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LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
PEACE INDEPENDENCE DEMOCRACY UNITY PROSPERITY

No. 03/NA
Vientiane, date 8 April 2000

Law on Education

Chapter I General Provision

Article 1. Functions of the Law on education

The Law on education has function to determine principles, rules and other measures on educational activities in order to educate people to be good citizens, to be aware of the political lines of Party, State's laws, to have good moral attitude, love the nation and democracy, to have the spirit of the solidarity and the unity of different ethnics, to have knowledge on natural and social sciences; to be practical in performance of duties, to love and preserve the culture and good customs, having national character, to protect the natural resources and the environment, and to be able to work correctly in the international cooperation in order to contribute to and maintain the stability and development of country with more progressive step forward, based on the educational contents with national scientific, progressive popular and modern characters.

Article 2. Meaning of education

The education is the learning process, educating people with political and ideological spirits, ethics, intellectual ability, arts, duties, and labour that have the main duty to provide variety knowledges, abilities to serve the Lao ethnic people continuously in order to facilitate all Lao citizens in developing themselves in the society with efficiency according to their rights and duties.

Article 3. Rights of Lao citizens to education

Every Lao citizens without discrimination of ethnical situation, origin, religion, sex, age and social status has the right to education.

Article 4. Protection of the right and interest in education

State protects the rights and lawful interests of the educational personnel, schools and educational institutions that undertake lawful activities; protects the rights and lawful interests of the pupils, students, teachers and researchers including, foreigners who study, research and perform their duties in the Lao People's Democratic Republic according to laws.

Article 5. Promotion of education

Education is mandatory task of the public. The State is directly responsible for the development of national education system. Beside that, the State promotes all economic sectors to invest in and contribute to the education by credit granting policy and reasonable tax exemption policy, together with creation of the conditions facilitating the education to have quality and to extend through out the country.

In the educational development, the State pays attention to ethnic groups locating in remote area, to female sex, to people with less opportunity and to whom having talent.

Article 6. International Cooperation

State promotes the investment and international cooperation in education in order to exchange experiences, especially of exchange technical lessons, teachings, on educational administration and management, including the promotion of mutual consideration and acknowledgement on diploma, educational title and certificate.

Chapter II Educational System

Article 7. Educational System

National education System of the Lao People's Democratic Republic is an unity system consisting of: education in schooling system and education of non-schooling system (vocational education) which are pararel in all educational level and have educational contents and equal status.

Article 8. Education in schooling system

Education in schooling system is a systematic organization of education in the school where the time period of study and standardized curriculum are set. The education in the school system is composed of the following levels:

1. Pre-education age:

Pre-education age is the first level of education which includes the Childcare and Kindergarten which have duties to conduct physical, mental, ideological, intellectual, emotional and talent development to prepare for entry to primary school. The childcare center may accept

children from 3 months to three years of age, and for the Kindergarten the children from three years to full age for entering to the elementary school.

State promotes communities, private sectors to participate in the development of pre-education age according to the law and regulation issued by the Ministry of Education.

2. Primary School

The primary school is basic education of compulsory school which has basic necessary knowledge and it is compulsory education without payment of fees by Lao ethnic people from full six years of age. The duration of study in primary school is for five years.

State has duty to lay out appropriate measures to ensure that Lao citizens in this age have the opportunity to receive primary education. Local authorities, parents and guardians shall secure for children in educational age to receive compulsory education.

3. Secondary School

Secondary school is the education following the primary school which shall provides necessary knowledges for continuing education or serving in an appropriate profession.

Secondary school includes two steps:

- Lower secondary school has duty to provide general knowledge and basic techniques and has three years period of study.

- Upper secondary school which is divided into two parts:

- Ordinary education which has duty to provide general knowledge and general technical know ledges and has three years period of study.

- Technical education or primary professional education which composes many subjects, suitable forms and has duty to create professions to respond to the need in socio-economic development of the nation in term of the demand of labor market and individual need for working.

State has duty to extend the secondary school as appropriate as possible to create the environment for the Lao citizens to get knowledges and capability for following a business and continuing furthermore the education.

