

**Administration of Voluntary Development and Self-Defence
Village Act B.E.2522 (1979)**

BHUMIBOL ADULYADEJ, REX.

Given on the 30th Day of April B.E.2522 (1979)

Being the 34th Year of the Present Reign

His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej is graciously pleased to proclaim that:

Whereas it is expedient to have a law on the administration of voluntary development and self-defence village,

Be it, therefore, enacted by the King, and by and with the advice and consent of the National Legislative Assembly acting as the National Assembly, as follows:

Section 1 This Act is called the “Administration of Voluntary Development and Self-Defence Village Act B.E.2522 (1979).”

Section 2 This Act shall come into force on and from the day following its publication in the Government Gazette.

Section 3 The Voluntary Development Village Act B.E.2518 (1975) shall be repealed.

Section 4 In this Act:

“Village” means a voluntary development and self-defence village prescribed pursuant to this Act;

“Central Committee” means a central committee for voluntary development and self-defence village;

“Chairperson of Central Committee” means a chairperson of a central committee for voluntary development and self-defence village;

“Central Committee Member” means a person who is a member of the central committee for the voluntary development and self-defence village;

“Committee for Different Sections” means a committee for different sections of the voluntary development and self-defence village;

“Chairperson of Committee for Different Sections” means a person who is a chairperson of a committee for different sections of the voluntary development and self-defence village.

Section 5 The Minister of Interior shall have charge and control of the execution of this Act and shall be empowered to issue ministerial regulations, rules, and directives to carry out the provisions of this Act.

Ministerial regulations shall take effect upon their publication in the Government Gazette.

Chapter 1

Prescribing Voluntary Development and Self-Defence Villages

Section 6 Villages pursuant to the law on local administration shall be deemed villages under the administration of voluntary development and self-defence village, and a village or two or more villages pursuant to this Act may be announced by the Ministry of Interior on a case-by-case basis as appropriate to locality condition.

Any change or abolishment of a village shall be made by a notification of the Ministry of Interior.

An integration of villages in different districts as a voluntary development and self-defence village is prohibited.

Chapter 2

Central Committee for Voluntary Development and Self-Defence Village

Section 7 There shall be one central committee for each village comprising a Village Headman as Chairperson of the Central Committee and a Deputy Village Headman and expert committee members of the Sub-district Council as central committee members *ex officio*; expert central committee members shall be elected from the population in that village and shall comprise at least five and not more than seven central committee members; the number of expert central committee members shall be prescribed by the District Chief Officer according to economic and social conditions of a village, and the election of expert central committee members shall be made pursuant to Section 11.

If a village has a Village Headman acting as a Sub-district Headman as well, the Sub-district Headman of that village shall be Chairperson of the Central Committee, and an Assistant Sub-district Headman and/or a Sub-District Medical Practitioner who has a domicile in a village under the jurisdiction of the Sub-district Headman shall be central committee members *ex officio*.

The Central Committee shall elect one deputy chairperson and one secretary from central committee members. The vote shall be made openly by a show of hands; if the vote is tied it shall be decided by lot.

There shall be a number of advisers for the Central Committee and Committee for Different Sections of a village as deemed appropriate by the District Chief Officer and appointed by the District Chief Officer from government officials or knowledgeable persons who perform work related to that village.

Section 8 If more than one village is integrated and there is a Sub-district Headman among the said villages, the said Sub-District Headman shall be the Chairperson of the Central Committee, and other committee members shall be governed by Section 7 and if the integrated villages have more than one Sub-District Headman, the Central Committee shall elect one Sub-District Headman as Chairperson of the Central Committee and the remaining Sub-District Headmen shall be Deputy Chairpersons of the Central Committee; if there is no Sub-District Headman, the Central Committee shall elect one Village Headman as Chairperson of the Central Committee and the Chairperson of the Central Committee shall hold office equal to the term of expert central committee members; if the office of a Chairperson of the Central Committee is vacant prior to expiration of a term, a new election shall be made and the elected person shall serve only for the remainder of the term of the replaced Chairperson of the Central Committee.

