and Association's Charter;
5. to exercise other rights and perform other duties in accordance with the Laws and Government's regulations.

Article 62: rights and duties of the Ministry of Finances

In addition to the rights and duties prescribed in article 22 and 60 of this Decree, the Ministry of Finances also has the following rights and duties:

1. to take the lead in examining regulations on financial management and use of Association's funds and provide advice on implementation;
2. to monitor, inspect the use of Association's funds and assets;
3. to consider requests from the Association for tax and customs duty deduction or exemption, in accordance with the Laws and Government's regulations;
4. to coordinate with relevant organizations to consider addressing the case of violation of Laws and Government's regulations on Finances;
5. to exercise other rights and perform other duties in accordance with the Laws and Government's regulations.

Article 63 rights and duties of the Ministry of Public Security

In addition to the rights and duties prescribed in article 22 and 60 of this Decree, the Ministry of Public Security also has the following rights and duties:

1. to inspect and certify the correctness of personal data of the founder, Founding Committee, Mobilizing Committee and Board's members within 45 days from the date the letter from the ministry, relevant ministry-equivalent agencies is received;
2. to monitor, inspect the activities of the Association;
3. to exercise other rights and perform other duties in accordance with the Laws and Government's regulations.

Article 64: rights and duties of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

In addition to the rights and duties prescribed in article 22 and 60 of this Decree, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also has the following rights and duties:

1. to inspect, certify and consider matters in relation to the acceptance of funds and assets from foreign donators, INGOs, foreign legal entities, Associations, foundations, funds, institutes and clubs to carry out programs and project of the Associations within 30 days from the date the letter from the ministry, relevant ministry-equivalent agencies is received;
2. to coordinate with other Ministries, relevant ministry-equivalent agencies to monitor and supervise programs and project of the Association that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has approved the acceptance of funds;
3. to exercise other rights and perform other duties in accordance with the Laws and Government's regulations.

Article 65: rights and duties of Lao Front for National Construction

The Lao Front for National Construction has the following rights and duties:

1. to educate, enhance solidarity and mobilize civil society organizations in applying policies, Laws, regulations and socio-economic development plan, unite members of Associations to build a synergy for the protection and development of the country;
2. to act as representatives of the Associations and their members to convey their views, aspirations, suggestion to relevant authorities for examination and solutions;
3. to participate and contribute to the formulation of policies and legal texts on Association;
4. to uphold patriotism, culture and fine traditions of Lao multiethnic people, protect the rights and legitimate interests of the organizations, Associations and the members in accordance with the Laws and relevant Government's regulations;
5. to exercise other rights and perform other duties in accordance with the Laws and Government's regulations.

Article 66: rights and duties of provincial and Vientiane Capital authorities

The provincial and Vientiane Capital authorities have the following rights and duties:

1. to supervise the Associations that operate in the provinces, Vientiane Capital through monitoring, inspections and report from relevant sectors;

2. to provide guidance, educate Associations that operate in the provinces, Vientiane Capital to conduct activities in compliance with Laws, Government's regulation and Association's Charter;
3. to award or propose to the authorizing agency to award Associations with outstanding contribution to the development and assistance to the society in their respective localities;
4. to propose the authorizing agency to impose disciplinary measures to Associations for violation of Laws, Government's regulations and Association's Charter;
5. to exercise other rights and perform other duties in accordance with the Laws and Government's regulations.

Article 67: rights and duties of provincial and Vientiane Capital Departments

The Provincial and Vientiane Capital Departments have the following rights and duties:

1. to disseminate, advise on the implementations of policies, Laws and sector's regulations on Association;
2. to examine, consider and provide comments on the establishment, approval to merge, separate and dissolve an Association as prescribed in articles 14 and 15 of this Decree;
3. to advise, facilitate, monitor and inspect the activities of Associations that operate in their respective sectors to ensure effectiveness, to achieve the objectives and to be in line with the role of the Association;
4. to regularly report to the Provincial, Vientiane Capital authorities and higher authorities the status of Associations' activities in their respective sectors for further consideration and guidance;
5. to examine and consider addressing proposals, mediations and disputes settlements and negative phenomenon caused by Associations that operate in their respective sectors within the scope of their rights;
6. to assess the activities of Associations and award or propose to the authorizing agency to award Associations with outstanding contribution to the development and assistance to the society in their respective localities;
7. to propose the ministers, Heads of ministry-equivalent agencies or competent authorities of the province, Vientiane Capital to consider imposing measures to Associations for violation of Laws, Government's regulations and Association's Charter;
8. to exercise other rights and perform other duties in accordance with the Laws and Government's regulations.

