



Executive Summary

Fourth Year Performance Report

of the Government of General Prayut Chan-o-cha
(12 September 2017-12 September 2018)





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1. The Situation Before the Current Government Took Office

Prior to the administration of Prime Minister General Prayut Chan-o-cha, Thailand was facing both domestic and external challenges. The country was gripped by a protracted political unrest, social discord, polarisation and the risk of violence. Such a turmoil affected whole society, denting household and business confidence as well as the tourism industry. Public administration came to a halt, as public funds could not then be disbursed. The economy was also weakened by the global economic downturn, resulting in a sharp drop in exports. This together caused a marked slowdown in the overall Thai economy in the last quarter of 2013, when it grew at only 0.5 per cent, before plunging into contraction by 0.5 per cent in the first quarter of 2014. Meanwhile, the unrest in the country continued unabated until May 2014.

**The National Council for Peace and Order's intervention
and approach to resolving the situation in the country**

The National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) launched the intervention on 22 May 2014 and promptly unveiled a

programme to resolve the situation in a “3-Phase Road Map”. **The First Phase** consisted of the NCPO assuming the administration of state affairs with the immediate priority on putting an end to the social discord; addressing the effects of the government malfunctioning; ensuring the resumption of normal administration; and bringing back peace and tranquility to the country. **The Second Phase** focused on the promulgation of the national Constitution (Interim), B.E. 2557 (2014) and the appointment of Council of Ministers on 30 August 2014 as well as the setting up of other mechanisms to ensure full and effective public administration. The key organs comprise: the **Government** responsible for policies to solve economic, social and environmental issues; the **National Legislative Assembly (NLA)** was to focus on the deliberation, vetting and amendment of laws; and the **National Reform Council (NRC)** and **National Reform Steering Assembly (NRSA)** were to focus on providing long-term solutions in order to lay down a stronger foundation for the development of the country. Once completed, the Government moved on to **the Third Phase**, whereby a permanent Constitution was adopted and general elections scheduled.

2. The Situation After the Government Took Office

The First Three Years (12 September 2014 – 12 September 2017) Carrying Forward the NCPO’s Mission

The Government assumed the national administration from

the NCPO on 12 September 2014. It continued to carry out the mission of the NCPO and, hence, attached priority to laying down strong foundations for a more stable economy and for all segments of society to benefit from increased economic and social opportunities as well as gain higher incomes and a better quality of life. At the same time, the Government also strove to address prolonged environmental degradation, particularly the depletion of natural resources, to ensure that further development would be truly sustainable in the long term.

The Government's Policies

The Government prioritised the reform programmes that aim to address social issues as well as promote national reconciliation and unity. In this connection, the Government adopted His Majesty the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej's Sufficiency Economy Philosophy as the guiding light towards "stable, prosperous and sustainable" development. The goals were: to ensure peace and harmony in Thai society; upholding and respect the law, update and amend existing laws and regulations to better suit current circumstances; build a strong and competitive economy, with the necessary infrastructure; and rehabilitate natural resources. It also aimed to ensure that the monarchy remained the heart and soul binding all Thais together; that the Thai people live their lives guided by the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy; that the value of morals and ethics is extolled; and that Thailand stands dignified and tall in the international community.

To achieve the abovementioned goals, the Government spelled out policies in 11 core areas, which were presented to the National Legislative Assembly on 12 September 2014, as follows: 1) Protecting and upholding the Institution of the Monarchy; 2) Maintaining national security and advancing national interests; 3) Reducing social inequality and improving access to public services; 4) Promoting education and training, and preserving religion, art and culture; 5) Upgrading public health services and promoting the consciousness of good health; 6) Enhancing the country's economic potentials; 7) Promoting Thailand's role and exploring opportunities in the ASEAN Community; 8) Promoting the application of science, technology, innovation, and research and development; 9) Maintaining security of the country's resources, and balancing conservation and sustainable utilisation; 10) Promoting good governance in public administration, and preventing and suppressing corruption and malfeasance in the public sector; and 11) Improving laws and the judicial process. In addition, 6 working groups were set up to ensure effective administration in the following areas: security; economy; society; foreign affairs; state affairs; and laws and the judicial process.

Mechanisms to Implement Government Policy (In the First 3 Years)

The Government set up several national committees as mechanisms to expedite policy implementation, in particular with regard to key development issues, in an integrated and coordinated

manner as well as ensure the proper monitoring, follow-up and oversight functions. They include the following: the **Steering Committee on the Implementation of the Government's Policies**, tasked to follow up and ensure that the implementation be aligned with Government policy and the Prime Minister's policy guidance; the 5 **Steering Committees for the Reform of the Administration of State Affairs**, each chaired by a Deputy Prime Minister on behalf of the Prime Minister, responsible for policymaking and moving forward each of the 5 areas of work and related development agenda; the **Monitoring Committee on Policy Implementation**, responsible for following up on the implementation of priority issues and the Government's special agenda.

Furthermore, the **Committee on the Administration of State Affairs in Accordance with National Reform, Strategies and Reconciliation**, chaired by the Prime Minister, was set up, consisting of 4 sub-committees: 1) the **Committee on the Strategic Administration of State Affairs**; 2) the **Committee on National Reform Preparation**; 3) the **Committee on National Strategy Preparation**; and 4) the **Committee on Reconciliation**. The mandate of these sub-committees was to ensure the coordination of major Government policies, in particular, 1) development and addressing national issues of concern; 2) national reform; 3) implementing the National Strategy; and 4) promoting reconciliation. The National Reform Plans and Procedures Act, B.E. 2560 (2017) and the National Strategy Preparation

Act, B.E. 2560 (2017) were later promulgated. The said laws established, respectively, the Committee on National Reform and the Committee on National Strategy, thus ending the mandates of the Committee on National Reform Preparation and the Committee on National Strategy Preparation.

Key Achievements in the First 3 Years

Despite having to face both domestic and external challenges in the first 3 years, the Government was steadfastly committed to mobilising the necessary resources in order to address and resolve pressing national issues. The approach taken was to “act fast; act real; act now” to achieve stability, prosperity and sustainability. Long-neglected issues, such as the illegal ivory trade, were tackled head-on and eventually with success. No trade sanctions were applied on Thailand under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Shortcomings in the area of civil aviation were also addressed to ensure full compliance with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) standards. In addition, efforts were made in other areas, including preventing and suppressing human trafficking, illegal fishing as well as corruption and malfeasance.

The Government also addressed other important issues, such as restoring household, business, investor and tourist confidence in Thailand. Efforts were made to restore the general international community’s confidence in Thailand. As a result -- and buoyed by the continued expansion of the export and tourism industries -- the **consumer confidence index** rose to 82.2 from 81.3, the

highest in 62 months or 5 years since June 2013. The **business confidence index** rankings for 2018 by the International World Competitiveness Center recognised Thailand's continued development and growth, placing the country 48th, which was higher than the previous year's ranking (49th out of 63 countries). This was due to improvement on 2 key areas, namely, basic and scientific infrastructure. In addition, the World Bank's "Doing Business 2018" Report ranked Thailand 26th for ease of doing business. This was a remarkable improvement from the previous year's ranking of 48th (out of 190 countries) and in itself reflects expanding opportunities arising from economic development. Thailand's ranking on the **Logistics Performance Index** also improved in 2018 to 2nd in ASEAN and 32nd in the world (out of 160 countries). The international community also expressed understanding of the situation in Thailand and the imperatives that brought the current Government into office. The Government's determination to address and resolve national issues of concern were also applauded by the international community. Such recognition and positive support were reflected at the UN Summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda and the 70th Session of the UN General Assembly, where Thailand was elected Chair of the Group of 77 (G77) for 2016.

The Government also worked to revive the economy through a series of economic stimulus packages with emphasis on alleviating the plight of farmers, low-income earners and SMEs. As a result, the Thai economy showed signs of recovery at the

end of the second quarter of 2018 and has expanded consistently since. The economic growth rate steadily picked up. The projected growth rate for 2018 as a whole is between 4.2-4.7 per cent. During the second quarter of 2018, almost all key engines of the economy managed to resume positive growth and expansion.

The 4th Year (12 September 2017 - 12 September 2018)

The Government's achievements in the 4th year can be divided into 3 parts: 1) key achievements; 2) achievements in the implementation of Government's 11 core policies; and 3) the laying down of foundation for long-term development. The relevant details are summarised below.

3. Key Achievements in the 4th Year

In its 4th year, the Government was able to resolve important and pressing issues of national concern, in part as a result of continued efforts from the preceding years, through a host of new initiatives, such as those related to the prevention and suppression of corruption and malfeasance; land-related issues; a social welfare scheme; combatting human trafficking and illegal fishing; the management of migrant workers in Thailand; and the management of solid and hazardous waste. The relevant details are as follows:

3.1 The Prevention and Suppression of Corruption and Malfeasance

The Government has made efforts to raise awareness on the need to root out corruption as well as strengthen anti-corruption

mechanisms, in particular with a view to enhancing transparency in the public sector and preventing conflict of interest. For example, the Government, in collaboration with the Anti-Corruption Organization of Thailand (ACT), organized by the Ministry of Commerce (MOC) Watch Dog Workshop, to promote greater organizational vigilance. Various agencies have also undertaken anti-corruption efforts as follows: (1) the Ministry of Commerce has carried out a pilot campaign to raise moral awareness in 18 Provincial Commercial Offices; and also sought to promote and instill in its staff the 4 key values of moderation, discipline, honesty, and service-mindedness; (2) the Ministry of Education has expedited efforts to identify offenders in the case of the 77 million Baht Sema Life Development Fund case. It has reported and filed the case to the Office of the National Anti-Corruption Commission (ONACC), the Anti-Money Laundering Office (AMLO), and the State Audit Office of the Kingdom of Thailand. In addition, public infrastructure projects have been undertaken under the Construction Sector Transparency Initiative (CoST), which is an initiative of the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom, supported by the World Bank. In 2018, some 147 public infrastructure projects participated in CoST, with a combined total budget of 113.6 billion Baht. Information on 120 projects has been disclosed in the CoST system while 27 projects are in the procurement phase. There has been an overall satisfactory level of information disclosure, i.e., at an average of 82.81 per cent. On 21 February 2018,

the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) Report 2017 issued by Transparency International scored Thailand at 37 points and ranked the country 96th out of 180 countries. This was an improvement from 2016, whereby Thailand scored 35 points and was ranked 101st out of 176 countries.

