



Executive Summary Third-Year Performance Report of the Government of General Prayut Chan-o-cha 12 September 2016 – 12 September 2017



Stability Prosperity
Sustainability



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The Third-Year Performance Report of the Government of Prime Minister General Prayut Chan-o-cha (12 September 2016 – 12 September 2017) is intended to document the Government's achievements in implementing plans presented to the National Legislative Assembly (NLA) upon the government's assumption of office. The report is prepared and released annually by the later-agency Steering Committee for the Accelerated Implementation of the Government's Policies as assigned by the Prime Minister.

The content of this Report is set against the backdrop of the situation prior to the assumption of office of the current administration. At the time, Thailand was in the midst of serious civil unrest, which precipitated the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) to step in and take control of the situation, thereby putting an end to then escalating disunity, and effectively restored the functioning of state affairs. The NCPO then announced a Roadmap on the restoration of democracy in the country. Two years after assuming office, the Government, guided by the principle “act fast, mean business and act now,” has made significant headway on most areas, particularly on long-festering issues, such as Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IUU Fishing), Thailand's compliance with the standards of the International Civil Aviation

Organization (ICAO), its compliance with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), restoration of social order, management of solid waste and hazardous waste, as well as the encroachment on state-owned lands. Earnest policy implementation by the Government has resulted in the restoration of both domestic and international confidence, as manifest not only in the improved business confidence index but also in the overall improved economic conditions. Furthermore, the Government made relentless efforts in steering the country towards “Thailand 4.0,” which carried out in earnest, is now in its third year.

This Report specifically focuses on the achievements of the Government in its third year, during which all Thai people witnessed their greatest ever loss. Out of profound reverence and in recognition of the great and gracious contributions of His Majesty the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the Government proudly assumed responsibilities on behalf of all Thai people, and of course with their fullest cooperation, in arranging the Royal Cremation Ceremony of His Majesty the late king, which was meticulously held in line with centuries-old traditions, according resolute honour and solemnity befitting the occasion. At the same time, the Government was relentless in its effort to address national issues, being able to come up with several new projects for the benefits of the people and the country, among other things, maintaining law and order in the country, combating corruption, addressing land-related issues, combating human trafficking, improving the social welfare scheme,

expediting socio-economic development, moving the country forward to the digital age to meet the global trends, restructuring the production process to increase the productivity of the agricultural, industrial and service sectors, and promoting investment in targeted industries, which will lead to the creation of innovation and greater value-added of products and services in Thailand through the development of the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) and basic infrastructure for logistics and transportation, which aim to attract greater investment into Thailand. In the third year, the Government also placed emphasis on strengthening the grassroots economy and reducing social inequality, most notable with the introduction of the Area-based Budgeting System, a tool for a more efficient budget distribution at the community level, while also initiating laws to address social inequality. In its effort to enhance the nation's human capital, the Government has initiated plans to calibrate the country's human resources development strategy to ensure that it matches the demand necessary for greater national development, while also working to ensure the welfare of all Thais at all stages of life.

More importantly, the Government has laid a long-term foundation for national development by putting in place the Twenty-Year National Strategy and the National Reform Plans. In fact, national reform efforts have already been underway as the Government had earlier adopted the recommendations of the National Reform Council (NRC) and the National Reform Steering Assembly (NRSA), instructed relevant agencies to proceed with their implementation,

and established national reform steering mechanisms, which include the Committee for National Administration under the Framework of National Reform, Strategy and Reconciliation, Committee for Accelerated Law Reform, Committee for National Reform on the Justice Process (Police), and the Independent Committee for Education Reform. As a result, achievements have been made in many areas, for example, the reform of public budgeting and finance systems (which put greater emphasis on area-based management), enactment of the Government Procurement and Supplies Management Act B.E. 2560 (2017), setting up of the Criminal Court for Corruption and Malfeasance Offences, restructuring the tax system, developing digital basic infrastructure, providing greater access to government information and services, and improvement of the overall public administration.

The last part of the Report presents the direction that the Government will be taking in carrying out its tasks from the third year of its administration seamlessly onto the next phase. The Government has initiated the “Thai Niyom Yangyuen” (Sustainable Thainess) development programme to address economic, social and security issues in sub-districts (Tambon) and villages (Moo-ban) across the country, as well as to raise awareness among the Thai people about the principles of democratic rule with His Majesty the King as Head of State. This should also bring about democracy, unity and good governance that can sustain the nation’s robust and sustainable development.

Executive Summary

1. Circumstances Prior to the Administration of the Current Government

The Situation

Prior to the administration of Prime Minister General Prayut Chan-o-cha (Ret.), Thailand was facing both domestic and external pressures. Turbulence caused by internal political crisis led to severe social discords and polarization and threats of violence. Such turmoil had an underraging impacted on society, affecting even in households, shaking the business and tourism sectors. Government administration was disrupted as several of the government's operations and projects faced a variety of snags and difficulties. The economy was also affected by the global economic downturn, resulting in a sharp drop in the value of Thai exports. In all, the country's overall economy in the last quarter of 2013 slowed down steeply, growing only at 0.5 per cent in 2013 before plunging into a contraction by 0.5 per cent in the first quarter of 2014 as the unrest continued until May 2014.

The National Council for Peace and Order's Intervention and Directions

The National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) decided to intervene on 22 May 2014 and, a short while after, announced a “Three-Phase Road Map” laying out steps towards the return of democracy in the country. **The First Phase** allowed the NCPO to properly administer state affairs, focusing on reconciliation and solving pressing issues, in order to bring back happiness and peace to the country. **The Second Phase** focused on the promulgation of an Interim Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand and the appointment of the Council of Ministers, which took place on 30 August 2014, with a view to having in place mechanisms that would carry on fully the administration of the affairs of the state. With the Government administering state affairs and formulating policies to solve economic, social and environmental issues, the National Legislative Assembly (NLA) has focused on the deliberation, screening and amendment of laws, while the National Reform Council (NRC) and the National Reform Steering Assembly (NRSA) worked on long-term solutions to lay a stronger foundation for the country to be able to move forward to the last and third phase. **The Third Phase** focuses on the adoption of the permanent Constitution and the holding of general elections.

2. Circumstances during the Administration of the Current Government

The First Two Years (12 September 2014 – 12 September 2016)

Taking on the Missions from the NCPO

Since 12 September 2014, the Government has concentrated its efforts on carrying out the missions assigned by the NCPO, which attached priorities to laying a solid foundation for a more stable economy, more economic gains and opportunities for the people, and increased income and improvement in the standard of living. Simultaneously, the long standing degradation of natural resources and environment has also been addressed so that further development would be truly sustainable in the long term.

The Government's Policies

The Government has instituted major reform in various areas to ensure equitable social order, thereby promoting unity and harmony among the people. In every step of the way, the Government has been guided by His Majesty the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej's Sufficiency Economy Philosophy in their part for **“stable, prosperous and sustainable”** development. The goals have been to ensure that the Thai society live in peace and harmony under the laws; that existing laws and regulations are amended to better correspond to present circumstances; that the economy is strong and made competitive endowed with necessary infrastructure; that national

resources are rehabilitated; that the monarchy remains the moral centre of all Thais who live their lives according to His Majesty's the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy while adhering to ethics and virtues; and that Thailand stands tall in the world community with dignity deserved.

To achieve the abovementioned goals, the Government has announced key policies comprising 11 areas, which were presented to the NLA on 12 September 2014. Key elements include: 1) Protecting and upholding the Monarchy; 2) Maintaining national security and conducting foreign affairs; 3) Reducing social inequality and improving accessibility to public services; 4) Promoting education, arts and cultures, and preserving religions; 5) Improving the quality of public health services and the health of the people; 6) Enhancing the country's economic potential; 7) Promoting Thailand's role and exploring opportunities in the ASEAN Community; 8) Promoting the application of science, technology, innovation, research and development; 9) Maintaining the security of national resources and creating balance between conservation and sustainable use; 10) Promoting good governance in administration of state affairs, and combating corruption and irregularities in the public sector; and 11) Improving laws and the justice system. In addition, six working groups were set up for respective administrative areas: security, economic, social, foreign affairs, state affairs and laws and the justice system.

The Government's Mechanisms for Policy Implementation

The Government has set up a few national mechanisms in the form of committees to steer and oversee the implementation of the government's policies. This is to ensure that policies and directions are being implemented in a coordinated manner, with mechanisms for review and monitoring. **The Steering Committee on the Implementation of the Government's Policies** has been tasked to follow up and ensure that the implementation is in line with the Government's policies as well as the Prime Minister's policy instructions. In addition, **six Steering Committees for the Reform of the Administration of State Affairs**, each of which is chaired by a Deputy Prime Minister on behalf of the Prime Minister, are responsible for policymaking and pushing forward six clusters of work and development agendas. **The Tripartite Coordinating Committee** was also set up to ensure that the Council of Ministers, the NLA and the NRC implement reforms programs in a synergized and focused manner in order to achieve concrete results.

Furthermore, **the Committee on the Administration of State Affairs in Accordance with National Reform, Strategies and Reconciliation** has been set up, chaired by the Prime Minister, consisting of four subcommittees, namely: 1) Committee on the Strategic Administration of State Affairs; 2) Committee on National Reform; 3) Committee on National Strategy; and 4) Committee on Reconciliation. The mandate of these committees is to coordinate and synergize the Government's major policies, particularly,

1) addressing national issues, 2) national reform, 3) implementation in accordance with the National Strategy, and 4) promotion of reconciliation.

Key Achievements in the First Two Years

Amidst both domestic and external pressure during its first year in office, the Government was very determined and committed as it harnessed all resources to address pressing national issues, abiding by the principle “**act fast, act now, and achieve sustainable outcomes.**” Consequently, the Government succeeded in many areas, such as the restoration of confidence especially among investors, tourists, as well as in the international arena. With regard to the **confidence of the household sector**, the Consumer Confidence Index rose from 57.7 in April 2014 to 61.5 in September 2015. Meanwhile, the **Business Confidence Index** improved from 44.3 in April 2014 to 46.4 in September 2015. As for the **international confidence**, other countries eventually showed their understanding towards the circumstance precipitating the Government’s intervention and its commitment to solving pressing national issues, recognizing and displaying a more positive attitude towards Thailand as reflected at the UN Summit for the Adoption of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the 70th session of the UN General Assembly, when Thailand was nominated chairman of the Group of 77 (G77).