Article 68: rights and duties of provincial and Vientiane Capital internal agencies

In addition to the rights prescribed in article 67 of this Decree, the provincial and Vientiane Capital internal agencies also have the following rights and duties:

1. to disseminate, advise on the implementations of policies, Laws and Government's regulations on Association;
2. to periodically report to the Minister of Home Affairs, Governors and Mayor of Vientiane Capital on the activities of the Associations that the Ministry of Home Affairs as approved to operate in their respective localities;

3. to assess the activities of Associations and award or propose to the Government's competent agency to award Associations with outstanding contribution to the development and assistance to the society in the respective localities;
4. to propose the Minister of Home Affairs or relevant competent authorities to consider imposing measures to Associations that the Ministry of Home Affairs has approved for violation of Laws, Government's regulations and Association's Charter;
5. to exercise other rights and perform other duties in accordance with the Laws and Government's regulations

Article 69: rights and duties of district, municipality and city authorities

The district, municipality and city authorities have the following rights and duties:

1. to supervise the Associations that operate in the districts, municipalities and cities through monitoring, inspections and report to relevant district, municipality and city offices;
2. to provide guidance, educate Associations that operate in the districts, municipalities and cities to conduct activities in compliance with Laws, Government's regulations and Association's Charter;
3. to award or propose the Governors and Mayor of Vientiane Capital to award Associations with outstanding contribution to the development and assistance to the society in the respective localities;
4. to report to the Governor, Mayor of Vientiane Capital to propose to the authorizing agency to impose disciplinary measures to Associations for violation of Laws, Government's regulations and Association's Charter;
5. To exercise other rights and perform other duties in accordance with the Laws and Government's regulations.

Article 70: rights and duties of district, municipality and city offices

The district, municipality and city offices have the following rights and duties:

1. to disseminate, advise on the implementations of policies, Laws and sector's regulations on Association;
2. to advise, facilitate, monitor and inspect the activities of Associations that operate in their respective sectors to ensure effectiveness, to achieve the objectives and to be in line with the role of the Association;
3. to regularly report to the district authorities and higher authorities on the status of Associations' activities on their respective sectors;
4. to assess the activities of Associations and award or propose to the authorizing agency to award Associations with outstanding contribution to the development and assistance to the society in the respective sectors;
5. to report to higher authority to propose to the authorizing agency to consider imposing disciplinary measures to Associations that operate in the districts, municipalities and cities for violation of Laws, Government's regulations and Association's Charter;
6. to exercise other rights and perform other duties in accordance with the Laws and Government's regulations.

Article 71: rights and duties of district, municipality and city internal agencies

The district, municipality and city internal agencies have the following rights and duties:

1. to disseminate, advise on the implementations of policies, Laws and Government's regulations on Association to the Associations that operate in the districts or municipalities or villages;
2. to monitor, inspect and draw conclusion and lesson learned on the organizations, activities of Associations that under the supervision of the districts, municipalities and cities;
3. to regularly report to provincial and Vientiane Capital internal agencies, Chiefs of District, Heads of Municipalities and Mayor of Vientiane Capital on the status of Associations' activities in their respective sectors;
4. to report to Provincial and Vientiane Capital internal agencies to propose to the Ministry of Home Affairs that has approved the Associations to operate in their districts, municipalities and cities to impose them disciplinary measures for violation of Laws, Government's regulations and Association's Charter;
5. to exercise other rights and perform other duties in accordance with the Laws and Government's regulations.

