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## ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE RURAL SOCIETY

## " TASSENG AND BAN "

Ic, PHRABORDA MASETHA SOURIVAVONGSA PHRA KHAM SISAVANG VATHANA

KING OF LAOS \*

- SEEN UPON the constitution of the Kingdom of Laos on May 11th, adapted on September 14th, 1949, March 22nd, 1953, September 27th, 1957, August 30, 1957, July 30, 1961 and April 1st, 1965;
- SEEN UPON the Royal Ordinance No. 100 dated on April 2nd, 1952, setting the rule of the meeting of the Ministers of Laos;
- SEEN UPON the Royal Ordinance No. 219, 118, 185, 73 and 201 dated on June 23, 1962, May 22 and July 27, 1964, March 11 and September 9, 1965, agreed to have the provisional government;
- SEEN UPON the Law No. 47 dated on January 7, 1960, on the organization of the administration in the Kingdom of Laos, especially on article No. 1, 2 and 3;
- SEEN UPON the Royal Ordinance No. 93 dated on March 29, 1960, located the villages, towns, cities and rivers in the territory of Laos;
- SEEN UPON the Royal Ordinance No. 201 dated on July 26, 1960, was adapted by No. 17 dated on February 15, 1961, organized the administration of the Lao Government development employees;
- SEEN UPON the proposal of the Prime Minister, President of the Ministers meeting;
- SEEN UPON the decision of the Ministers meeting on June 17, 1966.

DECIDED TO HAVE THE ROYAL ORDINANCE AS:

PART 1 - TASSENG AND BANS ARE RURAL SOCIETIES

ARTICLE 1 - BAN is like a basic rural society, and TASSENG is like an area of culture which includes many Bans. If we talk of the way of administration they are both called Rural Societies.

These rural societies administrate themselves and guard their own properties.

The rural society consists of one administrative body which is divided into two categories, first is BAN and Second is TASSENG.

ARTICLE 2 - BAN is the first level of administration which has been derived from our great grand-parents.

The population of A Ban is like a strong unity of life, and it is like one society which aims to the same hope and preserves the same property; because they live close to each other. They do almost the same kind of work and face the same hardships. They live together and join the same thoughts and the same hearts.

They feel that they live together with kindness, love and co-operation. Their hopes and futures lie on the hands of each others.

BAN (village) is governed by the head of A BAN who is called "PHO BAN".

ARTICLE 3 - Naming and limiting the territory of BAN are to be done according to the customs, even it is not yet written on the map.

ARTICLE 4 - Before a Ban is officially recognized, it ought to have more than 20 houses or it should have more than 100 people.

In the meanwhile if a Ban has lesser number of houses or population than stated above, the head of the village (PHO BAN) may stay in this position until the new decision is made by the higher government representatives.

Regarding the customs, the small villages may combine with the larger ones in order to get the proper amount of population.

✓ ARTICLE 5 - Following the royal ordinance No. 93 dated on March 1960, on the location of Ban, organization of the administration, combining and moving the small villages to the larger ones. THE CHAO KHOUANG (head of a state) is the one to decide upon the proposal of CHAO MUONG (head of a town).

ARTICLE 6 - The TASSENG consists of many nearest villages; it is the high administrative level of the rural society. The friendship and cooperation of the Ban are centralised to TASSENG which is a strong and secure administration because it has more population.

The TASSENG is a natural area which consists of many people with different origins. These people know each other well enough to share the feeling and cooperation.

The TASSENG is a small society which shows the culture and the civilization of the rural areas.

The TASSENG is administrated by one leader who is called "TASSENG".

ARTICLE 7 - To name and to limit the territory of the Tasseng should correspond to the custom and to the order of the government. The Tasseng is strictly set up depend on the number of the population and the villages.

ARTICLE 8 - In the special need of the population or in the special territory, the rural Tasseng may at least consist of 500 houses or 2,500 people, or more than 1000 houses or 5000 people.

The village which the TASSENG office is held should have a permanent character and be easy to communicate with in order to facilitate the election of TASSENG.

The characteristic of a permanent village means that it should be built or prepared the Tasseng's office.



In the meanwhile, the Tasseng in the rural areas which has lesser or more houses than the average may remain in his position until there is a change from the central government.

ARTICLE 9 -- Following the royal ordinance No. 93 on March 29, 1966; to create a new Tasseng; or to adopt it, the Minister of Interior will be the one to decide, upon the proposal of CHAO KHOUANG.

ARTICLE 10 -- The Tassengs and the Bans are administrated by TASSENG and PHO BANS who are helped by the meeting body and the advisors.

