



*The Southern Border Provinces Administration and Development Policy*  
*B.E. 2555-2557 (2012-2014)*

*Office of the National Security Council*  
*Office of the Prime Minister*

## **Introduction**


The Southern Border Provinces Administration and Development Policy 2012 – 2014 is the first national policy drafted by the Office of the National Security Council (NSC) in compliance with the 2010 Southern Border Provinces Administration Act (SBPs Act). Section 4 of the SBPs Act allocates the Office of the National Security Council to draft an administration and development policy for submitting to the National Security Council and to the Cabinet for approval as well as submitting the policy to the National Assembly for acknowledgement prior to the adoption by the relevant government agencies. The NSC is also responsible for providing suggestions on the policy appraisal every 3 years (or less if necessary). Section 5 of the SBPs Act also specifies that the Internal Security Operations Command (ISOC) should improve its operational plans and guidelines, particularly for the SBPs while Section 9 (1) of the Act allocates the Southern Border Provinces Administrative Centre (SBPAC) to draft development strategies that are in line with the NSC policy.

In drafting the policy, the NSC emphasizes strongly on public participation from the government sector and the relevant agencies both within and outside the SBPs. The NSC also takes into consideration opinions of Muslim Thais abroad, suggestions of the members of the Advisory Council on the Administration and Development of Southern Border Provinces as well as data from academic researches. The Policy pays equal attention to problems at the root causes and phenomenal problems with focus on safety in the SBPs, prevention of conditions leading to the use of violence, support for environment conducive to peaceful resolutions and participation of all sectors in peace-building process through mutual trust and understanding.

The Southern Border Provinces Administration and Development Policy, 2012 – 2014 was approved by the Policy Committee of the NSC on 12 and 18 January 2012, and by the National Security Office on 9 February 2012. The Cabinet gave its consent on 22 February 2012 and the policy has already been submitted to the National Assembly for acknowledgement.

The policy serves at the national level as the direction and guidelines for relevant agencies in implementing appropriate measures to address the SBPs problem in both security and development dimensions. It is therefore important that government agencies

and its officials who are directly in charge of SBPs' problem solving mutually share correct understanding about philosophy, concepts, and approaches to conflict mitigation. All stakeholders are required to accept the policy as well as continually participate in the policy implementation in order to restore peace in this region as soon as possible.

Police General   
(Wichean Potephosree)  
Secretary General  
National Security Council



No. 0503/8355

The Secretariat of the Cabinet  
Government House  
Bangkok 10300

3 April 2012

Subject: Draft of the Southern Border Provinces Administration and Development Policy,  
2012 -2014

Dear Secretary- General of the National Security Council,

Ref. : Letter of the Secretariat of the Cabinet no. 0503/4423  
dated 24 February 2012

Enclosed: Copy of the letter of the Secretariat of the House of Representatives no. 0014/4830  
dated 30 March 2012

With reference to the report on the proposal of the Southern Border Provinces Administration and Development Policy, 2012 -2014, to the House of Representatives as well as the Senate and the request to submit 1,200 copies of the policy to the Secretariat of the House of Representatives and 500 copies to the Secretariat of the Senate, the Secretariat of the House of Representatives has informed that the House of Representatives acknowledged this policy at its 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> meetings on Wednesday 28 and Thursday 29 March, 2012. Details are enclosed.

Yours sincerely,

(Mr. Amnat Puaves)

Director Bureau of Legal Affairs  
for Secretary-General of the Cabinet

Bureau of Legal Affairs  
Tel. 0 2280 9000 ext. 308  
Fax. 0 2280 9058 (...NSC 2555 02)  
[www.cabinet.thaigov.go.th](http://www.cabinet.thaigov.go.th)

No. 0014/4830



The Secretariat of the House of  
Representatives  
Uthongnai Rd., Bangkok 10300

30 March 2012

Subject: The Southern Border Provinces Administration and Development Policy,  
2012 -2014

Dear Secretary- General of the Cabinet,

Ref.: Letter of the Cabinet no. 0503/4244  
dated 23 February 2012

With reference to the stated letter quoting Code 4 of the 2010 Southern Border Provinces Administration Act, the Prime Minister proposed the Southern Border Provinces Administration and Development Policy, 2012 -2014, to the House of Representatives for acknowledgement, accordingly.

