

**National Broadcast  
By  
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Head of the National Council for Peace and Order  
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- Good evening dear citizens. We meet again as usual. Thank you for your continued interest in listening and the support shown to me and the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO).

- I wish to say that sometimes the things we have been thinking and doing may not seem to be progressing fast enough to solve all of the country's problems in a short period of time. There are still many overlaying issues on many fronts: politics, security, economics, social psychology, etc. These problems especially have impact on the country's growth and development and the people's well-being in all dimensions.

- We therefore wish to ask for your cooperation, especially from those who still do not quite understand our operations and intentions and those who have tried to criticise and oppose us—incessantly uttering words like 'democracy', 'return our power', and 'elections', making leaflets and anonymous hand-outs, and using social network to smear and slander our good intentions. I do not see their point in doing this. Yet there are still those who are in hiding, evading liability and always doing things behind closed doors. I am aware of the meetings that have been taking place among the same groups of people and of what has been said. This is very counterproductive for the advancements and reforms of our country.

- I have always been saying that we want to create a conciliatory atmosphere for reforming the country and achieving results within the shortest timeframe as possible. Nevertheless, many people are still trying to bring us back to the dysfunctional state we were in, carelessly using words like 'democracy' and 'elections' without realising that there were many flaws in the democratic system of the past. It was an abuse of democracy, leading to failures in governance and thus problems like lack of safety and security, lack of credit from the global community, unfair wealth distribution, corruption, the destruction of natural resources and the environment, and the exploitation of other people via all possible means—without regard to right or wrong—for the public to be misled into believing that certain actions are good for them, while in truth those actions only benefit certain groups or areas and so far has not solved any of the people's basic problems.

- In managing the entire water system, solving problems relating to modern public utilities, preparing for the ASEAN Community, setting up a tangible national strategy with palpable long term results, solving problems relating to the people's debts, and providing the people with access to sustainable sources of

funds, there have always been problems; there has not been continuity in administration and management and benefits are not reaching all levels nor sustainable. Nevertheless, we have to be able to manage issues that may not always seem to be very tangible.

- Since taking charge of the country's administration, we have found that this condition has incessantly been impeding the advances and development of Thailand. Our education and public health systems are neither sufficiently effective nor sustainable. As such, some intervention into the operations of public servants, policy makers, and politicians may be necessary. Many people know what the problems are but cannot manage to resolve them. As long as there are administrators or public servants who have interests intertwined with the administration of the country, less and less benefits will trickle down to the people. While some people may not be affected by this, it nonetheless impacts the entire system. The bad will offset the good and that is not what we want.

- You all should have realised from what I have been saying that if we let things go on as they did the old way, it is likely that Thailand will have much to suffer in the future. Accordingly, this will also slow down the country's development.

- **The NCPO's work in the first phase of the Roadmap has made continual progress in resolving various problems.** I do not want to see such progress last only temporarily. However, it seems to me that when we turn our focus from one issue to another and become less strict with the former, old powers and influence groups would try to come back in and change things back to the way they were by using social movements, especially those linked to the poor or those with low income. I really do not understand these people. They are always trying to mislead the Thai people, especially those with low income—giving them only a tiny fraction of the whole pie, all the while keeping the rest for themselves. And the benefits they are willing to give are often ones resulting from activities that are illicit or violate peace and order of the society. This kind of behaviour is turning the people into hostages and need to be stopped.

- Despite these people who are trying to keep to the old ways, we need to continue with our reorganisation efforts—in tackling problems about foot paths and street vendors, for instance. Relevant governmental agencies also need to find a way to aid the poor, such as finding new selling areas for them or establishing clear rules in certain areas, etc. The NCPO's policy on this already exists. Therefore, all must work together to come up with the best measures, both for the short and long term, and to prevent further illegal acts.

- We are only just starting the reconciliation and reform process in this second phase of the Roadmap. Please do not denounce us too much. Today, if you look through social media and other media in general, it seems as though there are almost no good people left in the eyes of the society. We need to give everyone a chance to turn over a new leaf and show the society what good we can do to

improve our country as we need to be able to live together. The system of good governance will be employed to keep the country's administration in check.

