



Lao People's Democratic Republic
Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity

President

No. 204/P
Vientiane Capital, 01 August 2018

**Decree
of the President
of the
Lao People's Democratic Republic
regarding
the Promulgation on the Law on Resettlement and Vocation**

- Pursuant to the Constitution of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Amendment in 2015), Chapter VI, Article 67, Paragraph 1;
- Pursuant to the National Assembly's Resolution, No. 086/NA, dated 15 June 2018 on the Adoption of the Law on Resettlement and Vocation;
- Pursuant to the Standing Committee's Request, No. 06/SC, dated 13 July 2018.

The President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic Decrees that:

Article 1: The Law on Resettlement and Vocation is hereby promulgated.

Article 2: This Decree is effective from its date of signature.

President of the Lao PDR

(Signature and Seal)

Bounhang Vorachith



Lao People's Democratic Republic
Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity

National Assembly

No. 086/NA
Vientiane Capital, 15/06/18

**Resolutions
of the
National Assembly
on the Adoption of the Law on Resettlement and Vocation**

- Based on Article 53, Clause 1 of the Constitution (Amendment in 2015) and Article 11, Clause 1 of the Law on the National Assembly of the Lao People's Democratic Republic regarding Rights and Duties of the National Assembly (Amendment in 2015).

After extensive and in depth discussion and consideration regarding the contents of the Law on Investment Promotion (Amendment) during the 2th Ordinary Session of the Eighth Legislature on 17 November 2016,

The National Assembly's Session has resolved:

- Article 1:** To adopt the Law on Resettlement and Vocation by majority votes.
- Article 2:** This Resolution is effective from its date of signature.

President of the National Assembly
(Signature and Seal)

Pany Yathotou



LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
PEACE INDEPENDENCE DEMOCRACY UNITY PROSPERITY

National Assembly

No. 45/NA
Vientiane Capital, dated: 15 June 2018

**LAW
ON RESETTLEMENT AND VOCATION**

**Part I
General Provisions**

Article 1 Objectives

This law sets out the principles, rules and measures regarding the supervision, inspection and monitoring of resettlement and vocation in order to enhance its efficiency, effectiveness, compliance, and to be consistent with locality conditions and development to ensure that Lao multi-ethnic persons who live in resettlement and vocational area have places to stay, places to make a living and to have stable vocation, with the aim to solve illegal relocation, eradicate poverty, improve the livelihood of the Lao multi-ethnic persons physically and mentally, build security, develop social discipline, become development village and agglomerate big villages into towns in rural areas, and contribute to the national socio-economic development as well as to national defense and security.

Article 2 Resettlement and Vocation

Resettlement is an arrangement of place to live and to make a living for persons in urban and rural areas who have been displaced or migrated from their original residence to a new residence, to ensure the balance and consistency with the development.

Vocation is to build facility and capacity to make a living for persons in urban and rural areas who have been displaced or migrated from their original residence to new residence, to ensure that they have stable sources of income, have a better livelihood, and are graduated from poverty.

Article 3 Definitions

Terms used in this law have the meanings as specified below:

1. **Residence** means the location where a person lives and make a living;
2. **Stable vocation** means a certain activity that provides income for a person and household constantly and perpetually;
3. **Displacement** means the relocation of the people's resident area in their former villages or location in a more proper and suitable manner;
4. **Relocation** means the change of the original resident area of families and villages to a new area;

5. **Project owner** means the ministry, government-equivalent organization, and relevant local administrative authority assigned by the government to implement the resettlement and vocation project;
6. **Settlement and vocation project** means the activities that define the categories, zones, approved areas, and requirements for resettlement and vocation, including the procedures, methods, budget, and timeline for implementation;
7. **Project developer** means a domestic and foreign individual and entity who are permitted to invest in a development project;
8. **Development project** means investment projects or activities that are implemented in the Lao PDR which require resettlement and compensation for the people.
9. **Necessary infrastructure** means basic public service system such as road, electricity, health center, clean water, and school;
10. **Host village** means a village with already existing residents and affected people who relocated to such village;
11. **Affected person/people** means an individual, entity, or organization that is affected by project development;
12. **Developer** means a person who has obtained a certain technical training, experience, and is approved by the relevant sector;
13. **Benefit during the period of lost opportunity** means a compensation from the implementation of an activity that an affected person will receive from resettlement and vocation project during a three year period;
14. **Basic living condition** means basic factors for daily livelihood such as food, necessary clothing, permanent residence, the ability to pay for necessary healthcare, basic education, and the ability to access to necessary primary public services;
15. **Transition period** means the rehabilitation period for the affected people's livelihood within three to five years from the resettled date;
16. **Compensation** means the compensation or remedy in the form of land, material, or money for the land, constructed facility, agricultural product, livestock, and income that are affected by the resettlement and vocation project based on the compensation value set from time to time;
17. **Substitute value** means the value that accounts for object, money, or land which need to be used for replacing land, constructed facility, agricultural product, livestock, and income affected by resettlement;
18. **Customary land use right** means the land use right of a person or village obtained by land clearing, development, protection, and regular use in an opened and continuous manner for 20 years or more without any certification from the relevant authority, but the land is not located in a conservation area under the state.

Article 4 Government Policy on Resettlement and Vocation

The government ensures the right on resettlement and vocation of the citizen according to the constitution and laws regard the implementation of resettlement and vocation linked to the foundation construction, rural development, and poverty eradication as a strategic measure that need to be focused on in the near and long-term in order to improve the citizen's livelihood.

The government allocates budget, personnel, and materials for resettlement and vocation from time to time based on the condition and ability to do so.

The government encourages and promotes local and foreign individuals, legal entity, and organization to participate, analyze, and contribute fund to resettlement and vocation.