This letter is to inform that the 24<sup>th</sup> House of Representatives acknowledged the proposal of this policy in the 26<sup>th</sup> and the 27<sup>th</sup> legislative meetings of its first year on Wednesday 28 and Thursday 29 March 2012.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Watcharin Jompalapol'.

(Mr. Watcharin Jompalapol)

Deputy Secretary-General of the House of Representatives  
for Secretary-General



No. 0503/4423

The Secretariat of the Cabinet  
Government House  
Bangkok 10300

24 February 2012

Subject: Draft of the Southern Border Provinces Administration and Development Policy,  
2012 -2014

Dear Secretary- General of the National Security Council,

Ref. : Letter of the Office of the National Security Council no. 0807/0432,  
dated 17 February 2012

With reference to the recommendation to submit the draft of the Southern Border Provinces Administration and Development Policy, 2012 -2014, to the Cabinet for approval, the Cabinet agreed in its meeting on 22 February 2012 for its approval and submitted it to the National Assembly according to Code 4 of the 2010 Southern Border Provinces Administration Act for policy implementation by government agencies.

The Secretariat of the Cabinet has already submitted this policy to the House of Representative and the Senate. Please directly provide 1,200 copies of this policy to the Secretariat of the House of Representatives and 500 copies to the Secretariat of the Senate. After the National Assembly acknowledges this policy, please instruct relevant government agencies to follow it accordingly.

Yours sincerely,

(Mr. Ampon Kittiampon)  
Secretary-General of the Cabinet

Bureau of Legal Affairs  
Tel. 0 2280 90000 ext. 308  
Fax. 0 2280 9058 (....NSC 2555 01)  
[www.cabinet.thaigov.go.th](http://www.cabinet.thaigov.go.th)



# Most Urgent

# Memorandum

Office of the National Security Council Bureau of Security Strategies for Southern Border Provinces Tel. 02 142 0151

No. 0807/055

February 15, 2012

Subject: Draft Southern Border Provinces Administration and Development Policy, 2012 -2014

Dear Prime Minister via Deputy Prime Minister (General Yuthasak Sasiprapha)

## 1. Background

Your Excellency presided over the 1/2012 meeting of the National Security Council on February 9, 2012 to consider the draft of the Southern Border Provinces Administration and Development Policy, 2012 – 2014 and the draft of Systematic Solutions to Illegal Immigration Problems. The National Security Council informed Your Excellency of the results of that meeting on February 14, 2012. Regarding the draft of the Southern Border Provinces Administration and Development Policy, 2012 – 2014, it was agreed that the Office of the National Security Council would act as a coordinator for the members of the National Security Council and the meeting participants to seek for approval for the amended draft and submit it to the Cabinet for an approval on February 22, 2012.

## 2. Progress

In accordance with the recommendations of the members of the National Security meeting, the Office of the National Security Council has amended the content of the draft and sent each member and participant a copy. All of them approved the revised version as detailed in attached documents.

## 3. Recommendations

To comply with the National Security Council 1/2012 meeting resolutions and Code 4 of the 2010 Southern Border Provinces Administration Act, the draft policy should be submitted at the Cabinet meeting on February 22, 2012 for consideration before the Cabinet submit it to the National Assembly for acknowledgement and assigns it as the direction for relevant government organizations to operate their plans in a systematic and continuing manner.

Hereby I seek Your Excellency's permission to submit this policy draft to the Cabinet on February 22, 2012, for its approval and further actions.

Police General

(Wichean Potephosree)

Secretary General

National Security Council

Submission approved.

(Yingluck Shinawatra)

Prime Minister

February 22, 2012

## Contents

1. Introduction	1
2. Overall situation	2
3. Factors that lead to the use of violence in the Southern Border Provinces	3
4. Conceptual principles of the policy	3
5. Vision	4
6. The Southern Border Provinces Administration and Development Policy B.E.2555-2557 (2012 -2014)	4
6.1 Objectives	4
6.2 Policy	5
7. Success factors	13