- **On economics, I have said before in the past week that we need to turn crises into opportunities.** People in all sectors—agricultural, industrial, and other—need to develop themselves in knowledge, abilities, integrity, and mutual understanding. They need to be aware of possible changes and vulnerabilities, which could always happen, and thus be prepared for all possible risks. This is in line with His Majesty's sufficiency economy theory where a person needs to have 'immunity', having both knowledge and integrity—knowledge is important to every profession and having integrity in this sense would mean not taking advantage or bullying those with lower income—and needs to be honest both to self and others.

- **In the trade and production of goods, businesses should focus more on quality rather than quantity in order to gain the trust of consumers and trading partners, both within and outside the country.** What we need today is the strength of all production sectors. Business operators need to consistently find ways to improve or keep their production technology up to date. For instance, they need to frequently check to see whether there are new and better tools or machines for their business operations and how they could improve production. Of course this will require capital; small and medium enterprises, large-scale investment projects, and the various funds that belong to the state all do. And this is where we must help each other. We need to provide everyone with access to the necessary resources. How to ensure access, how to share, how to create sufficiency, how to keep building on progress, how to change?—these are the questions we need to help address.

- If everyone continues to focus on production quantity without updating their technology or without working to modernise and increase the effectiveness of production, we will be regressing further and further. Our goods and services—our businesses—will not be able to compete with others. Seeing our shortfalls, people will choose not to do business with us. We need to help each other to swiftly make improvements on this matter. We may need to form groups and rely on each other. I want our business operators and our industries to flourish within our own country; they need to strengthen their operations and be prepared for changes in competition on the global level.

- **On the judicial process and the law,** the NCPO has already made some progress in making amendments and improvements on some of the more urgent issues. As for matters that are rather significant and involve many other issues, those will be dealt with either in the National Reform Council or the National Legislative Assembly, or both. Now that we have these two bodies, we should not be issuing orders or announcements to get rid of this or that issue—or any group of people, for that matter—and intend for such NCPO orders/announcements to remain effective forever or to be a sustainable way out. Past orders and announcements only offer temporary measures to deal with the existing problems;

sustainable solutions will need to come out of those two organs. This is because we need to ensure the fairness of all laws for all Thai people. In the coming days, we will go back to being a democracy—a full-fledged one, this time—with elections that are accepted by all. Therefore, we need to consider these issues very carefully, rather than having the NCPO use special laws to find a quick way out.

- We have to look back into the past and see whether there are problems of conflicts or interference among the systems, especially among the spheres of politics and the country's administration. I do not think anyone actually wants to do bad things. It depends on our control and supervision of their use of power. Everyone needs to help each other to move the country forward. Unfounded criticisms will not help anything and the law will decide what is right or wrong. If we want to resolve all these problems, we need to change—to think and act appropriately. But this certainly does not mean wrongdoing will not be punished; everybody is equal under the law.

- **As for the progress of our work on the security front in the past week, to resolve the issue of productive land tenure** which is a major problem for several hundred thousand people—the real number of people facing this problem could actually be well over a million—we have assigned our Security Division to work in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, and other relevant governmental agencies to set up a task force to solve the said problem in an integrated manner.

- One idea is that they might consider making use of unused state-owned lands, degraded forest lands which are unable to be restored, and neglected and unoccupied lands—by allocating them for the people to generate income, as well as to look after existing forests and cultivate more forest lands at the same time, where the ownership of the lands remains the state's.

- I remember having said sometime before about what they are doing in Israel. As they have limited portions of land, a group of people will use and look after a piece of land—a settlement—together, with the state investing in the development of such land, and they will share the benefits or proceeds they receive. It is not feasible to split up land for everyone when apparently there are not a lot. If people work together in groups to make use of state lands—and also cultivate forests in the case of forest lands by converting degraded forests into economic forests—it may help to resolve the productive land tenure problem to some extent. And by economic forests, I mean forests which may be comprised of perennial plants, protected plants, and economic plants such as rubber.

- While we need to address the problems of poverty, productive land tenure, and forest lands at the same time, this does not mean I am encouraging more encroachment of forest lands. The idea is to convert only forest lands that are beyond restoration into economic forests. There is a team working on this issue, which will hopefully lead to a significant reform. Perhaps the matter will also need

to go through the National Legislative Assembly as there will be many laws and regulations involved.

- As for forests in normal conditions, I am asking that there be no more encroachment. A lot of forest lands are having their zoning re-designated with less and less areas by the year. We may need to use both political science and law to solve the people's problems and right now there are already many projects underway that were initiated by Their Majesties.