Article 5 Principles on Resettlement and Vocation

Resettlement and vocation activities shall be conducted pursuant to the following principles:

1. In consistent with directive policies, strategies, laws, national land allocation master plan, national socio-economic development plan as well as to ensure national defense and public security;
2. Centralized and democratized management throughout the country;
3. To protect the legitimate rights and interests of the citizens based on equality, accuracy, transparency, openness, promptitude, and fairness approach;
4. To ensure resettlement, necessary infrastructure, place to make a living, water availability, stable vocation, better livelihood, and to be free from poverty;
5. To arrange the original area first, then resettle to other location by ensuring the balance between the number of people and actual are;
6. To conduct early coordination, discussion, and participation by the people, government authorities, and other related parties.

Article 6 Scope of Application of the Law

This law shall apply to individuals, legal entities, and organizations, both domestic and international, who are related to resettlement and vocation activities in the Lao PDR.

Article 7 International Cooperation

The government encourages and promotes coordination and cooperation with foreign, regional and international parties regarding resettlement and vocational program by exchanging experience and information, improving technical knowledge development, technological sciences, and to seek supports in order to efficiently and effectively develop such program, and to implement international conventions and agreements to which the Lao PDR is a party to.

Part II Resettlement and Vocation Strategies

Article 8 Resettlement and Vocation Strategies

Resettlement and vocation strategies are the adoption of policies, overall directives, plans, and projects in the rural development and poverty eradication plan which are related to the management of civilians emigration, resettlement and vocation by focusing on resettlement and vocational programs as stated in Article 12 of this law to ensure the balance between population or labor force and the selected area, to promote stable vocation so that the citizens will have stable source of income and in consistent with the development during each period.

Article 9 Development of Resettlement and Vocation Strategies

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry develops resettlement and vocation strategies in coordination with the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Planning and Investment, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Energy and Mines,

Ministry of Public Works and Transport, Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, Ministry of Education and Sports, Ministry of Health, Ministry of National Defense, Ministry of Public Security, National Research Institute of Social Sciences, National Economic Research Institute, academic institutes, ministries, organizations, and relevant local authorities to propose to the government for consideration and further propose to the National Assembly for approval.

Article 10 Content of Resettlement and Vocation Strategies

Resettlement and vocation strategies consist of the main content as follows:

1. Evaluation of previous implementation on resettlement and vocation;
2. General directions, targets, and goals for each period;
3. Focused points of resettlement and vocation;
4. Policies, measures, and implementation mechanisms;
5. Monitoring and assessment systems;
6. Budget.

Part III Resettlement Chapter 1

Resettlement Categories, Areas, and Eligibility Criteria

Article 11 Categories for Resettlement

Resettlement is classified into two categories as follows:

1. General resettlement;
2. Specific resettlement.

General resettlement means the identification of residential and working areas for the people in remote and underdeveloped areas, high-risk living areas, and unique areas, and which shall be implemented by the agriculture and forestry sector and relevant sectors, in coordination with the relevant local authorities.

Specific resettlement means the identification of residential and working areas for the people who are affected by a development project, and which shall be implemented by the agriculture and forestry sector, relevant sectors, and project developer, in coordination with the relevant local authorities.

Article 12 Resettlement Areas

Resettlement areas are as follows:

1. Distant area and area that lacks development conditions;
2. Area for living with high-risk;
3. Area with special characteristics;
4. Area affected by development project.

Article 13 Distant Area and Area that Lacks Development Conditions

A distant area and area that lacks development conditions are:

1. An area that has no or very little production activity, used for slash and burn activity, and that lacks the condition to improve living standard;

2. A remote area with no condition or difficulty for development such as mountainous jungle, watershed forest area, and area with difficult access to public services;
3. Small scattered village and unsettled and poor group of people.

Article 14 Area for Living with High-Risk

An area for living with high-risk is:

1. An area often affected by natural disasters such as areas affected by flood and soil erosion;
2. An area with no security assurance against epidemic, pollution, and environmental impact.

Article 15 Area with Special Characteristics

An area with special characteristics is a strategic area for national defense and public security, border, conservation forest, protection forest, toxic or radio-active area, and archaeological area.

Article 16 Areas Affect by Development Project

An area that is affected by a development project is an area that is affected by dam construction project, mining project, special economic zone, infrastructure construction project and other projects.

Article 17 Eligibility for Resettlement

An individual who is eligible for resettlement shall meet the following criteria:

1. Being a Lao citizen, resident alien, and stateless person who permanently and lawfully resides in the Lao PDR;
2. Living in an area eligible for resettlement in accordance with Article 12 of this Law;
3. A person who agrees with the resettlement.

**Chapter 2
Resettlement Areas and Requirements**

Article 18 Resettlement Areas

Resettlement areas are as follows:

1. Original area that is suitable for residency with available land for production and development;
2. Empty or neglected area that could be developed and restored for residency and work;
3. An area that could be developed and arranged as development focused area and to transform into a larger village or town in rural areas;
4. An area where labor is needed such as an industrial or factory area, special economic zone, plantation or industrial crop area;
5. A special designated area for families and villages that are responsible for national defense and public security and national properties and resources protection such as cross border, conservation forest, valuable mineral resources, and archaeological areas.

Article 19 Requirements for Resettlement Areas

The resettlement areas shall have the following requirements:

1. An area of existing village that could accommodate the expansion of residential and work areas;
2. A new area that could accommodate and is suitable for residency, work, and long-term population growth;
3. An area that is suitable for infrastructure development;
4. An area with adequate water source for consumption, use, and production;
5. An area that could facilitate national defense and public security activities that pose no risk to the citizen's livelihood and destroy the environment.

Chapter 3 Resettlement Procedures

Article 20 Resettlement Procedures

Resettlements shall be conducted according to the following procedures:

1. Resettlement project study and planning;
2. Compensation for damages cause by resettlement;
3. Building of infrastructures to support resettlement;
4. Relocation and resettlement;
5. Resettlement area development;
6. Livelihood rehabilitation during transition period;
7. Handover of resettlement project;
8. Expiration of the resettlement project.

Article 21 Resettlement Project Study and Planning

A resettlement project study consists of initial study, feasibility study, and detailed study.

An initial study is the study of information related to the economy, culture, society, population, and public services system of the targeted villages that shall be displaced or resettled, including the geographic characteristics of the resettlement area in order to proceed to the feasibility study phase.