Section 9 Chairpersons of Central Committee pursuant to Section 8 shall vacate office upon any one of the following conditions:

- (1) death;
- (2) being granted permission from the District Chief Officer to resign;
- (3) Being investigated and found misbehaving and removed from the office by the order of the Provincial Governor or capability not befitting the position;
- (4) Vacating the office of Sub-District Headman or Village Headman.

Section 10 Persons who are eligible to be elected as an expert central committee member shall have qualifications and shall not be under any prohibition as follows:

- (1) being of Thai nationality;
- (2) being of not less than twenty years of age according to the civil registration evidence on the election day;
- (3) having a domicile and permanent residence and having his or her name appear in the house register pursuant to the law on civil registration for the period of not less than six months up to the date of the election;
- (4) demonstrating good faith in a democratic form of government under the constitution;
- (5) having graduated with not lower than the fourth year of elementary education or its equivalent as certified by the Ministry of Education, except in a locality where such qualified person cannot be elected the Minister of Education may consider as he deems appropriate;
- (6) not being a Buddhist priest, novice, monk, or clergy;

(7) not being of unsound mind or of mental infirmity or addicted to drugs or having disease

(8) not being a government official, local official, or employee of a local government organization;

(9) not being well known in corruption or having immoral behaviour;

(10) never having been punished by expulsion, dismissal, or discharge for malfeasance from Provincial Administration Organization, Municipality, Sanitation District, or Central Committee for Voluntary Development and Self-Defence Village not more than three years from the date of expulsion, dismissal, or discharge;

(11) never having been imprisoned by a final judgment or lawful order to a term of imprisonment, except for an offence committed through negligence or a petty offence and being discharged for a period of less than three years from the discharge date.

Section 11 A District Chief Officer or Section Chief of a district or Deputy District Chief Officer assigned by the District Chief Officer shall be chairperson of an election of expert central committee members, and the Sub-District Headman and Village Headman of that village shall call for a meeting among the population who possess qualifications and not under any of the prohibitions as follows:

(1) being of Thai nationality;

(2) being of not less than twenty years of age according to the civil registration evidence on the election date;

(3) having a domicile and permanent residence and having his or her name appear in the house register pursuant to the law on civil registration for the period of not less than three months up to the date of election;

(4) not being a Buddhist priest, novice, monk, or clergy;

(5) not being of unsound mind or of mental infirmity.

If the majority of the population elect any proposed persons as central committee members and the said persons possess qualifications and are not under any prohibitions pursuant to Section 10, the said persons shall be deemed expert central committee members and the District Chief Officer shall report to the Provincial Governor in order to issue certificates pursuant to the form attached to the directive of the Ministry of Interior as evidence.

If the elected persons have equal votes it shall be decided by lot.

The election may be held secretly or openly, and the Section on Election of Village Headman of the Directive of the Ministry of Interior on Election of District Headman and Village Headman shall be applied *mutatis mutandis*.

Section 12 Members of the Expert Central Committee shall hold office for a term of four years and must vacate office before the expiration of the term upon any of the following reasons:

- (1) death;
- (2) being granted permission from the District Chief Officer to resign;
- (3) being ordered by the District Chief Office to vacate office;
- (4) having been removed from office by the resolution of the Central Committee for behaving in a manner which is detrimental to the benefit of the village, and the said resolution must be passed by not less than two thirds of the serving Central Committee;
- (5) being ordered by the District Chief Officer to vacate office for not attending three consecutive meetings without reasonable excuse;
- (6) the Provincial Governor dissolves the Central Committee or Committee for Different Sections pursuant to Section 29.

If the position of a member of the Expert Central Committee becomes vacant before the expiration of term, a re-election shall be held to fill the vacancy within 60 days, except in a circumstance pursuant to (6), and the elected person shall serve only for the remainder of the term of the replaced member of the Expert Central Committee; if the position becomes vacant before the expiration of the term not more than 180 days, a re-election may or may not be held.

Section 13 Advisors to the Central Committee must vacate office upon any one of the following reasons:

- (1) death;
- (2) being granted permission from the District Chief Officer to resign;
- (3) being ordered by the District Chief Officer to vacate office;
- (4) being transferred to another position and being unable to perform his or her duty related to that village.

If the office of an adviser for the committee becomes vacant, the local District Chief Officer shall appoint a person who possesses qualifications pursuant to Section 7 as an adviser.