3.2 Addressing Land-Related Issues

The Government has extended assistance to farmers under 2 cost-reduction measures as follows: (1) measures to control and reduce the rent costs of rice fields (by no less than 200 Baht); and (2) measures to assist farmers affected by natural disasters in 7 provinces where emergency assistance was deemed necessary, namely, Sa Kaeo, Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya, Tak, Ratchaburi, Prachin Buri, Phitsanulok, and Mukdahan. The Government also established a **Land Bank**, administered by the Land Bank Administration Institute (Public Organization), to help distribute land on a more equitable basis while awaiting enactment of the Land Bank Act. Since the end of 2016, the Bank has assisted over 302 farmers and piloted Land Bank projects in Chiang Mai, Lamphun, Nakhon Ratchasima, and Surat Thani provinces.

Moreover, **the Government, guided by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn’s vision of coexistence between people and the forests, has developed a land management system and resolved the issue of encroachment on public-owned land.** Measures include: **(1) land management** through the “Forestation, Earn a living”

Project, which allows residents to continue to live in, and make a living from, national forest reserve areas as well as provides these residents with occupational training. In 2018, 7,865 residents have taken part in the project, accounting for a total of 11,460 acres of land; and **(2) allocation of land for local livelihood in accordance with Government Policy**, involving 100 areas in 52 provinces, accounting for 157,478 acres of land; and thus far, the measure has benefitted 46,674 citizens on 58,362 plots of land in 166 areas in 61 provinces.

3.3 Addressing Predatory Lending

The Government has addressed the issue of predatory lending in a comprehensive and sustainable manner, systematically targeting both debtors and creditors in 5 areas as follows: **(1) taking strict measures against loan sharks**, especially those demanding interest rates in excess of the rate stipulated under the Act Prohibiting the Collection of Interest at an Excessive Rate, B.E. 2560 (2017). Between October 2016 – October 2018, 4,162 offenders have been arrested; **(2) increasing access to formal bank loans**, for example, through the provision of emergency loans of no more than 50,000 Baht per person, with a fixed interest rate of 0.85 per cent per month and a flexible loan guarantee as well as small loans at the provincial level (known as Pico finance) of no more than 50,000 Baht per person, with or without a collateral, and an interest rate inclusive of penalty and service fees of no more than 36 per cent per year; **(3) debt settlement**, to

ensure fair debt value and a legitimate interest rate in accordance with the law. As of 2 October 2018, the Government has assisted 335,372 affected individuals with a debt value of 61.7 Billion Baht; **(4) return of land title deeds, houses, and other properties that were fraudulently appropriated by creditors to affected individuals nationwide**, for which as of 26 October 2018, some 7,753 land title deeds and properties with a total value of 10.3 Billion Baht have been returned to 10,138 victims; and **(5) capacity building for loan shark victims so that they can earn a proper income**, particularly to assist those debtors with low capacity to repay their debts through skills training and identification of job vacancies as well as the provision of knowledge on financial and debt management.

3.4 Registration for the Public Social Welfare Scheme

The Government has developed a community welfare system by registering citizens eligible for the public social welfare programme via 2 initiatives, namely: **(1) easing household financial burden** by providing allowances of 300 Baht/person/ month (for those with an annual income of less than 30,000 Baht) and 200 baht/person/ month (for those with an annual income exceeding 30,000 Baht) for the purchase of basic necessities, tuition and other education-related expenses, agricultural products from the “Thong Fah” (Blue Flag) stores as well as cooking gas to the amount of 45 Baht for every 3 months; and **(2) easing transport cost burden** by providing travel allowances to the amount of 500

Baht/month for Bangkok Mass Transit Authority buses, e-tickets, and Mass Rapid Transit (MRT), 500 Baht/month for trains and 500 Baht/month for long-distance public buses. Moreover, the Government has opened registration for the public social welfare scheme under the “Thai Niyom Yangyuen” (Sustainable Thainess) policy for persons with disabilities, the elderly, bed-ridden patients or those who were unable to register in 2017. Between 15 May – 30 June 2018, an additional 4.5 million individuals registered. Of this number, 3.1 million, or 68 per cent of total registrations, were deemed eligible. The eligible individuals were then able to collect their welfare cards at the local “Thai Niyom Yangyuen” teams from mid-December 2018, with the cards valid for use from 1 January 2019 onwards.

3.5 Combatting Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IUU Fishing)

The Government has undertaken efforts to reform the fisheries sector to ensure that Thai fishery exports are not sourced from illegal fishing. Such efforts comprise issuing 7,139 Catch Certificates, conducting traceability tests at 179 aquatic animal processing factories, and undertaking monitoring, control and surveillance measures. Thai vessels fishing either within or outside territorial waters reported their movements to the Port-in Port-out (PIPO) Control Centres a total of 448,689 times. These were collaborative and multi-agency efforts involving the Marine Department, Department of Fisheries, Department of Special

Investigation, Royal Thai Navy, and Royal Thai police for the purpose of preventing, deterring, and eliminating IUU Fishing. In addition, the Government has also revised related legal frameworks, including the Royal Ordinance on the Management of Foreign Workers' Employment (No.2), B.E. 2561 (2018), which was promulgated in the Royal Gazette on 27 March 2018 and ensures more systematic and effective management of such workers.

3.6 The Management of Foreign Workers in Thailand

The Government has urged all concerned agencies to carry out regular inspections of foreign worker employment and their places of work to ensure compliance with the law and that the workers are protected from human trafficking. There have been inspections of employers and 44,301 workplaces, employing a total of 377,196 workers. Post-Arrival and Reintegration Centres have also been providing necessary information on working and staying in Thailand, which includes language skills, legal issues, and an introduction to Thai culture, to foreign workers from Myanmar, the Lao PDR and Cambodia who have entered Thailand to work under the MOU-based system. The said Centres inspect and screen workers before granting them permission to work in Thailand in order to prevent human trafficking. The Centres also serve as waiting or reception points for employers to receive and pick up foreign workers both upon their arrival to Thailand and departure back to their home countries. The Centres have thus far

processed matters for some 431,276 workers who have returned to their home countries.

3.7 Universal Coverage for Emergency Patients (UCEP) Health Services and the Development of Public Health Services

The Government has implemented a policy of **Universal Coverage for Emergency Patients (UCEP)** to increase the rate of survival and reduce the rate of disability among emergency patients by ensuring that they receive medical treatment at the nearest public or private hospitals. Preliminary hospital fees do not have to be paid for the first 72 hours, regardless of the type of health coverage held by the patient. Between 1 April 2017-30 September 2018, there were 149,477 requests for coverage under the UCEP policy. Of this number, 27,945 cases were deemed eligible as emergency patients. In addition, the Government has carried out reform of the **Primary Care Cluster System** by setting up “Family Doctor Clinics”. The goal is to set up 6,500 medical teams within 10 years, covering the healthcare of some 65 million people. Currently, 806 teams have been set up, covering the healthcare of over 8 million people. This has helped to reduce the waiting period for health services at major hospitals by 60 per cent. It has also consequently reduced the waiting time for patients in serious need of specialised treatment at hospitals from an average of 172 minutes to 44 minutes; and has reduced costs of transport to hospitals to the amount of approximately 1,655

Baht/person/trip. In the long-term, with the support of the Family Doctor Clinics and greater awareness of how to maintain good health, the people should be better able to take care of their own health. This will aid disease prevention efforts and help to lower the mortality rate from illness.

3.8 Solid and Hazardous Waste Management

The Government has encouraged and supported the public and private sectors as well as civil society to reduce waste at its sources. In addition, it has impressed upon local authorities the importance of solid and hazardous waste management; for, each year, there are no less than 27 million tonnes of waste, and managing it costs some 17 billion Baht. Waste management in Thailand can be categorised into 3 key groups, namely: (1) the local authorities level, which is responsible for waste disposal to the amount of 15.76 million tonnes, or 58.24 per cent of total waste, 9.75 tonnes of which have been properly treated; (2) residual waste in communities in the amount of 5.67 million tonnes, or 20.95 per cent of total waste; and (3) recycled waste in the amount of 5.63 million tonnes as well as recycled waste separated out at waste disposal points to the amount of 180,000 tonnes, bringing the annual total recycled waste to 5.81 tonnes. The Government has also encouraged people to participate in the “Local Volunteers to Preserve the Planet” Project to promote waste management in their communities. As a result, 100 per cent of villages and communities country-wide have set up local toxic waste collection

points. Moreover, there are 17.93 million households with organic waste bins -- this type of waste accounting for 37.21 per cent of total waste.