ARTICLE 11 -- Tasseng and PHO BAN are under the security of CHAO KHOUANG or CHAO KHOUANG. CHAO KHOUANG is the high leader of TASSENG and PHO BAN.

ARTICLE 12 -- The Tasseng and the Bans are the administrated territories of the government. Their major concern is to preserve the national prosperities.

ARTICLE 13 -- The rural society is like the leader; TASSENG is the leader of the rural society. And, PHO BAN is the representative of the BANS, he is under Tasseng.

The rural society may set up its own budget which the expenditure, the security and the inspection will be authorized by the ordinance.

## PART II -- THE OFFICERS OF BAN

ARTICLE 14 -- Each Ban has a meeting body and PHO BAN is the president. The meeting body is called KHOMMAKAN.

The number of KHOMMAKAN in each village depends on the number of the population as stated below:

- 5	KHOMMAKANs	per 100 people or lesser
- 6	"	101 to 150 people
- 7	"	151 to 200 "
- 8	"	201 to 250 "
- 9	"	251 to 300 "
- 10	"	301 to 350 "
- 11	"	351 to 500 "
- 12	"	401 to 450 "
- 13	"	451 to 500 "
- 14	"	501 above

ARTICLE 15 -- Allowed the members of the Bans meeting using the term "KHOMMAKAN". The election of PHO BAN should be separated from the one of KHOMMAKAN.

ARTICLE 16 -- The decision of PHO BAN or KHOMMAKAN should use the same system of the one of the National deputies.

ARTICLE 17 -- For the areas which are far from town and CHAO KHOUANG, the list of the voters for TASSENG, PHO BAN and KHOMMAKAN must be sent to CHAO KHOUANG.

The Minister of Interior will be the one to authorize the election upon the proposal of CHAO KHOUANG.

ARTICLE 18 - The candidate for PHO BAN or KROMMAKAN must be man whose nationality is Lao and live in that area for at least 5 year. He must know how to read and write and should properly registered to be the candidate.

ARTICLE 19 - PHO BAN and KROMMAKAN are elected for 5 years.

ARTICLE 20 - The election must be held on the holiday, or on the 8th or the 15th or on the forbidden work days of buddhism.

ARTICLE 21 - CHAO MUONG is the one to set out the date and the location upon the proposal of the TASSENG. Citizens are to be notified at least 10 days in advance.

ARTICLE 22 - TASSENG will be the president of the election or someone could be picked up by the CHAO MUONG. The helpers of the president will be picked among the voters.

ARTICLE 23 - To be a proper election the voters should be represent 2/3 of the total. The election of PHO BAN must be before the one of KROMMAKAN.

ARTICLE 24 - According to the tradition of the election of the PHO BAN, the voters should select the candidate that they like the best. In order to be elected he must win 2/3 of the voter present.

ARTICLE 25 - For the election of KROMMAKAN, the voters will select the candidate that they like one at a time. The elected KROMMAKAN should have more votes than the others. The election of KROMMAKAN will continue until it is enough for the needs of that area, according to article 14 of this ordinance.

ARTICLE 26 - If the election result does not reach the average as stated on the the three articles above; a new election will be made again on the same day or on the following day dependsine on the decision of the president of the election.

ARTICLE 27 - If the result of election on the following day is still the same as previous, third time of election is required, but a majority of one will be elected; this means the election of PHO BAN.

The agenda of the election will be made by the President and KROMMAKAN (Heppers) as stated in article 22 of this ordinance.

ARTICLE 28 - For the village which is already recognized by the minister of interior upon the proposal for the CHAO KHOUANG can do the secrete voting. In this case the regulation of voting will have to do as the articles require.

ARTICLE 29 - The list of the voters will have to do the same as the one of the election the deputies. The rule of making the agenda or the record, the propaganda and the suer will also have to do exactly as the one of the deputies.

ARTICLE 30 - The election will be set up by the Chao Khouang upon the proposal of the Chao Muong. The Population is to be notified at least 10 day in advance.

ARTICLE 31 - Tasseng is the president of the election. If he is absent, one of the Krommakan will have to ~~preside~~ preside, or someone can be picked up by the Chao Muong.

ARTICLE 32 - Tasseng has the duty of controlling the discipline in the election. The grouping of the people will have to discuss specifically about the election.



ARTICLE 33 - The President has to pick four men to help him before the election. In case one of the helpers is absent, the president can pick one more among the voters. The president will also pick one among the helpers as the secretary of the election. At least three of the five helpers will have to stay throughout the election period.

ARTICLE 34 - The voting will last only eight one day.