Furthermore, **the economy was revived and growth boosted** through the injection of capital into the economy and various economic stimulus packages to help farmers, low-income earners and SME entrepreneurs. As a result, the Thai economy showed signs of recovery at the end of the second quarter of 2014 and has gained strength since. The rate of economic expansion improved from a 0.05 per cent contraction in the first half of 2014 to a 1.8 per cent growth in the second half of 2014 to be followed by an even more accelerated expansion of 3.3 per cent during the first 9 months of 2015. In general, during the fourth quarter of 2014 and the first quarter of 2015 almost all main engines of the economy recovered. In addition, the Government has tackled a number of **protracted issues**. These included the illegal ivory trade, as a result of the Government's efforts against which, Thailand was spared from possible trade sanctions under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The problem regarding Thai aviation safety standards has also been addressed in compliance with those set by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). And so have human trafficking, illegal fishing and corruption and irregularities.

During its second year, the Government continued to proceed with the Roadmap that the NCPO had laid out, focusing on building a stronger foundation under the principle of “**stable, prosperous and sustainable national development.**” The Government has achieved many important missions. These include resolving the

land-related issues to prevent the encroachment of state-owned lands, reallocate available lands for needy communities, and introduce measures to prevent sale of rights over the lands owned by the poor. Land reallocation has been successfully executed by the National Land Committee in 19 areas in 15 provinces. The procedure was based on the “One Map” system, an approach formulated to reallocate plots of land, using digital mapping with the ratio of 1:4000, to solve the issue of the overlapping of land demarcations and to further manage state-owned lands. Furthermore, the Government has been **gearing industries towards Thailand 4.0** with an aim to reforming the national economy. Technological and industrial groups have been categorized into five groups, consisting of: 1) food and agriculture, which is to be developed into the Biotechnology Group; 2) health and wellness, which is to be developed into the Medical Technology Group; 3) smart devices and robots, which is to be developed into the Automatic Systems Group; 4) digital technology, Internet of Things (IoT) and artificial intelligence, which is to be developed into the Embedded Technology Group; and 5) creative and cultural industry, which is to be developed into the High-Value Design or Technology-Based Services Group.

The Third Year (12 September 2016 - 12 September 2017)

The Government's achievements in the third year could be divided into two parts: 1) key achievements; and 2) achievements under the Government's 11 core policies. Details are as summarized below.

3. The Government's Key Achievements in the Third Year

The Government's main agendas and the laying of the foundation for further national development during the third year include:

1) **solving important national issues** by continuing existing measures and initiating new projects to meet the needs of the Thai people and nation, including the prevention and suppression of corruption and malfeasance, resolving the land-related issues, registration for the social welfare scheme, the prevention and eradication of human trafficking and illegal fishing, the management of migrant workers in Thailand, and the management of solid and hazardous waste; and

2) **laying the foundation for long-term national development** by drafting the Twenty-Year National Strategy to serve as a framework for long-term national development, and implementing national reform in 11 key areas by building upon the work initiated by the NRC and the NRSA with an aim to improving and restructuring important basic infrastructure to eventually be consistent with the Twenty-Year National Strategy.

3.1 Solving Important National Issues

3.1.1 Prevention and suppression of corruption and malfeasance: The Government has improved implementation by issuing laws that cover the prevention and suppression of corruption as well as by evaluating the integrity of government agencies. Among what has been done is the implementation of the Integrity and Transparency Assessment (ITA), whereby 277 agencies were evaluated, resulting in a high average score of 80.34 points. There are also the **Action Plan for the Prevention and Suppression of Corruption and Malfeasance** formulated by the **Anti-Corruption Operation Centre**, the enhanced enforcement of management measures (governance/discipline) and the promotion of the role of private sector and other networks in monitoring and combating corruption and malfeasance through cooperation agreements between the Government and other organizations on the prevention and suppression of corruption. Regarding the **suppression of corruption in the public sector**, the Government Procurement and Supplies Management Act B.E. 2560 (2017) was officially promulgated in the Royal Gazette on 24 February 2017 and became effective on 24 August 2017 setting the same high standards on procurement for government agencies nationwide. The Act encourages the disclosure of information to the public to ensure transparency and more opportunities for fair competition, which will in turn boost the quality and effectiveness of procurement as well as good governance. It will also encourage

more inclusiveness by allowing citizens to monitor public procurement programs as a measure to prevent corruption and malfeasance in the public procurement process.

3.1.2 Addressing land-related issues: The reallocation of state-owned lands in communities is the Government's key policy to provide lands to people in poverty without granting them ownership rights. The policy allows certain communities to make use of the state-owned lands and enhance employment based on the potentials of each area. It is considered an important tool to address the problem of landless impoverished people and is to be implemented together with the management of the use of state-owned lands. This should also lessen conflicts caused by the encroachment of state-owned lands and create local community support. Out of the targeted 249 areas of approximately 280,000 acres in 66 provinces, 75 areas of around 91,000 acres in 39 provinces have been granted for such use. In addition, 35,046 citizens have been allowed to use the 45,176 reallocated plots of land of around 96,000 acres. The policy also includes the promotion and development of occupations in 53 areas in 26 provinces under the implementation framework which covers 6 areas: 1) development and utilization of lands based on the zoning system; 2) development of water resources and basic needs; 3) promotion and development of

1 acres = 2.5 rai

occupations and the drawing up of an integrated list of professions; 4) promotion of occupational grouping; 5) enhancement of accessibility to funds; and 6) promotion and management of household budgetary accounts.

3.1.3 Registration for the state social welfare scheme: In the past, financial assistance for living expenses was generally distributed to all low-income earners, despite some recipients not being actual low-income earners. This unnecessarily caused national financial burdens. In 2016, the Government initiated a key measure to increase income for farmers with low income and qualified non-farmer participants. Participants with no income or with an income of less than 30,000 baht per year would receive a subsidy of 3,000 baht per person. In addition, participants with an income of more than 30,000 baht but less than 100,000 baht per annum would receive a subsidy of 1,500 baht per person through direct account payment. In that year, 7,525,363 participants received the payment, which represented 97.5 per cent of the total number of qualified participants. The total amount of the subsidy was approximately 17.469 billion baht. In 2017, the registration for the scheme was opened from 3 April to 15 May 2017. A total of 14,176,170 persons registered, of which 11,413,681 were qualified to receive welfare cards. The welfare cards allow for the provision of two types of welfare: assistance for household expenses and the assistance for transportation expenses.

3.1.4 Tackling the Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IUU Fishing): The European Union (EU) has issued a yellow card warning against Thailand, stating that Thailand has not fully cooperated in combating against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IUU Fishing) in terms of the improvement of its laws, rules and regulations and the management of Thai fisheries in line with the EU's regulations. In this regard, the Government has actively monitored the compliance with the standards set by the EU's resolutions. Such close monitoring is to ensure that Thai fishery products are not from illegal fishing. Actions taken include the issuance of 8,657 Catch Certificates, conducting traceability test at 180 marine-processing factories, conducting 586 at-sea monitoring missions as well as inspection and compilation of data on the condition of marine resources and fishing activities to evaluate the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) of 3,012 Thai vessels. Furthermore, the Government has proceeded in accordance with its Roadmap on the management of fishery fleets by numbering Thai fishing vessels, controlling and monitoring the status of all Thai fishing vessels at all times, inspecting and summarizing data of vessels whose licenses or fishing licenses had been annulled, and the data of the licensed fishing vessels. The implementation also includes formulating clear and concrete measures to prevent illegal fishing and amending relevant laws and regulations on navigation in Thai waters and the Thai vessels, which were approved by the cabinet on 23 May 2017. The Royal Decree

on Managing the Work of Aliens B.E. 2560 (2017) was promulgated in the Royal Gazette on 22 June 2017.

3.1.5 Managing migrant workers in Thailand: Thailand suffers from a shortage of workers in the industrial and agricultural sectors, leading to a largely unregulated movement of migrant workers into the country. This has given rise to problems of illegal migrants and human trafficking. Therefore, the Government has continuously systematized the management of migrant workers through a set of measures, as follows:

1) **the establishment of a special unit to administer migrant workers of three nationalities**, which saw 193,918 employers register to employ 772,270 migrant workers;

2) **the inspection of migrant workers and their workplaces** in support of the consideration to grant employment, as a result of which 46,306 employers/workplaces and 330,984 migrant workers were inspected;

3) **the Post-Arrival and Reintegration Centre**, which serves as the training centre providing information on work and life in Thailand to registered migrant workers from Myanmar, Lao PDR and Cambodia who arrived in Thailand under the MoUs between Thailand and their respective countries, with a total of 243,314 migrant workers successfully passing the training;

4) **One-Stop Service Centre to register migrant workers** in every province across the country, including the Complaint Centre for migrant workers staffed by officials proficient in languages such as Burmese, Laotian, Vietnamese, Cambodian and more; and

5) **the reporting system for the migrant workers of three nationalities (Myanmar, Lao PDR and Cambodia) to receive their new identification cards**, which saw the following groups of migrant workers coming to report themselves from 1 November – 30 December 2016: the fishing sector, in which 2,507 migrant workers were declared by employers and 10,415 migrant workers from those three countries presented themselves to receive new identification cards; and the seafood processing sector (in 22 provinces and 4 areas covering 4 city corners in Bangkok), in which 1,952 migrant workers were declared by employers and 23,634 migrant workers from those three countries, as well as those accompanying them, presented themselves to receive new identification cards. Migrant workers who had passed the nationality screening process and had received passports, certificates of identity or proofs of identity were allowed to stay and work in Thailand until 1 November 2017 and could renew their work permits one more time within two years.

