



LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
PEACE INDEPENDENCE DEMOCRACY UNITY PROSPERITY

President's Office

No. 13/PO

DECREE
of the
PRESIDENT
of the
LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

**On the Promulgation of the Law on Hygiene, Disease Prevention
and Health Promotion**

Pursuant to Chapter 5, Article 53, point 1 of the Constitution of the Lao People's Democratic Republic;

Pursuant to Resolution No. 04/NA, dated 10 April 2001, of the National Assembly of the Lao People's Democratic Republic on the adoption of the Law on Hygiene, Disease Prevention and Health Promotion; and

Pursuant to Proposal No. 04/NASC, dated 20 April 2001, of the National Assembly Standing Committee.

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

Article 1. The Law on Hygiene, Disease Prevention and Health Promotion is hereby promulgated.

Article 2. This decree shall enter into force on the date it is signed.

Vientiane, 25 April 2001
President of the Lao People's Democratic
Republic

[Seal and Signature]

Khamtai SIPHANDON



LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
PEACE INDEPENDENCE DEMOCRACY UNITY PROSPERITY

National Assembly

No. 01/NA
10 April 2001

**LAW ON HYGIENE, DISEASE PREVENTION
AND HEALTH PROMOTION**

**Chapter 1
General Provisions**

Article 1. Function of the Law on Hygiene, Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

The Law on Hygiene, Disease Prevention and Health Promotion has the function to determine the principles, regulations and measures relating to the organisation of activities on hygiene, disease prevention and health promotion to maintain the good health, quality of life and longevity of the people thus contributing to national preservation and development.

Article 2. Definitions

Good health refers to a state of complete physical, mental, intellectual and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or disability. Good health is a valuable possession, as well as a fundamental and equitable right[;] it is the obligation of all citizens, as well as of their families and of the society as a whole, and it is an essential condition for education, productive labour and happy lives.

Hygiene refers to the control of elements in the environment that are dangerous or that pose potential hazards to physical, mental and social health of human beings[;] for example, personal hygiene, nutritional hygiene, hygiene in lifestyle, clothing and others as provided in Article 8 of this law.

Disease prevention refers to the application of efficient measures and procedures to prevent the occurrence of diseases or to restrict their spread and reduce their severity and danger.

Health promotion refers to the process of[:] increasing people's knowledge, skills and awareness in the control, care and development of individuals, families, collectives and the society to improve [health] through

behavioural change[;] and creating conditions favourable to, and defining the principles for, the application of measures, using health education as the core, to improve lives and facilitate good health.

Health hazards refers to acts or lifestyles likely to entail sickness or disease. The population's health may be ensured only when the risk of health hazards is avoided, reduced or prevented.

Article 3. Rights and Obligations of Citizens in Health Care

All citizens, regardless of ethnic origin, gender, age, or socio-economic status, have the right of access to health services, and have the obligation to care for personal, family, social and national health, and to contribute to hygiene, disease prevention and health promotion.

Article 4. Responsibilities of the State towards Citizens' Health

The State considers important and pays attention to the care and promotion of the health of the multi-ethnic people by providing knowledge, [and] information, and by mobilising and developing activities on hygiene, disease prevention and health promotion for both public and private sectors, promoting the communities and the private sector to participate in the development of a quality health-care system throughout the country.

Article 5. Promotion of Investment in Hygiene, Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

The State promotes the investment by all socio-economic sectors, both domestic and foreign, in hygiene, disease prevention and health promotion by setting appropriate policies, regulations and measures in accordance with the laws of the Lao PDR.

Article 6. International Cooperation

The State promotes international cooperation in exchanging experiences and training, in building up staff and in providing assistance on hygiene, disease prevention and health promotion.

**Chapter 2
Hygiene**

Article 7. Importance of Hygiene

Hygiene is a fundamental activity in the health sector, which aims at preventing disease and promoting health throughout the society. It is important for the daily life of human beings. People who maintain good hygiene will avoid disease, and have longevity and a good quality of life.