State pays attention to develop professional education by formulating in consistence with the demand of labour market and individual need for working.

The development of the professional education shall be supported, contributed by all sectors and concerned State organizations, and the cooperation of the state and private enterprises.

4. Secondary professional School:

Secondary professional school is an education after the upper secondary school which has duty to develop intermediate technical experts and technicians who have capacity to serve the public and themselves.

State pays attention to extend the secondary professional education by formulating plan that consists with the national socio-economic development plan and demand of labor market and the individual need for working.

5. High School education:

High school education is an education after the upper secondary school or secondary professional school which has duty to produce the technicians with high qualification for serving the society and following an individual business.

The high school education is divided into two lines:

- First line: High professional education which includes many steps: pre-entry, bachelor degree and graduate study.

This line of education shall be conducted in educational institutes or universities;

- Second line: High technical education which is conducted in the colleges or educational institutes.

State pays attention to extend the high school education by formulating plan in consistence with the national socio-economic development plan.

Article 9. Education of non-schooling system (Vocational school)

Education of non-schooling system is an educational organization which has duty to provide education to the public, working people without limited age, time for study and without fixed place of study.

Education of non-school system that consists of educational levels and subjects, is similar to the education inschooling system, which serves the multi-ethnic people who do not have the opportunities for continuing their study or are not able to continue their study within the school system or the permanent workers and makes them able to study continuously.

Article 10: Period of study outside compulsory education

The Government is responsible to determine in detail the period for study of the professional education in different levels, high education and

external school education with securing the basic quality and objectives of the education in each educational level and subject.

Article 11: Introduction to education and study continuation

The educational sector has an introductory or advice system on the education for the students of each level and subject in order to make them able to study according to their need, capacity, talent and real conditions, opportunities and to requirements of the society.

Upon completion of mandatory education, the study continuation from one level to the other one higher shall go through a selection or examination depending on each case and according to the State planning determined by the Ministry of Education.

Chapter III Schools and Educational Institutions

Article 12: Educational Places

The educational place is location where is conducted the teaching-learning process in the school educational system as well as in the non-schooling educational system and is composed of many types and levels. If it is junior children school, elementary school and secondary school, technical school they are called education centers or different types of schools; if it is high education they are called college, Institute or University depending on the necessity on the level of educational and research activities.

Schools and educational institutes in Lao PDR compose of the following types:

Child care, kindergarten, elementary school, primary school, beginning secondary school, advanced secondary school complete secondary school high school, primary-technical school, middle technical school, primary-pedagogical School, college, Institute, University and others in the school educational system.

Community educational centers, professional training centers, educational centers at different system levels in schooling system and others for the educational non-schooling system.

Article 13: School and educational institution establishment.

School and educational institutes establishment is the State's function. In addition, State promotes individuals and social organizations to establish schools and educational institutions on the approval of the educational sectors.

The establishment of school shall consist with the educational map and the standard determined by the Ministry of education. The establishment of the high educational institutions shall consist with the national-development plan and the standard determined by the Ministry of Education.

The establishment of the schools and educational institutions supervised by other sectors shall be approved by the government and shall consist with the general standard determined by the Ministry of Education.

Article 14: Establishment of special school for handicapped persons

State is responsible to establish special school for serious handicapped persons. For the normal handicapped persons, State facilitates them to have education in general schools. In addition, State also promotes the private sectors and social organizations to invest in the establishment of such the same type of schools.

Article 15: Rights and duties of State's schools and educational institutes.

State's schools and educational institutes have the following rights and duties:

