From the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy to Sustainable Development Goals March 29, 2019

Good evening to you all.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation for tuning into these programs 1) Returning Happiness to the People and 2) Sustainable Development From Royal Philosophy during the past five years. These programs promote the Royal Philosophies of His Majesty King Rama IX, one of which is “understand, reach out, and develop.”

This is one of the most important Royal Philosophies that gives us guidelines and lifts our souls. We can certainly apply them to help guide our national development agenda. Therefore, in these programs, we intend to promote the Royal Philosophies in all respects to all people from all walks of life.

We would like to create a better understanding as well as seeking for cooperation. What I have highlighted in the show will be forwarded to all officials. This is a very important mechanism in driving the administration, turning policies into practice. Also, the program serves as a channel for me, as a Prime Minister, to communicate my ideas as well as government policies and updates including disaster warnings to people from all walks of life.

At the same time, in this program, we intend to foster “ethics and morality” as these concepts had started to disappear from our society. We would also like to promote to the Thai people the concept of patriotism and unity including the true concept of democracy that is compatible with the context of Thailand, with His Majesty the King as the Head of State. We need to preserve, prolong, and perpetuate (the Royal Philosophy) as His Majesty the King has instructed.

To prepare the nation and its citizens for the upcoming Royal Coronation Ceremony to be held from May 4 to 6, the Sustainable Development From Royal Philosophy program from April to May, will feature documentaries to provide information on the Royal bibliography and duties of His Majesty the King as well as the story of the Royal Coronation Ceremony which will be held in accordance with ancient traditional Royal Practices such as the preparation of Sacred Water for Ablution and Anointment from various important sources in the Kingdom, the Inscription of the Royal Golden Plaque and the Engraving of the Royal Seal of State, a public audience, and Royal Processions both on land and water etc.

We would like everyone to have sufficient information and take part in these important activities. In this connection, the Government would like to invite everyone to wear yellow for four months, starting from April 1. More details of the Royal Coronation Ceremony will be provided on the channels that are now appearing on your screen.

My fellow citizens of Thailand, we have followed the reform roadmap outlined by the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) for the past five years. We have unlocked the political deadlock, stepped past conflicts, unlocked budget deadlock, and returned smiles to the people, not to mention the drafting and the referendum of the current constitution to fix problems in the past. Also, we have issued the national strategies and reform plans in order to move the country forward to the digital era. This includes the success in restoring positive image for Thailand, raising confidence among the international community – being invited to visit many countries and attend various international conferences in official capacity. The country’s rankings have gradually and steadily improved. And the number of foreign visitors increased in a way never before seen in the past.

These improvements, as you know, were achieved through struggles and hard works. We have overcome many obstacles even though there were conflicts in almost all areas – politic, economic, social, security, judicial process. Also, we were under the circumstances where some new ideologies were introduced. However, such ideologies did not based on what people really want.

Instead, people were being taken advantage of by giving false hopes regardless of truth, conflict of interest, and the international context. This can lead to good opportunities, created by this Government, being wasted either intentionally or unintentionally due to misunderstanding and misperception.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the government officials i.e. the civil servants, the police officers, and the military personnel for helping people move across past obstacles to a better future. My sincere appreciation also goes to people from all sectors in making Thailand a stable, prosperous, and sustainable nation, in line with the sustainable development goals.

My fellow citizens of Thailand, “Life doesn’t stop and the nation must move forward.” People still have to earn their livings. Manufacturers still have to produce. Infrastructure has to be built. Investment must continue. All professions and activities are still encountering obstacles. Challenges are waiting to be tackled.

However, while we still waiting for a new government, I would like to ask the public to obtain news and information from reliable and useful sources. These sources include the government, ministries, departments, and state agencies. You can decide for yourself how you want to take part in moving our country forward.

I will continue to carry out my duties to ensure a peaceful and smooth political transition. The National Strategies and 11 reform plans shall be carried out without any disruption, even though we are in living the changing world beyond our control.

This way, the country can keep stability and peace. Both crisis and opportunities are around us.