---



## **The Southern Border Provinces Administration and Development Policy, B.E. 2555-2557 (2012 - 2014)**

### **1. Introduction**

The *Southern Border Provinces Administration and Development Policy B.E. 2555-2557 (2012-2014)* is a national Policy drafted by the Office of the National Security Council (NSC) in compliance with *the Southern Border Provinces Administration Act B.E. 2553 (2010) -- SBPs Act*. Section 4 of the Act tasks the Office of the National Security Council (NSC) to draft an administration and development policy, to be submitted to the National Security Council as well as the Cabinet for their approvals respectively. Once approved, the policy shall be forwarded to the National Assembly for acknowledgement. The Cabinet is also tasked with ensuring that implementation of policies on Southern Border Provinces by all of the government agencies involved is systematic, consistent and within the framework of the said Act. The law also requires further that the Office of the NSC provide relevant advice to the Cabinet for policy review, scheduled every 3 years or sooner if deemed necessary. It is designated that the content of the policy address both development and security aspects of the SBPs problems and that the opinions of people from all sectors of society and the Advisory Council on the Southern Border Provinces Administration and Development be taken into account so that the policy complies with local ways of life, religions, culture, identities, ethnicities, and local history as well as the state's fundamental policies of Thailand.

In drafting this policy, the NSC therefore strongly emphasizes participation of all sectors, including governmental and other relevant agencies, within and outside the Southern Border Provinces. Information and data used to draft this policy were gathered through and based on (1) coordination with central governmental agencies and those in SBPs; (2) special meetings with specific governmental agencies, academics from both Bangkok and other areas who continuously follow the SBPs situation and the Senate's committee on SBPs; (3) suggestions of the various civil societies -- the Muslim, the Buddhist, religious leaders, society leaders, private sectors, women and youth circles as well as the affected target groups; (4) opinions of

(2) To eliminate and prevent from happening, any conditions which encourages the use of violence by all parties.

(3) To promote understanding and restore trust not only between the government and people but also among the people themselves, so they shall cooperate in dealing with problems.

(4) To promote continuous development in accordance with each region's potential with the aim to equally distribute social and economic development, which not only meets the local demand without destroying local identities and ways of life, but also facilitates solutions to security issues.

(5) To promote learning and recognition of the value of peaceful coexistence in a society with diverse ways of life and cultures.

(6) To make the Thai society realize and understand the real situation in the SBPs as well as be aware of the responsibility in solving the problems.

(7) To draw constructive support from the international community in solving the SBPs problems.

(8) To create an environment suitable for constructive dialogues on peaceful solution to the conflict, and for establishing an assurance that all stakeholders participate in peace-building process.

(9) To ensure of systematic, unified, efficient implementation of administration and development policy based on both participation by all sectors and accurate and comprehensive information.

## 6.2 Policy

**Objective 1** To sustain a safe and peaceful society in the Southern Border Provinces, under His Majesty the King's strategic advice "*Understand, Reach Out, and Develop*" and the "*Sufficiency Economy*" philosophy.

(1) His Majesty the King's strategy to "understand, reach out, and develop" and the philosophy of Sufficiency Economy shall be the core principles in conflict management and for the establishment of unity, harmony, and peace among the people;

(2) The '*governance instead of military-operations*' policy and employment of social consciousness to modify attitudes and mentalities of all parties involved -from "resorting to violence" to "peaceful approaches" -shall be put in

practice. Those with different viewpoints shall not be deemed enemies and ways of trying to modify the ideological beliefs of the hard-liners will be reformed.

(3) Measures to reduce suspicions and increase co-operation between the government and the people shall be promoted. Importance is attached to recruitment of government personnel, especially those with security-related positions. The selected officials to be working in the SBPs shall possess positive attitude, peaceful personality and behavior as well as a good human right record. Moreover, the government shall also (1) strictly monitor its officials' performance and conduct to make certain that all operations remain legitimate (2) place emphasis on consistent promotion of correct understanding and skill development in confronting conflicts in a peaceful manner and (3) encourage dialogues among all sectors in order to continuously draw suggestions from local communities and put them into effect.

(4) There shall be an improvement of efficiency in pro-active intelligence gathering so as to suppress and eradicate factors that support the use of violence. This should involve: gathering information on the capital circulation of the perpetrators of violence's; smuggling of weapons and materials necessary to making explosives from both within and outside the SBPs; exchange of intelligence for prompt and precise alert; establishment of effective civil intelligence network; increase of cooperation with neighboring countries to monitor cross-border movements of target groups; identifying the hostile groups' shelters outside Thailand as well as monitoring movements of any terrorist groups which support activities of the perpetrators of violence.

(5) Local communities' security system shall be developed by enhancing a security network, based on participation of the locals. Protection of symbolic places, religious sites and leaders shall be of high priority.

