



Lao People's Democratic Republic
Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity

The Law on Disasters Management

2020



LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
PEACE INDEPENDENCE DEMOCRACY UNITY PROSPERITY

National Assembly

No. 15/NA
Vientiane Capital, 24 June 2019

**RESOLUTION
OF MEETING OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON ADOPTION OF THE LAW ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT**

Pursuant to the Constitution of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Amended version 2015) Article 53, Clause 1 and the Law on the National Assembly (Amended version 2015), Article 11, Clause 1.

Following the 7th Ordinary Session of the National Assembly Meeting, the VIIIth Legislature, has widely and deeply considered the contents of the Law on Disaster Management in the Session held on 24 June 2019.

The Meeting of the National Assembly has decided:

Article 1. To adopt the Law on Disaster Management with a majority vote.

Article 2. This Resolution is effective from the date of signature.

**President of National Assembly
[Signature & Seal]**

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LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
PEACE INDEPENDENCE DEMOCRACY UNITY PROSPERITY

The President

No: 262/POR
Vientiane Capital, 05 August 2019

**DECREE OF THE PRESIDENT
OF THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
ON PROMULGATION OF THE LAW ON DISASTER
MANAGEMENT**

- Pursuant to the Constitution of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Amended version 2015), Section IV, Article 67, Clause 1;
- Pursuant to the Resolution of the National Assembly, No. 15/NA, dated 24 June 2019 on the adoption of the Law on Disaster Management;
- Pursuant to the Letter of Proposal of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly, No. 22/SC, dated 22 July 2019.

**The President of
Lao People's Democratic Republic issues the Presidential Decree:**

Article 1. To promulgate the Law on Disaster Management.

Article 2. This Presidential Decree is effective from the date of signature.

**President of Lao PDR
[Signature & Seal]**

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Lao People's Democratic Republic
Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity

National Assembly

No. 71 /NA
Vientiane Capital, 24 June 2019

Unofficial Translation

The Law on Disasters Management

Part I General Provisions

Article 1 Objectives

This law outlines the principles, regulations and measures related to disaster management so that it can be implemented effectively, efficiently and using modern methods, to ensure the rapid provision of accurate information and data, aiming to put surveillance in place to reduce the impacts of disasters to the health and life of the people, the assets of the state and infrastructure, communal and people's assets and the environment, as well as to rehabilitate, restore and re-construct after disaster incidents, enable regional and international linkages, and contribute to national social and economic development towards green and sustainable development and national security.

Article 2 Disaster Management

Disaster is a man-made or natural catastrophe that causes severe danger and extensive damage to health, life, assets, the economy and livelihoods of the people in society, both in short-term and long-term horizons.

Disaster management is the implementation of outlined principles, regulations and measures related to effective prevention, control and recovery after disaster incidents that are in compliance with the law.

Article 3 Explanation of Terms

The terms used in this law shall have the following meaning:

1. Natural Disaster refers to a natural event, phenomenon or change, such as flood, drought, storms, frost, earthquake, landslide, outbreak of pest and disease;

2. Man-made Disaster refers to an emergency event or environmental hazard caused by human activities, such as urban fires, forest fire, dust, radiation, chemical leakages, unexploded ordnance, or accidents;

3. Hazard Event refers to a phenomenon or situation leading to large-scale damage or loss;

4. Severe Disaster refers to any disaster occurrence leading to damage to health, life, assets, social-economy and environment that is beyond the response capacity of the provincial authority;

5. Disaster Risk refers to the possibility of the occurrence of a natural and/or man-made event leading to loss;

6. Raw Data refers to information, databases or figures obtained from surveys and administrative reports that has not yet been analyzed, verified and proved.

Article 4 State Policy on Disaster Management

The State recognizes the importance of disaster management through outlining strategies, measures, action plans and projects, by running education and public awareness campaigns, personnel recruitment, providing information and data, budget, equipment, vehicles and mobilizing financial and technical assistance to support relevant authorities to run their activities effectively and efficiently, ensuring safety and security, reducing risks to life, health, assets, and the legitimate rights and interests of citizens.

The State encourages and mobilizes individuals and domestic and foreign legal entities and organizations to contribute financial

and technical assistance, equipment, vehicles and other incentives, efforts and advice on disaster management.

The State focuses on developing human resources, constructing infrastructure, researching and transferring scientific knowledge, applying modern technologies and environmental-friendly approaches as well as applying local wisdoms in disaster management.

Article 5 Principles Related to Disaster Management

Disaster management shall follow the following principles:

1. Be consistent with the constitution, policy, law, strategy and the national social-economic development plan, national defense and public security, and international conventions and agreements to which Lao PRD is a party;
2. Recognize disaster prevention as the key activity, and undertake control and recovery as significant activities;
3. Ensure there is equality, fairness, transparency, openness and accountability;
4. Ensure that information on meteorology and hydrology, environmental risks and other information related to disasters is provided accurately, continuously, quickly and in a timely manner;
5. Ensure engagement of all stakeholders in society and collaboration among line ministries, organizations and local authorities.

Article 6 Obligations of the Citizen on Disaster Management

Every citizen is obliged to reduce and prevent disasters through monitoring, reporting disaster risks, getting involved in preparedness, response, reduction of losses, provision of relief support and recovery after shocks, including contribution to disaster management funds and holding accident and disaster insurance.

Article 7 Scope of Application

This law is applicable to individuals, and to domestic and foreign legal entities and organizations involved in disaster management in Lao PDR.