Currently, what I worry about is the efforts to create conditions in society for political purposes which can lead to new conflicts in the future, including (1) Democratic versus undemocratic is a rhetoric which should stop because the election was held on March 24 and then all political parties have received supports from the people according to the principles of democracy that we have been waiting for, which is also in accordance with our new constitution that was approved through referendum. (2) Old versus new is another discourse to create divisions in society, including in families, which is a basic institution in society. Please think about it. We can all read the same book and have different opinions due to different life experiences.

People, aged 50 or more, in addition to having good memories of the "Chotchuangchatchawal" and "Change the battlefield into a trading field" eras in which Thailand almost advance to become the "5th Tiger" of Asia. They also remember the bad events of October 14th, 1973, October 6th 1976, the Tom Yum Good crisis, the floating of our currency, our IMF debt situation, as well as crackdowns on demonstrations in the past 10 years.

People of different ages have gone through different good and bad times in life. For example, an 18-year-old student who has recently voted for the first time may never have learnt about the work of the government and the NCPO over the past 5 years due to the need to focus on study.

However, I would like to thank everyone. I respect everyone who came out to cast their vote, especially the political awareness of the new generation. I ask everyone to respect the voice of the people and be conscious of the political activities. I always respect people’ decisions. This is considered the democratic way. We all care deeply about our country.

In order to move our country forward, we must understand our history, mindful of our identity, and adhere to the main institutions of the country including our nation, religion, monarchy. These institutions have lasted more than 1,400 years. Don't forget that whatever goes around comes around, whether good or bad. Are our actions for the public good or personal interest? We must ask.

My fellow citizen of Thailand, what I want to ask the new government to continue with what this government has already begun for the benefit of the people are the Royal Coronation Ceremony, ASEAN chairmanship, caring for people from all walks of life i.e. the low income earners, retailers, online businesses, and the freelancers etc., caring for people of all ages according to the individual's capabilities or family potential or income base - newborn child development starting from pregnancy to ensure a good quality of life and housing projects, raising educational standards at all levels for human resource development to increase the number of highly skilled workers in the future, promoting public participation, lifelong learning and continuous self-development, reducing dependence on state welfare, organizing the education system that shall be consistent with the current globalized and digital context, increase learning and the use of modern technology, teacher improvement, promoting research and development, the application of digital technology to create new innovations, using foreign experts to help develop the country in the beginning stage, reducing disparities, building trust in the justice system i.e. police, prosecutors and courts, solving problems of informal debt, pushing for repurchase agreement legislation, increasing access to funding, setting community banks, promoting integration, reducing costs, increasing productivity, increase bargaining power, improving all types of agricultural structures both in and outside the irrigation area, reducing fertilizer costs, using of area based management in planning crop planting and supporting group integration to enable direct assistance according to their potentials, integrated water management, solving land and housing issues, revising rules and regulations to reduce restrictions, improving state services, increasing competitiveness, improving the tax system making it fair (for all sides), creating more value, increasing revenue for the country to be consistent with expenses, find the income for the country, increasing and driving investment for the future infrastructure development, the establishment of the EEC and 10 SEZs, opening up opportunities to all parties, increase connectivity, providing stability on the energy sector both conventional energy and renewable energy, promoting PDP participation (power development plan), (addressing) cyber threats and social media streams, promoting foreign language learning and ASEAN language learning, negotiations for RCEP + ACMECS + GMS, Mekong River and other frameworks etc. In the past 5 years, any previous policies of past governments that have benefited people were supported and improved upon – adhering the country’s prosperity as a main goal.

Lastly, may all Thai people, politicians, political parties do their best to help move this country forward. I ask that all Thai people adhere to democracy and honor the monarchy, end conflicts, eliminate social divides. The more conflicted we are, the more damaged our nation and its people will become and our opportunities will be lost, resulting in a regression in potentials. Crises may arise at all fronts. We must help one another build an immune system for our society by promoting “knowledge along with ethics”. This is in accordance with the Royal Sufficiency Economy Philosophy.

Thank you, and I hope that the benevolence of His Majesty the King and the mightiness of Siam Devadhiraj shall protect this country and its people, bringing peace for all. Sawasee krub.