

The role of committees in parliamentary oversight of the Executive

According to the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand B.E. 2550 (2007), Government must state its policies for the administration of state affairs to the National Assembly. The power and duties of the National Assembly in oversight the administration of state affairs of the Executive is monitoring the work of the government as stated in the policies to the National Assembly. Members of Parliament has the right to interpellate Ministers on any matter in their areas and members of the House of Representatives have the right to submit a motion for general debate for the purpose of passing a vote of no-confidence in the Prime Minister and an individual Minister.

In terms of the work of the standing committee of the House of Representatives, there are 35 standing committees and each committee has the authority to perform any activities and to investigate or study any matter covering the administration of state affairs; for example, the work or duty of the Committee on Monetary Affairs, Finance, Banking and Financial Institution covers any matter concerning monetary affairs, finance, banking, monetary market, capital market and national financial institutions or the Committee on Police Affairs looks over any matter concerning police affairs, practices to comply with the law, defence and national peace keeping. Therefore, the standing committee can be the sub-organization of the House of Representatives in oversight of the Executive as an important mechanism of check and balance principle between the Legislative and the Executive.

The standing committee investigates or studies any matter from its attention, people's complaints, public-interest issues or assignment by the House of Representatives. The process thereof starts from reporting to the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Then, the committee summons any person submitting documents or giving statements or opinions with its authority as stipulated in the Constitution. After the standing committee completes those activities in any matter, the committee must report to the House of Representatives. In addition, the committee has the right to give

statement, explanation or adjustment on the acts or assign any person to do so with the permission of the Speaker in the sitting of the House.

If the House of Representatives agrees with the notification of the committee, the Speaker must send the report and notification to the Council of Ministers. After 60 days of the report to the Council of Ministers, the Speaker shall report the performance of the Council of Ministers on the committee's notification to the sitting of the House of Representatives.