3.1.6 Managing garbage and hazardous waste: The Government drafted the National Master Plan for Waste Management B.E. 2559-2564 (2016-2021) as a framework for

inclusive domestic waste management involving the public, private and people sectors. Three main measures have been implemented under this inclusive partnership, namely: 1) reducing the amount of garbage and hazardous waste produced; 2) increasing efficiency of garbage and hazardous toxic waste management; and 3) supporting and assisting with garbage and hazardous waste management process. Notable achievements in 2017 included **expediting construction of 80 community hazardous waste collection facilities** in 76 provinces, comprising 35 buildings and 45 collection points, with 3 more facilities in the process of public hearing; **encouraging the private sector to invest in constructing waste-to-energy converting facilities**, whereby one facility has already been operating in Khon Khaen Municipality with the capacity to generate 4.4 mega-watts of electricity; eliminating 26.57 million tons of accumulated waste out of a total of 30.49 million tons nationwide (amounting to 87 per cent) by encouraging private businesses to process waste into raw materials that can be used for generating electricity in cement factories or incinerators; and establishing community learning centres and 23 Zero Waste schools in 19 provinces, with an aim to turning them into model waste management learning centres.

3.2 Laying the Foundation for Thailand's Long-term Development

3.2.1 Formulating a 20-Year National Strategy: The Government attaches great importance to laying the foundation for long-term development, and has enacted the National Strategy Preparation Act B.E. 2560 (2017) which stipulates the process of conducting public hearing and drafting a national strategy to achieve sustainable development with good governance. The Act also lays out a framework for integrated implementation of such a strategy by various sectors. The Committee on Formulation of National Strategy, chaired by the Prime Minister, has appointed 6 committees to focus on formulating national strategies in 6 areas, namely: 1) security; 2) competitiveness; 3) human capacity building; 4) opportunity and equality for all; 5) environmentally friendly economic growth; and 6) the management of public sector. These committees have been tasked to draft national strategies in their designated areas, conduct public hearings and present the drafts in accordance with the process laid out in the National Strategy Preparation Act B.E. 2560 (2017) by August 2018.

3.2.2 Formulating National Reform Plans: The Government has appointed 6 national administration reform steering committees, overseen by the relevant Deputy Prime Ministers designated by the Prime Minister. In preparation to pass on the reform process to the new Government during the third year after the promulgation of the

Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand B.E. 2560 (2017), the Government has appointed the Committee on National Administration under the Frameworks of National Reform, National Strategy and Reconciliation to steer the national reform process. The reform process is perceived as “the bridge to the future through the power of civil state.” In addition, the Government enacted the National Reform Plans and Procedures Act B.E. 2560 (2017) which outlines the national reform process conducted by the public and other relevant sectors, methods to measure outcomes, and the expected duration of the national reform process in each sector, set to be accomplished by March 2018.

4. Results of the Implementation of the 11 Core Government Policies

The implementation of the 11 core government policies is intended to execute urgent policies, resolve long-standing problems and address major issues necessary for laying the groundwork for long-term development. Notable achievements within each core policy are as follows:

4.1 1st Core Policy: Protecting and Upholding the Monarchy

The Government gives utmost priority to upholding the Monarchy by, *inter alia*, providing security for all members of the Royal Family, organising commemorative activities, and promoting the value of the royal projects. The Government has also attached

great importance to arranging the Royal Cremation Ceremony of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, promoting public awareness and understanding of the royal institution, the royal working principles and the royal duties, as well as providing opportunities for all sectors of society to pay their respect and express their devotion and deep appreciation to His Majesty the late King. Details are as follows:

4.1.1 Arranging the Royal Cremation Ceremony of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej: After the passing of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej on 13 October 2016, the Government placed great importance to organising the Royal Cremation Ceremony and the Royal Merit-making Ceremony for His Majesty in accordance with royal traditions and fully reflecting the Thai people's utmost reverence for His Majesty the late King. In this regard, the Committee for the Preparation of the Royal Cremation Ceremony of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, presided over by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn as the Advisor by the invitation of the Government, carried out and oversaw related tasks, such as building the Royal Crematorium for the Royal Cremation Ceremony of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, organising public performances in front of the Royal Funeral Pyre, creating and maintaining the royal archives, publishing commemorative books and leaflets, and conducting volunteer projects to prepare sandalwood flowers,

among others. All the aforementioned undertakings were accomplished as planned and in an orderly manner.

4.1.2 Promoting public understanding about the Monarchy, the royal working principles and the royal activities:

The Government disseminated information about the royal working principles and the royal activities through various channels in order to instil awareness and respect for the Monarchy, encouraging people to adopt and implement such principles in their daily lives through various activities such as the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy Learning Project for the ASEAN Youth Representatives, the production of the “Sound of Love” musicals, the mobile exhibitions in commemoration of the 70th Anniversary of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej’s Accession to the Throne on 9 June 2016 and the 7th Cycle Birthday Anniversary of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit on 12 August 2016, global partnership on the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and awarding of fellowships and scholarships focusing on the SEP for recipients from developing countries.

4.1.3 Upholding the institution of the Monarchy: The Government organised activities for the people to express their allegiance to all Monarchs of the Chakri Dynasty in honour and remembrance of His Majesty the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej, as well as overseeing volunteer activities to assist the Bureau of the

Royal Household in facilitating government officials, representatives from the private sector and members of the public who travelled to pay their respects to His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej at Sanam Luang Ceremonial Grounds and the Dusit Maha Prasat Throne Hall inside the Grand Palace, as well as other designated ceremony venues nationwide.

4.2 2nd Core Policy: Maintaining National Security and Conducting Foreign Affairs

The Government has continually worked to lay the foundation for prosperous and sustainable national development through the implementation of various plans, measures and international cooperation frameworks on national security and foreign affairs, such as the Border Security Management Plan B.E. 2559-2564 (2016-2021), the National Maritime Security Plan B.E. 2558-2564 (2016-2021), the Administration and the Development of the Southern Border Provinces Policy B.E. 2560-2562 (2017-2019), and other bilateral and multilateral cooperation frameworks and meetings. Concrete achievements include:

4.2.1 Border management by implementing the E-Fingerprint Project. At present, the e-fingerprint systems have already been put in place at a number of border checkpoints, comprising 36 land checkpoints, 55 water checkpoints, 29 air checkpoints, and 81 other

border checkpoints. The installation of the systems is expected to be completed at all checkpoints by 2019.

4.2.2 Preventing and addressing problems related to narcotic drugs and substances by implementing the following three measures:

1) Prevention by educating and training teachers in 52,862 elementary schools and child development centres nationwide, as well as 23,000 monks, while enhancing the capacity of 8,692 police teachers through the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) Project, and by encouraging 2,161 business establishments to operate in compliance with the Standard on Prevention and Solution to Narcotic Drug Problems in an Establishment;

2) Suppression by indicting 271,709 drug-related cases; and

3) Rehabilitation by rehabilitating 194,586 drug users and following up on 38,215 people who had completed the rehabilitation process.

4.2.3 Expediting the resolution of violence in the Southern Border Provinces: The Government has implemented the Administration and Development of the Southern Border Provinces Policy B.E. 2560-2562 (2017-2019) by utilizing the “Understand, Reach out, and Develop” principle and the Sufficiency Economy

Philosophy (SEP). The Government is committed to resolving problems through peaceful means and promoting development by allowing for participation of all stakeholders while taking into account the multicultural nature of the society, and adhering to the principles of human rights, constitutional state and the rule of law.

4.2.4 Steering the economy of the Southern Border Provinces through the “Triangle of Stability, Prosperity and Sustainability” model project: The Government has been collaborating with all relevant sectors to develop and turn some districts in the Southern Border Provinces into model districts, namely: 1) Nong Jik District in Pattani Province to be developed into a model agricultural industry district attracting both local and foreign businesses; 2) Betong District in Yala Province to be developed into a model self-sufficiency and sustainable development district, wherein the main source of income will be generated from tourism and cross-border trade; and 3) Su-ngai Kolok District in Narathiwat Province to be developed into a new landmark, a hub and a gateway for cross-border trade and sports, as well as a meeting and recreation venue.

4.2.5 Implementing and administering security policy such as carrying out plans to combine forces and resources for national defence and conducting the 2017 National Crisis Management Exercise (C-MEX-17), joint military exercises, the joint operations

training of explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) units and weapons of mass destruction (WMD) search units, and the Cobra Gold 2017 joint exercise, as well as creating and maintaining an integrated national security database.

4.2.6 Enhancing Thailand's roles in the international arena: The Government has been implementing proactive measures to promote the constructive and leading roles of Thailand in major global issues by emphasizing the application of the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy in achieving Sustainable Development Goals, and by advocating the application of the SEP in other countries.

4.3 3rd Core Policy: Reducing Social Inequality and Improving Accessibility to Public Services

The Government has implemented 5 key measures to reduce social inequality and expand accessibility to public services for people of all generations in order to ensure quality of life and self-sufficient living. The 5 key measures are as follows: 1) creating opportunities for all Thais to secure employment with stable income; 2) preventing and resolving problems related to human trafficking, illegal migrant workers and beggars; 3) establishing and developing a social safety net that gives priority care to the elderly, children, women, persons with disabilities, and the underprivileged; 4) developing a savings and community welfare system to ensure decent quality of life after retirement; and 5) establishing social orders, as well as setting ethical

and moral standards to create an environment conducive for all to live in peace and harmony.

4.3.1 Creating opportunities to secure employment with stable income by providing recruitment services, which resulted in 208,869 local employments and 114,958 applications for overseas employment; organising job training for groups of people including pre-discharged military officers, persons who completed the rehabilitation process, prisoners who are soon to be released, the elderly, persons with disabilities, persons affected by natural disasters, children in correctional facilities, and minorities; ensuring labour protection through the insurance system under Article 33 and Article 39 of the Social Security Act B.E. 2533 (1990) and its amendments, from which 11.98 million persons will benefit, while 2.34 million informal workers and entrepreneurs will benefit from the insurance system under Article 40 of the aforementioned Act; and developing electronic labour management systems such as an introduction of the “SSO Connect” application, which provides information on labour rights and relating news, and the “M-Powered Thailand” – a one-stop online platform for job search and application, and electronic service for career development that advocates for labour rights.