A feasibility study is the comprehensive study of technical principles such as the survey of land, properties, new village development plan, and environmental and social impact assessment.

A detailed study is the comprehensive study of data in full detail and to evaluate the initial project cost as well as to evaluate the effectiveness of the project.

For the study of general resettlement, the project owner shall prepare a resettlement and vocation plan to propose to the relevant resettlement and vocation committee for approval.

For the study of specific resettlement, the project developer shall work with the project owner to prepare resettlement and vocation plan to propose to the relevant resettlement and vocation committee for approval.

Article 22 Compensation for Damages Cause by Resettlement

General resettlement shall be implemented according to the resettlement plan as officially and lawfully approved by the resettlement and vocation committee.

Compensation for specific resettlement shall be made as follows:

1. An affected person with legal documents for land use rights and who has lost the whole or part of their land where the remaining area is not usable shall receive full remedy by receiving a new piece of land as replacement per the replacement value set out from time to time and shall receive the land use rights documents for that piece of land as well as being responsible for all expenses in obtaining such documents. In the event a suitable replacement land cannot be found, or the land has a replacement value lower than the land loss by the affected person, a compensation shall be made to the affected person through other means based on the replacement value;
2. In the event the value of the land and house of the affected person is lower than the new replacement land and house, the resettlement and vocation committee make consideration based on suitability;
3. In the event the affected person with legal documents for land use rights loses a part of their land where the remaining area is still usable, the affected person shall receive a remedy for the lost part per the pre-calculated replacement value. The remaining area shall receive a certificate for land use rights;
4. In the event the affected person with customary land use rights loses such use rights as certified by the local authority and relevant sector, the affected person shall receive a remedy as described in Clause 1 or 2 of this Article;
5. The affected person without any documentation regarding the land use rights as required in Clause 1, 2, and 3 of this Article, will not receive any remedy for the loss of land, except for the loss of building, trees, and crops per the pre-calculated replacement value;
6. The loss of the entire or part of a building shall be remedied per the replacement value of such building for the affected person who owns such building without any deduction of depreciation or reduction of remedy for the remaining construction materials;
7. For a land or building that is not being used temporarily, the affected person shall receive a remedy on a case-by-case basis, and it shall be ensured that the land or buildings is returned to the affected person in its original condition;
8. The loss of trees, crops, livestock, or income during the loss of opportunity period shall be compensated based on the replacement value;
9. The loss of infrastructure and other facilities that belong to the community shall be repaired to their original state or better and special attention shall be given in the event the loss of infrastructure is related to the local's culture and tradition. For graveyard, cemetery, and burial that is affected, it shall be to move to a new area. [The project owner] shall be responsible for all costs based on the actual situation and discussion with the resettlement and vocation committee and other related parties;
10. In all cases, the remedy for the affected person shall be conducted through coordination with the resettlement and vocation committee at each related level to monitor and verify the accuracy per the remedy plan;
11. The affected person who voluntarily moves to another place that is not allocated by the government, and has obtained an approval for such move, will not be resettled but will still receive remedy;
12. Any activity that takes place after the registration date of the affected person's eligibility for remedy shall not be subject to any remedy, except for the case the

remedy plan is not implemented within the timeframe stated in Clause 13 of this Article;

13. The resettlement and vocation committee shall re-evaluate the remedy value with the involvement of the affected person in the event the remedy plan is not implemented within twelve months;
14. The implementation of the remedy plan shall be completed with twenty-four months from the official adoption date of the remedy plan. In the event the remedy cannot be made within the specified timeframe, the project developer shall propose to the resettlement and vocation committee for a time extension which shall not exceed twelve months.

Article 23 Building of Infrastructure to Support Resettlement

The project owner or project developer shall complete the building and development of necessary infrastructure in advance to support the actual resettlement in accordance with the officially approved plan.

Article 24 Relocation or Resettlement

The project owner or project developer shall coordinate with the resettlement and vocation committee at each relevant level to perform the actual relocation or resettlement and the followings shall be implemented:

1. To ensure that the implementation according to the location and timeframe as specified in relocation or resettlement plan that is officially approved;
2. To respect the local culture, religion, tradition, and belief;
3. To reduce the impact to the host village as well as to ensure that the already residing villagers can use the community infrastructure provided by the government or project developer.

Based on the evaluation by the resettlement and vocation committee, in the event it is deemed that the plan is not implemented within twelve months after the registration of the affected person's eligibility, the followings shall be implemented:

1. The project developer shall be responsible for any damage that may incur;
2. The resettlement and vocation committee shall consider and decide on a new project developer. If the existing project developer wishes to continue the implementation, it needs to propose to the resettlement and vocation committee for consideration;
3. The project developer selected by the resettlement and vocation committee shall revise the relocation or resettlement plan and submit it to the resettlement and vocation committee for approval.

Article 25 Resettlement Area Development

The project owner or project developer shall develop the resettlement area in line with the following principles:

1. To comply with the officially approved resettlement area development plan;
2. To ensure that the infrastructure and facilities development comply with technical standards set by relevant sector;
3. To comprehensively develop the resettlement area in order to transform into a developed village and transform into a large village into a town in rural area.

Article 26 Livelihood Rehabilitation during Transition Period

The project owner or project developer shall rehabilitate the people's livelihood during the transition period, and they shall ensure the followings:

1. To provide assistance during the transition period in accordance with the livelihood rehabilitation plan to improve the people's living standard such as to provide food and necessary consumer products;
2. To supply or provide necessary equipment for production to the affected person.

The project owner or project developer shall pay special attention to the livelihood rehabilitation for disabled people in order to help them overcome poverty.

Article 27 Handover of the Resettlement Project

For specific resettlement project, once the construction is completed, the project developer shall propose to the resettlement and vocation committee at the relevant level to inspect the technical standards and quality of the project for its handover.

The project developer shall pay a guarantee deposit at ten percents of the resettlement project value at a bank in the Lao PDR with a certification from the project owner.

The guarantee period for the resettlement project shall be at least one year from the date of handover. During such period, if there is any defect in the project development, the project owner has the right to demand the project developer to remedy such defect.