Article 8. International Cooperation

The State promotes foreign relations and cooperation regionally and internationally related to disaster management through sharing lessons learned, information and data, scientific research, technology and human resources development, especially training, conducting disaster emergency response simulation exercises, and through fulfillment of obligations under international conventions and agreements to which Lao PDR is a party.

Part II

Prevention, Control and Recovery

Chapter 1

Disaster Prevention

Article 9 Disaster Prevention

Disaster prevention is the outlining of plans, measures for preventing and reducing disaster risk, which shall include the following actions:

1. Data collection and risk inventories;
2. Identification of risky areas;
3. Risk Mapping;
4. Establishment of a risk information system;
5. Accessibility and application of information and data;
6. Risk assessment;
7. Risk reduction;
8. Disaster preparedness and response;
9. Early warning;
10. Evacuation notice.

Article 10 Data Collection and Risk Inventories

Data collection and risk inventory is the data gathering, assessment, analysis and recording of potential disaster risk areas, modelling, prediction, resources inventory, including information sharing mechanisms, damages from disasters, and investment in disaster management.

Each relevant sector conducts data collection and risk inventory within their areas of responsibility and submit reports to the relevant Disaster Management Committee.

Article 11 Identification of Risky Areas

The Disaster Management Committee at each level shall deliberate and take into consideration the nature and characteristics of the landscape and level of disaster severity for identifying potential risk areas, as a base for creating a Disaster Management Plan, including urban planning, land use planning, provision of settlements and livelihoods, construction of infrastructure and development projects, to assure their safety and resilience from disasters.

Article 12 Risk Mapping

The Secretariat of the Disaster Management Committee at each level collaborates with the relevant sectors, organizations and local authorities to assess and produce a Disaster Risk Map for the people living in the areas of risk surveillance and to avoid the risk of damage from disasters when building villages, houses, engaging in agricultural production and developing different projects.

Article 13 Establishment of a Risk Information System

The establishment of a Risk Information System is to build the basic tools needed for disaster management in a smooth, timely, quick, accurate, effective and efficient manner.

The Central Disaster Management Committee collaborates with the relevant line ministries, organizations and local authorities to establish, improve, manage and apply the Disaster Risk Information System by linking it with the National Statistical Information Database, including providing and sharing of Disaster Management Information. Each Provincial and District Disaster Management Committee establishes, improves, manages and applies a database to be linked with the Disaster Risk Information System at central level, including providing and sharing disaster information at its locality.

Article 14 Accessibility and Application of Information and Data

Individuals, legal entities and organizations may access and use information from the Disaster Risk Information System or database. Those using survey and research information on disasters for business purposes shall be charged fees and services according to regulations.

Those wishing to use raw data/information from the sectors concerned shall define clear objectives for its application, and shall cite the information sources and share the results of analysis of the information with the relevant sectors.

Article 15 Risk Assessment

Disaster risk assessment is to evaluate the level of risk, damages, danger, historical disaster occurrence and prediction of potential risk, which could damage health, life, assets, the economy and the environment.

The Central Disaster Management Committee outlines regulations on disaster risk assessment in collaboration with line ministries, organizations and local authorities.

Each Provincial and District Disaster Management Committee shall outline specific regulations on disaster risk assessment in accordance with general regulations and shall conduct assessment and evaluation of the risk level, danger, previous disaster occurrences, and predict potential risks within their areas of responsibility, in collaboration with the concerned sectors, and then make a proposal to the higher level Disaster Management Committee.

Each relevant sector assesses and evaluates the level of risk, danger, previous disaster occurrences and predict potential risks related to their own sector and submit a report to the relevant Disaster Management Committee.

Article 16 Risk Reduction

Disaster risk reduction includes measures and mobilization to prevent or protect against possible events, whether natural and/or man-made, which may result in impacts and damage to health, lives, assets, the economy or the environment, which are based

on the strategies and maps of identified disaster risks, and include the application of engineering techniques for infrastructure construction that is resilient to disasters, as well as public awareness campaigns.

Each level of Disaster Management Committee outlines principles and disaster risk reduction planning in collaboration with the relevant sectors and local authorities.

The relevant sectors outline principles and disaster risk reduction planning related to their own sectors.

Article 17 Disaster Preparedness and Response

Disaster preparedness and response is a process of preparing, planning and setting up measures for preventing and/or responding to a disaster event to reduce damage through actions such as surveillance, danger warning, overseeing and commanding operations, search and rescue, warehousing systems for storage of supportive equipment, providing emergency relief, temporary shelters, medical services, using the military forces, police and civilian, equipment, transportation equipment, communications and facilities, coordinating and cooperating with all stakeholders, and requesting assistance from other countries based on regional and international cooperation frameworks of the Government.

Each level of Disaster Management Committee collaborates with relevant sectors to identify plans, measures, temporary emergency shelter, training, drills, and evacuation plans to be prepared for responding to potential disasters.

Article 18 Early Warning

Giving an early warning means to issue a notification and declaration of a surveillance area through media broadcasting and other means quickly, accurately and in a timely manner to allow the people, communities, organizations and all parties to have enough time to prepare in advance to respond to potential disasters.

In cases where there has been notification and declaration of a possible disaster affecting more than one village, the relevant District Governor or Head of Municipality or City Mayor shall

issue a warning and declaration of the surveillance area based on a proposal made by the District Disaster Management Committee.

In cases where there has been notification and declaration of a possible disaster affecting more than one district, the Provincial Governor or Mayor of Vientiane Capital, shall issue a warning and declaration of the surveillance areas based on a proposal made by the Provincial Disaster Management Committee.