ARTICLE 35 - Have the list of the voters always on the table throughout the election.

ARTICLE 36 - No one is allowed to vote if his name is not on the list. A person whose name is not on the list, but he is already allowed to vote by the town court, will have the right to vote too.

ARTICLE 37 - The voter has to have an election card. He will have to vote for Pho Ban first and then for KHAM-AKMA.

The voting ticket must be blank.

The slot of voting must be two boxes separated. The first box is for the election of Pho Ban and the second box is for the election of Kramakan.

ARTICLE 38 - The president will have to keep time of the election from the starting to the end of the election.

The election can be closed down only when it has been opened at least 6 hours.

ARTICLE 39 - After closing down the election, the counting of the votes of Pho Ban must be first and then the votes of the Kramakan.

ARTICLE 40 - For Pho Ban election, open the box and then count the votes.

If it is less or more votes than the voters on the list the president has to make the report about it.

The president and Kramakan are the one to open the boxes and count the votes.

If there are some vote papers that are not clear or that do not correspond to the rule, they will not be counted, and the president has to report to the Chao Muong about them.

After counting the votes, the president has to announce the result at the same day.

The president has to announce only the one who won. The secretary makes the agenda, the president, Kramakan and the other helpers have to sign and send it to Chao Muong.

ARTICLE 41 - The counting of votes of Kramakan and doing other procedures must be the same as the one of Pho Ban as stated on article 40.

ARTICLE 42 - The misbehavior, the using of force or power over the election or trying to destroy the election by the candidate or his party will be guilty and will be sent to the court for punishment.

ARTICLE 43 - If there are many bad happenings at the election, the CHAO MUONG may not approve it.

For the candidate who is elected, the CHAO MUONG will give the elected certificate and the seal of the position of PHO BAN.

According to the custom, the new PHO BAN will have to swear before receiving the new position.

ARTICLE 44 - If there is an election of Kramakan, Chao Muong will have to approve upon the proposal of Tasseng and the Ban. The elected Kramakan will have to swear before receiving the new position.

ARTICLE 45 - If there is a deny or an unacceptable condition, the Chao Muong will have to call for another election which the Chao Muong will be the one who sets the date.

ARTICLE 46 - The Ban who is officially elected could be thrown out of position only when he does not follow the rule of administration.

If there is a throwing out of position, a new election should take place upon the decision of Chao Khoueng through the proposal of Chao Muong. The Chao Muong has to set up the date of the new election.

### PART III - THE RULE OF TASSENG

ARTICLE 48 - Each Tasseng consists of many Bams. The head of a Tasseng called "Tasseng". Tasseng is elected by the Pho Ban and the members of the bans meeting (Kramakan).

ARTICLE 49 - The candidate for the election must be Lao citizen and has more than 35 years of age. He must live in that area for at least 5 years. He should know at least how to read and write. He must have been at least once a Pho Ban or Kramakan or a secretary to the Tasseng for 5 years.

Beside the statement above the other persons can also be the candidate for Tasseng as followed:

- A- A person who has sixth grade certificate
- A person who has been a monk and gotten at least a degree Maha 5
- A veteran who was at least the ranked of a warrant officer
- A merchant who has a license lower than the category 20

ARTICLE 50 - Tasseng is elected only for 5 years.

ARTICLE 51 - The election must be on the holiday or the 8th, or the 15th, or the forbidden work-day of buddhim.

ARTICLE 52 - Chao Muong is the one who picks the date and the place of election. The population should be notified at least 10 days in advance.

ARTICLE 53 - Chao Muong or his representative is the president of the election and four Pho Ban will have to help the president.

Chao Muong will call the names of the voters and they will come to seat near the candidate that they like best.

ARTICLE 54 - To be elected the candidate should win  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the total number of the voters.

If the result does not come to the number of  $\frac{2}{3}$  a second round of election will be done. In case time is needed, the majority of one will win the election.



ARTICLE 55 -- To be a full election the voters should represent 1/5 of the total.

ARTICLE 56 -- Have the agenda of this election signed by the president and the four members. The agenda has to tell the names of the candidates and the number of votes that they received.

ARTICLE 67 -- There is a secret vote for Tasseng election only by the order of the minister of interior upon the proposal of the Chao Khouang.

ARTICLE 58 -- When the Chao Khouang receives the report about the election or complaints about the threaten of the candidate, he may suppress the votes or he may order to do the new election.

If the Chao Khouang approves the election, the seal and the elected certificate will be sent to the new Tasseng through Chao Khong.

According to the custom, the new Tasseng has to swear for his new position in front of the Chao Khong or his representative.

