

Cabinet Resolution of the Royal Thai Government, August 3rd, 2010

Translated by Pgaz K' Nyau Association for Sustainable Development (PASD)

The cabinet agreed to the project “**Recovering the Karen Livelihood in Thailand**” proposed by the “Ministry of Culture,” as follows:

1. The Cabinet agrees on the policy principles and implementation principals for recovery of the Karen livelihood in Thailand;
2. The policy and principals of implementation are assigned to government agencies and organizations which are related to the recovery of the Karen livelihood in Thailand, as follows:

1.1 Short-term policies for implementation during the next 6-12 months

Issues	Recommendation	Responsible Agencies
1. Ethnic Identity and Culture	1.1 Promote and support the Karen people’s ethnic identity and culture as part of a culturally diverse national culture.	Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security
	1.2 Promote social recognition and understanding on living together in a situation of cultural diversity and pluralism by learning about the Karen cultural identity.	Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security
2. Resource Management	2.1 Cease the arrest and detention of the Karen people who are part of local traditional communities settled on disputed land which is traditional land used for making a living.	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Interior

	2.2 Form a working demarcation committee or a mechanism for specifying the land use zoning for settlement and cultural livelihood to eliminate the conflict concerning land use or land ownership of Karen people and government agencies. This should be carried out by including bodies other than the official agencies to resolve the problem of the trespassing of the state forest area by emphasizing a participatory process of communities which may have gains and losses, academics, and persons who are involved with the people who implement their cultural livelihood, as well as human rights agencies, including sociologists and anthropologists by assigning them the authority to focus on supporting conflict resolution through constructive dialogue.	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Interior, National Commission on Human Rights, Karen Network for Culture and Environment, Ministry of Justice
	2.3 Support the biodiversity of highland communities. E.g. preserve the genetic and species diversity of seeds and plants, food security, the ecological balance of the ecosystem, and the process of the rotational farming system	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
3. Citizenship Rights	3.1 Based on cabinet resolutions which already exist, ID cards have been provided for Karen people who do not have citizenship (cards for people in the highland and former ID cards for people in the highland) who migrated to Thailand start from October 3 rd 1965. These people can request to become foreign nationals who have the right to permanent settlement in Thailand and will be issued with identification paper ID documentation as foreign nationals. Children born in Thailand can request Thai citizenship through Article 7 second paragraph of the Citizenship Law, the target for this group being approximately 40,000 persons.	Ministry of Interior, Office of National Security Council

	<p>3.2 Speed up the Ministry of Interior process for considering requests from foreign nationals who are permanently settled in Thailand and for receiving documentation or ID cards for foreign nationals.</p> <p>Further, expedite the process by which children of foreign nationals who were born in Thailand can request Thai citizenship through Article 7 second paragraph of the Citizenship Law and who have already submitted their application sometime, in some cases a considerably long time, in the past.</p>	Minister of Interior
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4. Transfer of Cultural Heritage	4.1 Support the establishment of community cultural centers based on this cabinet resolution by combining and harmonizing with the traditional lifestyle, and ensures that these cultural centers are imbued with life.	Ministry of Culture through the Offices of Culture at the provincial level, Office of the National Cultural Committee through the Centers for the Integration of Thai Community Relationships, Karen Network for Culture and Environment.
	4.2 Allocate budget finance to establish lively community cultural centers for the Karen communities and the implementation of cultural activities of the Karen cultural network.	Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security
5. Education	5.1 Allow the communities to be part of the process of setting up an educational program which is linked to their lifestyle and culture, including giving the right to conduct their own education and having the management of education supported by the local community, e.g. in budgetary aspects.	Ministry of Education
	5.2 Develop the capacity of educational administration committees, teachers, and local communities, for example so that school committees can manage their own education by continuing teacher training, organizing exposure trips, and adapting the school management system appropriately for the community.	Ministry of Education
	5.3 Support scholarships at /higher education/the undergraduate study/university level, particularly in fields necessary for community development, e.g. in the field of health and so on.	Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health

1.2 Long-term policies for implementation during the next 1 to 3 years

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility agencies
1. Natural Resource Management	1.1 Repeal the declarations concerning protected areas, reserve forests and settlements of Karen people which already have the capability to prove that their settlement, living on and use of these lands has continued for a long time or since before the declaration of laws or policies that now cover these areas.	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.

	1.2 Support and recognize the rotational farming systems which belong to the Karen ways of life and livelihood, and which support the sustainable use of natural resources and self-sufficiency, including promotion of the Karen rotational farming system to become a world cultural heritage.	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Ministry of Culture,
	1.3 Support self-sufficiency or alternative agriculture instead of cash crop production or industrial agriculture.	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Ministry of Interior
	1.4 Support and recognize the ways of using the land and the management of local traditional communities, e.g. through issuing communal land titles.	Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
2. Citizenship	Allocation of budget to each person under the health insurance system for Karen who have registered their history of residence in Thailand and who are entitled to live in Thailand as Thai citizens.	Office of National Health Insurance for All

3. Transfer of Cultural Heritage	<p>Identify special cultural zone for the Karen people in the pilot areas;</p> <p>3.1 Hin Lad Nai Village, Baanpong Subdistrict, Wiang Pa Pao District, Chiang Rai Province.</p> <p>3.2 Lai Wo Subdistrict, Sanglaburi District, Kanjanaburi Province.</p> <p>3.3 Nong Montha (Maw Wa Hki) Village, Mae Win Subdistrict, Mae Wang District, Chiang Mai Province.</p> <p>3.4 Le Taung Hkoo Village, Mae Jan Subdistrict, Umpha District, Tak Province.</p>	Minister of Interior, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security
4. Education	<p>4.1 Redefine the teacher examination system by supporting the ability of more Karen indigenous people teachers and students to return to their own communities. In the case that a teacher does not belong to that ethnic group, she/he should be able to understand the mother tongue language or be prepared to learn the mother tongue language from the community.</p>	Ministry of Education
	<p>4.2 The state must lessen the background conditions of educational qualifications to benefit the process of the transfer of knowledge, culture, history, and mother tongue languages. This is particularly in regard to early childhood school teachers until primary school teachers.</p>	Ministry of Education, Ministry of Culture
	<p>4.3 Promote the “multiple languages” policy to achieve acceptance and understanding of spoken and written Karen language in order to enhance the understanding of the differentiation of the Karen from other groups.</p>	Ministry of Education, Ministry of Culture
	<p>4.4 Change the approach of the allocation of schools to communities, for example the approach of opening branches in local communities to avoid closing small schools without regard to the size of the community. Furthermore, the relationship between local educational units should be strengthened through collaboration between schools, communities, academics, and NGOs in order to develop integrated curricula for local/mother tongue languages and cultures.</p>	Ministry of Education