In cases where there has been notification and declaration of a possible disaster affecting more than one province, the Government shall issue a warning and declaration of the surveillance areas based on a proposal made by the Central Disaster Management Committee.

The warning shall refer to information on forecasting, monitoring and prediction for the concerned sectors.

Article 19 Evacuation Notice

An Evacuation Notice means to issue a notification for people residing in the disaster risk areas to move out of the area quickly. When an Evacuation Notice is issued, the people shall prepare themselves and bring their valuables and assets to the safe areas provided or specific area identified.

The person who issues the Evacuation Notice is the same person as the one issuing the Early Warning as specified in Article 18 of this law.

Article 20 Preventive Measures

The concerned sectors shall put preventive measures in place, especially establishment of the Early Warning System, as well as prevention of soil erosion, anti-flooding, drought mitigation and other methods to reduce impacts from natural disaster.

The individuals, legal entities and organizations who possess, use and transport explosive material, flammable objects, chemical substances, or radioactive material, or who engage in natural resources extraction, or dam construction, shall have in place relevant preventive measures and approaches, especially the use of modern equipment, placing signal signs, giving advance warning,

and preparedness for control and remediation of impacts that may occur, to reduce impacts from man-made disaster.

Chapter 2 Disaster Control

Article 21 Disaster Control

Disaster control means to restrict the impact of disasters that occur, to avoid severe impacts or significant damage and loss to health, life, asset of the state, communal and people's assets, including through the following activities:

1. Safety assurance;
2. Emergency relief;
3. Search and rescue;
4. Rapid damage and needs assessment;
5. Repairing of essential infrastructure;
6. Declaration of disaster affected area;
7. Declaration for cancellation of the disaster affected area.

Article 22 Safety Assurance

The Disaster Management Committee at each level collaborates with the line ministries, organizations and local authorities to exercise measures on safety assurance on health, lives, and assets of the people being affected by disaster and people who come to help.

Article 23 Emergency Relief

Where the disaster is occurring, the authorities belonging to the area shall be proactive in providing emergency relief immediately and/or in a timely manner.

The relevant Disaster Management Committee collaborates with the line ministries, organizations and local authorities concerned, including individuals, legal entities and organizations within the country and abroad for providing emergency aid, temporary shelter, food and drinking water, water supply, emergency medical services, clothes and other relief items for the people affected by

disaster.

In case of a severe disaster occurring, the Central Disaster Management Committee shall coordinate with local authorities to establish an Emergency Command Center at central and local levels where the disaster is occurring, to arrange temporary shelter, warehousing, medical assistance, and timely delivery and thorough distribution of emergency relief materials.

Article 24 Search and Rescue

At the time of a disaster occurring, the Disaster Management Committee at the relevant level shall collaborate with local authorities, and the whole of society, to search for, rescue and evacuate affected people to the safe places or resettlement areas.

In case of a severe disaster occurrence, the Emergency Command Center shall take the lead in supervising and overseeing all supports as specified in the first paragraph of this Article.

Article 25 Rapid Damages and Needs Assessment

The relevant Disaster Management Committee collaborates with local authorities in the area where the disaster is occurring, and with all sectors and stakeholders, to conduct rapid damage and needs assessment for planning emergency support.

Article 26 Repair of Essential Infrastructure

The relevant sectors shall take measures for urgent repair of the essential infrastructure needed to ensure that the initial emergency response can be undertaken effectively, based on the reality on the ground and consent given by the relevant Disaster Management Committee.

Article 27 Declaration of a Disaster Affected Area

A disaster affected area is any area being impacted by a disaster, leading to significant impacts and damage to health, life, property of the State, communal and people's property, the environment or infrastructure.

In case of a disaster occurring which covers the area of more

than one village, the relevant District Governor, or Head of Prefecture, or City Mayor shall issue the declaration for those areas affected by disaster based on a proposal made by the District Disaster Management Committee.

In case of a disaster occurring which covers the area of more than one district, the Provincial Governor, or the Mayor of Vientiane Capital shall issue the declaration of those areas affected by disaster based on a proposal made by the Provincial Disaster Management Committee.

In case of a disaster occurring which covers the area of more than one province, or a severe disaster occurring, the Government shall issue the declaration of those areas affected by disaster based on a proposal made by the Central Disaster Management Committee.

Article 28 Declaration on the Cancellation of Disaster Affected Area

The Government or relevant local authority shall make an announcement for cancellation of a disaster affected area within their areas of responsibility as specified in Article 27 of this law, after the disaster has ended, based on a proposal made by the relevant Disaster Management Committee.

Article 29 Disaster Controlling Measures

In case of a natural disaster occurring, the relevant Disaster Management Committee shall collaborate with local authorities where the disaster is occurring, all sectors and stakeholders, consider the disaster control measures and approaches to be applied, as well as mobilize people and organizations to contribute their efforts, labor, financial support, vehicles and other equipment needed to reduce impacts from the disaster.

In case of a human-made disaster occurring, such as leakages of chemical substances, emission of dust, radioactive material, soil erosion, flood or inundation from the operation of an investment project, or any activities invested by the project developer(s) or operator(s), the legal entity responsible shall be liable for remediating the causes and impacts from such incident, and shall submit a

report to the Government, local authorities, and sectors concerned, and shall inform the public in a timely manner.

In case of a disaster occurring in more than one locality at the same time, the relevant Disaster Management Committee shall collaborate with local authorities where the disaster is occurring, and all sectors and parties shall seek solutions and measures to remediate the impacts in a timely manner.