ARTICLE 59 -- Each Tasseng consists of a meeting body and to representative of each village. The Tasseng is the president of the meeting. Every Pho Ban has the right to be the members of the Tasseng's meeting. And, Kramakan of the village can also be the member of the same meeting.

On each meeting, Pho Ban has to send Kramakan to attend as followed:

A ban of 2 to 3 Kramakan 1 Kramakan has to attend the meeting

"	4 to 5	"	2	"	"
"	6 to 7	"	3	"	"
"	8 to 9	"	4	"	"
"	more than 10	"	5	"	"

The Tasseng also has some permanent advisors. These advisors should be very important persons, powerful and very popular in that area. These advisors are appointed by the Chao Khouang upon the proposal of the Chao Khong.

Having the advisors should have on the number of the population;

3 advisors for a Tasseng of 2,000 people or lesser

4	"	"	2,001 to 2,500 people
5	"	"	2,501 to 3,000 "
6	"	"	3,001 to 3,500 "
7	"	"	3,501 to 4,000 "
8	"	"	4,001 to 4,500 "
9	"	"	4,501 to above

ARTICLE 60 -- Tasseng and his meeting body are the official representative of that Tasseng.

ARTICLE 61 -- The Tasseng meeting body has to swear before receiving the new position.



#### PART 4 - THE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE AS A TASSENG

ARTICLE 62 - For a new rural society, the minister of interior decided upon the proposal of the Chao Khoueng to have a government employee to work along with the new Tasseng. Chao Khoueng will be the one who chooses one of the well trained men on administration to be sent to work with the new Tasseng. This man will have a title of the civil servant Tasseng.

ARTICLE 63 - The duty of the civil servant Tasseng is to teach the Tasseng, secretary of Tasseng and the Tasseng meeting body, about the administration and how to do the ledger and other papers.

The civil servant Tasseng will have the office in that Tasseng.

The civil servant Tasseng is appointed to be in the position for not more than six months.

#### PART 5 - THE FUNCTION OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATION

ARTICLE 64 - Tasseng and Pho Ban are the leaders of the Tasseng and the Ban. They can do anything upon their own thoughts and decisions, but not out-side of the track of administration.

ARTICLE 65 - The advisors of the Ban and Tasseng are the helpers of Pho Ban and Tasseng. They also in some cases the representative of Pho Ban and Tasseng (by the appointment only).

ARTICLE 66 - According to the rule, the secretaries of the advisors to Pho Ban and Tasseng are to be as followed:

##### a) For a Ban

- 1 secretary per 300 people
- 2 " per 300 people above

##### b) For Tasseng

- 1 secretary per 1,500 people
- 2 " per 1,500 to 3000 people
- 3 " per 3,001 to above.

ARTICLE 67 - In fact the secretary of Ban and Tasseng should be chosen from among the advisors. But in special cases. He can be chosen from the outside too.

In this case, for the secretary of Tasseng, the Chao Khong will be the one to approve, and for the one of Pho Ban should be the Tasseng to approve a veteran or a government retired person. He must be working in that area for a certain period.

ARTICLE 68 - The meeting of Ban and Tasseng are opened upon the decision of the President.

The meeting of Ban will be held at least twice a month and for the Tasseng will be opened one a month.

The topic of discussion will depend on the president.

ARTICLE 69 - The meeting of the rural society is a free one; any person can come and listen to it.

Sometimes Pho Ban and Tasseng may decide to have a secret meeting when it is very important.

ARTICLE 70 - Pho Ban and Tasseng should work side by side on common problems such as:

1. administration of the area
2. checking and guiding the discipline, and, contacting with the army and other administration body.
3. preserving the property, economics, traditions and socials
4. making the population to cooperated in building the society
5. respecting and following the tradition and culture of the area.

ARTICLE 71 - The central government will limit the power of the local government.

ARTICLE 72 - Tasseng and Pho Ban have important jobs such as: Preserving the national properties, making decisions and statistics. They also have to collect the direct and indirect taxes, and, do the elections etc.... But, these kind of works are pointed out in the special rule of administration.

ARTICLE 73 - Tasseng and Pho Ban can give some of their works to the advisors to do.

#### PART 6 - THE FUNCTIONING

ARTICLE 74 - Beside the advisors and the secretaries, Tasseng and Pho Ban can choose some men from outside to help them. For instant when they need to build something for that area. The men that they pick up will be paid for what they do.

ARTICLE 75 - In order to be able to finish the work fast, Tasseng and Pho Ban can ask the help from the people in that area.

ARTICLE 76 - Allow the Tasseng and Pho Ban to use the community cooperation system, will waiting for the budget of Tasseng from the central government.