- (1). Implement the policy of Party and State, pay attention to improve the politic systems in the schools, especially, Lao Revolutionary Youth Union, 2 December Pioneer, comply with the laws and regulations of the Ministry of Education;
- (2). Implement the educational policies issued by State;
- (3). Issue rules and regulations to manage the schools and educational institutes;
- (4). Fully organize and perform activities according to the contents, formalities of the education;
- (5). Accept pupils, students as specified by the rules or regulations;
- (6). Certify the result of study for the students, based on their level of study;
- (7). Administer, congratulate the excellent pupils, students, impose disciplines to the students violating the rules;
- (8). Congratulate the outstanding educational personnel, impose disciplines to the educational personnel that violate the administrative rules of the Ministry of Education;
- (9). Protect rights and lawful interests of the pupils, students and educational personnel;
- (10). Co-operate with the association of student's parents, inform the school attendance situation and other problems to the students and their guardians;
- (11). Collect fees and educational registration's fees as specified by regulation of the government, except for the compulsory education, and honestly publish the incomes-expenses. In order to facilitate the learning-teaching process, school and educational institutes shall encourage association of student's parents, educational supporting organizations and social organizations to voluntarily contribute to education;

- (12). Manage, utilize its facilities and its financial resources;
 - (13). Be inspected as regulated by law;
 - (14). Cooperate with the association of student's parents, mass-organizations and local authorities to facilitate the administration of school and to promote the learning-teaching activities;
 - (15). Implement other rights and duties as determined by laws.
- For the private schools and educational institutes the government shall issue a separate Decree on their management.

Article 16: Educational materials

State's schools and educational institutes shall have educational facilities including library, laboratory, necessary learning-teaching communication equipment that shall be provided by State. State encourages all economic sectors to invest in the production of the educational materials, educational communication equipment. In addition, State encourages the private education sectors to bring in the educational materials to serve the learning and teaching in their schools or their educational institutes as specified by law and regulation of the ministry of education.

Chapter IV Educational Curriculum program

Article 17: Curriculum program

The educational Curriculum program in each level, each subject in schooling system and non-schooling system shall be consisted with the policies of the Party, the objectives of the education and training of the Government, socio-economic development's trend of nation, the development's trend of science-technology and the inter national environment.

Article 18: Unity in the contents of the curriculum program

The contents of the educational Curriculum program of each level and of each educational subject in schooling system and non-_schooling system shall have equivalent standard and the certificate issued shall have equivalent value.

Article 19: Adoption of the Curriculum program and certificate

The curriculum program of each level and each subject are adopted by the Ministry of Education. In the technical school, belonging to other sector the curriculum is adopted by the both the concerned sector and the Ministry of Education.

The issuing of certificate or diploma at different levels by an other sectors must comply with the standard determined by the Ministry of

Education. The diploma of high education which issued by an other sector or an educational institute must be approved by the Ministry of education.

Article 20: Change in curriculum program

Any change in the educational curriculum program shall be permitted by the Ministry of Education and the concerned sectors.

Article 21: Language used in the education

Lao language and alphabets are the official language and alphabets, which are used in learning-teaching in the schools and educational institutes. In addition, State promotes the appropriate learning-teaching in foreign languages and the teaching in foreign language that could be useful.

The ethnical languages could be researched for learning-teaching according to the real conditions determined by the government.

Chapter V Pupils and Students

Article 22: Equal right of pupils and students in the education

Every student has equal right in the education.

Schools, educational institutes and all educational administrative bodies of all levels guarantee the equal right between sexes, nationalities in acceptance to school.

Article 23: Assistance, supports to pupils and students

State has supporting system to the pupils and ethnical students in remote area, to females with less opportunity, excellent students and good students whose families are poor. Besides, State also promotes individuals and social organizations to support them in appropriate ways.

Article 24: Assistance to handicapped students

State provides support to the handicapped students. At the same time, State encourages individuals and social organizations to assist them appropriately.

Article 25: Education of the offenders

State has the duty to organize and facilitate the offenders to receive appropriate education and professional formation.

Article 26: Education for other persons

State's organizations, enterprises and social organizations have the duty to create the environment and facilitate to officials, employees, farmers and other persons to receive appropriate education or training.

