

# “Public Administration Reform in Laos - Policy Review”

Dr Khammoune Viphongxay, Vice Minister for Home Affairs, Lao PDR

at

KRI-OPDC Regional Symposium & Workshop, Bali, 2019

# Lao Development Vision 2030

- ▶ Become upper Middle-Income country by 2030
- ▶ Have a Green Growth Economy & Sustainable growth, - through;-
  - ❖ Strong basic infrastructure and systems to support modernization
  - ❖ Protection of the environment and sustainable use of natural resources
  - ❖ Promote human development, social justice, peace and order, - (improved livelihoods; reduced economic gaps amongst citizens; quality social services & efficient administrative system - based on our national devolution policy (“Sam Sang”)),
  - ❖ Build on a foundation of political stability and strength, and
  - ❖ Increased competitiveness, connectivity, and integration with the regional and global economies.

# Public Administration Reforms in Lao PDR.

- ▶ Public administration reform are essential to achieve country goals and sector-level development results in Lao PDR.
- ▶ Our strategic plan on governance has four main pillars:
  - ▶ People's Representation and Participation
  - ▶ Public Service Improvement
  - ▶ Rule of Law
  - ▶ Public Financial Management
- ▶ Key agencies are the National Assembly, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Finance. But involves all offices of the Government and public engagement.

# Socio Economic development & Governance

- ▶ Lao PDR's development vision and strategies delivered by 5 year National Socio Economic Development Plans. NSEDP 2015-2020 has three main Outcomes;
  - ▶ Inclusive Economic Growth
  - ▶ Enhanced human Development
  - ▶ Improved Environmental protection.
- ▶ Same three elements for sustainable development, as in the global 2030 Agenda and LDC graduation criteria. NSEDP target and indicator are also aligned to the SDGs
- ▶ Cross-cutting components include governance, innovation and technology, gender equality, youth and women's empowerment, and Green Growth.

## Decentralization / Sam Sang policy

- ▶ Objective is to provide better localized services in a more co-operative and sustainable way.
- ▶ This needs greater levels of financial and administrative self-reliance, and increase local representation.
- ▶ Our national “Sam Sang” devolution policy promotes full-function local administration able to plan, budget and deliver local public services - & greater budget control and revenue responsibly.
- ▶ Sam Sang policy targets and supports 3 layers of sub-national administration; province, district, and village.

# Policy experiences & lessons

- ▶ Administrative & legal updates done, - but budgets & capacities a challenge.
- ▶ Keys lessons from Sam Sang policy implementation:
  - ▶ Needs national leadership and support for policy reforms
  - ▶ build intergovernmental links across the different layers of administration
  - ▶ Devolved responsibilities should come with appropriate authority, and relevant resources - including personnel & Budget assignments
  - ▶ Administrative decentralization needs to be linked with fiscal decentralization