(6) Suppression of illicit influence in the SBPs shall be expedited to eradicate the use violence arising from other non-political causes such as drugs, local organized crime, and trading of smuggled commodities. In doing so, masterminds, financial supporters and corrupt government officials are the prioritized targets.

**Objective 2:** To eliminate and prevent from happening any conditions which will encourage the use of violence by all parties,

organizations shall be encouraged to play a greater role in protection, allocation and restoration of their natural resources, especially the coastal fishing grounds, mangrove forests, plains and forest areas. Unfair exploitation of natural resources shall be prevented. People's legal rights and ownership of land shall be protected, with priority given to risky areas and threatened communities.

(5) The government shall expedite development of educational system at all levels in accordance with regional ways of life and identities. Integration of educational systems and equal distribution of educational opportunities shall be achieved to effectively cover every target group. There shall be educational quality improvement of public and private academic institutions particularly academic human resources and accreditation of educational personnel graduated from foreign academic institutions. These shall therefore enhance capacity of the people and the society to become a driving force for problem solving and sustainable development.

**Objective 5** To promote learning and recognition of the value of peaceful coexistence in a society with diverse ways of lives and cultures,

(1) the locals shall be at liberty to lead their lives and carry out religious activities, free from obstacles. The government shall (1) adjust negative attitudes (2) amend necessary laws and regulations to facilitate freedom of religion; (3) eliminate cultural discrimination. (4) support and facilitate the locals' need to carry out religious activities, for example, a *Hajj* pilgrimage (a pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia) or Buddhist activities.

(2) All sectors shall be encouraged to take part in the protection of all ways of life, religions and culture. Every religion and culture shall be deemed equally valuable and constructive driving force in problem solving and development of the area.

(3) Various groups from different backgrounds shall accept and appreciate the value of coexistence. Development of people and the society shall be based on, for example, diverse lifestyles and cultures, religious interaction, correct understanding of religious teachings, exchange of experience among population from various cultures. People shall be motivated to live by religious principles and teachings, morals and ethics in daily life. The government shall support existing student networks in sharing their experience as well as encouraging women to play greater roles in the family, community and society.

(4) The government shall encourage learning of the Thai and Malay languages, Malay dialect as well as other important foreign languages at all educational institutional levels. The language ability shall serve as significant foundation in interaction with the Malay world in the context of ASEAN Community. Arabic proficiency of the locals in SBPs is useful in interaction with for the Arabian world.

(5) The government shall promote the roles of religious leaders, community leaders, educators, journalists, women, children and youth groups. These groups, as a plural society's cultural force-group, shall take part in seeking solution to the problems at community level, for example, in reducing confrontation arising from racial and religious difference in the community; and helping broaden correct understanding among people and between people and government officials. Emphasis shall be put on systematic development of religious leaders' potential, for example, by establishing a college for the Imam, strengthening and equipping family institutions, human resources as well as encouraging a society with ability to withstand changes.

(6) The value and existence of diverse cultures in the area shall be upheld so that Thai society as a whole observes cultural differences. Promotion of multiple cultures shall be tangible, for example, adding Malay dialect to official signs made by the government.

**Objective 6** To make the Thai society at large realize understand the real situations in the SBPs as well as be aware of the responsibility in solving the problems,

(1) The government shall promote better understanding on SBPs among all people concerned in the Thai society. Their attitudes and mentalities should be adjusted to be more favorable towards peaceful coexistence and the acknowledgement that the SBPs problems concerns everyone in the country.

(2) The government with the cooperation of media in the private sector, educational and religious institutions and other public forums, shall promote two-way communication through various means (such as through governmental information operations and mass communications) to inform the people both inside and outside the SBPs of the situations and its unique context and management of the situation according to the His Majesty the King's strategic advice "*Understand, Reach*

*Out, and Develop*" and peaceful approaches. The objective shall be to enhance constructive participation problem solving in society and to serve as a channel for the public's negative opinion regarding the government's mistakes or its official's misconduct.

(3) Participation of all sectors in the society -- the locals, community leaders, religious leaders, academia and civil societies in and outside the region -- shall be based on a mutual trust basis. The government must be sincere in taking into considerations the locals' opinion and adjust its operations accordingly.

