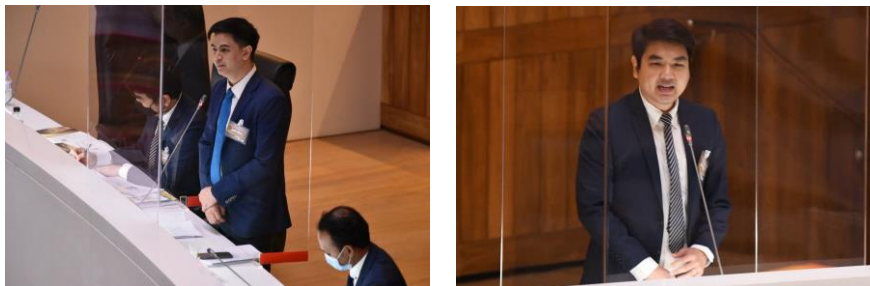


The 2nd Joint Session of the National Assembly (Second Annual General Session)



On 16th November 2021, at the House of Representatives Chamber, 2nd Floor, Parliament Building, H.E. Mr. Chuan Leekpai, President of the National Assembly, presided over the 2nd Joint Session of the National Assembly (Second Annual General Session), with Professor Pornpetch Wichitcholchai, Vice-President of the National Assembly, served as the Chairperson of the sitting in rotation.

The urgent matter to be considered was the draft Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand, Amendment (No. ..), B.E. (proposed by Mr. Parit Wacharasindhu and 135,247 people who have the right to vote)



Mr. Parit Wacharasindhu stated four core principles of the proposed draft, called the draft of People's Constitution, which were to abolish senators and allow only the House of Representatives where consisted of 500 elected members runs the parliamentary affairs as a unicameral system; to reform the Constitutional Court and independent organizations by terminating the office terms of judges of the Constitutional Court and the members of independent organizations appointed by the NCPO and being in their terms, and replaced the new personnel nominated through. It is derived through the selection system among the Supreme Court of Justice, general meeting of the Supreme Administrative Court, the coalition government parties, the opposition parties and allowing MPs freely vote to choose the person with the highest score from all the nominations.

Mr. Piyabutr Saengkanokkul, further clarified that the amendment of draft Constitution shall not be a revolution as some members' observation, but only amend on the sections caused the chronicle problems. In addition, following to the observation concerning some

content in the draft where would deteriorate the independence of the courts by the written clause of no authorization of the court in coup d'état endorsement, vis-à-vis, it shall make a better image to the court. Moreover, regarding to the prohibition of the Constitutional Court in interfering the Constitutional amendment, it would cause the impact to the balance of power between the two powers, namely, the constitutional authority and the powers of the Constitutional Court under the Constitution.

Members have deliberated diversely both support the principles and rationales of the draft Constitution, such as, the abolition of the Senate, the reform of the Constitutional Court, as well as the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand B.E. 2560 is a succession of coups and undemocratic. If the National Assembly does not accept the principle of the draft amendment to this Constitution, it will lead to a political crisis affecting the economy, society and the perilous of the country. Where its principles and rationales were contradicted by other members in several issues, such as, the abolition of the Senate, would be affect to the legislative scrutinization when the technical errors occurred. Besides, the limitless power of the members of the House of Representatives would be dangerous to legislative process. It would be better when decrease the number or define its appropriated duties' framework of the Senate than repeal it. However, regarding to balance of power, the draft Constitution provided a systemic balancing among all parties, without a majority in the Constitutional Court and independent bodies, with fair allocation.

Then, on 17th November 2021, the matter was voted by name. The result of the vote exhibited the rejection to agree in the principle of the draft Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand Amendment (No. ..), B.E. with 473 votes against and 206 votes in favor. It was less than half of the total members of both Houses of the National Assembly, which is 362 votes, the meeting resolved to disagree the principle of the draft Constitution.

Source: Mass Media Division, Bureau of Public Relations

Summary and Translation: Bureau of Foreign Languages

Secretariat of the House of Representatives