



## THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THAILAND



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VISITOR GUIDE



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**Title:** Visitor Guide-the National Assembly of Thailand

**First Published:** 2011

**Number of Page:** 44

**Number of Copies:** 5,000

**Translated and Published by:** Bureau of Public Relations

Tel. 02-2441200

Fax.02-2441149

**Website:** [www.parliament.go.th](http://www.parliament.go.th)

**Design:** Khongkrapan Ruangrit

**Printed by:** The Secretariat of the House of Representatives



## Preface

“Visitor Guide” of the National Assembly of Thailand is made by the Information Division, Bureau of Public Relation, the Secretariat of the House of Representatives in order to be the document to guide all visitors. This book consists of the history of The National Assembly of Thailand, important places, paintings and sculptures in the building and around the area. The power and duties of the National Assembly of Thailand are included.

The National Assembly of Thailand really hopes that this book will be useful for visitors.

Finally, on this occasion the Secretariat of the House of Representatives is glad to have a chance to welcome everybody visiting the National Assembly of Thailand and thank you very much.

**The Secretariat of the House of Representatives**



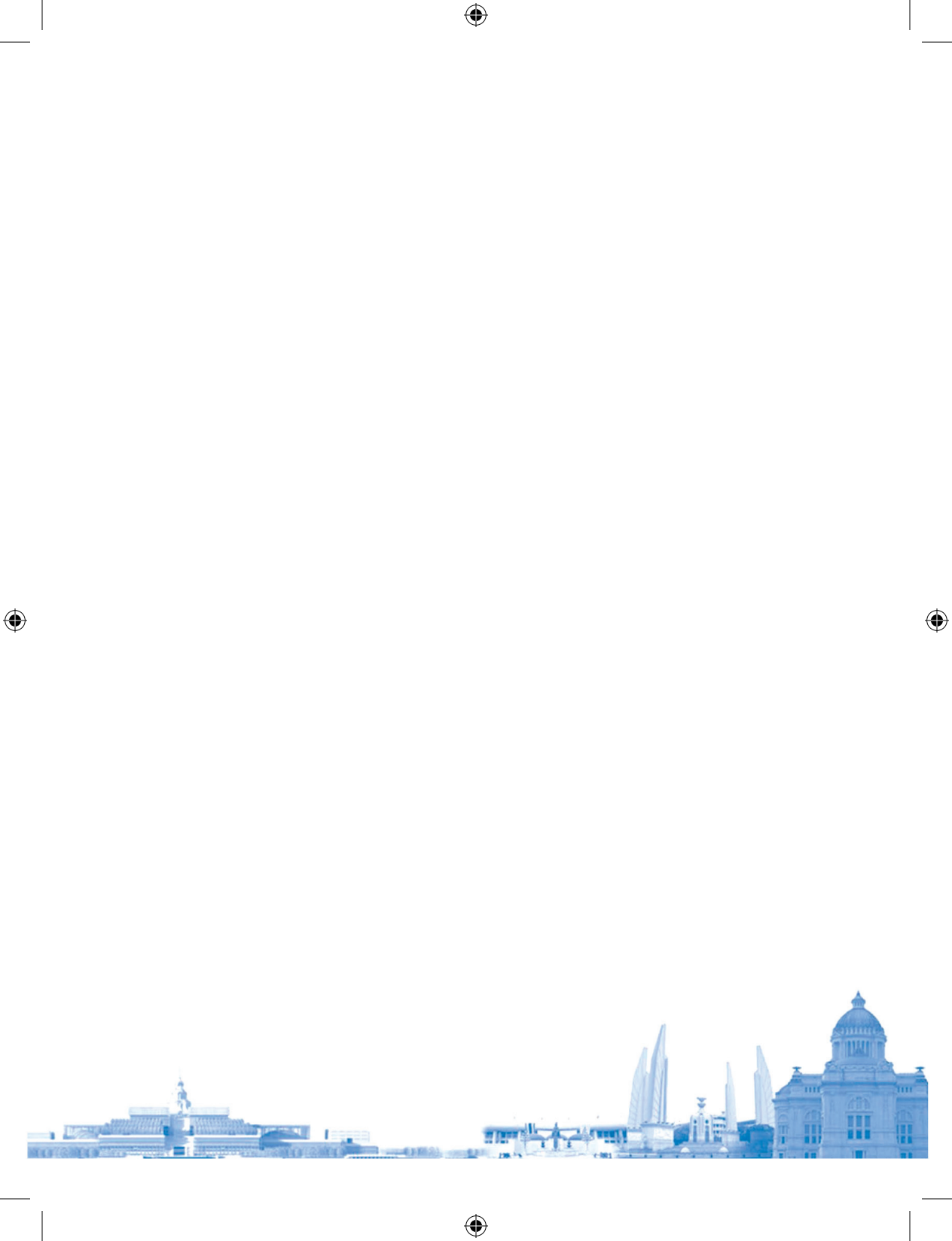


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## History of the National Assembly of Thailand

The National Assembly, or the Parliament, of Thailand is the main institution in the democratic government of the country, with His Majesty the King as the Head of State. The Parliament, regarded as one of the three institutions representing sovereign power in the country's administration, is comprised of legislative, executive and judicial power.