Section 14 The Central Committee shall have duties as follows:

- (1) to administer villages or to perform other duties as approved or assigned by the District Committee Council, District Chief Officer, or Provincial Governor;
- (2) to consider and form policies on administration of villages, form planning and village development projects according to the needs of the population in that village;
- (3) to perform duties of the Village Committee as prescribed by the law on local administration;

(4) to supervise the performance of the Committee of Different Sections in accordance to the laws, directives, and regulations;

(5) to cooperate and coordinate in planning and development projects for sub-districts and villages and support cooperation from voluntary organizations or public charity organizations and to solve problems and obstacles relating to village developments;

(6) to cooperate and assist in performing works of occupational groups or other groups established or supported by the government and perform functions in that village;

(7) to disseminate official development works to the population in the village;

(8) to conciliate civil disputes among the population in the village in order to bring peace and justice and report to the District Chief Officer after performing any such duty;

(9) to perform other duties as assigned by the government service.

In performing the duty, the Chairperson of the Central Committee shall be responsible for proceeding according to resolutions of the Central Committee, excepting that the Central Committee has assigned others to proceed.

Section 15 In case of public hazard, air raid, or sabotage occurring or about to occur, a Chairperson of the Central Committee in his jurisdiction, or an assigned Chairperson of the Peace and Security Maintenance Committee, shall be empowered to order or supervise disaster prevention and mitigation pursuant to the law on civil defence regarding civil disaster prevention and mitigation and shall report to the Director of the Civil Defence Organization in his jurisdiction.

Chapter 3

Village Committee for Different Sections

Section 16 There shall be a Committee for Different Sections in a village to assist the Central Committee in performing their line of duty as assigned, the number of Committee for Different Sections shall be determined by the Central Committee as they deem appropriate, and there shall usually be the following committees: development committee, administrative committee, peacekeeping and prevention committee, finance committee, public health committee, education and culture committee, welfare and social committee, and other committees as deemed appropriate by the Central Committee.

Section 17 The Central Committees pursuant to Section 7 and Section 8 shall divide their tasks in acting as chairperson for the Committee for Different Sections, and the said chairperson shall select at least three qualified persons pursuant to Section 10 who are knowledgeable or interested in that branch of work to join the administrative work; the persons who are selected for each section must be approved by the Central Committee.

Section 18 Committees for Different Sections shall have duties as follows:

(1) The Development Committee shall be responsible for developing occupations for the population and developing different aspects of the village by cooperating with committees of other sections in accordance with the policies of the Central Committee;

(2) The Administrative Committee shall be responsible for preventing suffering and fostering happiness for the population and

supervising village affairs in compliance with the laws, customs, and national policies and advising and promoting the population in the village to be interested in the rule of democratic government with the King as Head of State, local administration, and community unity.

Other functions that are not specified as being under the responsibility of any committee and the said functions that must be carried out to enable the Central Committee to perform their duties smoothly shall be performed by the Administrative Committee;

(3) The Peacekeeping and Prevention Committee shall be responsible for establishing peacekeeping and prevention units in villages and disaster prevention and mitigation units;

(4) The Finance Committee shall be responsible for managing village finances;

(5) The Public Health Committee shall be responsible for medical care, health, family planning, and sanitation district, including preserving environments of villages and preventing environmental hazards in villages;

(6) The Education and Culture Committee shall be responsible for education for scouts and youths, including activities relating to religion, culture, sports, and leisure;

(7) The Welfare and Social Committee shall be responsible for welfare of the population and supporting indigents who are unable to maintain themselves as necessary.

The Committees for Different Sections may establish a youth group, womangroup, agriculture and cooperative group, occupation group, or other groups to assist and support each committee in performing their tasks as they deem appropriate.

Section 19 If a chairperson of any section committee vacates office, whether from the permanent position or expert central

committee position, committee members of the said section shall vacate office as well.

Chapter 4

Meetings

Section 20 Central Committees shall hold a meeting at least once a month; meeting dates shall be set by the Central Committee by taking into consideration the convenience and occupation of the Central Committee members.

