

Lao Front for National Construction

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Universal Periodic Review (UPR18)

Mass Organization Report

Introduction:

The Lao Front for National Construction (LFNC) is the mass organization for political relations in the Lao society. Established in 1950, the LFNC has the role, rights and obligations to provide educational training and promote solidarity for the Lao multi-ethnic people of all gender, religion, caste and social organizations, as well as promoting the sense of ownership to the people. The LFNC also has the role of monitoring the executive branches of the government, the National Assembly, the court of justice, attorneys association, to protect the legitimate interests of the Lao multi-ethnic people, enhancing the friendly relations between the Lao multi-ethnic people and the people of the world.

Structure:

The Lao Central Front for National Construction consists of cabinet and 6 departments. Of which, there are 3 departments whose work are directly linked to human rights: department of religion affairs, department of ethnic affairs and department of caste and civil society organizations.

General Situation:

Over the past period the government has given great importance to the work of LFNC, provided adequate funding, transportation among other things, to enable the LFNC at every level to fulfill their role in religion affairs, ethnic affairs and CSOs of both local and foreign, the government has laid out many policies and implemented them over the period reflecting the great importance placed upon these issues by the government.

1. Religion Affairs:

Religion has been one of the focal areas for the Lao government, because religion and belief is a spiritual need of the Lao multi-ethnic people, in the past period the government has emphasized on maintaining and creating new policies, law and legislations, to be regarded as principles and regulations for all religious activities and organizations within the Lao PDR. The government respects and supports all rightful religious activities before the law by all recognized religious organizations and their believers, the government has never interfered with their internal affairs and activities that are lawful, the government respects and provides support to all religious organizations and their believers, every Lao citizen has equal rights before the law, has the freedom to have or not have a religion, as well as a freedom to have or not

have a belief. The right to religion of all Lao citizens is assured by the constitution and law of the Lao PDR.

2. Ethnic Affairs:

The Lao PDR is composed of 49 ethnics, every ethnic has equal freedom and rights before the law, and the Lao government has regularly implemented the policies to promote solidarity and equality among the ethnics to prevent ethnic discrimination, the government has put in place the constitution, policies and various legislatives as guarantee measures. The government has emphasized upon elevating the living conditions of the Lao multi-ethnic people, eradicating of illiteracy, creating plans to improve their living conditions, creating villages and development village groups, setting up funds for poverty reduction, expanding roads to rural areas, expanding the network for education, health care, providing stable residence and employment, reducing the number of scattered settlements and unsettling shifters.

3. Civil Society Organizations:

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) is an important force behind national construction and development. The Lao government has a policy to support the role and potential of CSOs in social development, continuously create favorable conditions and cooperate with all CSOs' lawful activities by evidently adopting a detailed and specific legislative for the organization and activities of CSOs in the Lao PDR and continuously promote registration for numerous CSOs.

Recommendations:

All of the recommendations under the Universal Periodic Review that the Lao PDR supported has been implemented and the Lao PDR has always seek improvements. In this regard, we would like to offer a few suggestions of our own as follows:

1. The Lao government should improve or create new legislatives relating to religion, ethnic and CSOs.
2. Increase funding for development to the Lao multi-ethnic people living in remote areas.