

COMMUNICATION

by

**Ms Steejit TAIPIBOONSUK
Deputy Secretary General of the House of Representatives of Thailand**

on

**“The Secretary General of the House of Representatives, Thailand:
Authority, Duties, and Appointment”**

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**Mr. President,
Dear Colleagues,**

On behalf of the Secretariat of the House of Representatives, Thailand, I would like to present the Communication under the theme “How are Secretaries General appointed and how do we define the scope of the role?” under the topic “The Secretary General of the House of Representatives, Thailand: Authority, Duties, and Appointment”

Introduction: Bicameral system

Thailand has a bicameral legislature. Our parliament’s official name is the National Assembly, which is comprised of the House of Representatives and the Senate. The House and the Senate each is supported by its own secretariat, led by its respective Secretary General. Thailand doesn’t have a designated secretariat for the National Assembly. However, during joint sittings of the National Assembly, the Secretary General of the House of Representatives serves as the secretary to such meetings.

The Secretary General of the House of Representatives’ Authority and Duties

The Secretary General of the House of Representatives is the highest-ranking official of the Secretariat of the House of Representatives of Thailand. The position has authority and duties under the Rules of Parliamentary Administration Act B.E. 2554 (2011). The Secretary General is responsible for the general administrative work of the House, supporting the legislative process, overseeing the scrutiny of government administration, advising on parliamentary procedures and practices, and serving as the secretariat for meetings of the House and the National Assembly to ensure that legislative operations are carried out efficiently. In performing the duties, the Secretary General may have Deputy Secretaries General in order to assist in carrying out the work of the House. According to the said rules, the Secretariat currently has 8 Deputy Secretaries General.

Age of Retirement

Like all the civil servants, the Secretary General retires at the end of the fiscal year, September 30th, in which they turn 60. Because of the difference between the fiscal year and the calendar year, a person who was born on October 1st and another person who was born on October 2nd of the same year will retire in different calendar year. To illustrate, the first one will retire on September 30th of the year they turn 60, and the second one will retire the following year.

The Secretary General and the Parliamentary Officials Commission (POC)

The Secretary General also serves as the secretary of the Parliamentary Officials Commission (POC), which is a statutory board appointed to make policies and strategies, as well as prescribe rules and guidelines regarding human resources management of both secretariats of the House, and of the Senate.

How the Secretary General is Appointed

The Secretary General serves as the link between the Members of Parliament and the permanent administrative operations, ensuring that the work of the House of Representatives proceeds effectively in accordance with the Constitution and parliamentary rules of procedures. Therefore, officials under the age of 60 with extensive experience in the parliamentary

administration and currently in service or used to hold the position of Deputy Secretaries General will be considered for the position of Secretary General. The selection process has been in effect in order to ensure that the most qualified official is appointed in this prestigious position.

1. It begins in the fiscal year in which the current Secretary General will retire. The Speaker of the House of Representatives will appoint a Selection Committee.

2. The Selection Committee will conduct CV screening and assessment of the candidates' qualification. Then, the Selection Committee will propose the most qualified candidate, with the rationale for selection, to the Speaker of the House.

3. After that, the Speaker of the House will nominate the candidate chosen by the Selection Committee to the meeting of the Parliamentary Officials Commission for approval.

4. Upon approval, the Speaker of the House will submit the name of the candidate for Royal Command appointing him or her to the position of Secretary General.

5. After receiving the Royal Command, the newly appointed Secretary General will assume his or her duties following the retirement of their predecessor.

Conclusion

The selection process reaffirms the long-standing principle of the Secretariat of the House of Representatives of Thailand, as well as the Thai Civil Service system in general, that the Secretary General as the head of the organization must be appointed from senior-level members of the career bureaucracy, not political appointees. It also establishes a career path for parliamentary officials. With clear goals, milestones, and professional skills development along the progression from one job to another on the professional ladder, any parliamentary officials can be promoted and potentially rise to the top.