Article 28 Expiration of the Resettlement Project

The specific resettlement project shall expire after the project developer has completed the guarantee period. In the event of a damage or loss due to technical defect, they shall be remedied and certified by the relevant resettlement and vocation committee.

The project owner shall issue a certificate upon request by the resettlement and vocation committee and return the deposit as agreed.

Part IV Vocation

Article 29 Categories of Vocation

The agriculture and forestry sector shall liaise with the relevant sector and stakeholder at central and local levels to review and classify the vocations for the targeted groups based on the actual situation of such vocations as follows:

1. Cultivation, livestock farming, and fishery;
2. Tree planting and forest protection;
3. Service, trade, and tourism;
4. Industrial manufacturing and family handicraft;
5. Labor work in factories or development project, production in a factory or small enterprise, assembly of tools, equipment, or materials including assembly production line.

Article 30 Areas and Eligibility Criteria for Vocation

A person eligible for vocation is an individual or family that lives in the same area and meet the same requirements as the resettled person as described in Article 12 and 17 of this law.

Article 31 Prioritization of Vocation

Vocation for an individual or family affected by the development project shall be prioritized as follows:

1. A family with disabled, handicapped, and elderly member who is vulnerable to becoming poorer compared to other groups;
2. A family or poor individual with unstable job;
3. A family or individual whose situation is suitable to becoming a model family in production, handicraft, trade, and service sector.

Article 32 Vocation Procedures

The vocation shall follow the following procedures:

1. Data collection;
2. Alternative vocation assessment;
3. Training and capacity building;
4. Support and promotion of technical aspects, access to finance, and marketing;
5. Building of onsite developer and model family;
6. Monitoring and evaluation of vocational implementation;
7. Expiration of vocation project.

Article 33 Data Collection

The collection of vocational data of affected person shall be conducted in parallel with the study of resettlement project.

The project owner or project developer shall collect vocational data and propose the same to the relevant resettlement and vocation committee for consideration.

Article 34 Alternative Vocation Assessment

The alternative vocation assessment is the study of locally existing vocation or new vocation opportunities in order to identify appropriate category of vocation for the affected person.

The project owner or project developer shall conduct alternative vocation assessment and propose to the relevant resettlement and vocation committee for consideration.

Article 35 Training and Capacity Building

Once the vocational assessment is completed, the project owner or project developer shall conduct the training for the person affected by resettlement and vocation project in order to build one's capacity in the areas of establishment and management of production group, production techniques, maintenance, harvesting, value-added processing, marketing, and environmental conservation, including the supervision, protection, and sustainable use of natural resources.

Article 36 Support and Promotion of Technical Aspects, Access to Finance and Marketing

The project owner or project developer shall coordinate with the related sector or stakeholder to develop and implement technical skill enhancement plan such as on cultivation, livestock farming, handcraft, trade, and service, including financial and marketing accessibility through the dissemination and introduction on technical skills and to provide guidance for the people on actual practice until they can rely on themselves under basic standard living condition.

Article 37 Building of Onsite Developer and Model Family

The project owner or project developer shall coordinate with the related sector or stakeholder to train a person with fundamental knowledge, eligibility, and willing to get a vocation according to the technical plan in order to become an onsite developer and to train a household with development potential in cultivation, livestock farming, handcraft, trade, and service in order to become a model family.

Article 38 Monitoring and Evaluation of Vocational Implementation

The project owner or project development shall coordinate with the resettlement and vocation committee and other related stakeholder at its level to monitor, inspect, and evaluate the implementation of vocational activities from time to time in order to find solution and continue to promote its efficiency and effectiveness.

Article 39 Expiration of Vocation Project

The vocation project shall expire after the project developer completed the implementation of vocation plan, and after the evaluation by the resettlement and vocation committee, it is found that the affected person has a stable job, higher income, and better livelihood.

The agriculture and forestry sector shall issue a certificate upon request by the resettlement and vocation committee.

**Part V
Resettlement and Vocation Project**

Article 40 Resettlement and Vocation Projects

The agriculture and forestry sector authority shall take the initiative in coordinating with all relevant sectors and other stakeholders to study and develop a resettlement and vocation project for the time being and long term in consistent with the socio-economic development plan, balance between the population and labor force suitable for the selected areas, and including the activities related to national defense and public security in each local areas and regions.

Resettlement and vocation project is divided into three levels as follows:

1. Central resettlement and vocation project;
2. Provincial resettlement and vocation project;
3. District resettlement and vocation project.

Article 41 Central Resettlement and Vocation Project

A central resettlement and vocation project is a resettlement project that involves the relocation of more than one hundred families up to five hundred families and is subject to the approval by the government upon recommendation by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

In the event of a relocation of more than five hundred families, the Standing Committee of the National Assembly shall make the consideration upon recommendation by the government.

Article 42 Provincial Resettlement and Vocation Project

A provincial resettlement and vocation project is a resettlement project that involves the relocation or resettlement of twenty to one hundred families within a district, or from one district, sub-district, or city to another district, sub-district, or city within the same province and is subject to the approval by the Provincial People Assembly upon recommendation by the provincial governor or city mayor.

In the event of a relocation of less than twenty families from one province to another province, this shall be subject to the approval from the relevant city mayor or provincial governor.

Article 43 District Resettlement and Vocation Project

A district resettlement and vocation project is a resettlement project that involves the relocation or resettlement of less than twenty families within a village, or from one village to another village within the same district, sub-district, or city and is subject to the approval of the district governor, sub-district chief, or city mayor upon recommendation by the district's agriculture and forestry office and consent from the concerned village chief.

In the event a relocation of less than twenty families from one district, sub-district, or city to another district, sub-district, or city within the same province, this shall be subject to the approval from the relevant district governor, sub-district chief, or city mayor.