Chapter 3

Post Disaster Recovery

Article 30 Post Disaster Recovery

Post disaster recovery is the restoration of the livelihoods of people affected by disaster, repairing and reconstructing the infrastructures affected and/or damaged by disaster to its normal condition, or better than before, in which the following actions shall be undertaken:

1. Post disaster needs assessment;
2. Disaster recovery planning;
3. Disaster recovery implementation;
4. Monitoring and Evaluating of disaster recovery.

Article 31 Post Disaster Needs Assessment

The post-disaster needs assessment is to evaluate the level of damage, the needs for livelihoods restoration, and repairing and re-constructing infrastructure affected by a disaster. The Disaster Management Committee at the relevant level shall collaborate with the local authorities in the area where the disaster occurred, with all sectors and parties to carry out a post-disaster needs assessment in a timely manner to provide the basis for rehabilitation and support.

Article 32 Disaster Recovery Planning

Disaster recovery planning is to be based on the results of a post-disaster needs assessment for the purposes of livelihoods restoration and rehabilitation of infrastructure in the disaster affected areas.

The relevant Provincial Disaster Management Committee shall collaborate with the local authorities in the areas where the disaster occurred, together with all relevant stakeholders, to create a recovery plan and submit a proposal to the provincial authorities to include in its social-economic development plan and annual budget, and to propose it to the Provincial People's Assembly for consideration and approval.

In case of a disaster occurring that impacts more than one province, or a severe disaster occurring, the Central Disaster Management Committee shall collaborate with the line ministries, organizations and local authorities concerned to create a disaster recovery plan and make a proposal through the Government to the National Assembly for consideration and approval.

Article 33 Disaster Recovery Implementation

Local authorities where the disaster occurred shall proactively take a lead in implementing the approved disaster recovery plan in collaboration with all sectors and parties concerned.

Individuals, legal entities and organizations, engaged in production, business, services or any activities that led to the disaster incident, shall take responsibility for remediating and rehabilitating the affected infrastructure, especially those damaged production sites, residential areas, cultural heritage, nature, historical and archaeological sites, including compensation for the disaster affected people, under supervision of the relevant Disaster Management Committee.

Article 34 Monitoring and Evaluation of Disaster Recovery

The relevant Provincial and District Disaster Management Committee shall proactively take a lead in monitoring and evaluating the fulfillment of post-disaster recovery in collaboration with local authorities where the disaster occurred, all sectors and parties concerned, and shall make a report to the Provincial or District Administration.

In case of a disaster occurring in more than one province at the same time, or a severe disaster occurrence, the Central Disaster

Management Committee shall proactively take a lead in monitoring and evaluating the fulfillment of post disaster recovery in collaboration with line ministries, organizations and provincial administration, and make a report to the Government.

Part III

Assistance, Responsibilities of the State, Communities and Public Participation

Chapter 1

The Assistance

Article 35 Relief Assistance

The Disaster Management Committee at the relevant level shall proactively collaborate with local authorities in the area where the disaster occurred, and with all sectors and parties concerned, to provide relief assistance for all affected people, in particular the provision of health care services, consumable and non-consumable materials and other materials needed for livelihoods and resettlement.

Article 36 Request for Assistance

In case of a disaster occurring where urgent support is needed, the relevant Disaster Management Committee and local authorities can make a request for assistance from any sector or party for search and rescue and to provide relief to disaster victims.

In case there is a need for foreign support, the Central Disaster Management Committee shall make a proposal to the Government for consideration.

Article 37 Facilitation of the International Assistance

The Central Disaster Management Committee shall collaborate with the relevant line ministries, organizations and local authorities to facilitate the entry of international relief support personnel such as journalists, physicians, rescue teams, and to facilitate the import of vehicles, equipment, medicine, consumable

and non-consumable materials and other disaster relief items that the individuals, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, neighboring and regional countries provide, in accordance with the law and with international conventions and agreements to which Lao PDR is a party.

Vehicles, equipment, medicines, consumable and non-consumable materials and other disaster relief items shall be exempt from customs duties, taxes and other obligations.

The same principle shall be applied when the said personnel, vehicles, materials and equipment return to the country of origin.

Article 38 Management of Assistance

The Government shall manage centrally all international and domestic disaster assistance by assigning the Disaster Management Committee at each level to take direct responsibility and proactively collaborate with local authorities where the disaster is occurring, and with all sectors concerned.

International personnel coming to support disaster relief efforts shall comply with the law and be under the supervision of the relevant Disaster Management Committee or the relevant sector.

Chapter 2 Responsibilities of the State and Communities

Article 39 Responsibilities of the State

The State shall be responsible for creating conditions, facilitating, providing budget, vehicles, materials and equipment, technical means, personnel and building infrastructure for developing disaster management activities to be strong and modern and able to mobilize in compliance with the assigned roles, rights and duties.

Article 40 Responsibilities of Communities

Communities shall be responsible for providing support and cooperation with the relevant Disaster Management Committees, all sectors and parties in creating conditions, facilitating the perfor-

mance of the assigned duties, and educating people to get involved in implementation of disaster management activities.

Chapter 3

Public Participation

Article 41 Awareness Raising

Awareness raising is intended to educate people on disaster management comprehensively, to advocate through public media, to pursue it through learning and teaching curriculum, and to encourage and promote the creation of activities related to disaster management for the people to know and understand the dangers and disaster risks, based on commitments provided by all sectors, organizations, all levels of local authorities and proactive participation of all society.