Article 72 : rights and duties of village authorities

The village authorities have the following rights and duties:

1. to inspect and regularly report to the Head of District, Head of Municipalities, Head of cities through district, municipality and city internal agencies on the status of Association's activities that contribute to the development of the village and alleviating people's poverty in the village;
2. to cooperate and facilitate the activities of the Association;
3. to certify the contribution from the Associations to the development of village and alleviating people's poverty in the village;
4. to draw conclusion and lesson learned from the activities of the Association;
5. to issue certificates on the location of Association's office;
6. to sign and certify personal data of Association's Mobilizing Committee and Board's members;
7. to exercise other rights and perform other duties in accordance with the Laws and Government's regulations.

Article 73: coordination

1. coordination at the central level

- 1.1 the line ministries, relevant sectors shall coordinate with the Ministry of Home Affairs in monitoring, inspecting and assessing the activities of Association that operate in their respective localities;
- 1.2 the line ministries, ministry-equivalent agencies report to the Prime Minister through the Ministry of Home Affairs on the activities of the Associations that operate in their respective localities on a semiannual basis;
- 1.3 in case of negative phenomena linked to Associations, it is the duty of the authorizing ministry or agency to take the lead in coordinating with relevant sectors to address or to propose to higher authorities to address the issues in accordance with Laws and Government's regulations;

1.4 The line ministries, ministry-equivalent agencies shall receive comments from relevant ministries and sectors prior to approving the establishment, merging, separation and dissolution of an Association.

2. Coordination at the local level

2.1 Relevant provincial departments shall coordinate with provincial, Vientiane Capital internal agencies and relevant sectors to facilitate and cooperate with the Associations in the planning and implementation of activities in their respective localities;

2.2 in case of negative phenomena linked to Associations, it is the duty of the relevant departments to take the lead in coordinating with internal agencies and relevant sectors to address or to propose to higher authorities to address the issues in accordance with Laws and Government's regulations;

2.3 Relevant district, municipality and city offices shall coordinate with district, municipality and city internal agencies in monitoring, inspection of activities of the Association in their respective localities.

Section 13

Inspection agencies for Associations

Article 74: inspection agencies for Associations

The inspection agencies for Associations are the following:

1. Supervising agencies as prescribed in article 59 of this Decree;
2. State's Audit Organization;
3. Independent Audit.

Article 75: inspections agencies for Associations

The inspection agencies for Associations have the duties to inspect the organizations and activities of the Association within the scope of their rights as follow:

1. to examine personal data of Association's Founder, Mobilizing Committee and Board's members
2. to examine Association's objectives as described in Association's Charter;
3. to examine the annual report on the organization and activities of the Association;
4. to examine annual report on revenue-expenditures of the Association;
5. to examine the violations of Association's Charter, Law and Government's regulations.

Section 14

Policy towards Associations with outstanding achievements and measures against violators

Article 76: Policy towards Associations with outstanding achievements

Associations, members of Associations with outstanding contributions to the society and country shall be awarded under various forms based on Government's policy.

Article 77: measures against violators

Associations, members of Associations who violate this Decree or Laws and Government's regulations will subject to warning, suspension, dissolution or prosecution according to the Laws

**Section 15
Logo and seal**

Article 75: logo

If deemed necessary, the Associations can have their own logo and it is the relevant Government's agency that approves the logo according to the size and format as prescribed in the Laws and relevant Government's regulations.

Article 76: seal

The Associations have their own stamp and it is the relevant Government's agency that approves the seal according to the size and format as prescribed in the Laws and relevant Government's regulations.

Section 16

Final provisions

Article 80: implementation

The line ministries, ministry-equivalent agencies, local authorities and domestic civil society organizations shall acknowledge and strictly implement this Decree.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has the responsibilities for issuing detailed instructions on the implementation of the content of this Decree.

Article 81: entry into force

This Decree enters into forces 90 days after it is signed and 15 days after its publication in official Gazette.

With respect to Associations established under Decree on Association 115/PM dated 29 April 2009 they have to re-register with the Ministry of Home Affairs 15 days after this Decree becomes effective by submitting the whole set of document as prescribed in article 20 of this Decree.

This Decree supersedes the Decree on Association No 115/PM dated 29 April 2009. All provisions and regulations that contravene the present Decree shall be null and void.

Government of Lao PDR

Seal and signature

Thongloun Sisoulith