Individuals, families and communities are required to strictly maintain hygiene.

Article 8. Elements of Hygiene

Hygiene includes hygiene in relation to persons, families, communities, water for use and consumption, food and consumption goods, buildings, hotels and guesthouses, schools and educational institutions, hospitals, dispensaries and clinics, labour, production, construction and maintenance sites, public places, markets, funerals, the environment and others¹.

Article 9. Personal Hygiene

Personal hygiene refers to keeping physically and mentally healthy to avoid sickness or disease and to be able to live in normal social life.

All persons are required to pay attention to their own cleanliness, eating, drinking, discharge of excrement, dressing, sleeping, work and rest, including proper sexual intercourse in accordance with the principles of hygiene.

Article 10. Family Hygiene

Family hygiene refers to caring for all family members so that they have good hygiene and health.

Each family is required[:] to create conditions to ensure access to clean water, nutritious and safe food, hygienic latrines, [and] appropriately clean clothes[:] to immunise children through injections and drops[:] to send [them] for health examination and treatment during sickness[:] to comply with the three principles of hygiene²[:] to educate on the dangers of smoking tobacco and drinking alcohol[;]to prevent the use of narcotics[; and to prevent] sexually transmitted diseases.

Article 11. Community Hygiene

Community hygiene refers to the joint preservation of cleanliness and beauty within a group, neighbourhood, village, city or town.

All persons in a community have the obligation to dispose of solid and liquid waste, and to preserve the cleanliness of water sources, water for drinking or use, roads, drains and public places, in order to avoid the occurrence of disease and ensure orderliness and beauty for their own health and the health of the whole society.

¹ The term “and others” is a literal translation and is not subject to further specificity.

² This is a reference to the three principles of hygiene, which are taught from childhood: drink healthily, eat healthily and live healthily.

Article 12. Hygiene of Water for Drinking or Use

Hygiene in relation to water for drinking or use refers to the supply of clean water for daily drinking and use.

Water for daily use must originate from sources which are assured of being clean, such as: water supply systems, wells, rainwater, aquifers, gravity fed water supply, springs, hot springs, rivers, streams and others.

Drinking water must originate from such sources but must be boiled, distilled, and properly produced and delivered in accordance with technical standards and the principles of hygiene as determined by the Ministry of Health.

Article 13. Hygiene of Food and Consumer Goods

Hygiene in relation to food and consumer goods refers to the organised inspection and control of food and consumer goods to maintain their cleanliness and safety from bacteria, parasites and toxic chemical substances with harmful effects on health and physical growth in human life.

Individuals and organisations processing food [or] food products, [or] packaging, storing, moving and providing services relating to food, shall guarantee proper quality in accordance with production standards and principles of hygiene.

Producers or sellers of food must first undertake an examination and obtain a health certificate. Persons with communicable diseases are forbidden to conduct activities relating to food in order to prevent the spread of disease.

Locally produced or imported food and consumption goods shall be inspected by the concerned³ authorities and shall comply with the laws and regulations of the Lao PDR.

Article 14. Hygiene of Buildings

Hygiene in relation to buildings refers to preserving the cleanliness and beauty of, and arranging the orderliness of, houses, offices, and spaces under and surrounding houses to ensure safe conditions for living and work.

Buildings must be located in clean places that are safe from communicable diseases, pollution and other disturbances.

To ensure proper cleanliness of buildings in accordance with the principles of hygiene, the interior of houses and offices shall be provided with sufficient light and air circulation. They shall be regularly cleaned, and equipped with latrines, cans or bins to collect waste, and proper drainage facilities in accordance with the principles of hygiene. Solid and liquid waste

³ The term “concerned” is used in the sense of “relevant”.

shall be regularly disposed of. Keeping animals under the house is not allowed, and such animals shall be kept in specific places and not allowed in public places. Harvests shall be kept in proper places.

Individuals and organisations shall be responsible for the hygiene of buildings, houses, and offices to ensure their constant orderliness and beauty.