Part VI

Rights and Obligations of Project Developer and the Person Subject to Resettlement and Vocation

Article 44 Rights of the Project Developer

The project developer has the following rights:

1. To receive cooperation from the relevant sector or stakeholder in developing resettlement and vocation project;
2. To monitor and inspect on its own the study of resettlement and vocational activities, including the remedy and livelihood rehabilitation for the people within the scope of its responsibility;
3. To propose to the project owner, relevant sector, or stakeholder to solve any issue related to the resettlement and vocational activities;
4. To exercise other rights as stated in the laws.

Article 45 Obligations of the Project Developer

The project developer has the following obligations:

1. To establish a report concerning the environmental and social impact assessment, including the management, monitoring, and inspection plans in compliance with technical standards;
2. To strictly perform the obligations on social and natural environment as stated in the agreement;
3. To establish a remedy plan, resettlement plan, and livelihood rehabilitation plan for the affected person on the basis of ensuring sufficient budget to be covered in the project cost;
4. To directly be responsible for the proper and strict implementation of remedy plan, resettlement plan, and livelihood rehabilitation plan for the affected person;
5. To be responsible for the damages from the inability to implement the relocation or resettlement plan;
6. To be responsible for the expenses for the engagement of a local or foreign expert or experienced organization, including the project owner and government organization, to monitor, inspect, and evaluate the completion of the project;
7. To be responsible for the data that it generates as well as to provide and disclose information related to its implementation of the development project to the relevant government authority and public;
8. To make a deposit of ten percents of the total value to be used for the resettlement within one month prior to the handover of the resettlement project;
9. To report on all matters related to its project development to the project owner and the resettlement and vocation committee that it is under on periodically basis;
10. To build and develop vocational skills and utilize local labor;
11. To perform other obligations as stated in the laws.

Article 46 Rights of the Person Subject to Resettlement

A person subject to resettlement shall have the following rights:

1. To receive information related to the development project, benefit, and impact, as well as the progress of the resettlement, remedy, and livelihood rehabilitation for the affected person during the project implementation term;
2. To be remedied, resettled, and rehabilitated according to the official approved plan;
3. To make a written proposal to the project owner, project developer, and the resettlement and vocation committee to seek for their consideration in solving issues related to the development project;
4. To participate in a discussion meeting to provide feedback on the resettlement plan, remedy, and livelihood rehabilitation;
5. To exercise other rights as stated in the laws.

Article 47 Obligations of the Person Subject to Resettlement

A person subject to resettlement shall have the following obligations:

1. To provide clear information in conformity with reality and to be liable to the law for its information;
2. To cooperate and facilitate the project owner, project developer, resettlement and vocation committee, and other relevant parties in implementing the resettlement plan, remedy, livelihood rehabilitation, and in addressing its proposal;
3. To perform other obligations as stated in the laws.

Article 48 Rights of the Person Subject to Vocational Activities

A person subject to vocational activities shall have the following right:

1. To obtain information concerning the benefit and impact on its vocation;
2. To choose a vocation with a foundation or a new vocation based on potential;
3. To be prioritized for employment under the project;
4. To receive technical support on vocational development and accessibility to finance and marketing;
5. To make a written proposal to the project owner, project developer, and the resettlement and vocation committee to seek for their consideration in solving issues related to its vocation;
6. To participate in a discussion meeting to provide feedback on vocational plan;
7. To exercise other rights as stated in the laws.

Article 49 Obligations of the Person Subject to Vocational Activities

A person subject to vocational activities shall have the following obligations:

1. To providing clear information concerning its vocation in conformity with reality and to be liable to the law for its information;
2. To cooperate and facilitate the project owner, project developer, resettlement and vocation committee and other relevant parties in implementing the vocational activities;
3. To take the initiative in overcoming difficulties and to be diligent in order to improve one's livelihood;
4. To perform other obligations as stated in the laws.

**Part VII
Prohibitions**

Article 50 General Prohibitions

An individual, entity, and organization are prohibited from the followings:

1. To provide false information regarding its place of residence and vocation;
2. To act in a way that indicates narrow mindedness, negligence, and discrimination between tribes and religions for the sake of its community and ethnicity;
3. To illegally relocate or acquire a place of residence;
4. To disseminate against directional policies, manipulate, incite, threat, withhold, and create obstacles or obstruct the implementation of the relocation or resettlement plan and the operation by the project owner or project developer;
5. To offer bribe or act as a bribery agent;
6. To implement the resettlement without approval;
7. To act in violation of the laws.

Article 51 Prohibitions for the Staff, Project Owner, and Resettlement and Vocation Committee

The staff, project owner, and resettlement and vocation committee are prohibited from the followings:

1. To use their rights, duties, and positions to force, threaten, withhold, or demand for bribery which causes damage to the interest of government, community, individual or affected person;
2. To disclose confidential or official information which belong to the government, individual, entity, or organization;
3. To distort information, falsify documents, or issue illegal documents;
4. To perform its duties in a careless, negligent, disinterest, unfair, and irresponsible manners which causes damage to the interest of the government, community, individual, and affected person;
5. To act in violation of the laws.

Article 52 Prohibitions for the Project Developer

The project developer is prohibited from the followings:

1. To conduct survey or study on a resettlement and vocation project without approval;
2. To slow down or delay the implementation of the resettlement, remedy, and livelihood rehabilitation plan for the affected person;
3. To utilize or provide information on the survey and study of resettlement and vocation project without approval;
4. To offer bribery to the staff, project owner, resettlement, and vocation committee, and affected person;
5. To use violence and personate the name of a person to threaten the staff, project owner, resettlement, and vocation committee, and affected person;
6. To violate the rights and duties of the project owner and resettlement and vocation committee;
7. Non-compliance with the resettlement, remedy, and livelihood rehabilitation plan for the affected person as agreed with the project owner and resettlement and vocation committee;
8. To act in violation of the laws.

Article 53 Prohibitions for the Person Subject to Resettlement and Vocational Activities

A person subject to resettlement and vocation program is prohibited from the followings:

1. To obstruct and interrupt the performance of duties or refuse to cooperate with the official working on resettlement and vocational activities;
2. To resettle back to its original place of residence or to a new location without approval;
3. To provide inaccurate information on resettlement and vocation;
4. To rally, form a group, and cause disunity within the group of affected people or the host village;
5. To act in violation of the laws.