4. Outcomes of the Implementation of the Government's 11 Core Policies

The implementation of the Government's 11 core policies aims to address pressing and longstanding issues as well as lay down a strong foundation for the country's long-term development. Notable achievements under each core policy are as follows:

4.1 First Core Policy: Protecting and Upholding the Institution of the Monarchy

The Government places utmost importance on upholding the Institution of the Monarchy; and, consequently, promoting correct understanding and disseminating accurate information on the Monarchy and Royal duties are key tasks. To these ends, the Government has organized a number of commemorative ceremonies and related activities to pay tribute to His Majesty the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej. The Government has also raised awareness among children and youth on the Royal duties and provided opportunities for all sectors of society to express their loyalty to and respect for the Monarchy as follows:

4.1.1 Arrangement of the Royal Cremation Ceremony of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, holding the Royal Cremation Ceremony as well as the exhibition on the Ceremony.

4.1.2 Organizing volunteer projects under the Royal Initiative “We do good deeds with our hearts”: The Government has organized social service activities, such as improvement of water resources, ditches, and canals and improvement of public spaces across the country. At the regional level, more than 10,756 such activities have been organized and 241 canals in Bangkok have been cleaned up. Currently, 4,742,780 people have registered to be volunteers as an expression of loyalty and respect to His Majesty the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej and Her Majesty Queen Sirikit.

4.1.3 Promoting the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy in the international community, by undertaking development projects with developing countries around the world based on His Majesty the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej’s Sufficiency Economy Philosophy. The Sufficiency Economy Philosophy for Sustainable Development Goals Partnership (SEP for SDGs Partnership) is to demonstrate to the international community how the SEP can be a pathway to realising the SDGs.

4.2 Second Core Policy: Maintaining National Security and Conducting Foreign Affairs

The Government has continued to maintain national security and engage in foreign affairs in order to lay down the foundations for prosperity and sustainable national development. Key to this vision is enhancing cooperation with neighbouring countries and the international community at both the bilateral and multilateral levels. The Government has also fostered relations with major and key countries to promote security at the regional and global levels as well as enhance cooperation in all dimensions. Tangible achievements can be summarised as follows:

4.2.1 Preventing and addressing drug problems, by undertaking drug prevention measures targeting various groups, i.e., primary school children, out-of-school children and youth, labour/workers and the general public. In terms of drug suppression, drug-trafficking offenders have been arrested and drug-related assets seized to the value of 1.2 billion Baht in a total 2,237 drug cases. Forty-five officials involved in drug-related cases have also been arrested. In addition, the Government has been tackling drug addiction and promoting drug rehabilitation as well as advancing national development through the “Thai Niyom Yangyuen” (Sustainable Thainess) policy.

4.2.2 Addressing violence in the Southern Border Provinces, by: (1) ensuring law and order to protect life and property, administration of justice and the provision of remedial assistance for a total 7,002 victims, and continued development in

the areas of education, religion, and art and culture. Development is also implemented to best suit the potential of the area, with the aim of enhancing quality of life. Moreover, effectiveness of public administration is also being enhanced as well as efforts towards a peaceful resolution; and (2) boosting the economy in the Southern Border Provinces through the model city project known as the “Stable, Prosperous and Sustainable Triangle,” whereby area-based development and quality of life are being promoted, which will, in turn, lead to increased economic expansion.

4.2.3 Capacity building and development of the military and national defence, through joint military exercises, namely, the Crisis Management Exercise 2018 (C-MEX 18), joint exercises of the Royal Thai Armed Forces, and the Cobra Gold 2018 military exercise. Other efforts include conducting regular tests on the capacity to identify targets at sea as well as developing an effective security database.

4.2.4 Strengthening relations with nations around the world through the 5S Foreign Affairs Strategy as follows: **(1) Security:** Thailand enjoys friendly and growing ties with its neighbours and with countries around the world. The international community has expressed understanding of the situation in Thailand as well as confidence in the country. This is reflected in stronger relations with the United States and European Union (EU), whereby the EU has resumed political contact at all levels

with Thailand following the EU Foreign Affairs Council’s Conclusion of 11 December 2017; **(2) Sustainability:** Thailand and the international community enjoy a global partnership for development. At the same time, Thai foreign policy helps to drive national economic development under the Thailand 4.0 policy; **(3) Standard:** through the conduct of foreign policy, the Government has striven to tap knowledge and best practices from all around the world to support the country’s development. This has resulted in the nation’s development standards being in line with internationally-recognised benchmarks, such as being upgraded to Tier 2 in 2018 for improvements and advancements made on the issue of human trafficking, and the lifting of the “Red Flag” by ICAO as regards aviation safety; **(4) Status:** the conduct of foreign policy has helped to enhance Thailand and Thai nationals’ standing in the international arena, such as through the formulation of the Act on Privileges and Immunities for International Organizations and International Conferences in Thailand, which provides a legislative framework for granting privileges and immunities to international organizations and other beneficiaries as defined in the Act; and **(5) Synergy:** foreign policy is being implemented in an integrated manner based on inclusive diplomacy and public diplomacy. The Government is also determined to ensure that Thai foreign policy delivers services excellence for the benefit of the Thai people as well as effectively supports the country’s development.

4.3 Third Core Policy: Reducing Social Inequality and Improving Access to Public Services

The Government has implemented 5 key measures to reduce social inequality and expand access to public services for people of all ages and groups, ensuring quality of life and self-sufficient living, as follows: 1) giving priority to the creation of opportunities, especially for jobs and stable income; 2) preventing and resolving problems related to human trafficking, foreign workers and beggars; 3) improving the social protection system, especially with regard to the elderly, women, children, persons with disabilities and the underprivileged; 4) developing savings and community welfare systems to ensure quality of life after retirement; and 5) maintaining social order and setting ethical and moral standards to create an environment conducive for all to live in peace and harmony.

4.3.1 Giving priority to the creation of opportunities, jobs and stable incomes, by 1) improving the effectiveness of labour management through the provision of a new type of social security known as “M-Powered Thailand,” which is a one-stop online platform for occupational development and jobs coordination services at the local/community level nationwide; **2) offering job support services**, i.e., job recruitment services for both local and overseas employment, career counseling to those newly entering the labour market, those searching for jobs, and those not in the formal employment sector, and dissemination

of information on job opportunities through Smart Job Centers; **3) providing occupational training**, including upgrading labour skills and specialised skills training; and **4) providing labour protection** by disseminating relevant information and conducting regular workplace inspections, promoting compliance with Thai labour standards and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) on labour issues, setting up breastfeeding corners in workplaces, and increasing the minimum wage as well as ensuring that wage rates are aligned with skill levels. As of 1 April 2018, the Government declared that the daily minimum wage be raised in all provinces. It now averages 315.97 Baht.

4.3.2 Preventing and eliminating human trafficking and addressing the issue of beggars: The Government has been strongly committed to combatting human trafficking. Its efforts eventually led to an upgrading of Thailand's ranking in the 2018 U.S. Trafficking in Persons Report (TIP Report) to Tier 2. In fact, Thailand has made continuous improvements in this ranking. In the years between 2014 and 2017, Thailand was upgraded from Tier 3 to Tier 2 Watch List. The Government has also addressed the issue of beggars by implementing measures based on the 3Ps framework, i.e., Policy and law enforcement, Protection, and Prevention.

4.3.3 Improving social protection and community welfare, by giving particular care and attention to children,

women, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups. This includes resolving social issues, campaigning to end domestic violence, providing facilities for people with disabilities and resolving housing problems. For example, the Government has developed public utilities and assisted affected residents in a total 5,018 out of a targeted 7,081 households in the area along the Ladphrao and Bang Sue canals; and houses for 1,635 families in 31 communities have also been constructed.

4.3.4 Developing a savings system: The Government has encouraged personal savings through the National Savings Fund. The Fund is open to all those who are self-employed, so that they can enjoy social security in retirement through pensions and other benefits. Such a system can also help to reduce social inequality.

4.3.5 Preparing for an ageing society, through the “Baan Katanyu” Project (whereby reverse mortgage rates are offered for the purchase of homes for elderly parents); enhancing quality of life for the elderly; the job opportunities initiative for the elderly, for which 58,500 elderly have registered between 2017 - 2018; social services for the elderly in distress; improving the living environment and providing safe and suitable facilities for the elderly; and implementing projects that promote the rights of the elderly.

4.3.6 Maintaining social order and developing public space, through addressing the issue of street-racing cars and motorcycles; implementing policy to reduce vices; promoting a happy society, regulating the use of footpaths and street vendors; maintaining cleanliness and order; improving public landscape; developing public areas and canals; undertaking the Chao Phraya River development project; and addressing the issue of the Mahakarn Fort community.

4.4 Fourth Core Policy: Promoting Education and Learning, and Preserving Religion, Art and Culture

Promoting education and learning in order to develop the country's human resources is a priority area of work for the Government. In the past few years, the Government has sought to ensure the inclusiveness of the education system so that all have equal access to education. It has also worked to improve the quality of education so that it develops and produces human resources in response to market needs and the country's long-term development. In addition, the Government has made efforts to ensure sufficient numbers of quality teachers and education personnel. The educational system has also been restructured and decentralised in order to improve the efficiency of educational personnel management. Steps have also been taken to preserve religion, and promote art and culture. Measures taken include the following:

4.4.1 The “Pracharat” (Public-Private-People Partnership) School Project, implemented in early 2016, whereby the Government collaborated with the private sector in the development of schools. The Project aims to reduce inequalities in the educational system through budget and personnel support. The Government aims to develop 3,351 schools in the Project’s first phase and an additional 1,257 schools in the second phase. This Project is also part of efforts to develop quality schools close to home. A network of such schools is envisaged in the future.