Article 15. Hygiene of Hotels and Guesthouses

Hygiene in relation to hotels and guesthouses refers to maintaining clean and orderly hotels and guesthouses.

Hotels and guesthouses must be located in appropriate areas that are safe from communicable diseases, accidents, disturbances and hazards.

Rooms shall be provided in sufficient and appropriate number for guests, with sufficient light and air circulation, and shall be equipped with latrines in sufficient number and meeting the principles of hygiene[;] [hotels and guesthouses] must have bathrooms, lavatories, waste-water-draining facilities, garbage bins, a proper waste disposal system and sufficient water supply.

Individuals and organisations shall be responsible for preserving the cleanliness, beauty and orderliness of hotels and guesthouses and for implementing the principles of hygiene as determined by the State.

Article 16. Hygiene of Schools and Educational Institutions

Hygiene in relation to schools and educational institutions refers to maintaining clean, beautiful and orderly schools and educational institutions.

Schools and educational institutions shall be established at safe locations from communicable diseases, accidents and hazards, and shall be equipped with sports grounds and resting-places.

The buildings of schools and educational institutions shall be provided with sufficient appropriate space for the number of students, and shall be equipped with sufficient light and air circulation and with tables and chairs adequate for students of that age.

Teachers, students and the relevant organisations shall guarantee that schools and educational institutions are maintained in constant cleanliness, and are supplied with drinking and clean water, with hygienic latrines and with other necessary facilities in accordance with the principles of hygiene. Moreover, health examinations shall be organised for students.

Childcare centres and kindergartens shall apply the said principles. Children under 5 years of age shall be fully immunised and given drops.

Article 17. Hygiene of Hospitals, Dispensaries and Clinics

Hygiene in relation to hospitals, dispensaries and clinics refers to maintaining the cleanliness, orderliness and beauty of premises where services are provided for examination, diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation, prevention [of disease] and promotion of the peoples' health.

Hospitals, dispensaries and clinics shall be clean, tidy, and hygienic, and shall be free from germs that are likely to spread from patients, instruments, tools and medical equipment.

Hospitals, dispensaries and clinics shall be equipped with latrines, sufficient drinking water and water supply, a system for waste-water treatment, and a system for waste separation, storage and disposal in accordance with the principles of hygiene.

Article 18. Labour Hygiene

Labour hygiene refers to maintaining and ensuring working conditions that protect the health of workers in the industrial, agricultural, handicraft and other sectors from diseases, toxic chemicals, and radioactive materials hazardous to the health or life of workers and people in the vicinity.

Employers shall provide safety equipment to workers, and shall ensure the hygiene of working premises, specifically[, employers shall provide premises] with sufficient light and air circulation, the appropriate temperature, and [levels of] humidity, vibration, sound, smell and dust that are within the defined standards provided under regulations.

Employees shall receive health examinations and treatment in accordance with the provisions of the Labour Law, in particular in sectors with activities that are hazardous to health.

Article 19. Hygiene in Production

Hygiene in production refers to ensuring conditions and standards in the production of consumption goods to avoid the spread of germs and toxic chemicals which could be hazardous to consumer health, especially in relation to goods for daily consumption, children's toys and cosmetics.

Individuals and organisations producing the above-mentioned consumption goods shall comply with technical standards for production, waste disposal management techniques and principles of hygiene in order to avoid hazards to human health and the environment.

It is forbidden to release waste, chemicals or waste water from factories, including other production sites, into water bodies or elsewhere without undergoing a treatment process.

Article 20. Hygiene of Construction and Maintenance Sites

Hygiene in relation to construction and maintenance sites refers to the implementation of necessary measures and methods consistent with the principles of hygiene in the construction or maintenance of roads and buildings or other activities in order to prevent hazards to the health or life of workers and of neighbours and passers-by.