Article 42 Public Participation

The public shall become involved in disaster management through prevention, response preparedness and reduction of disaster risks and recovery activities in an area affected by disaster.

Part IV

Rights and Obligations of the Disaster Victim

Article 43 Rights of the Disaster Victim

The disaster affected victim has the following rights, to:

1. Obtain emergency relief support such as food supplies, drinking water, clothes, temporary shelter;
2. Access basic services such as public health, data and information;
3. Receive special services or facilities, especially those of pregnant women, children, people with disabilities and the elderly;
4. Receive support for repairing their residence and/or a livelihood allocation;
5. Receive welfare based on the regulations.

Article 44 Obligations of the Disaster Victim

The disaster affected victim has the following obligations:

1. Accurately report all damages encountered by themselves or their family;
2. Provide relevant information for search and rescue;
3. Follow any resettlement plan for a new location decided by the Government;
4. Contribute to keeping order and tidiness in temporary shelter;
5. Contribute their efforts and labor in helping one another;
6. Follow notifications and instructions given by the relevant Disaster Management Committee and the local authorities concerned.

Part V Disaster Management Fund

Article 45 Disaster Management Fund

The Disaster Management Fund is the State Fund established for the purpose of raising and contributing funds from various sources, aiming to ensure sustainable and sufficient budget for use in effective and efficient disaster management.

The Disaster Management Fund is abbreviated as “DMF”.

The Disaster Management Fund is available at three levels: Central, Provincial and District.

Article 46 Sources of Disaster Management Fund

The primary sources of the Disaster Management Fund are:

1. The State budget;
2. Contribution from investment projects, private sector and individuals in general;
3. Support from domestic and foreign organizations;
4. Revenue from fund raising;
5. Other legitimate revenue sources.

Article 47 Fund Management and Utilization

The management and utilization of the Disaster Management Fund shall ensure transparency, accountability and consistency with other relevant laws.

The Disaster Management Fund is to be applied in disaster management, mainly for emergency aid, repair of necessary infrastructure, search and rescue.

More details related to the management and application of the Fund shall be prescribed in a separate regulation.

Part VI Prohibitions

Article 48 General Prohibitions

Individuals, legal entities and organizations are prohibited from the following behaviors:

1. Destroy or change nature or the environment in a way that will cause a disaster to happen;
2. Take advantage of a disaster situation to hoard commodities, or raise prices of commodities or their delivery;
3. Take advantage of a disaster situation to receive donations through various forms;
4. Raise funds without official permission;
5. Use violence, destroy or steal belongings of disaster victims;
6. Create obstacles, impede, ignore or fail to cooperate in disaster management activities;
7. Disclose, report or provide incorrect, exaggerated or false information;
8. Give or receive bribes, engage in fraud or misappropriation;
9. Slander or miscommunicate about a State authority or its staff;
10. Donate consumable materials including medicine that is already expired or non-consumables that cannot be used;
11. Other actions violating the law.

Article 49 Prohibition for Authorities or Government Officers

Authorities or government officers are prohibited from the following behaviors:

1. Abuse rights, duties, or their positions, use violence, force, or threat for their own benefit, or for the benefit of their families, relatives or friends;
2. Claim, ask for, or receive bribes from individuals, legal entities or organizations;
3. Perform duties with carelessness, ignorance, negligence, or lack of responsibility for duties performance;
4. Prolong or delay documents needed for solving problems related to disaster management;
5. Illegally claim fees or services charges;
6. Falsify documents, issue documents incorrectly, or destroy documents;
7. Disclose secrets or confidentiality of the State, individuals, legal entities or organizations;
8. Increase or decrease the amount (unit price) of assistance by using revenue from disaster management;
9. Other actions violating the law.

Article 50 Prohibitions for the Disaster Victims

Disaster victims are prohibited from the following behaviors:

1. Falsely report damages for themselves or their families;
2. Provide incorrect or exaggerated information;
3. Destroy or move evidence from sites or falsify documents for the purpose of requesting assistance;
4. Move out of the resettlement areas with no official permission;
5. Create difficulties or confusion in temporary living camps;
6. Breach notifications or instructions given by the relevant Disaster Management Committee or local authorities concerned;
7. Take advantage of a disaster situation to steal the belongings of another victim of the disaster;
8. Other actions violating the law.

Part VII

Disaster Management Committees

Article 51 Disaster Management Committees

The Disaster Management Committees are non-standing organizations, whose role is to assist and advise, deliberate, supervise and coordinate with the sectors and local authorities concerned, to elaborate and implement disaster management activities.

The Disaster Management Committees consist of:

1. Central Disaster Management Committee;
2. Provincial Disaster Management Committees;
3. District Disaster Management Committees; and
4. Village Disaster Management Committees.

Article 52 Central Disaster Management Committee

The Central Disaster Management Committee abbreviated as “CDMC” shall be appointed by the Prime Minister based on a proposal made by the Minister of Labor and Social Welfare. Its role is to support the implementation of policies, strategies, measures, laws, regulations, plans, programs, and projects related to disaster management, for which the Department of Social Welfare, under the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, is the Secretariat.

The Central Disaster Management Committee consists of the following:

1. Deputy Prime Minister, as the Chairperson;
2. Minister of Labor and Social Welfare, as the Deputy Chairperson and standing person;
3. Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Nation Defense, as a Deputy Chairperson;
4. Deputy Minister of Finance, as a Deputy Chairperson;
5. Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Prime’s Minister Office as a Member;
6. Deputy Minister of Public Health, as a Member;
7. Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, as a Member;

8. Deputy Minister of Public Works and Transport, as a Member;
9. Deputy Minister of Education and Sports, as a Member;
10. Deputy Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism, as a Member;
11. Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, as a Member.