- If people were to choose, I would say economic forests may be better than community forests as the latter will have lands belonging to different groups or persons rather than being shared and taken care of together. We will need to see again about the feasibility of this idea; we will need to consider the relevant laws and regulations and see whether the approach is suitable and whether it will lead to more encroachment of forest lands.

- **On the progress of migrant worker registration,** we have now completed registering more than 800,000 migrant workers nationwide. At present, we are collaborating with neighbouring countries, such as the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and the Lao People's Democratic Republic in making preparations and conducting the nationality verification process again, in order to legally issue passports for the those migrants. In relation to this, we have set a clear timetable to properly manage the workers and prevent human rights violation problems.

- Business operators also need to cooperate by properly registering their business and notifying the relevant authorities of their needs. We need to know both the demand and supply for labour in order to resolve the existing problems effectively. A huge registration number does not mean anything when the migrants are going off in all directions without a clear record of their working in the country. Also, businesses may want to strengthen their operations to accommodate more skilled workers. This also means that, in developing their places of business to use new machines, new tools, or new technology, aside from increasing the number of skilled labourers, there needs to be personnel training and development to go along with them as well. On this matter, I especially want those who have trained in Thailand to have the opportunity to work in Thailand, lest we lose all these people to businesses in foreign countries and be left with unskilled and unproductive workers.

- Registration will be available for migrant workers only until 31 October 2014. After that will be the nationality verification process, which will be conducted and completed by 31 March 2015.

- On promoting international relations and cooperation and fulfilling international obligations, we have instructed the Security Division to collaborate with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of

Labour, and other relevant governmental agencies to compile the relevant laws which need amending or improving, to be up to date and in accordance with international obligations. These are, for instance, the laws on anti-corruption measures, human rights, human trafficking, illegal trade of wildlife and animal remains, copyright and other intellectual property, and laws concerning trade and investment cooperation. Proposed amendments will be forwarded to the Legal Division of the NCPO for consideration then submitted to the National Legislative Assembly for approval.

- **Thai people may not be well aware of some problems which could tremendously affect our country.** Examples are problems of ivory trade, both domestic ivories and those that are smuggled from other countries such as Africa, which could impact the Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species or CITES, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU Fishing), and human trafficking in which Thailand was downgraded from Tier 2 Watch List (Tier 2.5) to Tier 3, etc. These are binding obligations which derive from problem-solving mechanisms of the international community. They are legally binding obligations according to international law. We have to resolve these problems through law enforcement and law amendment. We need to appoint responsible agencies, allocate budget, and be able to provide statistics of arrests and prosecution cases to the international community. If we can solve these problems and produce concrete outcomes, we can build understanding among foreign countries that Thailand is making efforts to tackle the problem in order to regain confidence from foreign countries. In the past, we failed to show them that we have made concrete efforts to comply with the international standard. This covers a wide range of areas. We must be able to address these issues and provide explanation to foreign countries. All relevant ministries, such as the Royal Thai Police, the Immigration Bureau, and the Customs Department, should be well prepared to provide such information and should seriously implement these measures.

- **On development of cooperation and strengthening relations with ASEAN countries,** we have close neighbouring countries within a distance of 5,600 kilometres. Several countries are good trading partners with high volume of bilateral trades. The quarterly border trade values are exceptionally high. We have developed a Special Economic Zone by improving road transport routes and customs modalities, as well as expanding the immigration checkpoints and bottleneck areas. All of these are being carried out to increase border trade with neighbouring countries.

- General Thanasak Patimaprakorn, Director of the Security Division, has participated in the high-level committee meetings between Thailand-Malaysia, Thailand-Myanmar, Thailand-Indonesia, and is preparing to visit Cambodia in the near future.

○ Mr. Sihasak Phuangketkeow, Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Thailand, and Mr. Alijandro Solano Ortiz, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Costa Rica, will co-chair the Senior Officials Meeting of the Forum for East Asia Latin America Cooperation (FEALAC) during 19 – 22 August 2014 in Bangkok as the Republic of Costa Rica is the Latin America Coordinator and Thailand is the East Asia Coordinator of FEALAC. Thailand will use this opportunity to push forward several areas of cooperation for concrete outcomes and collective interest of the member countries.