To ensure the safety, cleanliness and accessibility of construction or maintenance sites, the owner or person responsible for a construction or maintenance site shall install warning signs, fences, curtains or nets around such sites or provide watering⁴ to prevent construction materials, dirt or dust from falling or flying out of the construction or maintenance sites.

Article 21. Hygiene of Public Places

Hygiene in relation to public places refers to maintaining cleanliness, beauty and orderliness of places reserved for public gathering, entertainment and rest, such as temples, sacred sites, monuments, public parks, tourism areas, theatres, sports grounds, airports, ports, markets, parking lots, roads and places for different events.

Individuals and organisations shall be strictly responsible for complying with the rules set for such public places and shall constantly maintain the cleanliness and orderliness of such places.

Article 22. Hygiene of Markets

Hygiene in relation to markets refers to the implementation of necessary measures and methods to keep markets clean, safe and orderly with the aim of ensuring the cleanliness of each type of goods displayed for sale.

Markets shall be located at appropriate places and distances from sources of dirt, cemeteries and animal rearing areas. Markets shall cover a wide area and shall have an easily accessible road, permanent structures, sufficient light and air circulation, a system for wastewater disposal, a system for waste storage and disposal, a fire protection system, water supply and clean latrines in sufficient number. Markets shall also be equipped with secure parking lots, and a proper system for the display of commodities, such as dry food, fresh food, goods for daily consumption and others.

Individuals and organisations bringing commodities for sale in the market shall be responsible for complying with the principles of hygiene.

⁴ This is a literal translation and refers to the process of controlling dust by sprinkling water.

Article 23. Hygiene in Funerals

Hygiene in relation to funerals refers to keeping the corpse hygienic to prevent the spread of germs during its preservation, transportation, burial or incineration.

Corpses must be injected⁵, packed⁶ and placed in coffins to prevent odours and the spread of germs. Corpses of persons who had suffered from communicable diseases may not be kept for a prolonged period of time. When transporting, incinerating, and burying corpses, the principles of hygiene must be guaranteed. Corpses must not be incinerated or buried near community settlements or sources of water.

The transportation of corpses or ashes through the territory of the Lao PDR shall require the approval of the government.

Article 24. Environmental Hygiene

Environmental hygiene refers to the methods applied to improve the relationship between the environment and human beings in terms of physical, mental and social health.

In addition to the [types of] hygiene mentioned above⁷, persons and organisations shall guarantee the hygiene of house animals, slaughterhouses, [and] streams, and shall control pollution, animals, vectors of disease, and disturbances such as: odours, smoke, and dust.

Persons, families, collectives and organisations shall preserve and develop environmental hygiene to protect their own and other persons' health.

Animals must not be reared or left stray in public areas. Waste, carcasses, dirt or chemicals must not be released into streams, water bodies, or roads, and sources of germs must be controlled or destroyed.

The release of odours, smoke and dust and the use of light, noise and vibrations shall be consistent with the required standards defined in the Environmental Protection Law to avoid affecting health.

⁵ Presumably with formalin, but this is not stated in the original text.

⁶ This is a literal translation. It may be intended to mean “wrapped” or, alternatively, “embalmed”.

⁷ This is a reference to all the other types of hygiene defined in this chapter.

Chapter 3 Disease Prevention

Article 25. Importance of Disease Prevention

Disease prevention refers to activities, actions, measures or methods aimed at restricting the occurrence of diseases or, if any disease has occurred, at preventing its violence and spread.

The State considers prevention of disease as a primary activity and as the activity of the community as a whole.

All persons, families, communities, and social organisations have the duty and responsibility to actively participate in and contribute to disease prevention.

Article 26. Elements of Disease Prevention

Disease prevention comprises the following activities:

1. Prevention and control of communicable diseases, which refers to restricting the occurrence of diseases in relation to human beings, and their spread from one person to another within a community, from animals to human beings and from one place to another.