4.4.2 The “Tu Free Dotcom” (free online tutoring platform), which is an e-learning platform that provides tutoring for the Ordinary National Educational Test (O-Net), particularly for students in grades 6, 9 and 12. The platform brings in renowned tutors to give study and learning techniques as well as tips and tricks in a variety of subjects, and also provides sample tests for students to use in preparation for their test. The project is supported by both government agencies and the private sector and is meant to give all students access to learning materials online via the internet.

4.4.3 Producing and developing quality teachers through projects at the local community level. Capable children and youth are encouraged to further their studies in the field of education and learning, with the incentive being (job) placement in their locality upon graduation. Currently, 8 batches, comprising

24,442 individuals, have participated in the project. Between 2016-2018, 3 batches (7,067 individuals) have been placed in teaching positions while another 5 batches (15,375 individuals) are undergoing teacher training.

4.4.4 Preserving, reviving, developing and promoting the cultural heritage, through modernising national museums nationwide by reviewing the format and layout of exhibitions so that they are more interesting as well as using technology to improve services and facilities (i.e., user-friendliness), particularly for tourists, the elderly and persons with disabilities. Key museums whose services have been upgraded are the Bangkok National Museum, Chiang Mai National Museum, and Ban Chiang National Museum.

In addition, the exhibition on the “Tham Luang Incredible Mission: the Global Agenda” presented information and photos on the rescue mission that brought 12 schoolboys of the Wild Boar Academy football team and their coach out of Tham Luang Cave in the Tham Luang – Khun Nam Nang Non Forest Park, Mae Sai district, Chiang Rai province. The exhibition was the product of collaboration between the relevant government agencies and the private sector. Moreover, the Government has also implemented the Master Plan on National Virtue No.1, B.E. 2559- 2564 (2016- 2021) to build a moral Thai society whereby the Thai people follow the teachings of their faith, live their lives in accordance with the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy, help to

preserve Thai culture and live in harmony with one another not only in Thailand, but also in the ASEAN Community and the wider international community. The moral values to be instilled in all Thais are “sufficiency, discipline, honesty and service-mindedness or a volunteering spirit”.

4.5 Fifth Core Policy: Upgrading Public Health Services and Promoting Good Health

A healthy population is key to a country’s long-term development. The Government has placed importance on providing health coverage for all as well as reforming the primary healthcare service system. At the same time, it has been promoting healthy lifestyles and minimising risk factors for diseases. Efforts have also been made to monitor and control the spread of epidemic and infectious diseases. Important actions taken are as follows:

4.5.1 Enhancing eligibility under the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) scheme: The Government has registered those eligible under the UHC scheme and those entitled to other benefits, such as local government officers, people with citizenship or legal status problems, and persons with disabilities.

4.5.2 Reform of the management of traditional Thai medicine and herbs through the amendment and development of related laws and regulations, such as the draft Herbal Products Act, B.E. and the Protection and Promotion of Traditional

Thai Medicinal Knowledge Act (No. ..), B.E. A survey and assessment of Thai herbs were also carried out for compilation and registration.

4.5.3 Addressing the issues of teenage pregnancy as well as the medical and ethical dimensions of surrogacy, organ transplants and stem cells: The Government has set up Youth Friendly Health Service (YFHS) clinics to aid in the prevention of unplanned and unwanted teenage pregnancies as well as address other reproductive health, general and behavioural issues. There are currently 751 YFHS clinics in some 877 hospitals, constituting 85.63 per cent of the total number of hospitals. Along with this, the Government has implemented the “Rosy-Cheeked and Healthy Mothers-to-Be with Pre-natal Vitamins,” which promotes voluntary pregnancies that meet with the population replacement rate. This is carried out in tandem with planned and safe birth, which leads to healthy newborns ready for quality growth.

4.6 Sixth Core Policy: Enhancing the Country’s Economic Potentials

The Government has implemented policies to enhance the country’s economic potentials so that the economy is stable, dynamic and competitive. Efforts have also been made to boost international recognition as well as both domestic and foreign investor confidence. At the same time, the Government has worked to enhance the people’s quality of life and more equitable

access to opportunities, which includes widespread access to public infrastructures and transportation services, and ensure fair income distribution. This core policy consists of 11 components as follows:

4.6.1 Promoting farmers' welfare and restructuring agricultural production

(1) Promoting farmers' welfare: The Government has implemented measures to support different groups of farmers. For **rice farmers**, for example, the Government has initiated a rice insurance scheme for the 2018 production year with a budget of 1.8 billion Baht. As of 30 September 2018, the project covered a total area of 11.17 million acres, accounting for 91.99 per cent of the targeted total area of 12.14 million acres, and with the participation of 1.92 million farmers. Another measure is the promotion of organic rice production, covering 124,687 acres, and with the participation of 28,749 farmers.

For **rubber planters**, the Government has provided 10 billion Baht in credit to planters' groups as working capital for rubber collection. Some 510 agricultural cooperatives, farmers' groups, and small and micro community enterprises have participated in this project and requested loans to the amount of 5 billion Baht.

For **maize farmers**, measures taken by the Government include the trilateral market network comprising the National Farmers Council, buyers, and animal feed mills. The

Government has coordinated the purchase of maize from farmer networks in 15 provinces to the amount of 525,088 tons/year.

For **oil palm planters**, the Government has taken measures to increase production efficiency and reduce production costs, specifically by encouraging oil palm production on large plots of land. This has led to cost reduction of 25 per cent and a 20 per cent increase in earnings.

For **fruit growers**, MOUs have been signed with major retailers and fruit exporters for the purchase of fruits in the targeted amount of 333,000 tonnes valued over 20.2 billion Baht. Business matching activities between Thai and foreign cooperatives and enterprises have also been organized.

For **shrimp farmers**, the Government has addressed the issue of the decline in shrimp prices through engaging with representatives of the shrimp industry to reduce production costs through price reduction of the Vannamai white shrimp culture from 19 satang to 16 satang/piece.

(2) Raising the quality of agricultural products:

The goal is to raise the quality and standards of Thai agricultural products to meet demand in both domestic and overseas markets. To this end, progress has been made through the implementation of measures, such as carrying out quality inspections of 409,643 samples of livestock, site inspections of 63,765 enterprises, performing assessments of 344 Halal businesses to ensure compliance with Halal standards, and enhancing livestock health, with the focus on boosting immune systems. There are now two

types of benchmarks for agricultural products, i.e., 303 voluntary standards and 6 mandatory standards. The Government has also been monitoring business enterprises for the purposes of certification. Thus far, 13 such inspections have been completed.

(3) Empowerment of farmers and farmers’ organizations, through supporting the work of cooperatives and farmers’ groups; debt assistance and the granting of loans; providing agricultural tools and equipment; land allocation and assistance with soil resources. The Government has also implemented the “Thai Niyom Yangyuen” (Sustainable Thainess) policy to enhance quality of life at the community level. The policy has translated into 90,773 projects, covering 80,462 villages/communities and with a total budget of 16 billion Baht, which equals 98.66 per cent of the allocated budget.

(4) Restructuring agricultural production, through the management of agricultural land via the Zoning by Agri-Map scheme. Some 109,335 acres of land have been re-purposed; from land previously used to grow rice but was actually unsuitable for it to land for fisheries, livestock, cash crops and mixed farming. In addition, the Government has made efforts to promote Smart Farmers, i.e., by enhancing farmers’ capacity in the production, processing, and marketing of agricultural goods.

(5) Strengthening market-based mechanisms, through the setup of e-markets for agricultural products, i.e., www.agrimart.in.th and www.ortorkor.com, which offers a real time purchasing experience for buyers. Another measure has been

to launch the so-called “Kanchanaburi Model,” a pilot project to create jobs, markets, opportunities and incomes, which has become a model for similar action in 10 other low-income provinces. The “Kanchanaburi Model” is a joint project by the Ministry of Commerce; the Armed Forces Development Command of the Royal Thai Armed Forces; the Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives; the Small and Medium Enterprise Development Bank of Thailand; the Government Savings Bank; PTT Public Company Limited; and all 9 branches of the Rajamangala University of Technology.

4.6.2 Maintaining price stability and reducing the cost of living, which comprises the following measures: **1) ensuring reasonable and fair prices of products and services and 2) easing the cost-of-living burden for the people.** As regards the first measure, the Government has applied price controls on 53 goods and services as well as monitored the prices of 227 such items. Such monitoring is carried out on a fortnightly and monthly basis to prevent unfair price hikes. The Government has also created a mobile application providing maps and comparative information on affordable/cost-effective products in each locality. As regards easing the cost of living burden, the Government has initiated a Welfare Registration Programme as well as established 2,401 “Thong Fah” (Blue Flag) shops country-wide, which sell products at 20-40 per cent cheaper than the market price, thus helping to

lower the cost for living for 1.93 million people by a total 430 million Baht.

4.6.3 Capacity-Building for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs), which is carried out through 6 measures as follows:

(1) Financial measures: This includes Nano Finance to promote access to capital for small entrepreneurs in the amount of 100,000 Baht/person/enterprise. Interest, service and other fees under this scheme are capped at no more than 36 per cent per year. The Nano Finance scheme has been extended to 949,803 individuals, with total capital provided equal to 17 billion Baht (which averages 20,946 Baht/person or enterprise). Moreover, credit guarantees have been extended to 871 Start-ups and Innovation operators in the amount of 1.4 billion Baht.

(2) Tax measures, for instance, those to support SME operators and boost investment in rural areas to increase the economic value-added, enhance SME competitiveness as well as meet the socio-economic needs of local communities.