### Economy

- On economy, the **inspection of the rice stocks has progressed steadily**. I would like to reiterate that the ratio of the good- and bad-quality rice is 80 to 20 percent. I am mentioning only the physical inspection which is the verification of the amount and the quality. There are still several other inspections to be conducted by the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) and other committees to see whether the rice is of the same kind and determine the accurate type of rice. We have to ensure that only rice that have passed the physical verification in terms of amount and quality, as well as the DNA inspection process will be released to the market. If we mix different kinds of rice and sell them in foreign markets, we will lose credibility. We should never do that. Once the inspection is complete, we will prepare for the release of rice. Apart from the physical problem, amount, quality and DNA, there are other issues to address which will be a lengthy process. This includes the rice pledging procedure, contractual arrangement for domestic and international purchase, and rice storage, all of which will be systematically inspected. Today, we have been able to complete only the inspection on the amount. The rest will be carried out according to the legal and inspection procedure of the independent organizations. We are now focusing on rice that has passed the physical inspection. This amount of rice will be released to the market. Although the lengthy inspection process will result in relatively small amount of rice being released, we have to implement these steps to build confidence among foreign trade partners. We are not implementing these measures for the benefits of legal claims of anyone or any sides.

- **The NCPO will have to prepare measures for new products and look into how we can help farmers.** It is better to plan sustainable measures which lead to fair trade, free-market, and less government subsidies based on market mechanism. I urge all of you to refrain from protesting at this moment. There are several interconnected steps to be taken, for example, farmers should focus on improving the quality of rice to encourage free trade. Farmers should grow good kinds of rice and different kinds of rice should not be mixed together. Domestically grown rice should not be mixed with the internationally grown one. We should allow inspection and sampling test when selling rice to foreign countries. If we sell mixed rice, nobody will be willing to buy rice from us and rice

price will fall down. This will eventually affect farmers. Government officials and civil servants will also be impacted.

- So far the Ministry of Commerce has conducted auctions on the government rice stocks, and has garnered huge interest from buyers. There are 49 bidders in total. The types of rice that are available for auction are Jasmine rice 100 per cent, White rice 15 per cent, White sticky rice 10 per cent, fragmented Jasmine rice, Jasmine broken rice, broken Pathum Thani rice, broken white rice A.1 super. Auction criteria have been put in place to ensure transparency in every procedure. The auctioning result has shown that the Rice Policy and Management Committee has approved a sale of 73,200 tons of good-quality rice, with an estimated value of 737 million baht. The auction was attended by 11 bidders.

- **On resolving problems of falling rubber prices,** I have seen that several people have prepared to submit complaints if rubber price falls down to less than 50 Baht. We are making our best efforts to maintain the price at above 50 Baht. We have to encourage free competition and increase rubber utilization. The solution has been divided into two parts. The first part is a preparation for the release of rubber stocks in the rubber price stabilization scheme. The government has purchased large amount of rubber at high price and the rubber in stock is unable to compete with the market price. The increasing rubber stocks has caused deficit. Rubber farmers are currently demanding for the same rate of government subsidy for their future products. We have to solve this problem in twofold. First, we have to find out measures to increase domestic consumption and increase the value of raw rubber products by connecting the Board of Investment (BOI) and rubber manufacturers and encourage rubber usage in other activities. Rubber manufacturers will have to purchase domestically produced rubber and several rules and regulations will be amended. The NCPO has considered measures to develop the whole rubber system. This consists of immediate measures to solve stock management problem; measures during production seasons to increase market liquidity, product value and product quality; and measures on sustainable rubber development to adjust marketing structure and find new export markets. Many countries have turned to use domestic rubber plantation and invest in neighboring countries which result in falling price of rubber and lower domestic demand. Other measures are rubber product research and development, control of rubber planting areas, and increasing farmers' productivity and crop rotation. We cannot focus solely on selling rubber but should rather increase the value of our products.

- The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives has discussed with relevant agencies on the preparation of the draft strategy to promoting 4 economic crops (Roadmap) which are maize, cassava, oil palm, and sugar cane, to be proposed to the sub-committee on promoting 4 economic crops (in accordance with the Order of the National Council for Peace and Order No. 116/2557 dated 14 August 2014). The aim is to mobilize the agricultural product sector, food sector, and alternative energy sector to be more balanced, strengthened and stable, as well as to increase



sustainable competitive advantage for the country. China Oversea Investment Service Limited has shown interest in importing 20,000-30,000 tons of cassava per month within a period of 1 year. A background check of the company is being conducted.