**Part VIII
Dispute Resolution**

Article 54 Dispute Resolution Methods

The resolution of a dispute on resettlement and vocational activities shall be resolved through the following methods:

1. Conciliation or mediation;
2. Administrative dispute resolution;
3. Dispute resolution by the economic dispute resolution authority;
4. Resolution by the people's court.

Article 55 Conciliation or Mediation

In the event there is a dispute related to resettlement and vocational activities, the involved parties may proceed with consultation, negotiation, conciliation, or mediation.

Article 56 Administrative Dispute Resolution

In the event there is a dispute related to resettlement and vocational activities, the involved parties are entitled to propose to the resettlement and vocational authority or other related sectors for consideration in compliance with the laws.

Article 57 Dispute Resolution by the Economic Dispute Resolution Authority

In the event there is a dispute related to resettlement and vocational activities, the involved parties are entitled to propose to economic dispute resolution authority for consideration in compliance with the laws.

Article 58 Resolution by of the People's Court

In the event there is a dispute related to resettlement and vocational activities, a party is entitled to submit the dispute to the people's court for consideration in compliance with the laws.

Part IX Resettlement and Vocation Committee

Article 59 Resettlement and Vocation Committee

The resettlement and vocation committee is a non-standing authority that act as an advisor to the government and local authority in studying, monitoring, inspecting, and evaluating the resettlement and vocational activities.

The resettlement and vocation committee is divided into three level as follows:

1. Central resettlement and vocation committee;
2. Provincial resettlement and vocation committee;
3. District resettlement and vocation committee.

The central resettlement and vocation committee is appointed by the Prime Minister as proposed by the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry.

The provincial resettlement and vocation committee is appointed by the provincial governor or mayor of Vientiane Capital as proposed by the director of the agriculture and forestry department of the province and Vientiane Capital.

The district resettlement and vocation committee is appointed by the district governor, sub-district chief, or city mayor, as proposed by the head of the agriculture and forestry office at the district, sub-district, or city level.

Article 60 Organizational Structure of the Central Resettlement and Vocation Committee

The central resettlement and vocation committee consists of:

1. Minister of Agriculture and Forestry as Chairman;
2. Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Environment as Deputy Chairman;
3. Deputy Minister of Home Affairs as Deputy Chairman;
4. Deputy Minister of Finance as Deputy Chairman;
5. Deputy Minister of Planning and Investment as Deputy Chairman;
6. Deputy Minister of Labor and Social Welfare as member;
7. Deputy Minister of Industry and Commerce as member;
8. Deputy Minister of Energy and Mines as member;
9. Deputy Minister of Public Works and Transport as member;
10. Deputy Minister of Education and Sports as member;
11. Deputy Minister of Health as member;
12. Deputy Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism as member;
13. Deputy Minister of National Defense as member;
14. Deputy Minister of Public Security as member;
15. Deputy Director of the Propaganda and Training of the Party Central Committee as member;
16. Deputy Chairman of the Central Lao Front for National Development as member;
17. Related to Provincial Governor or City Mayor as member.

Article 61 Organizational Structure of the Provincial Resettlement and Vocation Committee

The provincial resettlement and vocation committee consists of:

1. Deputy Provincial Governor or Deputy City Mayor, who is in charge of the resettlement and vocation activities, as Chairman;
2. Director of Agriculture and Forestry Division as Deputy Chairman;
3. Director of Natural Resources and Environment Division as Deputy Chairman;
4. Director of Home Affairs Division as Deputy Chairman;
5. Director of Finance Division as member;
6. Director of Planning and Investment Division as member;
7. Deputy director of labor and social welfare department acts as commissioner;
8. Deputy Director of Industry and Commerce Division as member;
9. Deputy Director of Energy and Mines Division as member;
10. Deputy Director of Public Works and Transport Division as member;
11. Deputy Director of Education and Sports Division as member;
12. Deputy Director of Health Division as member;
13. Deputy Director of Information, Culture and Tourism Division as member;
14. Deputy Chief of the Military Headquarter as member;
15. Deputy Chief of the Public Security Headquarter as member;
16. Deputy Director of the Propaganda and Training Board of the province or city as member;
17. Deputy Chairman of Lao Front for National Development or Mass Organization of the province or city as member;

18. Related district governor, chief of sub-district, or city mayor as member.

Article 62 Organizational Structure of the District Resettlement and Vocation Committee

The district resettlement and vocation committee consists of:

1. Deputy District Governor, Deputy Chief of Sub-district, or Deputy City Mayor, who is in charge of resettlement and vocational activities, as Chairman;
2. Chief of Agriculture and Forestry Office as Deputy Chairman;
3. Chief of Natural Resources and Environment Office as Deputy Chairman;
4. Chief of Home Affairs Office as Deputy Chairman;
5. Chief of Finance Office as Deputy Chairman;
6. Chief of Planning and Investment Office as Deputy Chairman;
7. Deputy Chief of Labor and Social Welfare Office as member;
8. Deputy Chief of Industry and Commerce Office as member;
9. Deputy Chief of Energy and Mines Office as member;
10. Deputy Chief of Public Works and Transport Office as member;
11. Deputy Chief of Education and Sports Office as member;
12. Deputy Chief of Health Office as member;
13. Deputy Chief of Information, Culture and Tourism Office as member;
14. Deputy Chief of the Military Headquarter as member;
15. Deputy Chief of the Public Security Headquarter as member;
16. Deputy Chief of Propaganda and Training Board of the district, sub-district, or city as member;
17. Related village chief as member.

