

# **Lao Front for National Construction (LFNC)**

## **-I. Introduction on the Lao Front for National Construction**

### **A. Organization**

1. The Lao Front for National Construction (LFNC) (called earlier as the Lao Liberal Front and later as the Lao Patriotic Front) was established on 13 August 1950. The LFNC is a political coalition organization, a voluntary union of political organizations, socio-political organizations, social organizations and individuals representing all classes, social strata, ethnic groups, religions and Lao overseas. The Organization is constituted of 4 administrative levels with Committee Members (CMs) as follows: (1) Central level LFNC with 135 CMs; (2) Provincial or Prefectural level with 995 CMs; (3) District or Municipality Level with 3670 CMs; and (4) Village level with 31,981 CMs (as of 2007); at the Central, Provincial or Prefectural and District or Municipality level, the LFNC has some supporting machinery. All levels of LFNC exercise their role and functions according to the Rule, Law, and Action Plan of the LFNC.

### **B. Main Roles and duties of the LFNC**

2. Enhance unity and concord among all Lao ethnic people, officially registered religions, social strata and organizations including Lao overseas; Propagate, educate, mobilize and foster the mastery rights of all ethnic people in implementing the directive, guideline, constitution, laws and national socio-economic plan as set forth for each period; gather comments and proposals made by all Lao ethnic people, social strata and organizations, religions, sex and gender to forward to various organizations concerned; protect legitimate right and interest of the Lao ethnic people and participate in the mediation of conflicts, make recommendation to pass the law and various legal documents according to the scope of role the LFNC; Contribute in the protection and expansion of patriotic deeds, culture and traditions of all Lao ethnic people; participate in monitoring and inspection of the functioning of state administrative organs, members of the National Assembly, Court, People's Prosecution, general staff and officials; Take part in the development of the relation of friendship and cooperation between the Lao people and the people of other countries in the region and the world.

## **II. Promotion and Protection of Human Rights**

### **A. Participation in drafting laws**

3. A number of Central Level Committee Members of the LFNC are members of the

National Assembly. They take draft laws to people in their elections to obtain comments and feedbacks from the ethnic people and pass on their comments to the National Assembly; Staff of

the LFNC participate in many workshops to make comments on draft laws including those related to the promotion and protection of Human Right.

## **B. Organization of workshops, trainings and various activities**

4. Together with allied organizations and many different organizations, the LFNC have organized a number of meetings, workshops to plan joint activities; the LFNC conducted trainings and workshops on ethnic, religious, social strata and organizational affairs; propagate on the classification of 4 language groups and names of the 49 ethnic groups of the Lao P.D.R in many districts and provinces; organized on training of trainers and demonstrated the establishment of model village development funds that are managed by villagers themselves in all provinces at nation wide, in particular, in the 47 districts prioritized for poverty eradication; carried out studies on defining the role and participate in drafting the Prime Ministerial Decree on Management and Protection of the functioning of social organizations; Conducted training for technical staff of various social organizations; The survey on foundations and associations reveals that there are currently 162 social organizations in the Lao P.D.R. The LFNC have mobilized and encouraged social strata and organizations and religious followers to participate actively in humanitarian activities, combat all kind of social shortcomings, assist victims of calamities, eradicate poverty of all ethnic people and contribute to socio-economic development.

## **III. Performances and constraints in the promotion and protection of Human Rights under the scope of LFNC**

### **A. Performances**

5. LFNC at each level has been a major stakeholder in enhancing unity and concord among the people of all ethnic group, religion, social strata and social organizations; LFNC conduct public hearing and gathering aspirations as well as recommendations of villagers at various localities to further to local administrative authorities and the Government; participate in the mediation and conflict resolution of the people pertinent to matters as follows: land for production, random movement for resettlement, allocation of sedentary occupation; participate in integrated rural development and poverty eradication, establishment of village and village groups for development; encourage people to implement directives, policies, state laws and regulations; promote economic development and combat against any act of dividing unity among ethnic people, social strata and organizations as well as religions; collect statistical data on ethnics, tribal chiefs and clan heads in each locality; participate in the celebration of traditional festivals of some ethnic people and religions; propagate on rule, Action Plan and LFNC law, rights and obligations of Lao citizens as well as various laws related to human right.

6. LFNC meet and exchange views with monks, priests and religious leaders on regular basis to give advice on matters pertinent to religious freedom and faith of the Lao people aiming to ensure solidarity, unity and make religious activities are in line with religious principles, the national constitution and laws, in particular, the Prime Ministerial Decree No. 92 on management

and protection of religious activities in the Lao P.D.R. In case there is some misunderstanding on religious matter in some locality, LFNC meets with religious leaders and local administrative authority to together solve the problem peacefully.

#### **B. Constraints and shortcomings**

7. The hearing and gathering of aspirations, the mediation of conflicts among the ethnic people of the LFNC at some level and some locality has to be improved; the propagation and education of ethnic people on rights and obligations of a Lao citizen and those related to the promotion and protection of human right has been limited, lack detailed plan of action, many localities have not conducted meetings of tribal and clan heads, workshop on religious, social strata and organizational affairs. Some outlaw people in some locality use religious activities to distort truth, divide unity among ethnic people, a religion with another; monks, priests, religious preachers and religious followers of some religions carry out some activity not consistent with religious principles, the National Constitution and Prime Ministerial Decree No. 92 concerned; activities of social strata and organizations are limited only in major township and some locality, many places still neglect this affair; the training provided for staff in the machinery has not been systematic.

### **IVCE Future plan and Recommendation**

#### **A. Future Plan**

8. Continue to educate, enhance unity and concord among all ethnic groups, religions, social Strata and organizations as well as the Lao overseas; encourage the Lao ethnic people to participate in the national socio-economic development, combat poverty, uplift the people's living condition and continue to fulfill the role and duty of the LFNC as quoted in I.B.

#### **B. Challenges and Recommendations**

9. The functioning of the LFNC in enhancing unity and concord among all ethnic groups, social strata, social organizations, religions, sex , gender as well as Lao overseas over the past years have contributed significantly in the protection and development of the country and it also supplements and supports the effort of the Government of the Lao P.D.R in promoting legitimate equal right of the Lao ethnic groups as well as the promotion and protection of human right in the Lao P.D.R.

10. It is recommended to the Government of the Lao P.D.R to consider allocating some more staff to the LFNC and upgrade the existing ones, provide additional logistic facilities, equipment and budgets to basic need for functioning according to the role and duties of the LFNC.