The Government may assign additional members based on the disasters that occur.

In addition to the Central Disaster Management Committee, a Ministry may establish a Ministerial Disaster Management Committee as an agency supporting the work of the Central Disaster Management Committee and as a focal point for coordination based on decisions made by the Minister or Head of the organization concerned.

Article 53 Provincial Disaster Management Committee

The Provincial Disaster Management Committee abbreviated as “PDMC” shall be appointed by the relevant Provincial Governor or the Mayor of Vientiane Capital, based on a proposal made by the Director of Labor and Social Welfare Department. Its role is to support the implementation of policies, strategies, measures, laws, regulations, plans, programs, and projects related to disaster management, for which the Social Welfare Division, Provincial Labor and Social Welfare Department, is the Secretariat.

The Provincial Disaster Management Committee consists of the following:

1. Deputy Provincial Governor, Vice Mayor of Vientiane Capital, as the Chairperson;
2. Director of Provincial Labor and Social Welfare Department, as the Deputy Chairperson and standing person;
3. Deputy Director of Provincial Defense, as a Deputy Chairperson;
4. Deputy Director of Provincial Finance Department, as a Deputy Chairperson;

5. Deputy Director of the Provincial Governor’s Office as a Member;

6. Deputy Director of Provincial Public Health Department, as a Member;

7. Deputy Director of Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office, as a Member;

8. Deputy Director of Provincial Public Works and Transport Department, as a Member;

9. Deputy Director of Provincial Education and Sports Service, as the Member;

10. Deputy Director of Provincial Information, Culture and Tourism Department, as a Member;

11. Deputy Director of Provincial Natural Resources and Environment Department, as a Member.

The provincial authority may appoint additional members based on the disasters that occur.

Article 54 District Disaster Management Committee

The District Disaster Management Committee abbreviated as “DDMC” is appointed by the District Governor, or Head of Prefecture or City Mayor, based on a proposal made by the Head of the District Labor and Social Welfare Office. Its role is to lead the implementation of policies, strategies, measures, laws, regulations, plans, programs, and projects related to disaster management activities, for which the Social Welfare Unit, District Labor and Social Welfare Office, is the Secretariat.

The District Disaster Management Committee consists of:

1. Vice-Governor of the District, Deputy-Head of Prefecture and Vice-Mayor, as the Chairperson;

2. Director of District Labor and Social Welfare Office, as the Deputy Chairperson and Standing Person;

3. Deputy Director of District Military Office, as the Deputy Chairperson;

4. Deputy Director of District Finance Office, as Deputy Chairperson;

5. Deputy Director of District Governor's Office as a Member;
6. Deputy Director of District Health Office, as a Member;
7. Deputy Director of District Agriculture and Forestry Office, as a Member;
8. Deputy Director of District Public Works and Transport Office, as a Member;
9. Deputy Director of District Education and Sport Office, as a Member;
10. Deputy Director of District Information, Culture and Tourism Office, as a Member;
11. Deputy Director of District Natural Resources and Environment Office, as a Member.

The District Authority may appoint additional members based on the disasters that occur.

Article 55 Right and Duties of the Central, Provincial and District Disaster Management Committees

The Central, Provincial and District Disaster Management Committees have the following rights and duties within their areas of responsibility:

1. Issue disaster emergency warnings;
2. Propose to the Government, or the relevant provincial Governor, Mayor of Vientiane Capital, District Governor, Head of Prefecture, or City-Mayor for consideration and announcement of the area or locality affected by a disaster;
3. Issue orders to all stakeholders to be prepared for implement their duties in a timely manner;
4. Give an order to pay money directly out of the relevant level of Disaster Management Fund for the purpose of controlling a disaster;
5. Organize ad-hoc units for responding to disasters that have occurred or may occur;
6. Collaborate with line ministries, organizations, local authorities, all sectors and parties for disaster management;
7. Raise funds for disaster management through various

means that are consistent with the Constitution and the law;

8. Receive monetary donations, materials and assets donated by individuals, domestic and foreign legal entities and organizations for use in disaster management activities;

9. Participate in meetings to discuss disaster management;

10. Participate in regional and international conferences related to disaster management;

11. Finalize reports related to their activities on implementation and submit them to the Government, or the relevant Provincial Governor, Mayor of Vientiane Capital, District Governor, Head of prefecture, or City-Mayor on a regular basis;

12. Exercise other rights and duties according to the law and assigned by higher authorities.

Article 56 Rights and Duties of the Secretariat of the Central, Provincial and District Disaster Management Committee

The Secretariats of the Central, Provincial and District Disaster Management Committees have the following rights and duties within their areas of responsibility:

1. Consider and propose plans including measures for disaster management to the Disaster Management Committee at the relevant level for consideration;

2. Encourage, monitor, evaluate the implementation of policies, strategies, measures, laws, plans, programs and projects related to disaster management;

3. Collaborate with relevant sectors at central and local level to finalize reports on damage and immediate and emergency needs, including proposing a plan for implementing the support of emergency response and emergency relief for disaster victims to the relevant Disaster Management Committee;

4. Be a central coordinator for collaborating with different sectors and parties within the country and abroad related to the disaster management activities;

5. Prepare meetings of the relevant Disaster Management Committee;

6. Collect, finalize and maintain information related to

disaster management activities;

7. Encourage public awareness campaigns through advocating and disseminating information to the public and communities related to the danger, severe negative impacts from disasters, measures for preparing response, preventing and reducing impacts from disasters;

8. Participate in meetings, seminars, and training within the country and abroad;

9. Finalize reports on its disaster management activities implementation to the relevant Disaster Management Committee on a regular basis;

10. Exercise other rights and duties according to the law and assigned by higher authorities.

Article 57 Village Disaster Management Committee

The Village Disaster Management Committee abbreviated as “VDMC” is assigned by the Village Head, whose role is to lead disaster management activities at village level, to be a focal point for coordinating with relevant stakeholders and to provide assistance to the District Disaster Management Committee, for which the Social and Cultural Unit is the Secretariat.

