

## Remarks

By Brig General (Ret) Khamhom Sengboulom, Deputy President of Lao Veterans Federation at 18<sup>th</sup> GA

Your Excellency President of Lao Veterans Federation,

Heads of Delegations,

Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Lao Veterans Federation, it's my pleasure and honour to participate in this 18<sup>th</sup> GA which is being organised in the year of Visit Laos Year 2018. At the same time, the Lao people have just celebrated the 43<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of the founding of Lao PDR and all military personnel are preparing to celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Lao People's Army.

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

Over the year 2018, the Lao Veterans Federation has concentrated on implementing its role and duty that are in line with the government's policy by focusing on poverty reduction to meet the UN's Millennium Goals while also improving the organizational structure of Lao Veterans Federation from central to local levels as well as the livelihood of our members as exemplified as follows:

### 1. Publicity

The LVF recognises the importance of the publicity to help our veteran members to understand the government's current policy. We have disseminated the constitution, the government's the 8<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Economic Development Plan, veterans' development plan consistent with provincial and districts' policy in order for our members to fully understand the goals and objectives of the government's policy through various means, for example seminars, workshops, television, radio, magazines, newspaper and etc.

### 2. Organisational Structure Improvement

The LVF has been continuously improving the organisational structure from central to local levels. We have also tried to collect the statistics of our members and up to now we have 75, 382 members with 7,038 females. LVF has 25 executive board members including 7 at the central level and the others

are at the provincial, district and grass root levels. The management term lasts 5 years.

### 3. Rights and Interests of LVF Members Protection

The 5<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the National Assembly's 8<sup>th</sup> Legislature adopted legislation on veterans number 42 on 13 June 2018.

The LVF has been committed to the implementation of our Five-Year Veterans Development Plan (2016-2020) as in line with 4 work plans and 17 programmes which were adopted by the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Veterans' Congress. This development plan motivates our veteran members who have got potentials to pursue entrepreneurship, for instance, crop and livestock production, services among others in order to generate more income.

We have also encouraged our veterans organisations at each level to set up their own funds in order to help their members in case of emergency and up to now all districts have their own funds.

This year, we have also built 34 district LVF offices, 17 houses for veterans with economic difficulties, 1 for national hero. Our veteran members also receive free medical treatment.

### 4. International Cooperation

The Lao Veterans Federation has consistently followed the government's foreign policy of peace, independence, friendship and cooperation. As a result, LVF has tried to enhance relations, friendship and cooperation with veterans organisations within the region on a regular basis to exchange lessons and experience.

President, ladies and gentlemen,

Taking this opportunity, I would like to urge VECONAC member countries to continue to cooperate and support VECONAC's activities and create more favourable conditions for us to exchange lessons and visit one another when opportunities allow.

I am convinced that after this 18<sup>th</sup> GA, VECONAC will be further developed with greater success.

Last but not least, I wish all HODs and delegates health, happiness and success in your noble tasks, and I wish the meeting great success. Thank you