Article 27: Rights, duties and obligations of pupils and students

Pupils and students have the rights, duties and obligations, as follows:

- (1). Implement the Party policies, State's laws and regulations of schools or of educational institutes;
- (2). Participate in various activities as prescribed in the curriculum program;
- (3). Pay attention to the study and achieve the study, strive to get the best knowledges and good attitude;
- (4). Respect and comply with the instructions of leader, teacher and of the guardian;
- (5). Contribute to maintenance of schools or educational institutes and participate in activities for the public interests;
- (6). Strengthen the solidarity and mutual assistance and prevent the weakness;
- (7). Have access to financial aid for education;
- (8). Receive a justifiable evaluation on the result of study and on the good attitude;
- (9). Receive certificate and diploma after the completion of the education;
- (10). Have access to the educational facilities, educational media and sources of knowledge, including data source of the school or educational institutes as stipulated by the regulation;
- (11). Join the mass organizations in consistence with the conditions prescribed by such organsizations;
- (12). Provide comments to higher superior;
- (13). Perform other rights, duties and obligations determined by laws.

Chapter VI Educational personnel

Article 28: Educational personnel

The educational personnel have the function to manage and administer the education or teach in the schools or educational institutes.

The educational personnel is divided into five kinds, as follows:

- (1). Educational administrator, school or educational institute manager;
- (2). Educational inspector;
- (3). Professor and teaching supervisor;
- (4). General technician;
- (5). Administrative auxiliary.

Article 29: Educational administrator, school or educational institute manager

The educational administrators include: Minister and Vice-minister of the ministry of education, Chief of Cabinet and deputy Chief of Cabinet, head and deputy-head of the department, head and deputy-head of working group equivalent to department, Chief and deputy chief of division within the

Ministry, Chief and deputy Chief of educational division in each province, in the Vientiane prefecture, in the special zone, Chief and deputy-chief of educational section within the educational division in each province, in Vientiane Prefecture, in Special Zone, and Chief and deputy-Chief of the educational office in each district.

School or educational institute managers include: Dean, vice-dean of the University, director and vice-director of college, director and deputy-director of the educational Institutes at all level, head and deputy-head of primary school, head and deputy-head of the child care center and of Kindergarten.

Article 30: Educational inspector

The educational inspector is an official having the duty to evaluate the performance of the educational administration, the teaching activities and to give recommendation to improve the quality and efficiency of the education.

The educational inspectors are from two levels: the inspector in the ministry of education called the General educational inspector who has the duty to inspect the education through out the country, and the educational inspector in the educational division in each province, in Vientiane Prefecture, in special zone, called provincial educational inspector who has the duty to inspect the education within his province.

Article 31: Teachers

The teacher is an official who performs the duty in teaching the student in the schools and in the educational institutes.

The teacher in the educational institutes has the technical position determined by the government, such as: assistant lecturer, lecturer, associate professor, professor.

Pedagogical formation is the direct responsibility of State.

Article 32: Teaching advisor

The teaching advisor is an education official who supervises, encourages and assists the teacher in the teaching activities in the primary and secondary schools.

Article 33: General technicians

The general technicians are officials who performing the technical works in the educational administrative bodies, in the schools or educational institutes, assist the administrators, the educational inspectors, the school administrator or the educational institute managers to study detailed methods on the educational administration, on the school or the educational institute management.

Article 34: Administrative auxiliaries

The administrative auxiliaries are those who provide facilitating support to the performance of duties of administrators, educational inspectors, school and educational institute managers.

Article 35: awarding policy to teacher

State has duty to improve, encourage and create the conditions facilitating the teachers to perform their duties to increase their living standard, their educational upgrading and their social status, especially facilitating the ones who have excellent performed their work, the ones who have creative ideas, and the teachers working for long time in dangerous remote and mountainous area.

In addition, State encourages persons, social organizations to support and facilitate the teachers on the performance of their duties.

Chapter VII Administration of education

Article 36: Educational administrative bodies

The educational administrative bodies of the Lao People's Democratic Republic consists of: the ministry of education, the educational division in each Province, in Vientiane Prefecture, in Special Zone and the educational office in each district.

Article 37: Ministry of Education

The ministry of education has duties to administer the educational system through out the country, manage at macro level the pedagogical college, pedagogical schools, university, institutes, colleges, middle technical schools, primary technical schools created for regional interests.

Article 38: Educational Division in provinces, Vientiane Prefecture and Special Zone

The educational division in each province, in Vientiane Prefecture and in Special Zone has duties to supervise, guide, implement, manage and monitor the development of the education within its responsible area.