The Village Disaster Management Committee consists of:

1. Head or deputy head of the village, as the Chairperson;
2. Head of village social and cultural unit as the Deputy Chairperson and Head of the Secretariat;

3. Deputy Head of Village Finance and Economic Unit, as the Deputy Chairperson;

4. Deputy Head of Village Defense-Public Security Unit, as a member;

5. Deputy Head of Village Administration and Authority Unit, as a member;

6. Deputy Head of Village Elderly, as a member;

7. Deputy Head of Village Lao Youth Unit, as a member;

8. Deputy Head of Village Lao Women’s Union, as a member.

The Village Disaster Management Committees have the

following rights and duties within their areas of responsibility:

1. Implement policies, strategies, measures, laws, regulations, plans, programs and projects related to disaster management activities;
2. Disseminate regulations, risk reduction and emergency preparedness and response plans;
3. Collect data, statistical information and be involved in implementing activities related to disaster management;
4. Proactively take a lead in providing emergency support during disasters;
5. Monitor the status or situation of a disaster occurring in its own village boundary;
6. Finalize and report on the results of implementing disaster management activities to the relevant authorities on a regular basis;
7. Exercise other rights and duties according to the law and assigned by higher authorities.

Part VIII

Management and Inspection

Chapter 1

Supervision of Disaster Management Activities

Article 58 Disaster Management Authorities

The Government will coordinate disaster management activities centrally and uniformly across the country by assigning the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare to be directly responsible for it and proactively take a lead in collaborating with line ministries, organizations and local authorities concerned.

The Disaster Management Authorities consist of:

1. Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare;
2. Provincial and Vientiane Capital Departments of Labor and Social Welfare;
3. District, Municipality and City Labor and Social Welfare Offices.

Article 59 Rights and Duties of the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare

With regard to disaster management, the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare has the following rights and duties:

1. Consider and formulate policies, strategies and laws on disaster management and make proposals to the Government for consideration;

2. Elaborate the outlined policies, strategies and laws on disaster management into secondary legislation, detailed plans, programs and projects to be implemented;

3. Advocate, disseminate policies, strategies, laws, secondary legislation, plans, programs and projects related to disaster management, including public awareness raising for the whole of society to understand and be informed;

4. Strengthen capacity and manage the application of human resources related to disaster management in collaboration with the sectors and local authorities concerned;

5. Collect and provide information and implement disaster management activities in collaboration with the relevant sectors and local authorities;

6. Conduct disaster risks assessment for the purpose of developing a disaster response preparedness plan at central level and building mechanisms for disaster management in collaboration with the relevant sectors and local authorities;

7. Support and collaborate with relevant stakeholders for integrating disaster management activities into the national socio-economic development plan, including the sector development plans;

8. Manage storage warehouses of consumable and non-consumable materials obtained from the Government, or through domestic and foreign assistance;

9. Organize campaigns and mobilize individuals, legal entities, organizations and all parties in society to become involved and contribute financial support, vehicles, materials and equipment, ideas and efforts in disaster management;

10. Establish plans, manage, use the budget and the Disas-

ter Management Fund for implementation of disaster management activities;

11. Issue, suspend or terminate decisions, orders, instruction and notifications related to disaster management;

12. Monitor and inspect the implementation of disaster management in collaboration with the relevant sectors and local authorities;

13. Receive and consider how to address requests submitted by individuals, legal entities or organizations related to disaster management;

14. Be a focal point in coordinating, contacting and cooperating with relevant stakeholders within the country and abroad, and with international organizations for disaster management, such as the ASEAN Disaster Management Committee, in particular in preparedness for disaster response, provision of emergency response support and post-disaster rehabilitation;

15. Finalize and report the results of the implementation of disaster management activities to the Government on a regular basis;

16. Exercise other rights and duties as specified in the law.

Article 60 Rights and Duties of the Provincial and Vientiane Capital Department of Labor and Social Welfare.

With regard to disaster management, the Provincial and Vientiane Capital Departments of Labor and Social Welfare have the following rights and duties within their areas of responsibility:

1. Implement policies, strategies, laws, secondary legislation, plans, programs and projects related to disaster management;

2. Advocate, disseminate policies, strategies, laws, secondary legislation, plans, programs and projects related to disaster management, including public awareness raising for the whole of society to understand and be informed;

3. Propose strengthening human resources capacity related to disaster management in collaboration with the relevant sectors and local authorities;

4. Collect and provide information and implement disaster

management activities in collaboration with the relevant departments and local authorities;

5. Conduct disaster risk assessment for the purpose of developing disaster response preparedness plans and building mechanisms for disaster management in collaboration with the relevant departments and local authorities;

6. Support and collaborate with relevant stakeholders for integrating disaster management activities into socio-economic development plans as well as the sector development plans;