Article 63 Rights and Duties of the Resettlement and Vocation Committee

The resettlement and vocation committee has the rights and duties under its scope of responsibilities as follows:

1. To supervise and manage the implementation of resettlement and vocational plan;
2. To publicize and educate the people affected by the resettlement and vocation project, residents of the host village, and relevant parties, for their understanding of the reason, need, and directives of the resettlement and vocation plan;
3. To consider the resettlement and vocational plan and propose to its higher-ups for approval;
4. To formulate policies and remedy units, resettlement area development timeframe, transition period and livelihood rehabilitation timeframe for the affected people;
5. To consider and address any request related to the remedy, relocation or resettlement, and livelihood rehabilitation of the affected people in a timely manner;
6. To promote, monitor, inspect, and evaluate the implementation of resettlement and vocational activities;
7. To provide information for the affected person and stakeholder on the development project, benefit, and impact, including the progress of the project implementation from time to time;
8. To summarize and report on the resettlement and vocational activities to its higher-ups on regularly basis;
9. To exercise its rights and perform other duties as assigned by the higher-ups.

Article 64 Resettlement and Vocation Committee Secretariat

The resettlement and vocation committee secretariat is a standing authority that acts as an advisor for the resettlement and vocation committee at each level and which consists of:

1. At central level is the Rural Development and Cooperatives Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry;
2. At provincial level is the Rural Development and Cooperatives Sector under the provincial or city Agriculture and Forestry Division;
3. At district level is the Rural Development and Cooperatives Unit under the district, sub-district, or city Agriculture and Forestry Office.

Article 65 Rights and Duties of the Resettlement and Vocation Committee Secretariat

The resettlement and vocation committee secretariat has the rights and duties within its scope of responsibilities as follows:

1. To study, summarize, and propose the resettlement and vocational plan to the resettlement and vocation committee at its level for approval;
2. To study policies, remedy units, resettlement area development timeframe, transition period and livelihood rehabilitation timeframe for the affected people;
3. To collect, summarize, and protect the information of the affected person and stakeholder related to the development project, as well as to report on the implementation progress of the development project to the resettlement and vocation committee from time to time;
4. To exercise its rights and perform other duties as assigned by the resettlement and vocation committee.

Part X

Management and Inspection of Resettlement and Vocational Activities

Chapter 1

Management of Resettlement and Vocational Activities

Article 66 Resettlement and Vocational Management Authority

The government manages the resettlement and vocational activities in a centralized and uniform manner across the country by assigning the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry to be in charge and to coordinate with the relevant ministries, agencies, and local authorities directly and actively.

The resettlement and vocational management authority consists of:

1. Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry;
2. Agriculture and Forestry Division of the province or city;
3. Agriculture and Forestry Office of the district, sub-district, or city;
4. Agriculture and Forestry Unit of the village economic and finance division.

Article 67 Rights and Duties of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

In managing resettlement and vocational activities, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry have the following rights and duties:

1. To study and create policies, strategies, laws, plans, programs, and development projects related to resettlement and vocation and to propose the same to the government for consideration;
2. To publicize and disseminate policies, strategies, laws, plans, programs, development projects, and other legislations related to resettlement and vocation activities;
3. To create and amend legislation related to resettlement and vocational activities;
4. To coordinate with the relevant central and local authorities to study and identify a zone and area to accommodate resettlement and vocational activities in order to establish a central resettlement and vocation project;
5. To study, summarize, and prioritize government investment project, development grant, and foreign loan which concern resettlement and vocational activities to propose to the government for consideration;
6. To supervise the central resettlement and vocation committee on the implementation of resettlement and vocational activities;
7. To supervise, promote, monitor, inspect, and evaluate resettlement and vocational activities;
8. To consider and issue certificate after the completion of resettlement and vocational project;
9. To coordinate with governmental authorities and other authorities regarding resettlement and vocational activities;
10. To develop, train, upgrade, manage, and utilize the personnel for resettlement and vocational activities;
11. To accept and consider addressing request on resettlement and vocational activities;
12. To cooperate with foreign countries at regional and international levels on resettlement and vocational activities;
13. To summarize and report on the implementation of resettlement and vocational activities to the government on regular basis;
14. To exercise its rights and perform other duties in accordance with the laws.

Article 68 Rights and Duties of Provincial or City Agriculture and Forestry Division

In managing resettlement and vocational activities, the provincial or city agriculture and forestry division has the rights and duties within its scope of responsibilities as follows:

1. To enhance the policies, strategies, and laws on resettlement and vocational activities into action plans, work plans, and specific projects that it implements;
2. To publicize, disseminate, supervise, monitor, and inspect the implementation of laws, action plans, programs, and projects related resettlement and vocational activities;
3. To study and propose to the provincial governor or city mayor to consider issuing order, decision, and guideline on resettlement and vocational activities;
4. To survey, collect information, and study the zone and area that accommodate resettlement to establish as a provincial resettlement and vocation project;
5. To study, summarize, and prioritize government investment project, development grant, and foreign loan which concern resettlement and vocational activities to propose to the provincial governor or city mayor for consideration;
6. To develop, train, upgrade, manage, and utilize the personnel for resettlement and vocational activities;

7. To supervise, promote, monitor, inspect, and evaluate resettlement and vocational activities;
8. To coordinate with governmental authorities and other authorities regarding resettlement and vocational activities;
9. To accept and consider addressing request on resettlement and vocational activities;
10. To cooperate with foreign countries at regional and international levels on resettlement and vocational activities as assigned by the higher-ups;
11. To summarize and report on the implementation of resettlement and vocational activities to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and provincial or city authorities on regularly basis;
12. To exercise its rights and perform other duties in accordance with laws.

Article 69 Rights and Duties of District, Sub-District, and City Agriculture and Forestry Office

In managing resettlement and vocational activities, the district, sub-district, and city agriculture and forestry office has the rights and duties within its scope of responsibilities as follows:

1. To implement policies, strategies, laws, and other legislations on resettlement and vocational activities;
2. To disseminate, monitor, and inspect the implementation of laws and regulations on resettlement and vocational activities;
3. To survey, collect information, and study the zone and area that accommodate resettlement to establish as a district resettlement and vocational project;
4. To develop, train, upgrade, manage, and utilize the personnel for resettlement and vocational activities;
5. To promote, monitor, inspect, and evaluate resettlement and vocational activities;
6. To coordinate with governmental authorities and other authorities regarding resettlement and vocational activities
7. To summarize and report on the implementation of resettlement and vocational activities to the provincial or city agriculture and forestry division and the administrative authority at district, sub-district, or city level on regularly basis;
8. To exercise its rights and perform other duties in accordance with laws.