- **Another issue of concern is the low prices of agricultural products,** including field crops, horticultural crops, and fruits. High volumes of production have caused the problem of oversupply and lower prices. This problem needs to be systematically addressed. Relevant agencies such as the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives must closely oversee cultivated areas and provide recommendations and support to adjust appropriate types of crop plantation. Rules, regulations, contractual arrangements and taxation have to be systematically adjusted. Therefore, solving the problem of agricultural products will involve 3 ministries; the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives responsible for production, the Ministry of Commerce responsible for trading, and the Ministry of Finance responsible for taxation. These 3 ministries are interconnected in planning the cultivation, production, processing, and selling of agricultural products. The Ministry of Finance should set out rules and procedures for effective taxation. This is the major problems that need to be addressed. We should not only focus on government subsidy since it is not a sustainable solution. We have limited government budget and it has to be spent on other projects. If we have to spend all budgets on agricultural subsidies, other projects cannot be achieved. We have to balance and spare some budget for infrastructure development projects to be completed in time for the upcoming ASEAN Community and the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC).

- Demand and supply as well as an updated database have to be appropriately managed. Demand and supply need to be balanced. We should focus on improvement of quality rather than quantity. Government subsidies and product prices should be systematically and inclusively managed. The problem of loan and debt also needs to be expeditiously addressed to prevent repeating debt problems. I have already ordered the 3-4 main relevant ministries to jointly take responsibility. They cannot operate independently anymore. The budget planning and the implementation should be collectively continued. Consumers and buyers should refrain from buying agricultural products arising from illegal cultivation such as forestry trespassing. If there is no evidence to prove ownership such as land title or certificate, people should refrain from buying those products. Legal control and law enforcement should be strictly applied and those who committed wrongdoings should be arrested by the police. Every ministry has to cooperate in an integrative and systematic manner.

- **On investment in energy infrastructure,** the NCPO has approved investment projects of Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand, Provincial Electricity Authority and Metropolitan Electricity Authority to meet the needs of households and the industrial sector and to promote energy security in the future. A five-year plan will be drafted to specify the demand for electricity for industrial

- **On energy**, I would like to urge all parties to consider discussing the processes in a step by step fashion, otherwise we will not be able to understand each other. If we consider the upstream process as consisting of the laws, origin of state enterprises or companies. The midstream process consists of operators and entrepreneurs in the forms of public sector, private sector and joint public-private partnership. We have both private investments and joint ventures with the state. There are occasions where state enterprises have joint investment with the private sector, which caused distortion and problems.

- The downstream process consists of energy consumers. If all the three processes are to be discussed at the same time, we cannot move forward. I think we should arrange the order for discussion in such a way that we complete the discussion on the upstream issues. We can set aside those points that need revisiting. We should refrain from quarrelling because there will always be those who understand and those who do not. At the midstream level involving the operators or providers, we can question their transparency and keep records. At the downstream level involving consumers, discussions will then focus on servicing and determining price structure whether it should be high or low. This is how we should proceed. In the past we are mixing all the issues so we cannot accomplish anything.

- The global fuel prices are likely to fall and the NCPO has considered that there will need to be an adjustment in domestic prices to reflect cost so that the people will still benefit without distorting market forces. We are working on this matter. Do not complain just yet and wait to how it will work out. We will find long term or sustainable solutions when the government is in place. But we first need you to be on the same page in our implementation of urgent measures. We want you to see the end result of your proposals so that we can learn from the consequences. Please refrain from quarrelling at this moment. Now is the time to listen to all the facts and examine issue by issue.

- We have to be wary about information appearing on social media. There are both correct and false information from various parties. I do not know where they got the information from. Some are accurate, some are reasonable but when put together it is not understood. This shows a misunderstanding of the process. I do not mean that the state is always right or wrong but we must respect each other. We will therefore expedite this issue in the National Reform Council. I would like everyone to make an understanding before taking up the issue. Then we need not waste time on those points clearly understood as we have little time as you know.

