

December 7, 2010

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**Overcoming Crisis of Injustice for the Wellbeing of Thai Society Together**

The National Health Assembly,

Having considered the report on overcoming crisis of injustice for the wellbeing of Thai society Together,

*Aware* that it is necessary for all sectors in the Thai society to create a common vision that will determine the direction of the country's development which takes into consideration a reduction of inequality and a creation of justice in the society;

*Acknowledging* that there are five dimensions of injustice in the Thai society; namely, capitalism, unfair resource management, vertical society, substandard political and bureaucratic systems, and an education system that fails to relate to existing social problems, thus making it necessary for every sectors in society to help create justice in all dimensions;

*Concerned* that injustice creates social divisiveness and that the protests against injustice that occur is made worse by certain threats made by the bureaucracy and some interest groups, which will result in more stress and more divisiveness;

*Acknowledging* the participatory reform process proposed by the Reform Commission and the National Reform Assembly to transform conflicts that may lead to violence can be transformed into a true force for the resolution of problems at various levels,

Hereby issues the following resolutions:

1. The Reform Commission and the National Reform Assembly is requested to consider a country reform movement aimed at reducing inequality and increasing justice in order to lead to a state of wellbeing of the society, with thought given to the following issues:
  - 1.1 Fair and just economic and natural resource management reform – by reforming a tax system to achieve fair income distribution and sustainable solutions of the debt problem. There has to be a distribution of the national budget with a focus on rural and regional development, distribution of land ownership, management of water and other production factors in a fair manner, and allow communities to increasingly participate in the natural resource management.

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- 1.2 Social and wellbeing reform – by strengthening the family institution and community, creating a welfare system and health security as a guarantee for one’s life, promoting creative social activities and making conditions favorable to living in a way which is friendly to other human beings and to the environment.
  - 1.3 Democratic and political reform – by making participation in politics and in policy determination a reality, by promoting direct democracy, returning power to local communities for self management by reforming the bureaucracy, reducing centralization, reforming the justice system by making all levels of the system easily accessible and by promoting the community justice system and creating a public communication system accessible by everyone.
  - 1.4 Education, awareness and learning reform of Thai society – by allowing everyone to have an opportunity to study so as to utilize their capacity to the fullest, promoting the culture of learning and using of knowledge, wisdom and reason, recognizing diverse religions and culture, equally respecting human dignity with a moral outlook, with humanity, compassion and public awareness and also developing communities to become a learning community.
2. The government is requested to speed up implementation under Article 87 (1) of the Constitution of Thailand, that is, to reform the public policy process to create justice and reduce inequality in the society through the following urgent actions:
    - 2.1 Encouraging the formation of alliances of people’s networks and of relevant organizations to jointly work together to create a fair public policy process that takes into consideration a value of co-existence and recognition of those peacefully fighting for justice.
    - 2.2 Encouraging formulation of common framework and rules to determine a public policy that gives importance to community rights and people participation and that empowers and educates the public. There should also be comprehensive studies of environment and health impact of policies, and putting in place a system of accountability for policies and assessment of risks resulting from policies.
    - 2.3 Strengthening knowledge/research strategy so that “knowledge space” and “policy space” is opened up to recognize local wisdom as well as practical and local knowledge that was once suppressed. This is to be done by developing management mechanisms that allow access to holistic knowledge and by formulating guidelines to technical measures.
    - 2.4 Supporting the searching for and use of conflict management tools that emphasize the listening to the plight of those involved so to understand the real causes and problems, which will enable realistic and prompt solutions.
    - 2.5 Establishing a mechanism to manage injustice at the national, regional, provincial and local levels that have representations from various administrative zones. This to include representation from community and local areas, but it should also include issues-based and ecological-based representation as well. These mechanisms are tasked with determining

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directions, operation plans, procedures and tools to resolve injustice in both the issues dimension and the spatial dimension.

3. The National Health Commission is requested to submit the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Health Assembly resolution on overcoming crisis of injustice for the wellbeing of Thai society together to the Reform Commission, the National Reform Assembly and the cabinet to push the reform of Thai society agenda, which is aimed at creating justice and reducing inequality seriously.
4. Members of the National Health Assembly are requested to cooperate by seriously supporting and monitoring this resolution. This can be done by supporting the Reform Commission and the National Reform Assembly, so as to stimulate the process of developing a just public policy.