ARTICLE 77 - In addition the facility of working of the Ban administration; at the general meeting of Ban in front of the population, Pho Ban can establish the committees and the working team.

Each committee or team should have a Kraamakan as the president. Or, someone who is very popular could be chosen as the president too.

Each committee consists of 3 to 6 persons. It is established to work in the period of 3 to 6 months or one year. The committee can ask for the extension, but it is up to the decision of the meeting and the population.

When the delay of working is expired, each committee has to report to the Ban's meeting in front of the population.

All committees should be cooperated by the people of the village.

ARTICLE 78 - According to the rule each village has four operational committees or teams such as:



1 - Committee of religion and culture  
Their works are like:

- Encourage children to learn about religion.
- Social with the religious activities, temple and monks.
- Maintain and build temples.
- Deal with adult education and other studies.
- Receive and entertain the high officer of the government.

2 - The Social Committee Their Works are:

- Deal with hygiene and health, social welfare, donation, cooperation with Public Health Officer in that area.

3 - The Economical Committee

- Has to do with agriculture, animals and preserves the common properties.
- Encourages the people to grow more vegetables and raises more cattle.
- Helps the one who lacks of tool for working, or the one who is unable to support himself or his family.
- Points out the way and encourages the population to work hard in order to reach the average standard of living.
- Encourages the people to preserve the common properties.

4 - The Discipline and Security Committee

- Makes the population respect each other
- Eliminates the problems and tries to keep peace among the population.
- Checks and observes when stranger enters the village.
- Establishes a security team or guards in the village.
- Cooperates with the government force in the area.

PART 7 - THE HIGH GOVERNMENT OFFICER AND THE RURAL SOCIETY

ARTICLE 79 - Tasseng and Pho Ban are under the guard of the government representative: Chao Muong and Chao Khoueng.

Chao Muong and Chao Khoueng have the power over Tasseng, Pho Ban the advisors of the meeting body and the secretary, in the sense of discipline.

Tasseng has the power to discipline the Pho Ban, but he has to report to Chao Muong about it.

ARTICLE 80 - When Pho Ban Kramakma or secretary have faults on their duties, they will be ordered to stop working for a month.

Tasseng will be the one to order to stop working and then he has to report to Chao Muong about it. Pho Ban or Kramakma or the secretary may ask for an apologize for what they have done from the Chao Muong.

When Tasseng, the advisors to Tasseng, a meeting body and the secretary had made some faults on the administration, they will be ordered to stop working for a month. In this case the Chao Muong will be the one to order to stop working and he has to report to Chao Khoueng.

Tasseng or his members can ask for the apologise from Chao Khoueng for what they had done.

Each order for stop working should describe clearly the mistake, the person concerned should officially notify.

ARTICLE 81 - Pho Ban, Kramaken and secretary will be put out of position because of the carelessness and faults over the duties.

Tasseng will be the one who will put them out of the position, but he has to report to Chao Muong about it.

Tasseng, the meeting body or advisors and the secretary will be put out of position because of their carelessness and faults over the duties.

Chao Muong will be the one who puts them out of position.

Each order should state the kind of mistakes or faults that they have made and they will have to be notified officially.

ARTICLE 82 - Beside these two articles above, the representatives of the central government have the right to check and to guard the Tasseng and Pho Ban. Chao Muong can teach, criticize or give some ideas to them. He can change the order of Tasseng and Pho Ban. He also can give the order when he sees that the local government is lacking of knowledge and ideas.

ARTICLE 84 - In order to have the economy and society of the rural area developed upon the proposals of the minister of interior and the minister of rural development, the Prime Minister has an ordinance to establish some Tasseng to be "The modern society".

This modern rural society will start first at the area which has more land to develop.

In this case the modern rural society will have a permanent administration over the developed area.

ARTICLE 85 - Every modern rural society will have its own budget which the Tasseng meeting body will make the release. This budget will be functioning by the Tasseng upon the order or suggestion of Chao Muong.

ARTICLE 86 - The ordinance of the prime minister will tell clearly about the incomes and the expenses to the budget.

The system of running the bookkeeping will be used the same system of the Prefect No. 2

## PART 9 - OTHERS

ARTICLE 87 - In case of absence or sickness of Tasseng and Pho Ban, the eldest advisors of Tasseng and Pho Ban will temporarily do the work.

In case of along leave, the Chao Muong will pick a substitute for Pho Ban, and Chao Khoueng will pick the substitute for Tasseng.

ARTICLE 88 - Tasseng and Pho Ban are to use their power on common things.



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