Article 39: District educational office

The district educational office has duty to supervise, guide, organize the implementation of the educational plan within its territory.

Article 40: Educational advisory Council

The educational administration's body in each level and some necessary educational subjects shall create its own educational advisory council

composed of the concerned parties to assist in determining policy and development of the education.

Article 41: Contents of the educational administration

The education's administration proceeds with collecting data, planing activities, issuing regulations, monitoring and controlling, evaluating of the result of education and cooperates with related sectors and administrative authorities at the same level.

Chapter VIII Financial support for the education.

Article 42: Financial sources for the education

Financial sources for the State's education, principally, come from the State budget. In addition, the sources also come from the production and laboratory research, technical services and others of the schools or of the educational institutes, from the contribution of society, individuals and international assistance. For the private education system, the school business owner himself is responsible for the financial education. State gives a financial assistance in some necessary circumstances.

Article 43: Educational Budget

State ensures the budget for education's sector and increases the budget ration to develop, quantitatively and qualitatively, the education in consistence with the national socio-economic development plan. State determines the priority in budgetary and financial aid expenditures in consistence with the education's policy.

Article 44: Financial system and different funds

State is responsible for determination of financial system and controls the incomes-expenses of the educational administrative organizations and educational institutes, determines the fee imposition system and registration's fees for entry after compulsory school in compliance with the laws and State's policy, determines the creation of different funds for the development of education.

The National University which is an professional organization of State and serves general public shall have its own budget in consistency with the Law on national budget.

Chapter IX Society and education

Article 45: Functions of society to education

Party and State organizations, national defense - police forces, enterprises, mass-organizations, social associations and individuals shall have

functions to create the environment for the education of children and youth for their mental, physical and ideological development.

Monument, museum, library, scientific center and technical center, cultural hall, exhibition center, stadium, cultural place, historical place, scientific park, have functions facilitate the teachers, pupils and students to conduct their research, study and training as appropriate.

Radio broadcasting station, television and other mass-media have functions to arrange the educational programs for ideological education, development good attitude, ethics, culture, science and technology for pupils and students.

Mass-organizations, public cultural institutions, social organizations, person of good deeds, social activists have duties to develop social, cultural and useful educational activities for mentally, physically and ideologically development of pupils and students.

Party and State's organizations, mass-organizations, social organizations and all economic sectors participate in training and accepting pupils and students for practical training in accordance with the program of schools or educational institutes.

Article 46: Function of society in the development of experts

All economic sectors, social organizations, social groups and individuals have the functions to cooperate with schools and educational institutes to teach, research, test, and develop technical matters.

Article 47: Duties of parent and guardians

Parents or guardians have duties to create conditions facilitating their children to receive education, to cooperate with schools in educating their children to be good students reaching the best results and to be good citizens. Parents and guardians have duties to contribute in different forms to build, preserve and maintain schools.

Article 48: Duties of school to society

Schools, educational institutes and teachers have duties to cooperate and give recommendations to associations of student's parents, to parents or guardians of pupils and student, to the administrative authorities on the education of their children in families and on the opening technical services, to the communities with different form according to their ability.

Chapter X Awards and sanctions

Article 49: Awards

Any person or organization with outstanding performance according to this law shall receive awards and other benefits which are determined by the Government.

Article 50: Measures toward offenders

Any person or organization who violate this law shall be educated, fined or imposed with criminal sanctions depending of each case.

Chapter XI National Teacher's day and educational emblem

Article 51: National Teacher's day

The day 7 of October is the national teacher's day and official holiday for the general educational personnel and students.

Article 52: Educational Emblem

The educational sector has its own emblem, ranking signs, and educational personnel, pupils and students uniforms which the Ministry of Education shall design.

Chapter XII Final Provisions

Article 53: Implementation

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

Article 54: Law enforcement

This law comes into force after 90 days from the day of promulgating the Presidential Decree issued by the President of the Lao PDR.

Any regulations, provisions that are inconsistent with this law shall be repealed.

Vientiane, dated 8 April 2000
President of the National Assembly
Seal and signed
Samane Vignaket