**Objective 7** To draw constructive support from the international community in solving the SBPs problems,

(1) The government shall increase interactions with certain foreign countries and international organizations. Moreover, correct information on latest development of the situation in SBPs, operational progress and clarifications on doubts that the international community may have shall be promptly and continuously provided. Prominent persons, who have potential access to and are well-recognized by target countries and organizations, shall play a greater role in information dissemination.

(2) The government shall support foreign cooperation plans on the development of SBPs which comply with its policies and implementation.

(3) The government shall boost constructive interaction between the locals in SBPs and foreign Muslim societies, especially those in multi-cultural communities like ASEAN, in order for the people in the SBPs to be able to gain knowledge, experience and perceptions useful to the improvement of their quality of life, and thereby being able to cope with global changes. The government shall also support the Hajj pilgrimage, which serves not only as one of the mediums in contacting with the Muslim world, but also an integral factor in seeking cooperation in problems solving.

**Objective 8** To create an environment suitable for both constructive dialogues on peaceful solution to the conflict and for establishing an assurance that all stakeholders participate in peace-building process,

(1) the government shall support dialogue between stakeholders regarding principles, goals and also support a balanced division and distribution of

administrative power between central and local authorities, based on the eclectic characteristics of a plural society and the internationally accepted decentralization principle as stipulated by the Constitution of Thailand. However, said dialogue shall not constitute any condition or rights which may lead to territorial separation. There shall also be an environment favorable to the free expression of opinions for every group of people.

(2) The government shall support continuous peaceful dialogue with violent groups who possess different ideologies, as they are one of the stakeholders in the SBPs issues. This shall be carried out in a unified fashion and with increased cooperation from foreign states or non-governmental organization

**Objective 9** To assure a systematic, unified, efficient implementation of administration and development policy based on participation by all sectors and accurate and also on comprehensive information,

(1) the government shall establish efficient and comprehensive mechanisms and systems for policy administration. There shall be a committee on the administration and development of the SBPs, authorized to supervise, for example, management of the situation and problems, policy implementation, drafting of strategies and plans on projects and budgeting inline with policy frameworks, and effective check and evaluation systems of policy implementation.

(2) the government shall establish networks to support the policy implementations, covering all the areas in SBPs and sectors involved. The government, civil societies, the people and online social networks in SBPs, Thai society in general and international communities, particularly the ASEAN and the Muslim world, shall take part in supporting the policy framework. There shall be channels for complaints, investigations, follow-ups, and evaluation of the government's performance, provision of budget to facilitate the participation of non-governmental sectors. The government shall also utilize appropriate information technology in support of operations of governmental units, as well as in communication with the locals.

(3) The government shall support the use of academic research in solving the problems and development of SBPs. Knowledge bases and learning

process shall be established and the knowledge gained through this process shall be applied in accordance with the nature of problems and societies in SBPs.

## **7. Success factors**

In order to effectively implement the policies on SBPs and achieve tangible results it is therefore necessary to put emphasis on following factors which are vital for concrete successes:

1) Government agencies and officials directly involved in seeking solution to the SBPs problems share the same understanding of the policy's philosophy, aim, and directions, so as to carry out the work in a supportive and unified manner.

2) All Government officials involved work to their full potentials, being conscientious, knowledgeable, and fully aware of the ways of lives of the locals. They shall also adhere to the appropriate good governance principle accepted by the locals and work closely in the same direction, with continuous monitoring and evaluation systems.

3) All stakeholders in the SBPs should accept and participate in the seeking solutions to the problem. With many and various sectors involved, and each of possessing different needs and stances, it is difficult to address the problem solely by the governmental mechanism. Joint collaboration by all sectors involved, such as in planning and policy making, in operational and decision making, is necessary to address each issue of the problems accordingly with their nature.

4) The government should declare clear and consistent signals that it will seriously and continuously attach importance to the implementations of the SBPs administration and development policy. This shall result in more confidence of all parties involved as well as a unified direction in terms of administration and conflict management.

-----



**Book Title** The Southern Border Provinces Administration and Development Policy

B.E. 2555 - 2557 (2012 - 2014)

**Printing** August 2013, 2000 copy

**By** Office of the National Security Council

Office of the Prime Minister

**Publishing** Cabinet and Royal Gazette Publishing Office

Samsen Road, Bangkok, 10300 Thailand.

Tel. 0 2243 0611 Fax 0 2243 0616