- **On the matter of the national lottery** – there continues to be complications. I have said many times that the NCPO does not want any benefits or favour anyone. There have been some obstacles. We have set up a new committee and new executives so it may seem slow in tackling the issue. However I try to bring issues with implications of conflict of interests before the consideration of relevant bodies so that there are systematic deliberations. I do not want to use special powers of NCPO in such matters. We will gradually resolve

the issues one by one. Today we have increased the quota and assigned clear colour coding. Of course there will be those who are affected as they have reaped benefits for a long time. One can not make demands all the time as we need to follow the rules. A little hardship endured today will make for a better tomorrow. But if you oppose the little changes made today then it will be very difficult to solve the issue. So we seek cooperation from lottery vendors, buyers and those who rent out space for lottery sales. One is to sell at 80 baht per lottery ticket. The other category is to sell at a little over 80 baht. I do not want to specify the price. Please check the rules and regulations which have been issued.

- **On the matter of rubber prices** – the NCPO has been trying to solve this problem from the start, along with other agricultural products, as it involves many other implications. I would like you to look at the big picture and not only at the local area. It is difficult to determine the price according to your preferences. You need to reduce the production cost so that it is consistent with the current domestic price. Today, the market is much more competitive as there are many producers of rubber. There has been an increase in production in Latin America. All this led to the lower buying price, even by domestic traders. Foreign markets kept their stockpile and wait for the price slump. We need a find a solution by reducing production costs and cultivation areas so that there is a reduction in the quantity of rubber. Thailand produces the most in the world. We have expanded production over an area of 10 million rai which is unnecessary resulting in oversupply. Therefore the market price of rubber is based on the quantity of global rubber. Other countries know that we have huge quantities of rubber and will thus wait for prices to fall. But we are also protesting against each other so how are we going to resolve this. The question is how to make to prevent falling prices or how to reduce costs. We need to look at that point and see how we can solve this in a sustainable way. We should consider factors like reducing production area and crop replacement. Even hiring workers to tap rubber has become an issue as plantation owners have to pay higher labour wages or face shortage of workers. We are aware of these problems. Therefore help us look at the big picture before one's own to solve the problem.

- A committee is currently considering the sales of rubber. We need to look at the world market as well as in ASEAN. We need to have cooperation with neighbouring countries because every country produces rubber. It would be beneficial if we can all agree to raise the price. If not we will continue to compete with them and the price will fall. We need your help on this so please do not stage protests yet. We will have to continue with subsidies in the years ahead. This problem has accumulated over many years so it is impossible to resolve in 3 months or 1 year. We can come up with urgent measures such as offering low interest loans to provide some relief. Please do not rush us. The prices of agricultural produce are difficult to control as they are subject to the rules of the free market, the demands of the domestic and foreign markets, as well as market traders. Farmers should understand this and adapt accordingly.

- **On the issue of addressing the problem of the 3 Southern Border Provinces**, the NCPO and the incoming government consider it to be a national agenda. We have taken a more systematic approach in discussions and consultations. The NCPO has instructed the Secretary General of the National Security Council to consult with our Malaysian counterparts to expedite this issue. We are very concerned about our Thai brothers and sisters, Buddhists and Muslims. I have consistently been in the situation. Some parts have improved while others have deteriorated.

- Today, there are ongoing debates in the social media which posed many problems. The views may not be factual, irrespective of which side they come from. Everyone has good intention. But certain parties may have bad intentions and incite other sides to turn on each other. I have never seen the kind of action taken by them before. I have never instructed my subordinates to hurt anyone. If there is clear proof, I will take punitive action.

- The Deep South problem is one of applying laws that are unjust and those regarding the use of disproportionate force. I have not instructed anyone to enforce such actions but only to enforce the existing laws. However, tempers may rise and strong words exchanged in handling the situation. But the officials have to be tolerant. Such exchanges have caused hatred for between the people and government officials. But we will not harm any children, women and the general public, whether they are Buddhists or Muslims. Soldiers and police officers are not ruthless so as to murder or bomb innocent civilians. In response to allegations of a religious cleric the other day that we use violent force, I would like to say that we have no such intentions. If so we would have let you continue with your fighting. There would be no need for soldiers to be deployed. But according to universal norms, soldiers will be deployed where there is no peace. So if you do not want soldiers there, you have to bring about peace and order. The soldiers can return home if there are no killings, bombings and chaos. We are there to protect the innocent people.

