

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

PEACE INDEPENDENCE DEMOCRACY UNITY PROSPERITY

The Office of the Prime Minister

No. 85/PMO

PREFACE

The livestock and fisheries sector plays an important role in the socio-economic development in Lao PDR. The animal herd is also considered as national assets and providing great revenue, together with crop production in the national GDP. Besides being national assets, animals are kept for food, draught power and saving bank for families. As a result of its importance, party and government have allocated funds for the livestock and fisheries sector such as animal husbandry and health care. In recent years the livestock services were focused on improvement of feeding and health care so as to gradually increase the growth rate of livestock in quantity and quality.

However, in the same period, a large number of our people did not pay enough attention to the selection of animal breeds, feeding, water, housing and health care and consequently the animals became smaller and smaller in size, unhealthy, with low resistance to diseases resulting, thus, in high mortality each year. The animals are unhealthy; they have not enough anti-bodies against diseases and heavy mortality is deplored in each year. More seriously when animals die because of diseases, the animal owners do not report these cases to the concerned officials or administrative authority and let dead animals decay or float in water and rivers, which create more problems to the environment. Sometimes the sick animals are slaughtered and the meat sold in the markets. This practice has a negative impact on the health of the consumers and makes the disease spread fast to other areas. Rules are essential to the vaccination of animals against diseases, the control of the animal movement, the transportation of animal products, animal feed and veterinary drugs, to the meat inspection and the local breed conservation and improvement. The implementation of this regulation by the concerned people will gradually control disease outbreaks and assist to eradicate diseases in the future. It is considered that participation in these activities will serve the government policies for an improved food security program and to improve the health of the animals and consumers. On the basis of the Prime Minister's Decree (No. 85/PMO) on livestock management in the Lao PDR issued on 31/05/93, The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry formulated the rules on livestock management Lao PDR (No. 0004/MAF) and formulated the instruction to implement these rules (No. 0005/MAF), both dated on 02/01/97.

The contents of the decree and rules are collected and summarized in this document in order to be the reference for dissemination and further implementation.

DECREE ON LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT IN LAO PDR

Chapter I General Provisions

Article 1

All species of domestic animals, including cattle, buffaloes, elephants, horses, donkeys, sheep, goats, pigs, dogs, cats, poultry, domesticated wildlife and fish in the territories of the Lao PDR should be under the centralized and unanimous legal management of the state, entrusted by the relevant sector of the State (Livestock and Fisheries sector) for implementation. The Government applies a policy of promotion for the progressive development of the livestock population in order to:

- Meet food security and provide sufficient draught power in the country.
- To serve as market oriented production and generate income for people and for all economic sectors as well.
- To promote the improvement of animal breeds and the conservation of local breeds.
- To manage the balance of the animal herds.

Article 2

Large animals such as cattle, buffaloes, donkeys, horses and elephants, when reaching the age of at least one year old, should be listed with the village administrative authorities and registered with the district administrative authorities.

Chapter II Rights to Use and Movement of Livestock

Article 3

The owners of all species of animals have the right to use their own animals for food, breeding, draught power, and for sale.

Article 4

To move large animals in mass for trading purposes, described in Article 2, within the territories of the Lao PDR, authorization must be obtained from the District Agriculture and Forestry Office. An animal health certificate issued by a district veterinary officer should be attached to the request for authorization to move or transport animals.

Article 5

The import and export of animal breeds, livestock and livestock products from the Lao PDR should be approved by the Ministry of Commerce based on the animal herd equilibration plan outlined by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry by following the general principles:

5.1

For the exportation of animal breeds, livestock and livestock products, an export license shall be requested. The animal health certificate and the status of the animal breed should be attached in accordance with the rules on movement of livestock and livestock products, as outlined by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

5.2

The order or importation of animal breeds, livestock and livestock products to the Lao PDR shall be based on specific import licenses and animal health certificates from the veterinary agency of the country of origin according to the Ministerial Decree on the movements of livestock and livestock products issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

Article 6

The Government has the right to control the exportation and importation of all species of livestock and livestock products. The various economic sectors like state, co-operatives, joint-ventures, private or family business and foreign companies must be authorized by the state alone, as prescribed in Article 5, to perform such export and import of livestock and livestock products.

Chapter III Violation and Promotion

Article 7

Government organizations, co-operatives, joint-ventures or private businesses, which violate this decree shall be sentenced, fined and confiscation applied. In the event of a severe case, the violator will be prosecuted by the court as proved by law.

Article 8

The Government has policies to promote individual persons, co-operatives or any state organizations that are attentively contributing to the effective implementation of this decree.

Chapter IV Implementation

Article 9

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and the Ministry of Commerce are entrusted to issue detailed recommendations, provisions, regulations and Ministerial Decrees on the implementation of this decree:

- The Ministry of Commerce is responsible to issue unanimous regulations on livestock and meat trading throughout the country. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is responsible to issue provisions on the control of movements of livestock and livestock products, provisions on the registration of animal species, provisions on animals to be slaughtered, provisions on meat inspection, provisions on the conservation of animal breeds and their improvement, provisions on the control and prevention of epidemic diseases.

- The Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, in coordination with the Provincial administrative authorities, shall determine official import-export points. Animals and animal products should be imported-exported through such official check posts only.

Article 10

Ministries, equal ranking state committees and local administrative authorities are requested to be involved in the implementation of this Decree according to their tasks and roles.

Article 11

This decree is effective from the day it is signed and promulgated.

Vientiane, dated 31 May 1993
Prime Minister of the Lao PDR
Khamtai Siphandone