(3) Measures to expedite SME development and readiness under the Thailand 4.0 policy, through programmes such as Train the Coach, for which 1,669 “coaches” have been registered. Of this number, there are 1,459 Biz Mentors, 190 Tech Experts, and 20 Biz Transformers (to serve as models/inspiration). In addition, efforts have been made to mainstream SMEs into the Digital Value Chain. Some 3,837 SMEs have applied through

the T-GoodTech website; and 83 business matching deals have been made via this platform, creating economic value of over 100 million Baht.

(4) Measures to develop SMEs into Smart Enterprises, for example, through providing capacity building for entrepreneurs and their businesses. This includes equipping them with marketing skills, in particular concerning how to move forward their business through innovation, strengthening and ensuring sustainable retail, strengthening the logistics business, developing franchise and value-added business, and enhancing business opportunities through e-commerce. A total of 47,365 SME operators have taken part in the capacity building programme, which has, in turn, generated economic value of 3.9 billion Baht.

(5) Measures to facilitate the entry of SMEs and local entrepreneurs into the global economy, such as through the Capacity Building Strategy, which has supported over 100,000 business operators and contributed to purchase orders valued at 80 million Baht. Key activities included the promotion of Thai designers as well as innovative and environmentally-friendly products on the international market, along with entrepreneurial development to achieve the international trade trademark or DEMark as well as the promotion of the Thailand Trust Mark logo. In 2018, 35 entrepreneurs were given export awards for excellence.

(6) Measures to uplift the grassroots economy to create jobs, opportunities and income, through the establishment

of the SMEs One Stop Service (OSS), which has serviced 177,851 business operators. The SMEs OSS offers advisory services and has handled 5,665 cases having to do with accounting and finance, 2,733 cases dealing with marketing issues, and 3,158 management-related cases.

4.6.4 Promoting commerce and trade as well as expanding the export base, through: 1) the “One Tambon One Product” (OTOP) Project; 2) promoting international trade; and 3) enhancing business opportunities for Thai exports in overseas markets. The “One Tambon One Product” Project is aimed at strengthening the grassroots economy. The Project now comprises 80,141 registered operators and a total of 167,403 products. Another project meant to promote the grassroots economy is the “Pracharat Market” Project, which is a collaborative endeavour between the relevant government agencies and the private sector. The Project counts a total of 6,610 markets nationwide, and has generated 1.6 billion Baht in sales revenue. With regard to Thailand’s international trade, from January to November 2018, exports expanded 7.3 per cent, registering a value of 232.7 billion USD. Through negotiations at the bilateral and regional levels, the Government has also sought to expand trade cooperation and reduce trade barriers and has worked both to maintain existing markets and seek out new ones. At present, Thailand has 12 Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with 17 trading partners. The volume of Thailand’s international trade during the first half of 2018 totalled 148.2 billion USD,

a year-on-year increase of 14.24 per cent. In terms of enhancing business opportunities for Thai exports in overseas markets, measures taken include the promotion of niche markets and forging of strategic partnerships to facilitate trade and expand markets in secondary cities.

4.6.5 Driving industries towards Thailand 4.0 and promoting investment: The Government has continued to place importance on industrial development as the engine of economic growth. Key outcomes are: **(1) driving industries towards Thailand 4.0 through the use of high technology and modern innovation** to increase efficiencies and the country's competitiveness on the international stage, especially in the production of electric cars and bio-industry; **(2) development of the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC)** through the Eastern Special Development Zone Act, B.E. 2561 (2018), which came into effect on 15 May 2018. The aim is to promote special economic zones for target industries, a Smart City, the U-Tapao International Airport and Eastern Airport City, and Laem Chabang Port Phase 3; **(3) investment promotion** in 10 target industries (automobiles, electronics, tourism, agriculture and biotechnology, food processing, automation and robotics, aviation, petrochemicals and chemicals, digital and medical) totaling 1,451 projects worth 749.3 billion Baht. In addition, the Government has initiated a new type of visa (the SMART Visa) especially for foreign business operators, investors, and experts to come to Thailand

for the purposes of investment, work and setting up new businesses in the 10 target industries; and **(4) development of the National Single Window (NSW)**, an online information database with 37 agencies now officially connected on the platform. The NSW is a paperless information platform connecting the Customs Department and all government agencies with business operators nationwide. However, it does not currently cover all types of goods requiring licences or certificates.

4.6.6 Transport and Communications Infrastructure:

The Government has worked to develop the mass transit system for the benefit of all Thais and to increase the efficiency of the transportation network. This work has been carried out in 4 areas:

(1) Land transport system development, which includes **14 dual track rail system development projects**, 7 of which are in the process of construction and are expected to be completed in 2019. These 7 include the Chachoengsao-Khlong Sipkao- Khaeng Koi segments and the Jira-Khon Kaen junction. In addition, there are **9 Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) development projects**, 6 of which are in the process of construction, i.e., the Red Line (Bang Sue-Rangsit), the Blue Line (Bang Sue-Tha Phra and Hua Lumphong- Bang Kae), the Green Line (Mo Chit-Saphan Mai-Khu Kot), the Pink Line (Kae Rai-Minburi), the Orange Line (Thailand Cultural Centre-Minburi), and the Yellow Line (Lad Phrao- Sam Rong). Three routes under the **inter-city motorway project** are under construction, namely, Pattaya-Map Thaput,

and Bang Pa-in-Nakhon Ratchasima (scheduled for completion in 2020) and Bang Yai-Kanchanaburi (scheduled for completion in 2021).

(2) Air transport system development, including the Suvarnabhumi Airport Development Project, Phase 2, which is scheduled to be completed in 2020. Currently, the Project is about 41.65 per cent complete. Other projects include the development of Mae Sot Airport, Tak Province; Betong Airport, Yala Province; and U-Tapao Airport. All of these projects have been carried out in order to accommodate the expected future increase in air traffic as well as to ease the burden on Don Muang and Suvarnabhumi Airports.

(3) Water transport system development through the pier construction project on the Chao Phraya River, in which 17 piers have been upgraded to relieve water traffic congestion and integrate water transport with MRT and bus services, making multi-modal transport more efficient. In the next phase, 22 piers will be refurbished, 11 of which will be upgraded to boat stations and the other 11 will be upgraded to ports. Moreover, there will be improvements made to the piers, such as the installation of proper barriers, clear station signage and announcement boards as well as electronic ticket vending machines.

(4) Development of a common ticketing system, i.e., the so-called “Spider Ticket,” valid for all modes of transportation, whether by MRT, public bus, public boats, or motorway. The common ticketing system is designed to facilitate transport and

will enhance the capacity of the services offered by the mass transit system in the Bangkok Metropolitan Area and vicinity. Spider Tickets have been available for MRT on the Blue and Purple Lines since 23 June 2018.

4.6.7 Driving towards a digital economy through amending and updating related laws and implementing the following measures:

(1) Promoting digital technology for economic and social development. The Government has implemented the National e-Payment Master Plan to promote widespread use of the e-payment system. Examples of actions taken include initiating the PromptPay Project, which allows people to register their ID cards or mobile phone numbers to connect with their bank accounts for the purposes of making financial transactions. As of 5 October 2018, there are an estimated 45.4 million registered users of the PromptPay system.

(2) Using Big Data in the public sector, in particular to enhance the people's quality of life. The Government has, therefore, developed the Thai Poverty Map and Analytics Platform (TPMAP) as a poverty alleviation tool that can help to address the concerns of target groups directly and effectively. The TPMAP also aids in the formulation of policies that meet needs and respond to actual “conditions on the ground” more effectively. It can also be used to analyse and make prognoses on the situation of poverty in Thailand through providing information in response to

3 questions: “Who are the poor?”; “What are the poor’s needs and what kinds of problems do they face?”; and “How can different impoverished groups be assisted in a sustainable manner?” The TMPAP is expected to be operational from September 2020.

(3) Managing cyber security through the launch of Cyber Security Missions to upgrade monitoring and the tackling of threats to the country’s infrastructure in an effective and timely manner. In this connection, the Government Threat Monitoring (GTM) system and Government Website Protection (GWP) have been set up in 40 government agencies and for some 200 websites in 2018. As a result, there are currently 240 government agencies and 1,500 websites that are monitored and protected.

(4) Consequently, Thailand’s global rankings have improved. In the United Nations’ Government Development Index (EGDI) for 2018, Thailand was ranked 73rd out of 197 countries (rising 4 places from 2016). This is due to improvements in the development of the country’s digital infrastructure as well as in the availability of online public services, which has helped to enhance accessibility and promoted the increased use of digital technology. In addition, Thailand is ranked 44th out of 126 countries on the 2018 Global Innovation Index by WIPO, moving up by 7 spots.

4.6.8 Promoting domestic tourism: The Government has implemented the Strategy to Promote Domestic Tourism, B.E. 2558 – 2561 (2015 - 2018), which uses the concept of

“Thainess” to drive tourism in both the local and international markets. The Government has also taken measures to facilitate tourists, develop human resources in the growing tourism sector, promote tourism in “new, off-the-beaten-track areas” as well as in the off-season (or at different times of the year), and link up with tourism in other ASEAN countries. In 2017, tourism revenues totalled 2.8 trillion Baht, an increase of 11.92 per cent from the previous year. For 2018, the target revenue figure from tourism is 3 trillion Baht. From January - September 2018, 28.54 million foreign tourists visited Thailand, an increase of 8.71 per cent from the previous year. The revenue generated from tourism in this same period stood at 1.49 trillion Baht, an increase of 10.95 per cent year-on-year. Moreover, from January – August 2018, there were 101.38 million visits/trips made by local Thai tourists, an increase of 4.13 per cent. This generated revenues of 0.69 trillion Baht, an increase of 9.12 per cent from the same period the year prior. Through September 2018, therefore, the tourism industry generated revenues of around 2.18 trillion Baht, representing an increase of 10.36 per cent year-on-year.