Article 70 Rights and Duties of the Agriculture and Forestry Unit under the Village Economic and Finance Division

In managing resettlement and vocational activities, the agriculture and forestry unit under the village economic and finance division has the rights and duties within its scope of responsibilities as follows:

1. To implement policies, strategies, laws, and other legislations on resettlement and vocational activities;
2. To disseminate, monitor, and inspect the implementation of laws and regulations on resettlement and vocational activities;
3. To participate in survey and information collection on resettlement and vocational project;
4. To encourage village residents to cooperate with and facilitate resettlement and vocational staff;

5. To participate in a mediation related to resettlement and vocational activities in its village;
6. To summarize and report on the implementation of resettlement and vocational activities in its village to the agriculture and forestry office at district, sub-district, or city level on regularly basis;
7. To exercise its rights and perform other duties in accordance with laws.

Article 71 Rights and Duties of Other Related Ministries

In managing resettlement and vocational activities, other related ministries shall have the following rights and duties:

1. The Ministry of Planning and Investment has the right and duty to consider including resettlement and vocational projects into the five-year and annual socio-economic development plans for the government's consideration; to supervise the local authority under its line of management to include resettlement and vocational projects into the five-year and annual socio-economic development plans at provincial and district levels for consideration by the provincial governor, mayor of Vientiane Capital, district governor, sub-district chief, or city mayor;
2. The Ministry of Finance has the right and duty to allocate budget for resettlement and vocational activities in the five-year and annual state budget plans for the government's consideration; to supervise the local authority under its line of management to allocate budget for resettlement and vocational projects into the five-year and annual state budget plans at provincial and district levels for consideration by the provincial governor, mayor of Vientiane Capital, district governor, sub-district chief, or city mayor;
3. The Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Public Works and Transport, Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, Ministry of Energy and Mines, Ministry of Public Security, and Ministry of National Defense have the right and duty to coordinate and cooperate with the resettlement and vocation authority in accordance with their roles and responsibilities.

Article 72 Rights and Duties of the Local Authority

In managing resettlement and vocational activities, the local authority shall have the following rights and duties:

1. To study and identify an area that shall be resettled and an area to accommodate resettlement and vocation based on the conditions and standards as defined in this law;
2. To supervise the local sectors and organizations to actively participate in the implementation of resettlement and vocational activities;
3. To educate, publicize, and disseminate to the local people on resettlement and vocational activities;
4. To accept and consider addressing request on resettlement and vocational activities;
5. To coordinate and cooperate with the resettlement and vocation authority in accordance with their roles and responsibilities.

Chapter 2
Inspection of Resettlement and Vocational Activities

Article 73 Resettlement and Vocation Inspection Authority

The resettlement and vocation inspection authority comprised of internal and external inspection authorities.

The internal inspection authority is the same authority as resettlement and vocation authority as stated in Article 66 of this law.

The external inspection authority is the National Assembly, Provincial People's Council, State Inspection Authority, State Audit Authority, Lao Front for National Development, Mass Organization, media, and public.

Article 74 Inspection Content

The inspection of resettlement and vocational activities is comprised of the following contents:

1. The enforcement of laws and regulations related to resettlement and vocational activities;
2. The performance of duties by the project owner, project developer, and resettlement and vocational staffs;
3. The development and implementation of resettlement, remedy, and livelihood rehabilitation plan for the affected person;
4. The utilization of budget and funds for resettlement and vocational activities.

Article 75 Inspection Methods

The inspection of resettlement and vocational activities has three methods:

1. A regular inspection which is an inspection conducted according to a plan on regular and periodical basis;
2. An inspection with prior notice which is an inspection conducted without a plan when it is deemed necessary and for which the inspection target shall be notified in advance;
3. A sudden inspection which is an urgent inspection without giving prior notice to the inspection target.

Part XI

Policies for a Person with Outstanding Achievement and Measures against Offender

Article 76 Policies for a Persons with Outstanding Achievement

An individual, entity, or organization with outstanding achievement in implementing this law, such as the management, monitoring, and inspection of resettlement and vocational activities, shall be awarded and receive other inciting policies pursuant to regulations.

Article 77 Measures against Offender

An individual, entity, or organization that violates this law shall be educated, disciplined, fined, or subjected to civil or criminal charges pursuant to the laws depending on the severity of the case.

Article 78 Education Measures

An individual, entity, or organization that violates this law, such as a minor offense which is not a criminal offense and does not cause serious harm to the socio-economy and environment, but was sincerely reported and confessed, shall receive a warning, and subjected to an education measure.

Article 79 Disciplinary Measures

A resettlement and vocational staff who violates this law, such as a minor offense which is not a criminal offense that cause little harm, but is not sincere to make a report, shall be subjected to disciplinary measures pursuant to regulations like being suspended from promotion or salary increase, or being dismissed from government duties without receiving any benefits.

Article 80 Penalty Measures

An individual, entity, or organization that violates this law, such as a non-criminal offense which causes damage to the property of other person, shall be subjected to a fine equivalent to the total value of the damage.

In the event of a second violation or habitual offense, the offender shall be subjected to a fine for twice the amount of the total value of the damage.

Article 81 Civil Measures

An individual, entity, or organization that violates this law which causes damage to the interests of the government, public, society, or other person, shall pay compensation for the loss according to the amount that it has caused.

Article 82 Criminal Measures

An individual or entity that violates this law, which constitutes a criminal offense, shall be punished pursuant the Criminal Code or other laws based on the severity of the offense.

**Part XII
Final Provisions**

Article 83 Budget

The budget for the implementation of resettlement and vocational activities shall come from the state budget, project developer, and from domestic and foreign assistance, including the contribution from public.

Article 84 Implementation

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

Article 85 Effectiveness

This law is effective from the date the promulgating decree is issued by the President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and fifteen days after it is published in the official gazette.

Any regulations or provisions that contradict this law shall be repealed.

President of the National Assembly
[Signature and Seal]
Pany Yathortu