7. Manage storage warehouses of consumable and non-consumable materials obtained from the Government, or through domestic and foreign assistance;

8. Organize, campaign and mobilize individuals, legal entities, organizations and all stakeholders to become involved in and contribute financial support, vehicles, materials and equipment, ideas and efforts in disaster management;

9. Establish plans, manage and use the budget and the Disaster Management Fund for implementation of disaster management activities;

10. Issue, suspend or terminate decisions, orders, instructions and notifications related to disaster prevention and control;

11. Monitor and inspect the implementation of disaster management activities in collaboration with the relevant departments and local authorities;

12. Receive and consider how to address requests submitted by individuals, legal entities or organizations related to disaster management;

13. Be a focal point in coordinating, contacting and cooperating with all stakeholders within the country and abroad, and with international organizations in disaster management, in particular in preparedness, provision of emergency response support and post-disaster rehabilitation exercises;

14. Finalize and report the results of the implementation of disaster management activities to the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare and the relevant provincial administration on a regular basis;

15. Exercise other rights and duties according to the law and as assigned.

Article 61 Rights and Duties of District, Municipality and City Labor and Social Welfare Office

With regard to disaster management, the District, Municipality and City Labor and Social Welfare Office have the following rights and duties within their areas of responsibility:

1. Implement policies, strategies, laws, secondary legislation, plans, programs and projects related to disaster management;
2. Disseminate policies, strategies, laws, secondary legislation, plans, programs and projects related to disaster management, including public awareness raising for the whole of society to understand and be informed;
3. Propose strengthening human resource capacity related to disaster management in collaboration with the relevant sectors and local authorities;
4. Collect, provide information and implement disaster management activities in collaboration with the relevant offices and local authorities;
5. Conduct disaster risk assessment the purpose of developing disaster response preparedness plans and building mechanisms for disaster management in collaboration with the relevant offices and local authorities;
6. Encourage and collaborate with relevant stakeholders for integrating activities of disaster management into socio-economic development plans, as well as the sector development plans;
7. Manage storage warehouses of consumable and non-consumable materials obtained from domestic and foreign assistance;
8. Run campaigns and mobilize individuals, legal entities or organizations and all stakeholders to get involved in and contribute financial support, vehicles, materials and equipment, ideas and efforts in disaster management;
9. Establish plans, manage and use the budget and the Disaster Management Fund for implementation of disaster management activities;

10. Issue, suspend or terminate decisions, orders, instructions and notifications related to disaster prevention and control;

11. Monitor and inspect the implementation of disaster management activities in collaboration with the relevant offices and local authorities;

12. Receive and consider how to address requests submitted by individuals, legal entities or organizations related to disaster management;

13. Be a focal point in coordinating, contacting and cooperating with all stakeholders in disaster management, in particular in preparedness, provision of emergency response support and post-disaster rehabilitation exercises;

14. Finalize and report the results of the implementation of disaster management activities to the provincial Department of Labor and Social Welfare and the district administration on a regular basis;

15. Exercise other rights and duties as specified in the law and as assigned.

Article 62 Rights and Duties of the Sectors and other Stakeholders

Other sectors and stakeholders have rights and duties to collaborate with the Labor and Social Welfare Sector according to their roles and responsibilities in disaster management.

Chapter 2 Inspection of Disaster Management

Article 63 Disaster Inspection Authorities

The Disaster Inspection Authorities consist of:

1. Internal Inspection Authorities, which is the same Organization as the Disaster Management Authorities, as specified in Article 58 of this law;

2. Internal Inspection Authorities are the National Assembly, Provincial People's Assembly, the State Inspection Organization, the State Audit Organization, the Lao Front for National Construction, Former Veteran's Union, mass organizations, public media and citizens.

Article 64 Inspection Content

The inspection of disaster management activities has the following content:

1. Enforce the law and regulations related to disaster management;
2. Perform the duties by Government authorities and officers related to disaster management;
3. Establish and implement plans on disaster management activities.

Article 65 Inspection Forms

There are three forms of Inspection as below:

1. Regular Inspection. It refers to scheduled inspection carried out according to a fixed and regular schedule;
2. Inspection with Advance Notification. It refers to unscheduled inspections carried out as required after giving prior notice to the inspection target;
3. Emergency inspection. It is an urgent inspection done without prior notice to the inspection target.

The Inspection shall be enforced strictly to comply with the law.

Part IX

Rewards for outstanding performance and measures against violators

Article 66 Rewards for outstanding performance

Individuals, legal entities or organizations with outstanding performance in implementing this law, especially contributing to support for disaster affected people shall be rewarded with appreciation or other incentives as defined by the Regulations.

Article 67 Measures against violators

Individuals, legal entities or organizations violating this law, in particular violating its prohibitions, shall be educated, subject to disciplinary action, fined, liable to compensate for civil damage or subject to criminal punishment.

Part X

Final Provisions

Article 68 National Disaster Management Day

Lao PDR has determined that Oct 13th of each year is National Disaster Management Day.

Each year, both central and local level authorities shall mark this day through organizing appropriate events to raise public and community awareness of the need to engage in disaster management activities.

Article 69 Implementation

The Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic shall implement this law.

Article 70 Effectiveness

This law enters into force after the date the President of Lao People's Democratic Republic issues the decree on promulgation of the law and registers it in the Official Gazette for 15 days.

Any regulations or provisions in conflict with this law shall be cancelled.

President of the National Assembly
[Signature & Seal]

Pany Yathortou