Persons, families, administrative authorities and all organisations in the society shall comply with the principles of prevention and control of communicable diseases. When symptoms of epidemics occur in their location, immediate measures shall be urgently issued and the situation shall be reported to higher authorities for timely solution;

2. Preventive immunisation or administration of drops, which refers to building-up the physical immune systems of the multi-ethnic people by using vaccines in the form of injections and drops to prevent diphtheria, tetanus, measles, poliomyelitis, tuberculosis, whooping cough and other diseases.

All women and children must receive disease-preventing immunisation and drops at the prescribed time and place and in accordance with defined regulations;

3. The prevention of non-communicable diseases, which refers to [adopting] the appropriate behaviour or lifestyle to avoid non-communicable diseases, such as avoiding smoking to prevent the risk of lung cancer, avoiding excessive alcohol consumption to prevent diseases and accidents, and engaging in physical exercise and sports activities to prevent heart and other diseases.

Chapter 4 Health Promotion

Article 27. Importance of Health Promotion

Health promotion is a fundamental policy of the State aimed at creating an environment favourable to the health of all people.

All citizens have the duty and responsibility to improve their health.

All sectors⁸ shall contribute jointly with the health authorities in promoting and creating conditions favourable to public health promotion.

Article 28. Elements of Health Promotion

Health promotion includes health education, mother and child health care, youth and teenage health care, health care for elderly, handicapped and disabled⁹ persons, nutrition, sports, gymnastics and arts, and the arrangement of public parks and green spaces in the urban areas and resting areas where possible.

Article 29. Health Education

Health education refers to the process of education through the provision of information and knowledge on health issues to all citizens, in order to ensure such understanding and awareness of hygiene, disease prevention and health promotion that are likely to change the views, behaviour and lifestyle of persons, families and communities to strengthen their health.

Organisations involved in health, education, culture and information, the mass media, and other organisations in society, both public and private, are responsible for providing health education and knowledge to the population on a regular basis and in a diversified manner.

Health education shall be included in the school curriculum.

Article 30. Mother and Child Health Care

Mother and child health care is an important policy of the State and a core activity of the health sector, as well as the obligation of all persons and in particular of the children's fathers.

All women and children are entitled to receive health services in accordance with State policies comprising hygiene, prevention, health

⁸ The term "sector" is used in many Lao laws to refer to the cluster of government ministries or agencies engaged in a particular activity.

⁹ The terms "handicapped" and "disabled" attempt to approximate two Lao terms, the first connoting a person who has suffered a reduction in the use of his limbs, the second connoting a person who has suffered a reduction in the use of his physical senses.

promotion, treatment and rehabilitation, whether before marriage, during pregnancy, or before and after childbirth. Children shall receive care and support in all cases, including twins and children with anomalies at birth, from their birth through their school, youth and teenage years to ensure full physical, mental, emotional and social health of both mothers and children.

Women in their youth and teenage years shall undergo health examinations and immunisation as required by the regulations. During pregnancy, examinations and monitoring shall be provided. If any risk is discovered, preventive measures must be planned and hard labour shall be avoided. Before and after childbirth, rest shall be prescribed as appropriate and in accordance with the laws and regulations. Childbirth shall take place in hospitals, dispensaries or at home under the care of medical personnel or traditional midwives. During and after pregnancy, sufficient nutrition shall be ensured.

Newly born infants shall mainly be fed by the breastfeeding of their mothers, and shall receive complete immunisation and drops.

To ensure the mother's health, childbirth should be spaced out.

Article 31. Youth and Teenage Health Care

Youth and teenagers are in periods of physical and intellectual growth. Youth and teenage health care is important in enabling the full physical, intellectual and mental health of people in their youth and teenage years.

Youth and teenagers shall receive education in ideology, politics and good attitudes, and shall be encouraged in the areas of education, sports, gymnastics, arts, literature and culture.

Attention shall be focused on educating youth and teenagers to understand the policies of spacing out childbirth and sexual safety, pregnancy and giving birth, and not marrying before reaching maturity.