4.3.2 Preventing and resolving problems relating to human trafficking, illegal migrant workers and beggars, in addition to eradicating and resolving problems of human

trafficking in the fishery sector and the Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing, and setting up migrant worker management systems, which were already mentioned in the Government's key achievements in the third year. The Government has implemented the following measures: 1) examining labour protection measures, and conducting inspection on the use of child labour and forced labour in 1,731 high risk workplaces involving 90,036 workers; and 2) addressing issues concerning the Rohingyas by conducting screening interviews to identify potential victims providing them access to basic needs, healthcare, legal assistance and resettlement assistance in the third country.

4.3.3 Developing social security systems for the elderly, children, women, the disabled and the underprivileged: The Government has introduced key projects, including: 1) a subsidy project for targeted families with newborns, resulting in 352,985 families that received the subsidy; 2) a project to improve standards for child daycare centres and a project to enhance professional skills for the vulnerable, which has benefitted 4,204 women and those in the LGBTI communities who are undereducated, unemployed or casually employed, as well as children, women, and people who are financially excluded; 3) a project to advocate for employment for persons with disabilities in private establishments and government agencies, which has achieved a target of 20 per cent increase in the employment of disabled persons in the private sector, and added

2,366 new employees to the government agencies (amounting to 72 per cent of the target number); and 4) the Civil State House Project which provides housing opportunities for members of the public, civil servants, military officers, police officers, and educators who are financially unstable and are not able to afford properties.

4.3.4 Developing savings and community welfare systems to ensure quality of life after retirement, in addition to the welfare registration scheme for low-income earners already mentioned under the Government's key achievements in the third year. The Government has encouraged personal savings among the people through the National Savings Fund (Kor Or Chor), which currently has about 541,248 members and helps guarantee pension payments for over 25 million casual workers between the ages of 15-60. The Government has also prepared for an impending aging society by providing subsidies to the elderly with low income and setting up the older persons' fund obtained by deducting 2 per cent of excise tax collected from tobacco and alcoholic beverage, yielding up to 4 billion baht annually. In addition, the Government has carried out senior housing complex projects on state properties such as construction of retirement homes for the elderly in Songkhla Province.

4.3.5 Maintaining social order and setting ethical and moral standards by 1) suppressing illegal street racing by indicting 1,279 cases involving 1,496 suspects in 2016; and indicting 1,557 cases involving 1,847 suspects in 2017; 2) regulating public van services between Bangkok and other provinces at Chatuchak, Sai Tai Mai (Southern) and Ekamai bus terminals; 3) regulating taxi services; 4) reducing vices and bringing genuine law and order to society by conducting inspections of entertainment venues and establishments that sell alcoholic beverages; 5) regulating street vendors on footpaths in all of Bangkok's 50 districts, while implementing rehabilitation measures for those affected, such as finding space in the nearby private and public markets, and coordinating with government agencies, state enterprises and private companies who are able to provide legal market space for the vendors; 6) tackling the problem of overpriced lottery tickets; 7) undertaking projects aimed at improving public areas and canals; and 8) addressing and resolving issues concerning the Mahakan Fort community.

4.4 4th Core Policy: Promoting Education, Arts and Cultures, and Preserving Religions

The Government attaches great importance to promoting education and learning in order to develop quality human resources by shaping the education system that is inclusive and equal for all, grooming and training human resources to obtain skills that meet

market needs and are able to contribute to long-term national development plans, producing and training sufficient numbers of quality teachers and educational personnel, and restructuring and decentralizing the educational management system to improve its efficiency. The measures taken by the Government to achieve the aforementioned tasks are as follows:

4.4.1 Improving education quality while ensuring inclusiveness and equality by: 1) upgrading the quality of early childhood education to ensure that children are protected, cared for and developed in all 4 areas – physical, mental, emotional and social; 2) implementing the “Less Class Time - More Learning” project, in which 21,417 schools have participated, to revise curriculum and learning processes by minimizing class time and maximizing learning time in order to equip students with 21st century knowledge and skills; 3) improving English teaching standards by training pioneer English teachers through intensive English language regional boot camps nationwide; 4) initiating and carrying out “the U-School Mentoring” project to improve education quality and assigning universities to be mentors for local schools to encourage collaboration at the local level, participants of which have grown to 127 higher education institutions, 17 community colleges in 74 provinces, and 1,359 schools, involving 13,590 teachers and 163,080 students; and 5) creating effective teaching and learning process, emphasizing the promotion of STEM

(Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education systems while upgrading STEM laboratories, focusing on the 2017 STEM curriculum.

4.4.2 Producing and training personnel to meet market needs, especially in the field of vocational education by, for instance, merging public and private vocational schools, as well as promoting joint vocational and upper secondary schools' curriculum, the dual vocational system, and the “Education to Employment” vocational summer boot camps, introducing a Human Resource Development Strategy for the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) B.E. 2560-2564 (2017-2021), establishing and developing real time, national labour-market databases, and promoting non-formal and informal education for vocational students at learning facilities by establishing 7,424 community learning venues intended to provide short-term and long-term career skill training that caters to the needs of each community, and implementing the “One Person, One Career” project to provide career opportunities for 276,486 project participants.

4.4.3 Producing and developing quality teachers and personnel in the education field through a project, implemented between 2016 and 2029, that selected 48,774 good and competent persons to enter the teaching profession over a 10-year period. In addition, the Government also hired highly qualified teachers to

resolve short-term teacher shortages. This included retired teachers who had an accomplished teaching career, are in good health, and are willing to teach with professional spirit. The fund of 10,000 baht per teacher was allocated to the community's vocational training centre to sponsor teacher training with a view to equipping them with knowledge and teaching skills.

4.4.4 Restructuring education management and services by establishing 1) the Ministry of Education's committee to oversee education reform at the regional level in order to determine the policy direction, lay out plans on resource management, and consider budget allocation, as well as appointments and transfers of personnel; 2) provincial education committee to oversee education related tasks of each province; and 3) independent committee for education reform in accordance with the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand B.E. 2560 (2017).

4.4.5 Preserving and fostering religions, arts and cultures. The Government has encouraged religious organizations to actively take part in instilling virtue and ethics and strengthening sustainable peace and unity in Thai society and to participate in social development. Key achievements included the 2017 Meditation on the Buddhist Lunar Cycle project, the 2017 Cross Year Buddhist Prayer for the New Year, the Annual Ordination into Buddhist Monkhhood which took place in the summer of 2017, and the "Roi

Ruam Jai Chum Chon Dhamma Phalang Buat” project to honour His Majesty the late King. The Government has also promoted virtue and ethics in accordance with the first national master plan by actively advocating sufficiency, discipline, honesty, and volunteering spirit as desirable characters for citizens. In addition, the Government has promoted the conservation, restoration, maintaining, development, and dissemination of information regarding arts and culture by:

- 1) seeking to register local wisdoms and cultures as world cultural heritage, with 318 items already registered as national heritage of cultural wisdoms and nomination of the Khon Dance and Thai massage to be listed as Intangible Cultural Heritage by the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO);
- 2) overseeing the return of 677 ancient Thai artefacts from abroad, consisting of 648 artefacts from the United States and 29 from Australia;
- 3) developing arts and cultural sites by improving 136 tourism and learning sites for arts and cultural heritage, including implementing tourism capacity building projects at 85 sites, cultural industry promotion projects to enhance competitiveness at 41 sites, and projects on conservation and development of Bovorn Sathan Mongkol palaces at 10 sites; and
- 4) producing quality and constructive media, such as the nine episodes of “Building a Transparent Nation, Fostering Thai Honesty” series and “Khla Tum Dee” or “Dare to do good” programme;
- 5) promoting employment opportunities for artists of different genres by finding ways to boost earnings from culture-based products, encouraging local communities to

produce local products with storytelling and cultural uniqueness, which can be marketed as souvenirs and generate income for local communities, and organizing local cultural festivals nationwide; 6) promoting Thai history learning and Thainess through, *inter alia*, Thai language and its local dialects, Thai gastronomy and its local cuisine, and conservation of heritage trees; and 7) creating value-added arts and creative industries through City of Arts, cultural learning via different types of media as well as income-generating movies and video arts industries.

4.5 5th Core Policy: Improving the Quality of Public Health Services and the Health of the People

A healthy population is essential to a country's long-term development. The Government has placed importance in creating health security for all Thais as well as reforming system of the primary health care services in conjunction with encouraging citizens to look after their own health and avoid potential risks from various diseases. Efforts are made to monitor and control the spread of epidemic and infectious diseases. Important actions taken are as follows:

4.5.1 Quality primary health care coverage system for population from all sectors.

The Government established the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) by registering those eligible to the health security scheme

(national primary health security, social insurance, and civil servant benefits) as well as other benefits offered by the Government., covering 66,013,645 persons out of the country's total population of 66,046,831, amounting to 99.95 per cent of the population. It has also implemented the Universal Coverage for Emergency Patients to increase their survival rate and decrease risk of disability in emergency patients by allowing them to receive emergency treatment in the first 72 hours at the nearest or most accessible state or private hospitals without requiring payment.

4.5.2 Reforming the Primary Care Cluster (PCC) in the form of “family clinic” (one team of health professionals taking care of 10,000 people): The family clinic consists of 7 groups of professionals, namely: 1) physicians, 2) dentists/dental nurses, 3) pharmacists/pharmacy staff, 4) nurses, 5) public health staff, 6) physiotherapists, and 7) traditional Thai medicine practitioners. At present, 596 family clinics have been established and 6,287,809 people have received this service. The reform has shortened the waiting time in large hospitals from 172 minutes to 44 minutes as well as reduced the cost of travel to hospitals to an average of 1,655 baht per visit. In the long term, people will be able to take better care of their own health with the support given by family clinics, prevent diseases as well as reduce the chances of contracting preventable diseases.

4.5.3 Enhancing health treatment and controlling risk factors of diseases, such as **providing good nutrition to pregnant women and children; promoting and improving recreational activities for children and youth; and restricting the consumption of alcoholic beverages:** The Government has investigated, monitored, and enforced laws on 1,708 offenders, as well as prosecuted 208 cases. It has also monitored the consumption of tobacco, organized smoke-free activities in 1,850 schools, and promoted smoking cessation. Consequently, 36.61 per cent of smokers quitted smoking over 3 months. The Government has also successfully **reduced the death rate caused by liver cancer/cholangiocarcinoma** through screening and surgery. 155,402 people aged 15 years and older have received screening for *Opisthorchis* (liver fluke). 104,580 people aged 40 years and older have received ultrasound screening for cholangiocarcinoma. 418 people have received surgery for cancer. 1,815 people have been provided with nursing care at home.