4.6.9 Promoting energy management through the new Power Development Plan (PDP), developed in response to changing demands for electricity. The Plan prioritises power plants with the lowest production costs based on regional coverage because each region should have either a power plant support system or a power plant that can ensure system stability. A system

to explore and produce **petroleum** is also being set up to ensure consistent production, in particular to off-set expiring concession fields. Other efforts include carrying out Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) for coal power plants in the southern region; formulating the draft Act on Fuel Fund, B.E.; restructuring fuel prices to reflect and promote increased price competition and stable energy prices; managing liquefied petroleum gas (LPG); promoting premium diesel B20; carrying out the solar water pump project to alleviate drought as well as the solar green house (Parabola Dome) project and solar project for households; overseeing the fuel adjustment charge (Ft); and identifying suitable types or sizes of buildings as well as setting benchmarks, regulations and measures on the design of buildings for energy efficiency.

4.6.10 Reform of state-owned enterprises: The Government has undertaken efforts to boost the efficiency of state-owned enterprises to be in line with the changing socio-economic context and internationally-recognised measures. The **Draft Act on the Development, Supervision, and Management of State-owned Enterprises, B.E...** has, therefore, been drawn up to set out the roles, mandates and responsibilities of policy makers, management and shareholders of state-owned enterprises. A state-owned enterprise strategy will also be drawn up laying out, in a clear and transparent manner, related Government policy for implementation. In addition, there will be disclosure of information, performance evaluations of state-owned

enterprises as well as the setting out of criteria for the selection of state-owned enterprise committee members that prioritise experience and knowledge, so that these enterprises can deliver quality services to the people and be effective drivers of the economy.

4.6.11 Management of the economy: Besides managing the budget and monitoring the disbursement of the investment budget of state-owned enterprises to ensure that it meets the set targets, the Government has also undertaken important measures as follows: formulation of **the State Monetary and Fiscal Discipline Act, B.E. 2561 (2018)** as a legislative framework to monitor financial discipline in all state agencies so that fiscal management is efficient, sustainable, transparent, and verifiable. The Act contains provisions on fiscal and budgetary frameworks, fiscal discipline, revenues and expenditures of the budget and non-budget as well as management of public assets, treasury and national debt. Other efforts include the **Thailand Future Fund (TFFIF)**, which is an alternative source of funding for public infrastructure projects to enhance national competitiveness. The Fund also reduces the financial burden on the state. At the same time, it serves as a channel for investors and the general public to invest in quality public assets. The Government has also restructured personal income taxation to be in line with prevailing socio-economic conditions. This has been done through structural adjustment of personal income and tax rates

as well as increasing tax deductions. In addition, the Government has managed the national debt based on a financial sustainability framework, which shall not exceed 60 per cent of GDP. As of August 2018, the national debt stood at 41.32 per cent of GDP and is on a declining trend, in particular as considered in comparison to August 2017, when the national debt stood at 43.12 per cent of GDP.

4.7 Seventh Core Policy: Promoting Thailand's Role and Enhancing Opportunities in the ASEAN Community

The Government has ensured continuity in the conduct of foreign policy, in step with current domestic and international circumstances, in order to protect and promote all dimensions of the national interest. This policy places importance on promoting a people-centred ASEAN Community and reducing the development gap while “leaving no one behind”. It also puts priority on the promotion of economic, trade and investment connectivity in the ASEAN region. These important issues have been pursued both through participation in international meetings at the Summit level and through Thailand's hosting of Summit and other high-level meetings. The Government is also establishing the ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue and the ASEAN Centre on Active Ageing and Innovation. Moreover, the Government has played a proactive role in combatting transnational organized crime. Key efforts are as follows:

4.7.1 Concerning developments in the ASEAN Community-building process, which covers 3 Pillars, namely, **1) Political-Security; 2) Economic; and 3) Socio-Cultural**. As regards the Political-Security Pillar, the Government has expedited implementation of the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) 2025 Blueprint. Currently, 234 out of 290 action lines (82 per cent) have been implemented -key examples include the organization of meetings to discuss important regional issues and challenges, such as the South China Sea, Korean Peninsula, and the humanitarian situation in Rakhine State. Under the Economic Pillar, the Government has implemented 80 out of 118 action lines in the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) 2025 Blueprint. ASEAN's Sectoral Bodies have also drawn up 23 work plans to expedite economic integration in line with the AEC 2025 Blueprint. With respect to the Socio-Cultural Pillar, important issues as laid out in the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) 2025 Blueprint, include disaster management and emergency response, and the development of regional guidelines on assisting victims of human trafficking.

4.7.2 Preparing for the ASEAN Chairmanship in 2019:

The Government has set up a National Preparatory Committee for Thailand's ASEAN Chairmanship in 2019, which is chaired by the Prime Minister. The mandate of the Committee is to formulate policy directions and set out preparatory measures for Thailand's hosting of the 34th and 35th ASEAN Summits and related meetings

as well as more than 170 other ASEAN meetings to be held during the Chairmanship year. The Committee is also responsible for designing the logo of Thailand's Chairmanship and setting up the ASEAN 2019 website as well as making substantive, protocol and other logistical arrangements to support the meetings.

4.7.3 Promoting economic, trade and investment connectivity in the ASEAN region and expanding economic cooperation with neighbouring countries, through 1) implementing measures to promote Thailand's role and explore opportunities in connectivity through the various cooperation frameworks of which Thailand is a part; and 2) participating in important Summit-level meetings. With regard to (1), the Government has continued to advance implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 to realise a seamlessly and comprehensively connected ASEAN. In particular, the Government has implemented 5 out of 15 projects under MPAC. Moreover, Thailand hosted the Symposium on “Fostering Regional Connectivity in the Indo-Pacific Region: Connecting the Connectivities” to exchange views on how to link up initiatives under MPAC 2025 with those in other regional connectivity frameworks. Thailand has taken part in various important Summits in order to expedite transportation and logistical connectivity at the sub-regional and ASEAN levels. These Summits include the 6th Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) Summit and the Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT) Summit.

4.7.4 Promoting Thailand’s role as ASEAN Coordinator on Sustainable Development, through active participation in the High-Level ASEAN-EU Dialogue on Sustainable Development and the 2nd High-Level Brainstorming Dialogue on Enhancing Complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

4.7.5 Organizing activities and seminars to raise public awareness on as well as understanding of the ASEAN Community, such as through the “One Province, One School, One ASEAN Library: for the People and Youth of Thailand” Project, whereby 44 ASEAN Libraries in 44 provinces have been set up. The plan is to launch one Library in every province. Moreover, ASEAN Day activities were organized to promote knowledge and understanding of ASEAN and the engagement of civil society and youth in ASEAN affairs.

4.8 Eighth Core Policy: Promoting the Application of Science, Technology, Innovation, Research and Development (R&D)

The Government recognises the importance of innovation and R&D to Thailand’s achieving developed country status. Therefore, the Government has increased the national R&D budget as well as strengthened management of science, technology, research and innovation with the goals being greater efficiency

and synergy. In 2017, the public–private ratio of investment in R&D was 30:70. Furthermore, Thailand rose 6 places on the International Institute of Management Development (IMD) R&D rankings for 2018, i.e., from 48th in 2017 to 42nd out of a total of 63 countries. R&D investment by both the public and private sectors increased to 114 billion Baht, or 0.78 per cent of GDP. In 2017, it had accounted for 0.62 per cent of GDP. In particular, private sector R&D investment increased significantly, by 3 places from 32nd to 29th position. The ratio of the private sector’s R&D expenditures to GDP also increased by 1 place, i.e., from 37th to 36th. The ratio of R&D personnel to the general population also rose from 13.8 to 17 to every 10,000 persons.

4.8.1 Promoting and supporting R&D, by setting up Company R&D Centers (CRDC), initiating the Innovation and Technology Assistance Program (ITAP), and Thailand Tech Shows. The Government has also implemented Start-up Voucher projects of 30,000 Baht each to promote innovation-based entrepreneurs through R&D. Examples of successful R&D projects include the ThEPS solution to preserve latex, the “Thailand without Trans-fat” Initiative, “Partii” technology for Thai language speech processing, and the sustainable management of blue swimming crabs.

4.8.2 Promoting public-private sector talent mobility to increase competitiveness in the production and service sectors

and strengthen collaborative links between the public and private sectors: Currently, there are 1,384 research officials, comprising researchers based at universities and public research institutions as well as assistant researchers, working in private companies. In total, 380 companies, accounting for 464 projects, have participated in the talent mobility initiative. Moreover, in order to address human resource shortages in key scientific fields, the Government has offered scholarships under the science and technology scholarship scheme phase 3 and phase 3+. This scheme provides scholarships for students to study abroad at the Master's and Doctorate degree levels in the fields of metal and material technology, energy, electronics and computers, technology and the environment, basic science, science and technology management, and nanotechnology. Some 3,197 scholars have graduated. Of this figure, 2,994 studied abroad and 203 within the country.