Families, schools, and professional and social organisations, whether public or private, shall pay attention to educating and encouraging youth and teenagers in the above-mentioned issues. At the same time, education shall focus on the avoidance of smoking, alcohol, glue sniffing, consumption of narcotics, hooliganism and others.

Article 32. Health Care for Elderly, Handicapped and Disabled Persons

Elderly, handicapped and disabled persons are persons with diminished strength and physical force, and in reduced health. Therefore, a close monitoring of their health is required.

Families, organisations and the society shall pay attention to the health care of elderly persons, persons with outstanding performance towards the nation, heroes, combatants, handicapped and disabled persons, and mentally

disturbed persons, by providing appropriate services for health examination and treatment, as well as creating conditions for elderly, handicapped and disabled persons to live appropriate lives, to rest, and to be able to contribute to social activities.

Article 33. Nutrition

Nutrition refers to the consumption of beneficial and safe food ensuring physical and intellectual growth. To ensure strong health, each citizen should be encouraged to consume the complete group of foods, including protein (meat, fish, soybean...), starch, sugar, fat and minerals (vegetables and fruits). It is prohibited to consume food that contains substances hazardous to health, such as: sick animals, rotten food, and food containing toxic chemical substances.

Article 34. Sports, Gymnastics and Arts

Sports, gymnastics and arts are important for all genders and ages in promoting strength, health, longevity, happiness and physical health.

The State shall create conditions for all sectors to participate in sports, gymnastics and artistic performances in various categories, forms and levels.

Sports, gymnastics and arts shall be included in the curricula of schools of all levels.

Article 35. Public Parks, Green Spaces and Resting Areas

To ensure widespread health promotion, it is necessary to establish public parks, green spaces and resting areas.

In villages, districts, provinces, municipalities, special zones, offices and densely populated areas, public parks and conservation areas should be arranged and trees should be planted in substantial numbers to ensure clean and fresh air, and there should also be resting areas for health rehabilitation.

Chapter 5

**Encouragement to Implement Hygiene, Disease Prevention,
and Health Promotion**

Article 36. Encouragement to Implement Hygiene, Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

Hygiene, disease prevention and health promotion are fundamental, central and priority activities in public health, which require encouragement and promotion through contributions from individuals, and from public and private organisations to meet the society's needs on hygiene, disease prevention and health promotion.

Article 37. Investment

The State promotes different economic and social sectors, including local and foreign investors, to invest in hygiene, disease prevention and health promotion in various forms such as: through the establishment and mobilisation of funds for clean water supply, latrines, insecticidal bed nets, resting areas and others.

Article 38. Social Contributions

All persons and organisations have the duty to contribute to hygiene, disease prevention and health promotion in the form of labour, funding and intellectual contribution towards the establishment of resting areas, the promotion of sports, gymnastics and arts, the creation of public parks and green spaces and the organisation of health foundations, including to participate in the activities mentioned above.

Article 39. Scientific Research

Scientific research on hygiene, disease prevention and health promotion refers to searching for information on the causes of illnesses, diseases, and health risks, including information on measures to prevent, restrict and solve such causes.

Scientific research on hygiene, disease prevention and health promotion, including the report of the results of such experimental research, must be authorised by the Ministry of Health.

Chapter 6
Administration and Monitoring of Hygiene, Disease Prevention
and Health Promotion

Article 40. Agencies in Charge of Administering and Monitoring Hygiene, Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

Agencies administering and monitoring hygiene, disease prevention and health promotion include:

1. The health sector, which comprises:
 - The Ministry of Health;
 - Provincial, municipal and special zone health divisions;
 - District health offices.
2. Other concerned sectors.

In order to efficiently organise such activities, health committees shall be organised at the provincial, district and village levels, which shall consist of a number of staff to assist in administering hygiene, disease prevention and health promotion activities.