4.5.4 Monitoring and controlling epidemics and highly contagious diseases: The Government has provided rabies vaccine to people in risk-prone areas, especially those who might be in contact with the disease within 48 hours, and constantly raised awareness on rabies vaccination among Thai people. In order to prevent and control dengue fever, the Government has worked with all sectors to reduce the number of mosquitoes before the rainy

season. To eradicate polio by 2020, a campaign to provide polio vaccine to every child free of charge has been undertaken, resulting in 1,118,090 children vaccinated. A campaign to vaccinate against diphtheria for students and people between the ages of 20-50 has also been launched with 15,549,027 people receiving the service. The Government has also taken **measures to control and prevent tuberculosis (TB), Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), and influenza.**

4.6 6th Core Policy: Enhancing the Country's Economic Potential

The Government has initiated policies to enhance the country's economic potentials in order to build an economy that is stable, competitive, and sustainable in the long term. As a result, the manufacturing sector has strengthened, and people have enjoyed economic gains in a more inclusive way. Such policies include 1) promoting farmers' welfare and restructuring of agricultural goods production; 2) maintaining price stability and reducing the cost of living; 3) increasing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs); 4) promoting trade and commerce, as well as expanding export bases; 5) promoting investment and driving industries towards "Thailand 4.0"; 6) developing transport infrastructure; 7) driving towards a digital economy; 8) promoting domestic tourism; 9) promoting energy management; 10) managing state-owned enterprises; and 11) managing the economy.

4.6.1 Promoting farmers' welfare and adjusting the structure of agricultural goods production: The Government has implemented a host of measures to assist different groups of farmers. **Measures to assist rice farmers** throughout the system are, for example, the provision of insurance credit and the management of rice stocks. Several projects have also been implemented, such as the rice insurance project for the production year 2017 with the budget of 1,841.10 billion baht. As of 18 October 2017, this project covered a total area of 9,394,522.87 acres, accounting for 95.05 per cent of the minimum target area of 9,884,215.25 acres, with the participation of 1,585,555 farmers. As for **the project to subsidize the production costs for farmers** in the production years 2017/2018, the Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives has provided the financial support of 32,168 million baht to 3,874,692 farmers, and improved the standards of Thai agricultural products by promoting organic farming and the use of organic fertilizers, instead of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. **In the project to modify areas unsuitable for rice cultivation into alternative farming areas**, the Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives has provided the financial support of 244.84 million baht to 13,926 farmers, covering 25,066 acres. The Government has also organized 361 **paddy rice markets** (for the production years 2014/2015-2016/2017), valued at 2,232.70 million baht, allowing rice farmers to sell rice higher than the market price by 100-1,200 baht per ton.

With regard to **the assistance measures for rubber farmers**, the Government has implemented a project to provide working capital to farmer institutes for collecting rubber with the budget of 10 billion baht, with 5,055.45 million baht in available loans. The Government has already approved 381 loans in the amount of nearly 4,980.27 million baht, and 367 loans totalling more than 6,274.81 million baht have been paid. The Government has also implemented **a project to provide credit support to farmer institutes for processing rubber under the comprehensive rubber development approach** with the credit limit of 5,000 million baht. 168 loans have been approved in the amount of 1,775.01 million baht, and 164 loans paid, with the accumulative loans totalling 1,949.51 million baht. Another project is to **strengthen rubber farmers' capacity** with the credit limit of 13,124 million baht. As of 11 September 2017, 6,436.08 million baht has been transferred to 715,336 rubber farmers (rubber plantation owners), covering 2,826,886.00 acres, while 4,094.46 million baht has been transferred to 678,642 rubber farmers (rubber tappers), covering 2,688,506.55 acres

As for other cash crops, such as tapioca, sugarcane, and oil palm: The Government has set **guidelines for the management of the tapioca market** in the years 2016/2017. For example, it has implemented a project to settle debts and lower interest rates for tapioca farmers (249,203 operators with 23,037.28 million baht in loans). It has **supervised the sugarcane and sugar industry** by promoting fair sharing of revenues between sugarcane farmers and

sugarcane refineries as well as enhancing the quality of life of sugarcane farmers. During the production years 2013/2014/-2015/2016, the Government raised the price of sugarcane to 160 baht per ton, which benefited more than 200,000 families of sugarcane farmers. The Government has also set **guidelines to resolve the issue of oil palm and palm oil prices**, for example, the implementation of pricing management and quality-based purchase by setting the suggested price based on market mechanisms and changing situations.

The Government has **increased efficiency and quality of agricultural products to meet recognized standards** by evaluating the standards of aquaculture, inspecting livestock products in accordance with the set benchmarks, and certifying sources of plant production under the Good Agriculture Practice (GAP) for fruits and vegetables, and non-fruit/vegetable products.

4.6.2 Driving forward “Thailand 4.0” in the agricultural, food, and biotechnology sectors by transforming traditional farming to smart farming, as well as organizing capacity building programmes to promote smart farmers and young smart farmers. This also includes promoting model farmers, who are successful and incorporate modern technology into their farming, thus serving as volunteer coaches in local communities. In addition, the Government has implemented a project called **“Agri Map” or the agricultural map for proactive management** to integrate basic

information on agricultural areas from every agency under the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives. The Agri Map has been used as a tool to manage the agricultural sector in a more efficient way and consists of different kinds of maps such as plantation areas, areas suitable for particular factors of production, areas within/without irrigation zones and various water sources. It has also been used in formulating market planning, provincial transportation systems, and different market demands. Land use development will be updated on an annual basis. Currently, the Agri Map can be accessed via mobile application.

4.6.3 Maintaining price stability and reducing the cost of living: The Government has identified 47 controlled products and services, and monitored the prices of 226 items in order to ensure fair price in the entire supply chain, from the upstream, midstream, to downstream. This measuring has successfully kept the average retail price of products and necessary services to move in the range of 0.2-1.9 per cent. In addition, the Government has attempted to **reduce the cost of living** for people by selling ready-to-eat food under the campaign “**Noo Nit Phaa Chim**” (cheap, hygienic and tasty) with each dish costing no more than 25-35 baht. This campaign is available in 12,674 restaurants, thus reducing the cost of living for those purchasing food by about 10.83 million baht. The Government has also implemented a programme called “**Thong Fa,**” which sells products at 20-40 per cent cheaper than the market

price, lowering the cost of living for 4.51 million people by 294.80 million baht. The Government also **extended the scheme to reduce transportation fares** for people from 1 May to 30 September 2017 and has continued to provide travel benefits via the welfare cards.

4.6.4 Building capacity for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs): SMEs play an important role in generating revenue and providing employment opportunities for the grassroots economy. Thus, the Government has taken measures to promote SMEs, including **financial measures** such as Policy Loan with the budget of 15 billion baht (completed on 31 December 2016), through which 4,527 businesses were given credit totalling 14,035 million baht. The Thai Credit Guarantee Corporation has provided credit guarantee to 4,378 SMEs operators in the amount of 12,674 million baht, and to Start-ups and Innovation operators in the amount of 10 billion baht. As of 4 September 2017, the Thai Credit Guarantee Corporation provided credit to 89 SMEs, totalling 210 million baht. As for **measures to promote venture capital** to develop Thailand's investment market, the Government Savings Bank, Krung Thai Bank Public Company Limited, and the Small and Medium Enterprise Development Bank of Thailand each established a fund of 2 billion baht, totalling 6 billion baht.

In addition, the Government has implemented **tax measures**, such as lowering income tax rates for SME operators for 2 consecutive accounting periods, and assisting SME operators,

especially those with limited accounting knowledge, in doing their own bookkeeping in compliance with accounting standards and tax laws. The Government has also introduced measures to promote rural investments and to encourage individuals to start their business as a corporate entity so as to increase the number of new entrepreneurs in the tax system. **The SME Support and Rescue Centre** has been established to provide comprehensive services for operators, including receiving complaints and notifying relevant agencies of problems encountered by SMEs. The Centre has supported SME operators and local entrepreneurs in entering the international market and strengthening their trade and investment networks. At present, the Centre has 9,630 members, thus creating networks and expanding both domestic and international trade. The operation of the Centre in the first half of 2016 led to trading activities worth more than 890 million baht.

4.6.5 Promoting trade and commerce, as well as expanding export bases: To promote commerce, the Government has taken the following measures: 1) implementing One Tambon One Product (OTOP) Project, with the sales volume in 2017 worth 144,029 million baht (as of August 2017); 2) promoting trade opportunities by organizing various fairs and markets, such as Khlong Phadung Krung Kasem and Pracharat markets, which has increased the supply of money in the grassroots economy by 125 billion baht annually and created more than 260,000 jobs;

3) promoting local goods and products through Geographical Indication (GI) by registering 13 additional Thai GI products in 11 provinces, namely: Yarang Puko Pomelo, Pattani Province; Bang Chang Chilli Pepper, Samut Songkhram Province; Trat Si Thong Pineapple, Trat Province; Pon-Yang-Khram Beef, Sakhon Nakhon Province; Salted Fish Kulao Tak Bai and Longkong Tanyongmat (lanzones), Narathiwat Province; dried longan and Biaokhiao Longan, Lamphun Province; Bankha Pineapple, Ratchaburi Province; Durian Prachin, Prachin Buri Province; Nong Sung Fermented Mud Cloth, Mukdahan Province; Thepsadej Coffee, Chiang Mai Province; and Pomelo Hom Khuanlang, Song Khla Province; 4) facilitating trade and creating a favourable environment for doing business (Ease of Doing Business: EODB) by improving the service platform for people and the business sector. The Government has helped to facilitate business operators and reduce their cost of doing business by shortening the process of business registration from 5 steps (taking 25.5 days) to 3 steps (taking only 2 days), thus lowering the cost from 6,600 baht to 5,800 baht.