- We urge everyone to carefully consider the difficulties in law enforcement and within the judiciary processes. Even the collecting of evidence has proven difficult as it is being carried out in an area with armed groups. We do not have time to operate as normal; therefore the evidence is weak and often unavailable. We need time, technology, tools and other forensic procedures. In such situation we have inadequate time to collect everything. Sometimes we miss some evidence and arrested the wrong people. Some were rightly arrested but the evidence was not sufficient for prosecution or subjected to the normal law which meant that investigations are slow and cases remain pending for a long time. Perhaps we may have to consider using special means and support such as dispatching legal delegations, establish more courts or whether military courts could be used. We will ensure fairness. Military courts are like normal courts but more expeditious as we have more readiness.

- At the moment we can respond to the current situation. We do not want to use special law enforcement. If you stop the violence, we will use the normal law. All groups will have to discuss every dimension in the talks. It is not acceptable that after consultations with one group, the other groups are still undermining the process. Today we have continuity in operations with a clear strategy. Changes in command will not affect the operations because the military and police perform their duties based on set policies and plans. A change in policies each time there is reshuffles of personnel will only stall efforts towards a solution. They must work systematically. For example, there has been 36 former Commander-in-Chiefs of the Army and I am the 37<sup>th</sup>. I follow up on the work of my predecessors and then initiate new developments on my part. It is like this everywhere including the 4<sup>th</sup> Army Region.

- There have been concerns over the **selection of Cabinet members**. Whether the new Cabinet will have too many or too few military officers is not the problem. We need to look at the cause of the problem and tackle it. Today we want to have democracy and already have a provisional constitution in place. I have carefully considered that we cannot leave out military officials as peace, order and security is still an issue. I need to have people I can trust which consist of a combination of my colleagues and acquaintances, seniors and juniors and many others. Do not be so doubtful and debate too much until we can not find good people. I am responsible for making the decisions on the selection. If an individual could not perform his job, then changes will be made. Anyone who is not good will have to leave or those who are involved in misconduct will have to face legal action. Today I have not used any political parties but an assembly of Thai people in moving the country forward. Therefore, there is no opposition and no government as such. I want all sides to think of the country as a priority and do not think of the individuals too much. I would not let anyone disrupt the performance of our duties but rather encourage more people to support us.

- I listened to all the comments and proposals. I give all of them careful consideration and discussed with various advisers from different fields of expertise before reaching a conclusion or course of action. That is how I work. It will continue in the future so do not be overly concerned about the ministries. All the work must be pass the Cabinet. The Prime Minister will have to approve in principle whether the proposal should be submitted to the Cabinet or not. I will have to set up a system to carefully examine matters submitted to the Cabinet. I would not allow approval of projects that circumvented scrutiny. I have pledged that there will be no corruption on our part. The problem is how would we know who is corrupt. I need help on this.

- On dealing with corruption – currently this issue has manifested as a result of many problems involving the public, entrepreneurs, and government officials. Certain groups and factions who seek to benefit have allowed corruption to take place. The public has not vehemently opposed it or refused it if they can find some own personal gain. We therefore must create a society based on morality and

ethics. We must instil in our children the disdain for corruption and indifference, as well as preference for self interest, in order to truly correct this problem. It may take a few generations to get rid of this problem

## Conclusion

- It seems that Thailand is currently facing a variety of problems. I have mentioned all of the above 11 times already and still doing so for the 12<sup>th</sup> time. I know that this is the reason that Thailand can not move forward amidst the conflicts, domestic and external factors. Therefore the main points of contention evolve around understanding government policy, provision of public service and having clear economic plans, in particular those related to agriculture which we have always been addressing the consequences. We need to solve these problems at their root causes and subsequent steps. Old problems will return if we use the same way to resolve them. New problems will add on to the existing ones so we can not really solve anything. We need to solve them systematically which may take up some time but it is necessary to limit further distress.

- I rest my fervent hope in the sustainable future of our country on the National Reform Council and the constitution drafting committee in laying the foundations of our society in the future. They will also have to consider issues that remain a problem, including conflicts, national development, strengthening society and reducing disparities. The reform council must be carefully sorted according to priority. In the meantime we shall continue with national administration in a fully fair and transparent manner and do our best to alleviate the problems faced by our fellow citizens.

- Thank you and good night.

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