

**ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA)**

**35th AIPA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**VIENTIANE CAPITAL, LAO PDR**

**14-20 SEPTEMBER 2014**

**Statement by Honorable Mr. Peerasak Porjit**

**Second – Vice President of the National Legislative Assembly**

**Leader of the Thai Delegation to**

**the 35th General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly**

**16th September 2014, Vientiane,**

**the Lao People’s Democratic Republic**

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**Your Excellency Mrs. Pany Yathotou , President of the National Assembly of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic and President of AIPA,**

**Excellencies, Speakers and Presidents of the Parliaments**

**Honorable Delegates,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is indeed an honor and privilege for me to represent the National Legislative Assembly of the Kingdom of Thailand at this gathering of the 35th General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly in Vientiane, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic.

On behalf of the National Legislative Assembly Delegation of the Kingdom of Thailand, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to the National Assembly of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic and the Lao peoples for the warmest hospitality extended to all of us, attending this significant gathering – the 35th AIPA General Assembly.

**Honorable Delegates,**

Allow me to direct your attention towards the recent political situation in my country, Thailand. For months, from the near end of the year 2013 until the beginning of the year 2014, the political landscape in Thailand was dominated by unrest and dissension and went beyond control of the government. Demonstrations held by opposing factions became larger and more disruptive to the activities which could be developed in large scale into public disorder threatening national security and safety.

Thus, in order to cease the situation and to ensure the security of Thailand and the safety of Thai people, the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO); the Thai Army force, the Royal Navy, the Royal Thai Air Force and the Royal Thai Police took control of the country. The reason why this was necessary is clearly stated in the NCPO’s Mission statement; to maintain peace and order while initiating comprehensive reforms to move the country towards a fully functioning and sustainable democracy with His Majesty the King as Head of State.

The NCPO has launched 3-phase Roadmap that will be followed to reach its mission. The first phase is to resolve urgent problems, and to expedite national administration. The second phase entails the implementation of a provisional constitution, setting up the National Legislative Assembly and the Reform Council, the selection of a Prime Minister and the drafting of a new constitution, The third phase will be the holding of elections under a full democratic system.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

With regard to our progress on this Roadmap, I am pleased to inform you that we are in the second phase of our mission. On 22 July 2014, a provisional constitution proposed by the head of the National Council for Peace and Order received Royal Endorsement from His Majesty the King and hence entered into force. Consisting of 48 sections, the provisional constitution encompasses five key bodies which are central to national administration during the reform phase: the Council of Ministers, the National Reform Council, the Constitution Drafting Committee, the National Council for Peace and Order and the National Legislative Assembly. We, the delegation representing Thailand at this Meeting, are the representatives of the National legislative Assembly (NLA) functioning as the National Assembly, the sole body of the Thai Parliament.

In the past month, the overall situation in Thailand has improved dramatically. There have been no episodes or threats of violence. People have returned to their normal life activities, and businesses are operating normally. According to the latest poll, more than eighty percent (80%) of respondents surveyed are satisfied that the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) took charge of the country and approve of the appointment of General Prayut Chan-o-cha as the 29th Prime Minister. The people are pleased with the establishment of the National legislative Assembly as well.

**Honorable Parliamentarians,**

The truth is that Thailand still in a transitional period. Nonetheless, I, representing the Parliamentary branch, truly believe that under the administration of the government and the representation of parliament, Thailand will steadily progress in a positive direction, and that our people will benefit from thoughtfully formulated policies and their effective implementation. On behalf of the Legislative branch, we are certainly pleased, and eager, to join with our colleagues from AIPA in all activities under the AIPA framework. We also would like to do whatever is possible to promote AIPA as an active and leading legislative regional institution in supporting ASEAN to reach its goal, the ASEAN Community in 2015, as well as to promote the principles of democracy, peace and prosperity in ASEAN.

Thank you for your kind attention.