4.8.3 Reforming the incentive system as well as laws and regulations to facilitate the application and commercialisation of R&D as well as promoting the formulation of R&D plans at the regional and provincial group levels: Tax incentive schemes to support R&D activities have been implemented. The Government offers tax exemptions on expenses incurred from R&D, technology and innovation. The tax exemption rate was increased from 200 per cent to 300 per cent and the tax holiday period was fixed at 5 years. In 2018, 447 projects (worth a total of 2.3 billion Baht) submitted requests for tax exemption. Of that

number, 404 projects (worth 1.2 billion Baht) received approval for the exemption. In addition, the “Innovation Coupon” Project provides grants to SMEs and start-ups to operate innovation-based businesses for commercial purposes. Under this Project, the Government, together with the Thai Chamber of Commerce and the Federation of Thai Industries, provided funding of 1.5 million Baht per project. Between 2016 – 2018, the Government granted funding of 550.61 million Baht for 582 projects worth a total of 1 billion Baht.

4.9 Ninth Core Policy: Maintaining the Security of the Country’s Natural Resource Base and Balancing Conservation and Sustainable Usage

Apart from addressing the issues of land allocation for the people’s livelihood, and the management of garbage and toxic waste, the Government has attached importance to maintaining the security of the country’s natural resource base and striking a balance between conservation and the sustainable use of those resources. Key outcomes are as follows:

4.9.1 Protecting natural resources as a foundation for the country’s development and the people’s quality of life: The Government initiated a policy called “Phlik-Fuen-Phuen-Pah-Su-Karn-Phatthana-Thee-Yang-Yuen” (or forest restoration towards sustainable development) to tackle longstanding problems related to deforestation and forest encroachment. This includes the creation

of the so-called “One Map” (1:4,000 scale), which provides a single, clear and accurate map of state-owned land. Actions were also taken to raise public awareness of forest conservation; to promote the inclusive involvement of all stakeholders under the “Pracharat” (Public-Private-People Partnership) framework; to protect forest areas through law enforcement (with a plan of action and measures to prevent and suppress forest encroachment and reclaim encroached forest lands); to manage degraded watershed forests in mountainous areas; and to set the goal of forest conservation covering an area equal to 40.48 million acres.

4.9.2 Promoting inclusiveness in safeguarding forest resources: Actions have been taken to **promote the people’s participation in forest preservation.** Community forests have been designated in 12,248 villages, covering approximately 2.5 million acres of land. In addition, the number of volunteers under the “Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Volunteer Network” and the “National Parks Volunteer Network” reached 211,261 and 10,796 respectively.

4.9.3 Protecting the natural resource base: Thailand has had to deal with the issues of forest encroachment, land-use change, and shoreline erosion, which has led to environmental degradation. The Government has, therefore, taken measures in the following areas: **(1) Mangrove forest resources, and marine and coastal resources,** whereby the Government has

rehabilitated degraded mangrove forests by reforesting a total area of 1,186 acres across the country -- 593 acres in Chantaburi province, 118 acres in Trad province, 197 acres in Surat Thani province, 79 acres in Ranong province, and 197 acres in Nakhon Sri Thammarat province. The Government has also preserved and rehabilitated marine and coastal resources for appropriate use in an area 118 acres in size; **(2) Marine resources**, whereby the 665 endangered marine animals, which had been washed ashore, were rescued. Other activities included the sharing of information and practices at the national and regional levels on rescue operations of endangered marine animals; formulating measures to protect marine and coastal areas on popular tourist islands (Koh Tao, Koh Pha-ngan, and Koh Samui); recovering degraded coral reefs in an area equal to 59 acres, and drafting the Ministerial Regulation on designating protected marine and coastal areas; **(3) Coastal areas**, whereby efforts were made to address the erosion of muddy shorelines by installing bamboo barriers to reduce the impact of waves, and planting mangrove forests in sediment deposition bamboo fences in 4 provinces to the total length of 19 kilometres; and **(4) Regulating fisheries and aquaculture** by issuing the related Ministry Regulation on controlled aquaculture business, and designating areas for aquaculture in accordance with provincial fisheries committees.

4.9.4 Consolidating the quantitative and qualitative management of water resources: The Government has undertaken

water management in accordance with the 12-year Strategic Plan on Water Resource Management, B.E. 2558- 2569 (2015-2026), which contains provisions for (1) the management of household water consumption to ensure adequate water supply for every village; (2) water security in the manufacturing sector; (3) flood and disaster prevention and management; (4) water quality management; (5) restoration of degraded upstream forest and prevention of soil erosion; and (6) water resources management through the formulation of the Water Resource Act, B.E. ..., and the establishment of the Center of Excellence on Water Management Systems as well as the Office of National Water Resources to implement and monitor the country's water management in accordance with the orders of the National Council for Peace and Order No. 46/2560 dated 22 November B.E. 2560 (2017) and No. 2/2561 dated 22 January B.E. 2561 (2018). In addition, science and technology is being applied in local water management.

To alleviate drought, the Government has provided disaster relief as well as emergency response equipment, machinery, and vehicles to those affected, and has completed well drilling projects in 914 out of 969 locations. As for flood mitigation in Bangkok, the Government has put in place a flood protection system involving the construction of a flood wall surrounding Bangkok, **a flood prevention system,** and a water drainage system. In 2018, the following activities were undertaken, i.e., the cleaning of drainage pipes with a total length of 3,300 out of 6,400 kilometres, the cleaning of water distribution canals to

effectively enhance drainage in 1,632 canals with a total length of 2,604 kilometres, as well as the maintenance of water pumps at pumping stations, floodgates, and pumping wells in 700 sites to effectively drain flooded areas.

4.9.5 Expediting air, waste and water pollution control measures to improve quality of life, by (1) addressing the haze problem with a view to preventing forest fires in 15 provinces in the northern region of Thailand; to this end, the Royal Rainmaking Operational Unit in the northern region was set up and there was public awareness-raising and engagement in resource management as well as addressing forest fires. These activities resulted in improved air quality, and in 2018, the number of hotspots reduced by 13 per cent; **(2) addressing climate change,** whereby in 2016, Thailand was able to reduce carbon dioxide emissions as much as 45.68 million tonnes, equivalent to a 12 per cent reduction and above the target reduction rate of 7 per cent; and **(3) addressing water pollution,** particularly in economic areas and key tourist attractions by a) installing wastewater facilities for 57 local administrative organizations and b) organizing training for businesses that are emitters of pollution, civil society networks and relevant agencies to enhance inclusive participation in solving water pollution problems. Moreover, efforts have been undertaken to draft a 20-year Master Plan on Water Quality Management B.E. 2561-2580 (2018–2037), which is to be submitted to the National Environment Board.

4.9.6 Reforming the environmental assessment system:

The Government has implemented the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and pushed forward environment-related laws, such as the 2nd Enhancement and Conservation of National Environmental Quality Act B.E. 2561, which became effective on 18 July 2018.

4.10 Tenth Core Policy: Promoting Good Governance in Public Administration and Preventing and Suppressing Corruption and Malfeasance in the Public Sector

As mentioned above in the Government's Key Achievements section, the Government attaches priority to the prevention and suppression of corruption and malfeasance in the public sector. The Government has also promoted good governance in public administration by:

4.10.1 Improving the role, mandates and structure of government agencies: Key initiatives include the establishment of the Office of the National Water Resources, as an integrated mechanism for the management of the country's water resources; the restructuring of the Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board to also oversee the formulation and implementation of public policy; and the setting up of the National Reform, National Strategy and Harmonisation Working Groups under the Office of the Permanent Secretary of each Ministry as

a mechanism to implement the National Strategy and National Reform Plans.

4.10.2 Modernising work practices in the public sector, through the “Government 4.0” approach to achieve concrete results that focus on: (1) Service Reform; (2) Innovation Sandbox; (3) Regulatory Reform; and (4) Digital Government in order to provide better quality services to the public as well as enhance public administration and data management for decision making.

4.10.3 Taking a proactive approach to improving public services: In 2018, 187 ‘State Excellence Awards’ were presented to agencies with outstanding results in the areas of enhancing the quality of public service delivery and effective organizational management. In addition, honorary awards were given to agencies that were recipients of the United Nations Public Service Award 2018, namely, the Roi Et Provincial Public Health Office for its “Comprehensive Cervical Cancer Prevention” Project.

4.10.4 Developing an information and communications technology system to improve information delivery services for the public, such as through **increasing the efficiency of the e-Border pass service and facilitating land registration via an online platform.** A total of 33 million plots of land have been digitally registered on the platform; and a total of 240,540 people have requested to use the service. In addition, a search tool called

LandMaps (available both as a website and mobile application) has been developed to help people search for and locate plots of land as well as the location of Provincial Land offices and branches nationwide. Thus far, some 30,513,815 people have made use of LandMaps. A **Geographic Information System (GIS)** has also been created for city planning. It is a digital database of Ministerial Regulations pertaining to provincial town planning for the country's 77 provinces and city/community planning in 110 locales. Furthermore, the Government has also improved the delivery of public services in support of Digital Government, including: (1) Digital Payment, facilitating cashless electricity bill payments, for example; (2) Smart Service (available online and via mobile application), which streamlines procedures and reduces the time needed in requesting electricity connections; and (3) QR code for water bill payments as well as requesting water supply services via the internet and mobile phone application.

4.10.5 Implementing the Licensing Facilitation Act, B.E. 2558 (2015) which, by streamlining procedures and reducing the wait time, expedites the granting of licences for the ease and convenience of business operators and the general public. The Government has continued to monitor implementation of the said Act and has published a total of 5,724 handbooks, which have been distributed to the general public and made available online on the central government directory website (www.info.go.th) as well as on the “Handbook for the People” mobile application. In

addition, on 14 August 2018, the Cabinet endorsed the draft Royal Decree to establish a Centre for Receiving Applications, B.E On 3 October 2018, a pilot Centre for Receiving Applications was launched. A national government satisfaction survey in 2018 showed that 84 per cent of Thais were very satisfied with the public services offered by the Government.