Article 41. Rights and Duties of Agencies in Charge of Administering and Monitoring Hygiene, Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

The health sector, through the Ministry of Health as the macro-level administration agency, has the right and duty to determine the necessary policies, plans, regulations, rules and technical standards, to supervise all levels within its sector in coordinating actual implementation with other concerned sectors, and to periodically control, monitor and assess the efficiency of nationwide implementation of hygiene, disease prevention and health promotion. It shall ensure the adequate, widespread and strict implementation of laws and regulations pertaining to hygiene, disease prevention and health promotion.

Other concerned sectors have the duty to participate in effectively organising and implementing hygiene, disease prevention and health promotion activities.

Health committees at each level have the duty to organise implementing activities on hygiene, disease prevention and health promotion within the scope of their assigned roles.

Article 42. Inspection of Hygiene, Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

Inspection of hygiene, disease prevention and health promotion refers to the monitoring and control of activities relating to the implementation of principles of hygiene, health risks, the maintenance of cleanliness, pollution control and the proper application of measures provided under the laws and regulations for the purpose of ensuring effective hygiene, disease prevention and health promotion.

Article 43. Types of Inspection

Inspection of hygiene, disease prevention and health promotion comprises three types:

1. Regular inspection;
2. Inspection by advance notice;
3. Emergency inspection.

Regular inspection refers to an inspection performed regularly according to plans and at pre-determined times.

Inspection by advance notice refers to an inspection which is not included in the plan, which is performed when deemed necessary and for which advance notice is given.

Emergency inspection refers to a sudden inspection without advance notice to the person to be inspected.

In performing inspections on hygiene, disease prevention and health promotion, the inspectors shall duly and strictly obey the laws and regulations.

Chapter 7

Policies Towards Persons With Outstanding Achievement and Measures Against Violators¹⁰

Article 44. Policies Towards Persons with Outstanding Achievement

Persons or organisations that are role models of active participation in hygiene, disease prevention and health promotion activities will receive rewards or be granted policies as determined in detail by the government.

Article 45. Measures Against Violators

Persons or organisations violating this law or regulations on hygiene, disease prevention and health promotion shall be re-educated¹¹, fined or sentenced on criminal charges according to the nature of the violation.

Article 46. Re-Education Measures

Persons or organisations that are guilty of minor violations of this law or of regulations on hygiene, disease prevention and health promotion will be warned and subject to re-education measures, such as in the case of failing to observe the three principles of hygiene, rearing or keeping animals under houses, failing to keep the house yard and drains clean, allowing the breeding of mosquitoes that spread diseases, not having latrines, failing to ensure the immunisation of their children as required by health regulations and others as provided under this law.

Article 47. Fines

Persons or organisations will be fined in the following cases:

1. Persons who have undergone re-education measures and warnings as provided under Article 46 above up to two times without any improvement;
2. Persons disposing or releasing waste, animal carcasses, or chemicals into streams or rivers, in public parks or roads, or in other places;
3. Persons breaching any provision of Article 12 to Article 24 of this law.

Fines shall be determined under separate regulations.

¹⁰ The term “policies” is often used as an indirect way of referring to “incentives” or “privileges” and the term “measures” is often used as an indirect way of referring to “sanctions”.

¹¹ Here, “re-education” does not mean the same as “re-education without deprivation of liberty” referred to in the Penal Law.

Article 48. Criminal Sanctions

Any breach of this law or of regulations on hygiene, disease prevention and health promotion that causes damage to human health or life, such as: the failure to set up protective measures at construction or maintenance sites, thereby causing injury or death to persons from falling materials; the disposal of animal carcasses or chemicals into water sources for consumption and use, thereby causing sickness and disease; or the production of consumer goods, children's toys or cosmetics containing toxic chemical substances or germs hazardous to human health or life, shall be punished in accordance with the nature of such breach.

**Chapter 8
Final Provisions**

Article 49. Implementation

The government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic is to implement this law.

Article 50. Effectiveness

This law shall become effective after one hundred and twenty days from the date of the promulgating decree of the President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Any provisions that contradict this law are repealed.

Vientiane, 10 April 2001
President of the National Assembly

[Seal & Signature]

Samane VIGNAKET