In addition, the Government has promoted international trade by negotiating Free Trade Agreements (FTAs). At present, Thailand has put into effect 12 FTAs with 17 countries at both bilateral and regional levels. In 2016, the total volume of trade between Thailand and member countries of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) was 243 billion USD, accounting for 59 per cent of Thailand's total trade volume. In the first quarter of 2017,

the volume of trade between Thailand and RCEP member countries was 63,528 million USD, with a trade surplus of 635.1 million USD. It was an increase of 154.9 million USD from the same period of the previous year. The Government has also promoted trade in services and investment abroad by encouraging the service sector to enter the global market, especially those in targeted areas such as health and beauty, hotel and related industries, construction and real estate, entertainment and content, printing, software, and logistics. It has also attempted to promote the sales of Thai goods overseas by encouraging 6,948 businesspeople to enter the international market in the form of industrial clusters, which successfully led up to sales orders of approximately 205,677.19 million baht. Such goods include food and agricultural products, heavy industry products, and lifestyle products.

4.6.6 Promoting investment and driving industries towards “Thailand 4.0”: The Government has continued to place importance on industrial development as Thailand’s New Engine of Growth, especially the promotion of the Cluster Policy and the Super Cluster Policy for high technology businesses and future industries in order to attract investment in targeted areas and lay a strong industrial foundation for the future. It has also pushed forward 10 targeted industries (5 first S-Curve and 5 new S-Curve). Key outcomes are as follows: **1) Investment promotion** by reducing the approval time of a factory license or factory expansion

from 90 days to 30 days. As of September 2016 – September 2017, 5,057 factory licenses and expansion applications were approved, with investment of more than 1,236,890 million baht and 218,350 jobs created; **2) Driving the economy for the future via 10 targeted industries** which are New Growth Engines. The number of projects eligible for investment promotion in the 10 targeted industries during 12 September 2016 – 30 September 2017 was 737 projects, with the total value of investment of 267,363 million baht; **3) Development of the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC)** by accelerating public-private partnership (PPP) investments in the EEC areas and offering special investment promotion benefits, such as a 50 per cent tax reduction in corporate income tax for 5 years, and by organizing activities to attract both domestic and foreign investments, including Japan, the People’s Republic of China, and CLMV countries (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Vietnam); **4) Development of special economic zones in border areas** with the aim of generating prosperity across regions, reducing inequality, improving the living standard of people, as well as promoting security along the borders; and **5) Development of the National Single Window (NSW)** with 36 government agencies already being connected with the NSW.

4.6.7 Developing transport infrastructure: The development of transport systems is a key factor in enhancing Thailand’s economic potentials. The Government has not only implemented on-going

projects from the previous years but has also initiated new ones, such as **1) railway system development**, including the Thailand-China rail project, the Thailand-Japan railway development project, and the double-track railway development project. Among the total of 14 projects, two projects are under construction, namely, the Cha Choeng Sao–Khleng Sip Kao–Kaeng Khoi railway with the length of 106 kilometres and the Jira–Khon Kaen Junction railway with the length of 187 kilometres. The construction of these two projects is expected to be completed in February 2019. Among the 9 rail transportation development projects in Bangkok, one project has been open for service in 2016, namely, the Purple line or officially the MRT Chalong Ratchadham line (Bang Yai – Bang Sue) while five projects are under construction, namely, the Red line (Bang Sue – Rangsit), the Blue line (Bang Sue – Tha Phra and Hua Lamphong – Bang Khae), the Green line (Bearing – Samut Prakan and Mo Chit – Saphan Mai – Khu Kot), and the Orange line (Thailand Cultural Centre – Min Buri); and **2) road transport development**, for example, three inter-city motorway construction projects, namely, the Pattaya – Map Ta Phut route, 32 kilometres in length; the Bang Pa-in – Nakhon Ratchasima route, 196 kilometres in length; and the Bang Yai – Kanchanaburi route, 96 kilometres in length. The purpose of the development of high-quality motorway networks is to facilitate traveling and the transport of goods between Bangkok and its vicinity.

In addition, the Government has implemented **airport development**, such as the Suvarnabhumi Airport Development Project to increase its capacity to accommodate 90 million passengers annually, and the U-Tapao Airport Development Project, which will make U-Tapao Airport the country's third major airport in support of the EEC development. Moreover, the Government has carried out **water transport system development**. For example, 17 piers on the Chao Phraya River have been renovated to ease the traffic problem. A project to construct a coastal port (Port A) at Laem Chabang Port has been undertaken in order to connect with the public transport system. The construction is expected to be completed in November 2017 and open for service in 2018. The Government has also developed **the Common Ticketing System Standard**, which allows passengers to use one common ticket for all modes of transportation. The test period was scheduled to begin in 2017.

4.6.8 Driving towards a digital economy: The Government has pushed for the development of digital economy to support the country's economic system by implementing several key projects. For example, the project under the title "Net Pracharat" has been set up to enhance communication infrastructure for the target number of 24,700 villages, with one Free Wi-Fi service point per village. This also includes providing equipment and installing the network of "Net Pracharat" in 21,000 villages. Another project is the

international underwater cable project to support the international internet services (Asia-Africa-Europe-1: AAE-1). In addition, the Government has implemented the National e-Payment Master Plan, consisting of 5 major work plans: 1) PromptPay; 2) e-Cards; 3) e-Tax and e-Document; 4) e-Payment of the public sector; and 5) a project to educate people about electronic transactions. It has also developed 600 community digital network centres which can serve as an important tool to achieve the policy of digital economy and society in the people sector. The centres provide co-working space for the community and take up a cybersecurity mission by promoting the Government Threat Monitoring System (GTM). In 2017, 81 agencies participated in this project and followed the National Incident Handling Flow to tackle inter-agency threats.

4.6.9 Promoting domestic tourism: The Government has continued its policies to promote tourism by focusing on confidence building, safety promotion, tourism facilitation, quality tourism development, high-end tourist market penetration, tourism human resource development, as well as resolution of tourism-related problems. In 2016, the country gained 2.5 trillion baht in tourism revenue, an increase of 11.09 per cent from the previous year. In 2017, the targeted revenue from tourism was 2.5 trillion baht. Another key achievement by the Government in tourism promotion is **the regulation on vendors in tourist destinations across the nation**, such as Hua Hin Beach in Prachuap Khiri Khan Province,

Pattaya City in Chon Buri Province, Phuket Province, Krabi Province, and Phang Nga Province on the Andaman side, and Samui Island. Another achievement is an increase of revenue from international tourism by promoting “Thainess,” which features Thailand’s uniqueness and reflects the characteristics of Thai people (friendship, fun, and happiness). Last but not least, the Government has also introduced new tourist destinations and different traveling times during the year by publishing a book as well as organizing an event to launch the “12 Hidden Gems Plus” campaign.

4.6.10 Promoting energy management: Thailand has invested in energy infrastructure for up to 5 per cent of the country’s GDP. The revenue generated from petroleum and fuel reaches up to 10 per cent of the tax revenues annually. Therefore, the Government considers energy to be an important sector, and has subsequently implemented and followed through on **Thailand Integrated Energy Blueprint B.E. 2558-2579 (2015-2036)**. The Blueprint is composed of 5 key plans, namely: Power Development Plan (PDP), Energy Efficiency Plan (EEP), Alternative Energy Development Plan (AEDP), Gas Plan, and Oil Plan. The Blueprint’s major outcomes are, for example, **1) the construction of electricity generating system**, which was completed and has started its commercial operation with the generation capacity of 6,273 megawatts; **2) the electricity transmission system project**; **3) Pracharat Project on Energy** for the three Southern Border

Provinces as well as implementing a solar water pump project in order to assist farmers in drought-stricken areas across the country; **4) the management of concession fields expiring in 2022-2023** by conducting advanced bidding within 1 year, as the Terms of Reference and conditions are being drafted; and **5) the construction of pipeline systems to transport oil to the northern and northeastern regions**. In this regard, an environmental impact assessment (EIA) for the pipeline to the north was approved and the pipeline construction is underway, while an EIA public hearing for the northeastern route is underway.

4.6.11 Managing state-owned enterprises: The Government has placed emphasis on developing and improving state-owned enterprises to be efficient, transparent and accountable. Major outcomes are, for example, putting investment projects of the Expressway Authority of Thailand under the Construction Sector Transparency Initiative (CoST), and approving **the Draft Act on the Governance and Management of State-owned Enterprises B.E. ...**, which is now under the consideration of the National Legislative Assembly. The Draft Act would be an important tool for the Government to reform state-owned enterprises and enhance their performance to reach international standards by creating a mechanism to prevent political interference. In addition, the Government has **expedited its measures to resolve operational problems of state-owned enterprises**, e.g. Thai Airways International Public

Company Limited, the Small and Medium Enterprise Development Bank of Thailand, the Islamic Bank of Thailand, TOT Public Company Limited, CAT Telecom Public Company Limited, State Railway of Thailand, and Bangkok Mass Transit Authority.

4.6.12 Managing the economy: The Government has implemented the following measures: **1) expediting the disbursement of the investment budgets of state-owned enterprises**, as a result of which the disbursement rate of 45 state-owned enterprises as of June 2017 stood at 155,459 million baht, equal to 46.33 per cent of the year's total investments of 335,522 million baht; **2) promoting integrated budgeting** by formulating 26 integrated strategic work plans to promote compatibility, reduce redundancy and increase efficiency. Relevant agencies will be assigned as focal points and a Deputy Prime Minister will be assigned to supervise, monitor and follow up on the operation to ensure tangible results; **3) supporting economic recovery and increasing competitiveness** by implementing tax measures to promote tourism and organization of conventions and exhibitions in Thailand, which led to a 3.1 per cent increase in the private sector's consumption in 2016; implementing measures to stimulate the economy during Songkran Festival, which resulted in an increase of 400 million baht in value-added tax; and introducing measures to stimulate the economy towards the end of the year 2016, which generated 25 billion baht in the economy and increased the value-added tax to 678 million baht.