If villages are integrated pursuant to Section 8, a first meeting shall be convoked by the District Chief Officer or Section Chief of the district or Deputy District Chief Officer as assigned by the District Chief Officer, and the official who convokes the meeting shall act as an interim chairperson in order to select a Central Committee Chairperson.

The meeting place for the Central Committee shall be determined by the Central Committee members as they deem appropriate.

Section 21 In a meeting of the Central Committee there shall be not fewer than half of the active members of the Central Committee present to constitute a quorum, if the Chairperson of the Central Committee is not present or unable to perform his duty, the Deputy Chairperson of the Central Committee shall be a chairperson of that meeting.

Section 22 The final decision of a meeting shall be decided by majority votes.

One Central Committee member shall have one vote.

The Chairperson of the Central Committee or a member of the Central Committee who acts as a Chairperson of that meeting shall have the right to vote as a member of the Central Committee, in case of equality of votes, the Chairperson of the Central Committee shall have one casting vote.

Ordinary meetings of the Central Committee shall be conducted openly, and the population shall be allowed to attend, except in case the Chairperson of the Central Committee is of the opinion that the meeting agenda should not be disclosed, he may consult the Central Committee to hold the meeting in secret.

Section 23 If there is any argument regarding a meeting which is not prescribed in this Section, the Chairperson of the Central Committee shall submit the said argument to the District Chief Officer and the decision of the District Chief Officer shall only be applied to the said meeting, and the District Chief Officer shall report the said circumstance to the Provincial Governor to further report to the Minister of Interior.

Section 24 Meetings of the Committees for Different Sections shall be held in the same manner as the meetings of the Central Committee *mutatis mutandis*.

Chapter 5

Income

Section 25 The Ministry of Interior and Provincial Administration Organizations shall allocate incomes for the administration of villages pursuant to the following Acts:

- (1) Subsidies or promotional money from the government;
- (2) Local maintenance taxes collected from lands situated in villages;
- (3) Taxes and fees for different licenses as allocated by laws, directives, resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers, and allocation orders;
- (4) Subsidies from Local Administration Organizations;
- (5) Donated monies and property;
- (6) Incomes as allocated by Provincial Governors;
- (7) Other incomes.

Donated monies and property pursuant to (5) must be given to Provincial Administration Organizations with clearly specified objectives.

The allocation of local maintenance taxes collected from lands situated in villages pursuant to (2) between villages, sub-districts, and provinces shall be as prescribed by the Minister of Interior according to the need of each village.

Section 26 Monies of villages shall be spent pursuant to the Directive of the Ministry of Interior on Fiscal and Budget Method for Administration of Voluntary Development and Self-Defence Villages,

and preparation of planning and projects shall be prescribed in the said Directives.

Section 27 After the District Chief Officer approves spending projects for villages, the said projects shall be stipulated in a provincial ordinance pursuant to directives and budget method of the Provincial Administration Organization.

Provincial Councils shall be prohibited from amending spending projects for villages.

Chapter 6

Control

Section 28 The District Chief Officer shall control the performance of duties of the Central Committee pursuant to laws and government directives and shall be empowered to suspend any action deemed detrimental to locality or government; if the Central Committee disagrees, they may appeal to the Provincial Governor for a ruling.

Section 29 If a Central Committee or Committee of any Section proceeds or behaves in a manner that may be detrimental to locality or government and after investigating the incident it is found to be true, the Provincial Governor shall be empowered to dissolve the said Central Committee or Section Committee.

After the Provincial Governor has dissolved the Central Committee, the District Chief Officer shall organize an election of Expert Central Committee members to fill the vacancies within 45 days from the date of dissolution; the District Chief Officer shall be

acting on behalf of the Central Committee during the dissolution of the Central Committee.

If the Provincial Governor has dissolved any Section Committee, the Central Committee shall elect a chairperson for the said Section Committee without delay, and the said chairperson shall select personnel to jointly administer the work pursuant to Section 17.

Countersigned by

S. Hotrakit

Deputy Prime Minister

Remarks: Reasons for the promulgation of this Act are as follows: The law on voluntary development village currently in force contains provisions that are not concise and not appropriate to the changing conditions and circumstances at present; therefore, it is expedient to repeal the said law and to specifically enact the law on administration of voluntary development and self-defence village in order to establish voluntary development and self-defence villages.