4.10.6 Addressing public complaints, by establishing channels for the general public to lodge complaints, which include: **(1) the Public Service Centre (PSC)**, set up to receive public complaints via hotline number 1111 through 5 channels, i.e., hotline number 1111, the www.1111.go.th website, the 444 P.O. Box, the Public Service Point, and via mobile application; **(2) the Damrongtham Centre**, which has received a total of 3,273,615 complaint cases, of which 3,216,477 cases, or 98.25 percent, have been successfully addressed. Some 57,138 cases are in the process of being addressed. In terms of addressing the informal debt problem, a total of 32,665 cases have been received, of which 31,680 cases, or 96.98 percent, have been resolved and 985 cases still pending; **(3) the “Sor Kor Bor 1166,”** which is a consumer protection hotline. A total of 1,166 cases (with an accumulated value of 3,103,540.75 Baht) have been addressed. In addition, 1,876 business enterprises have been verified. Consumer protection information was also disseminated a total of 1,490 times; **(4) the Anti-Corruption Complaint Centre for Foreign Investors and Complaint Centre for the general public in other matters,**

to which a total of 110 anti-corruption cases have been submitted. There is also 1579 hotline or www.1579.moe.go.th for education-related complaints, which has received 9,731 cases, of which 6,801 cases have been resolved and 2,930 cases are currently in progress; and **(5) the Project to support the Damrongtham Centre attached to the Department of Lands**, which provides advice and addresses public grievances on such issues as registration fees, land survey deposits, the fee for obtaining official copies of registries, and land appraisal pricing. Some 27,494 people have requested advice on land-related problems, all of which have been handled. In addition, **Thai Embassies and Consulates-General worldwide are also responsible for protecting and overseeing the interests of Thai nationals overseas**. The Embassies and Consulates-General have made available more than 120 twenty-four-hour hotlines. Moreover, consular assistance is provided via the Thai Consular application. Other channels of communication have also been added, i.e., Line, Wechat “Thaiconsular” and Facebook. In 2017, Thai Embassies and Consulates-General around the world assisted a total of 11,262 Thai nationals overseas.

4.10.7 Determining manpower requirements and promoting the planning and management of manpower in the public sector: A total of 17 Ministries have already undertaken this initiative. Furthermore, efforts have been made to recruit quality manpower in the public sector through the provision of

public scholarships at various levels and the conducting of general knowledge tests. In 2018, 90 secondary school scholarships in 5 categories (the King's Scholarship and the Royal Thai Government Scholarship, allocated in accordance with agencies' requirements) were granted. Forty-three Undergraduate Intelligence Scholarship (UIS) were also granted to eligible students already matriculating overseas. In addition, **an online project to increase the effectiveness of recruitment and selection of civil servants** was carried out through virtual testing in general knowledge. In the 2018 budget year (January-September 2018), out of a total of 2,300 people who took the online test in general knowledge (at the Master's degree level), 179 passed.

4.10.8 Strengthening integrity standards in the appointment and transfer of civil servants and promoting the use of legal measures as well as cultivating values, integrity, morals, ethics and the spirit of maintaining the dignity and honesty of being a civil servant: The Government has carried out awareness-raising campaigns to cultivate values, promote good governance and anti-corruption, and strengthen the prevention and suppression of corruption. In addition, the Government has also amended and enacted laws on the prevention and suppression of corruption as well as introduced an Integrity and Transparency Assessment (ITA). In the 2018 budget year, 222 government agencies, comprising 146 agencies at the departmental level or

the equivalent and 76 agencies at the provincial level, participated in the ITA, earning an average score of 84.66.

4.11 Eleventh Core Policy: Improving Laws and the Judicial Process

The Government has amended laws that are outdated or regarded as unfair in order to meet with international standards and government policy in all aspects as well as enhance fairness. These laws could be classified into seven clusters as follows: (1) economic laws; (2) legislation issued as a result of international obligations; (3) legislation enacted to reduce inequality; (4) welfare and humanitarian laws; (5) legislation on social issues and culture; (6) laws related to security and public order; and (7) legislation concerning the judicial process. Key pieces of legislation that have been amended include the Fiscal Discipline Act, B.E. 2561 (2018), the Education Equity Fund Act, B.E. 2561 (2018), the Eastern Special Development Zone Act, B.E. 2561 (2018) for the promotion of the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC), and the Royal Ordinance amending the Thai Vessels Act B.E. 2481 (1938), B.E. 2561 (2018) to address the problem of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IUU Fishing).

In addition, the Government has enhanced the capacity of agencies responsible for providing legal counsel and formulating laws in order to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of legal personnel in providing services to the people. The Government has done so through seminars and training, development of the legal database and participation in

international conferences. These activities aim to ensure that the country's development in the area of legal affairs is in line with international standards.

Moreover, the Government has made use of modern technology and knowledge on forensic science in developing a linked database, which can be used to follow up and make improvements on the performance of agencies and officials in the justice system. The database supports the administration of justice through (1) genetic storage and examination (DNA); (2) forensic data analysis in the Southern Border Provinces; (3) supporting the work of tracking missing people and identification of unknown bodies in accordance with the Regulation of the Prime Minister's Office on Supporting the Operation of Tracing Missing and Unidentified Persons, B.E. 2558 (2015); and (4) hair drug testing in children and youth training centres.

In improving legal assistance services, in particular facilitating access to justice, the Government has implemented the following: (1) a Justice Fund, mandated to protect and assist the poor and underprivileged as well as victims of human rights abuses and provide remedy to the affected innocents or persons facing social injustice. The related fees supported by the Justice Fund included court fees for 958 persons amounting to 4,888,519 Baht, lawyer's fees for 2,279 persons amounting to 16,178,031.50 Baht, other litigation expenses for 50 persons amounting to 482,848 Baht and bail fees for 727 persons amounting to 185,786,606 Baht; (2) witness protection for those involved in security-related cases in the Southern Border Provinces; (3) measures to enhance law

enforcement in civil cases, insolvency cases and restoring debtor solvency through mediation and dispute settlement. Such efforts have helped to enhance the circulation of cash in the national economy, in particular as the focus has been on addressing minor and household debts. There were a total of 30,827 mediation cases, of which 27,421 cases have been settled; (4) enhancing delivery of services to litigants and the general public in order to reduce travel expenses by increasing information service outlets via the Legal Execution Department 1111 hotline. Litigants and the general public may dial 79 to make inquiries on auction results as well as progress in general and mediation cases; (5) enhancing information service delivery through mobile applications, such as LED Debt InFo, LED Property+ and LED Property; (6) rehabilitation of offenders by providing rehabilitation programmes in prisons as well as for children and youth; and (7) enhancing access to government services by establishing counselling clinics for children and families. These clinics provide parents, guardians and the general public with advice on the behaviour of children and youth, family problems and legal problems related to children, youth and juveniles.

5. Laying Down the Foundations for the Country's Long Term Development

Aside from implementation of policy already laid out, in the fourth year, the Government worked to lay down the foundations for the country's long-term development by formulating the

20-Year National Strategy. The Strategy serves as a framework both for development in the long term and continued reform of the country in important areas, building on as well as materialising the work of the National Reform Council and the National Reform Steering Assembly.

5.1 The 20-Year National Strategy: The Government places great importance on laying down strong foundations for the long-term development of the country. It, therefore, promulgated the National Strategy Preparation Act, B.E. 2560 (2017) to lay out the process necessary for the formulation of the Strategy, which included public hearings on the Strategy in the context of sustainable development and good governance. The Strategy also functions as an overarching framework for integrating other future plans and driving the country forward in the achievement of common goals. The Committee on National Strategy, chaired by the Prime minister, has set up 6 different Drafting Committees in the following areas: (1) Security; (2) Competitiveness; (3) Human Resource Development; (4) Promoting Social Opportunities and Social Equality; (5) Green Growth; and (6) Public Administration Development. The 6 different Drafting Committees were tasked with drafting the National Strategy in their respective areas of responsibility, conducting public hearings and submitting the draft National Strategy in accordance with the process outlined in the National Strategy Preparation Act, B.E. 2560 (2017). The National Strategy Committee, the Cabinet and the National Legislative Assembly then undertook consideration

of the Draft National Strategy. On 6 July 2018, the National Legislative Assembly approved the National Strategy. The 20-Year National Strategy, B.E. 2561-2580 (2018-2037) was later submitted for Royal endorsement by the Prime Minister, and became effective on 8 October 2018.

5.2 The National Reform Plans: The Government attaches great importance to reforming the country according to the goals set forth in the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand. The Government, therefore, promulgated the National Reform Plans and Procedures Act, B.E. 2560 (2017) to set out the drafting process as well as outline provisions for public participation, the engagement of all relevant agencies, and the implementation (including the timeframe) and evaluation of the National Reform Plans. National Reform Committees were appointed to draft the National Reform Plans in accordance with the Plans and Procedures Act in 11 key areas: (1) Political; 2) Public Administration; 3) Law; (4) the Justice System; (5) Economics; (6) Natural Resources and the Environment; (7) Public Health; (8) Mass Media and Information and Communications Technology; (9) Social; (10) Energy; and (11) Anti-Corruption. Two additional Committees were established in the areas of education and justice (police). These 2 Committees were subject to the same timeframe as stipulated in the Constitution. On 6 April 2018, the 5-Year National Reform Plans B.E. 2561-2565 (2018-2022) on the 11 areas became effective.



The Prime Minister's Office