In addition, the Government has undertaken **measures to increase long-term competitiveness** such as **1) tax measures to support venture capital** by extending the time for venture capitals to register as companies for another 2 years, moving the deadline of 31 December 2016 to 31 December 2018; and **2) the establishment of Thailand Future Fund (TFF)** as a new alternative source of funding for public infrastructure projects to increase the country's competitiveness, reduce financial burden on the Government, and serve as a channel for investors to invest in high-quality public assets. It has also contributed to the country's capital market development. Additionally, the Government has improved the tax collection system such as the Draft Land and Construction Tax Act B.E. ..., which will allow local administrative organizations to collect taxes more efficiently and in line with the current situation, and the new Excise Tax Act B.E 2560, which aims to promote the efficient, transparent and fair enforcement of the law by facilitating tax payers and citizens. The Government has also taken measures to keep public debts within the fiscal sustainability framework, that is 60 per cent of the country's GDP. As of 30 July 2017, the public debt outstanding report stood at 6,224,988.75 million baht, which was equal to 41.83 per cent of GDP.

4.7 7th Core Policy: Promoting Thailand's Role and Exploring Opportunities in the ASEAN Community

Following the official launch of the ASEAN Community and the adoption of “ASEAN Vision 2025,” the Government has been working on **the three ASEAN community pillars**, namely:

1) **Political-Security Pillar:** The Ministry of Defense has formulated an action plan to drive the ASEAN Community (2017-2023), which endeavours to translate policy into action; 2) **Economic Pillar:** The Government has attached great importance to facilitating cost reductions in entrepreneurial economic activities. This covers a range of measures, including the ratification of Protocol 7 (Customs Transit System: CTS) attached to the ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Goods in Transit (AFAFGIT), the improvement of service sector in order to benefit from the immense ASEAN single market, and the promotion of innovation and research and development to enhance productivity in goods and services; 3) **Socio-Cultural Pillar:** The Government has promoted the signing with neighboring countries of a number of bilateral Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) regarding migrant labour which contain, among others, provisions of health insurance for foreign workers. The Government has also pushed for the establishment of an ASEAN cultural centre to provide the general public with information about the cultures of different ASEAN Member States.

With regard to the enhancement of the connectivity of economy, trade and investment in the ASEAN, and expansion of economic cooperation with neighboring countries, the Government places importance on protecting national interests and promoting Thailand's roles in various ASEAN high-level meetings and international cooperation frameworks, such as the ASEAN–EU Ministerial Meeting (AEMM), the Ayeyawady–Chao Phraya–Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS), the Bay of Bengal Initiative Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), the Mekong–Lancang Cooperation (MLC), the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), the Indonesia–Malaysia–Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT–GT) and the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS). It also focuses on the enhancement of competitiveness of Thai entrepreneurs, industrial sectors and workforce as well as government agencies in order that they can fully benefit from the increased connectivity of economy, trade and investment with neighboring countries. To this end, the Government has conducted workshops, for example, on “the issuance of import–export documents by Provincial Commercial Offices under the “One Roof” policy” and on “the Digital Signature and the National Single Window (NSW).” The Government has initiated laboratory development projects to support New Growth industries (namely, the Electrical and Electronics Institute, Food Institute and Textile Institute). Additionally, training has been provided for migrant workers regarding their rights according to labour protection law.

The Government has also formed a Task Force on ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework (TF–AQRF) to find the equivalent of Thai qualifications in ASEAN benchmarks. A programme to prepare Thai civil servants to work in the context of ASEAN was also organized.

On the **cultural aspect**, the Government established the ASEAN Cultural Centre in Bangkok, which is the first of its kind in the region. The Centre features interactive exhibitions and uses state-of-the-art multimedia technologies to disseminate the knowledge of different ASEAN cultures to the public.

The Government has also encouraged greater exports to CLMV countries, resulting in cross-border exports and trade of 1.5 trillion baht in 2016. As of June 2017, there was a 9.76 per cent increase in Thailand’s exports to CLMV countries, accounting for 330,830 million baht. Thai overseas investment has also continued to expand. As of the end of 2016, Thailand’s cumulative outward investment reached 94.3 billion USD, 12.3 per cent of which (or 1.6 billion USD) has been made in CLMV countries, which has expanded by 73 per cent compared to three years ago when the rate of expansion of all Thai overseas investment was only 37 per cent.

4.8 8th Core Policy: Promoting the Application of Science, Technology, Innovation and Research and Development

The Government has placed increased importance on research and innovation in order to increase national income rate and economic development. This requires working to reach **international research standards**, increase the number of researchers in targeted areas such as STEM workforce, and raise public awareness of science, technology and innovation through activities such as Science Road, National Innovation Day, together with the improvement of incentive schemes such as tax incentives to support research and development activities. The Innovation Coupon project is intended to build capacity of SMEs, while the STI Coupon for OTOP Upgrade project is designed to encourage investment in research and development in the private sector. As a result, the public–private ratio of investment in research and development in 2017 was 32:68.

In order to promote research and development and innovation, the Government has implemented many programmes, including:

4.8.1 Promoting and supporting research for the development of Thailand in 24 groups. For instance, **the rice group** has carried out research and development of rice-moth eradicating machines, paddy dehumidifying machines for farmers' use, health supplements and cosmetics derived from rice processing. **The cassava group** has developed cassava species Pirun 1 and

Kasetsart 72. **The rubber group** has pursued the development of a solid wheel tire used in eco forklift trucks. **The sugarcane and sugar group** has developed new sugarcane species resistant to salty soil, and carried out the development of related continuing industries.

4.8.2 Encouraging research and development in national mega projects

The Government has carried forward the development of expertise, technology and domestic supporting industries for the development of rail transport systems, the promotion of Thailand as the ASEAN hub of electric cars, the establishment of the Food Innopolis, the Thailand Earth Observation Satellite (THEOS–2) project, the Futurium (future innovation centre), the Eastern Economic Corridor of Innovation (EECi), as well as the development of the National Geo–Informatics Infrastructure Services Portal (NGIS PORTAL).

4.8.3 Supporting research and development

The Government has been continuously promoting research and development. Examples of completed research projects include innovations in mosquito-repellents and riceberry-based cosmetics, My Health Thailand brand as personal health record (PHR) for Thai nationals, products with nanoparticles extracted from mangosteen peels which help prevent oral inflammations, the development of

Digital Chest X-ray machine, techniques to detect germs in seeds, black tiger shrimps rich in Omega-3, and vehicle counting system.

4.9 9th Core Policy: Maintaining the Security of Natural Resources and Creating Balance between Conservation and Sustainable Use

Apart from addressing the issues of **land allocation and use for people's livelihoods and garbage and toxic waste management**, the Government has continued to **protect natural resources to ensure national security and to improve the quality of life of the Thai people**. Under the “Plik-Fuen-Puen-Pah-Su-Garn-Pattana-Thee-Yang-Yuen” (forest rehabilitation towards sustainable development) policy, the Government has come up with the so-called “One Map” (1:4,000 scale) which enables Thailand to have a single, clear and accurate map of the state-owned land. Actions were also taken to raise public awareness and understanding of forest conservation, to promote deeper community involvement in the Pracharat scheme (the cooperation between people and government), to protect forest areas through law enforcement (plan of action and preventive and suppressive measures against forest encroachment, reclamation of forest land being used for rubber tree plantation), to manage degraded watershed forests in mountainous areas, to set goals in conserving 40.48 acres of available forest areas, and to promote public participation in taking care of forests through the establishment of

community forests in 10,033 villages on approximately 1,937,306.20 acres of land.

Thailand has long faced the gradual depletion of **mangrove forests and maritime and shoreline resources** due to forest encroachment and exploitation of resources, which led to both natural and man-made degradation of resources, including shoreline erosion. The Government has begun operations to manage such resources by defining mangrove forest protection areas of approximately 604,913.98 acres, reclaiming a total of 6,589.91 acres of mangrove forest areas through the operation of the “Cha-Lam-Khao” task force in cooperation with administrative, military and police officials in 17 provinces, and restoring degraded mangrove forest areas of 2,203.01 acres. Additionally, the Government has begun to regulate **fresh and salt water fisheries** in order to maintain an appropriate balance between the conservation and the utilization of the environment for livelihoods. Also, the Government has cleared up 8,181,742 tons of **water hyacinth and weed in public waterways** nationwide to improve water flow and sewage system, reduce waste water, and improve the overall ecosystem.

The Government has established an integrated plan for water management. This includes actions related to (1) management of drinking water with the objective of making water supply available for every village by 2017; (2) security of water supply for production sector (agriculture and industry), among others, through

implementation of nine large-scale water resource projects such as the project to increase water supply of the Mae Guang Udom Thara Dam, the Tapee – Pumduang river basin development project, Pha Chuk Dam project, flood relief project in Chanthaburi city (phase 2), and Huai Samong, and Rachalothorn Reservoir Royal Development Projects; (3) flood prevention and water management; (4) restoration of degraded upstream forests of 1,858,232 acres, and prevention of soil erosion; (5) management and development of national hydro informatics and climate data systems to be used as a central filing centre for maps, statistics, predictions, related research studies, coupled with the development of infrastructure systems including computing, networking, data filing and linkage, data processing, and data display.

4.10 10th Core Policy: Promoting Good Governance in Administration of State Affairs, and Preventing and Suppressing Corruption and Malfeasance in the Public Sector

As mentioned earlier, the Government gives priority to the prevention and suppression of corruption and malfeasance in the public sector. By doing so, it has conducted operations to promote good governance in government administration. Key missions include **improving the role and missions of the government sector** which aims to build capacity of public organizations, government agencies and state enterprises, as well as modify roles,

missions and structure, and manage and develop human resources of the government sector to support “Thailand 4.0” policy. As of now, 81 tasks of the government sector were already transferred to private or other sectors while 28 tasks are undergoing necessary procedures. Regarding **public organizations, their roles and necessity are being reviewed**. As a result, ministers have been appointed to oversee the Office for National Education Standards and Quality Assessment (ONESQA) (public organization), the Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau (TCEB) (public organization), and the International Institution for Trade and Development (ITD) (public organization). The Designated Areas for Sustainable Tourism Administration (DASTA) (public organization) and the Office of Knowledge Management and Development (OKMD) (public organization) were mandated to modify their roles and missions, boost their operational efficiency, and modify the terms of the decrees on their establishment accordingly. Pinkanakorn Development Agency (PDA) (public organization) was similarly enjoined to modify its status, roles and missions in alignment with relevant government policies. Furthermore, the Chiang Mai Night Safari would be transferred to be under the supervision of the Zoological Park Organization under the Royal Patronage of His Majesty the King, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. The International Convention and Exhibition Centre commemorating His Majesty the Late King’s 7th Cycle Birthday Anniversary would be

transferred to be under the aegis of the Treasury Department, Ministry of Finance.

In order to **increase the efficiency of the government sector**, the Government has established “One Stop Service Centres” enabling the public to receive public services at one single location. The services include information services, data transmission between government agencies, and complaint receiving services. Moreover, **efforts were also made to improve service provision to raise the country’s competitiveness, as measured by the World Bank’s Doing Business Report.** According to the Doing Business Report 2017, Thailand’s rank rose from 49 (out of 190 countries) in 2016 to 46 in 2017 and is the 3rd among all 10 ASEAN countries.

4.11 11th Core Policy: Improving Laws and the Justice System

The Government has amended laws that became outdated or regarded as unfair so that they align with government policy in all aspects. Such laws are classified into 5 groups: (1) economic law, such as the Securities and Exchange Act (No.5) B.E. 2559 (2016) which was amended in accordance with the development of securities trading system and linkages among capital markets within and outside of Thailand, the Investment Promotion Act (No.4) B.E. 2560 (2017) which was amended in order to increase Thailand’s competitiveness, facilitate investors, and provide further incentives for investment; (2) legislations issued as a result of international obligations; (3) legislations enacted for inequality reduction e.g. the

Revenue Code Amendment Act (No.44) B.E. 2560 (2017) which was amended to ameliorate criteria for expenses deduction, allowance deduction, taxable income, assessable income rate, and the Excise Act B.E. 2560 (2017) which was amended in order to increase efficiency of law enforcement; (4) welfare and humanitarian law, such as the Act on the Maintenance of the Cleanliness and Orderliness of the Country (No.2) B.E. 2560 (2017) which was amended to authorize local authorities to collect, transport, dispose and make use of waste and sewage, as well as set service fees; and (5) legislations aiming to solve social problems and maintain public order.

The Government has also improved **the legal assistance system and access to justice**. The Government has provided financial assistance of 600.8 million baht to 11,735 people, of whom 11,665 were victims and 70 were defendants in criminal cases according to the Damages for the Injured Person and Compensation and Expense for the Accused in Criminal Case Act B.E. 2544 (2011). In addition, in supporting the Justice Fund for the protection of the poor and underprivileged persons, victims whose rights were abused and innocent persons/persons affected by injustice, the Government has covered court fees for 904 persons and legal fees for 1,871 persons. As for other expenses, the Government has paid for the verification process of 34 persons and for the provisional release application of 612 suspects.

Regarding the **rehabilitation of offenders**, the Government has established the community rehabilitation project to rehabilitate inmates who are drug addicts so that they can lead a normal life after their release. To this end, the Government conducted training courses in 83 prisons/correctional facilities, in which 7,500 people participated and 4,331 people already completed the courses. It also promoted rehabilitation in the form of Vivatpollamuang Corrections School (scout programme), in which 2,600 people participated and 441 people completed the programme, and carried on the To Be Number One project, of which 60,361 people are members, and the Friend's Corner, with 37,024 volunteers providing advice to inmates prior to their release. In addition, the **Pre-Release Programme (SOFT Prison)** also implements Conditioned Release and Non-Conditioned Release measures vis-à-vis inmates with remaining prison terms of 6-12 months.

Way Forward

Recognizing the importance of leapfrogging development under the 20-Year National Strategy, the 12th National Economic and Social Development Plan B.E. 2560-2564 (2017-2021), national reform policy, plan of action and other related policies at the national level, the Government has paved the way for economic, agricultural, social, and political improvements as follows:

- Connect Thailand and the World by investing in infrastructures in accordance with the national strategy and national (land, water, and air) transport system plan; expediting existing and initiating new projects, i.e. the development of inter-city train network, the development of public transport network aimed at easing traffic congestions in Bangkok and its vicinity, the enhancement of highway connectivity aimed at connecting production bases in Thailand and those in neighboring countries, the improvement of water transportation network, the enhancement of competitiveness in air services targeted at reducing transportation and logistics costs, with an emphasis on environment- and energy-friendly transportation, and the development of design and services accessible to all;
- Continue the development of the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) comprising the Eastern Economic Corridor of Innovation (EECi), promote research and innovation in life sciences and biotechnology (BIOPOLIS), and innovative economy (automation,

robotics and intelligence system), in order to enhance industrial capacity, foster green industry, and set up smart agriculture, Food Innopolis and smart city;

- Foster national development with a focus on village and sub-district levels in order to solve economic, social and security issues and, therefore, free Thailand from the middle income trap through the Government's initiative of the "Thai-Niyom-Yangyeun" (Thainess and Sustainability) project with implementing mechanisms at national, provincial, district and sub-district levels, which aims to improve the welfare of the people and address local needs in a sustainable manner;

- Support cooperation to drive national development through the Pracharat scheme (the cooperation between people and government) with a focus on innovation, tourism, capacity building of SMEs, enhancing the capacities of trade and service sectors and the 10 targeted industries, restructuring the agricultural sector, upgrading labor skills, strengthening grassroots economy, building capacity of human resources, and promoting social enterprises;

- Protect and restore natural resources and conservation areas, expand community forest, promote laws that encourage plantation with economic value, and reforestation;

- Develop digital infrastructures nationwide, digitalize public administration by integrating public databases, utilizing Big Data, drafting the Digital Government Act B.E. ... in order to encourage government agencies to work on digital data, allow exchanges of

information among public agencies, and make data available to the public in digital form;

- Enhance access to education and public health by increasing efficiency in distance education via satellite, solving persistent problems related to student loan funds, establishing funds for financially disadvantaged people, reducing educational inequality, improving quality and capacity of teachers through the draft Educational Equality Fund Act B.E. ..., and establishing the Tele medicine;

- Promote quality ageing society by building capacity of older persons, and promoting facilities and industries that cater to the needs of the elderly;

- Develop human resources in both the public and private sectors as required by the labor market and the needs of the digital era;

- Restructure the agricultural sector by focusing on market-led approach with a goal to become a world-class agriculture hub, such as the creation of a fruit metropolis in Chanthaburi Province;

- Improve efficiency of state welfare by integrating relevant budgets to address poverty and inequality issues, and reorganize state welfare system to increase efficiency and avoid future fiscal burdens;

- According to Section 65 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand B.E. 2560 (2017), the State shall enact a national strategy to achieve sustainable development in accordance with the

principles of good governance. The national strategy will be used as a fundamental framework to further create coherent and integrated national plans. Furthermore, the Government has enacted the National Strategy Preparation Act B.E. 2560 (2017) and the National Reform Plans and Procedures Act B.E. 2560 (2017) as required by Section 259 of the Constitution. The Committee on National Strategy and the Committee on National Reform have also been set up as steering mechanisms to follow up, examine and evaluate the implementations of the 20-Year National Strategy and National Reform, as well as to coordinate with the Government to achieve the goal of Thailand becoming a developed country by the year 2036 and to increase the country's Gross National Income (GNI) per capital to 15,000 USD per year;

- On state financial and budget management, the Government has drafted the Budget Procedures Act B.E. ... and has enacted the State Financial and Fiscal Discipline Act B.E. 2561 (2018) to ensure the State's sustainable financial and fiscal stability, as stipulated in the State Financial and Fiscal Discipline Act. Important measures include creating and enhancing fair and transparent tax management system, the state financial discipline regulation for revenue, expenditure, budget and non-budget as well as management of state assets, treasury and public debt. The Government has also implemented campaigns to foster awareness and knowledge concerning prevention and suppression of malfeasance in both the public and private sectors, together with implementation of effective

measures and mechanism to evaluate ethics and transparency of government agencies. Moreover, the Anti-Corruption Operations Centre has also prepared an action plan to prevent and suppress corruption and malfeasance and has worked closely with the private sector and civil society networks in order to monitor, prevent and fight corruption.

- The Government has promoted awareness of the “Thai Niyom Democracy” scheme which adheres to democracy with constitutional monarchy. This would create public understanding of the principles of democracy whereby the will of the majority must be accepted while the views of the minority must also be respected. A fair and transparent election will lead to good governance, national unity and reconciliation.

- For a period from 2021-2036, the Royal Thai Government will implement the 20-Year National Strategy and Reform Plan to steer the country according to the long-term needs and benefits of the people, while at the same time aiming to bring about stronger competitiveness, enhance transportation systems, improve quality of life, strengthen Thailand’s economic potentials and connect Thailand to the regional economy through development of various networks as follows:

- 1) **The road networks** comprising 3 motorways (324 kilometres) and 4 inter-city highways (470 kilometres), covering 13 provinces, will be completed in 2020. Other development projects are in the pipeline, namely, the section of Rama III-Dao Khanong-

Outer Ring/western Bangkok (18.7 kilometres), the 2nd Thai-Myanmar Friendship Bridge (Maesot District, Tak Province) and Aranyaprathet Bridge linking Thailand-Cambodia (Ban Nong Ian-Stung Bot) and construction of other 93 highways and rural roads (606 kilometres) as well as 193 overpasses in rural communities in every region.

2) **The Rail networks** comprising 16 projects of double track and railways (3,163 kilometres) are underway, while 2 lines of Metropolitan Transit System are now in operation across Bangkok and its vicinity, and another 13 lines (266 kilometres) are being constructed. Moreover, High-Speed Train Project between Bangkok-Nakhon Ratchasima (252 kilometres) is being constructed while the Bangkok-Chiang Mai project (672 kilometres) is currently undergoing a feasibility study. Also, the airport rail links between Don Muang-Suvarnabhumi-U Tapao Airports are also under construction.

3) **The Water networks** including overhauling 17 Chao Phraya River piers in Bangkok, developing a railway cargo system (Single Rail Transfer Operator: SRTO), constructing another port (Port A) at Laem Chabang, and developing the East-West Ferry Project across the Gulf of Thailand.

4) **The Air networks** including increasing capacity of 7 airports across the country, namely, Suvarnabhumi, Don Muang, Phuket, Chiang Mai, Hat Yai, Chiang Rai, and Betong International Airports in order to accommodate an increasing number of flights and passengers in the future.



The Prime Minister's Office