*On June 27, 1932,  
His Majesty King Prajadhipok signed  
The Provisional Constitution Act of  
Siam B.E.2475*

On June 24, 1932, the reign of King Prajadhipok or King Rama VII, a group known as “Khana Ratsadorn” (made up of army, navy, and civilian members) revolted against the country's administration, and transformed it from an absolute monarchy to a democratic form of government. The group used the Ananta Samakom Throne Hall as command center for debates and discussions relating to the country's administration and change of mechanism for administration.



Khana Ratsadorn nominated the first group consisting of 70 members of the House of Representatives. On June 28, 1932, the first parliamentary sitting took place at the upper hall of Ananta Samakom Throne Hall. From that time, the Throne Hall had been used for parliamentary sessions.



*The group of army and navy and members, and civilians called, “Khana Ratsadorn”, revolted against the county’s administration, transforming it from an absolute monarchy to a democratic form of government.*

As the Thai population grew, the number of members of the House of Representatives rose correspondingly, in parallel to the increase. As a result, the Ananta Samamkom Throne Hall could no longer provide adequate services for parliamentary undertakings. Therefore, a new Parliamentary Building was constructed North of the Existing Throne Hall, and came into operation for parliamentary sessions since September 19, 1974.



## The Royal Statue of King Prajadhipok

The Royal Statue of King Prajadhipok is situated in front of the Parliament Building 1. His Majesty King Prajadhipok, a King with great mercy in sacrificing his royal power for the Thai people, led the country to a constitutional democratic form of government.



*The Royal Statue of King Prajadhipok*





## Museum of the Thai National Assembly

Museum of the Thai National Assembly is situated under the base of the Royal Statue of King Prajadhipok which is located in front of the Parliamentary Building 1. The museum displays exhibits and documents depicting the history of the Thai parliamentary system, and the evolution of the democratic form of government in Thailand.



*Museum of the National Assembly of Thailand provides exhibitions and information concerning the democratic transformation of government of Thailand.*



## Parliamentary Buildings

Parliamentary Building 1 is a three-storeyed building situated behind the Royal Statute of King Prajadhipok. It is comprised of :



### *First Floor Parliament Information Center*

Providing any Parliamentary information service for the Members of the House of Representatives, officials and general public.



### *Reception room for the Members of the House of Representatives*

Providing facilities for guests/visitors to meet the Members of the House of Representatives.



### *First Aid Room*

Providing first aid service for the Members of the House of Representatives and the officials



### *Post Office*



### *Press Release Room*

For Members of the House of Representatives and Members of the Senate to issue press releases



### *Ticket Reservation Room*

Providing plane, bus and train tickets for the Members of the House of Representatives and Members of the Senate



### *Multimedia Room*

The Multimedia room offers Thai National Assembly videos, to honorable guests who make courtesy calls on the



Speaker, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, Members of



the House of Representatives and Members of the Senate. It also hosts lectures and introduction to Thai National Assembly for guests such as students, and individuals from state and private agencies, as well as the general public.





## Second Floor



*Office of the President of the National Assembly*



*Reception room for the Prime Minister and the Ministers*



*Office of the Government Whip*



*Cafeteria for the Members of  
the Parliament*

*Office of the Secretary-General  
of the House of Representatives*



*Reception room for the  
Members of the House of  
Representatives*





## The Assembly Hall

The Assembly Hall is the most important part of the parliament, since the enactment of the laws of country, and the approval on major legislative issues take place in this hall.

The Hall is large, round-shaped under a Dome. It is constructed in modern architectural style, providing space, utility, conveniences, sophisticated lighting and sound system in an appropriate atmosphere.

All seats are installed with microphones, and electronic voting buttons controlled by a computer system.





## Third Floor



*Office of the First Deputy  
Speaker of the House of  
Representatives*



*Office of the Second Deputy  
Speaker of the House of  
Representatives*



*Office of the Leader of the  
Opposition in the House of  
Representatives*



*Office of the Chairman of the  
Opposition Whip*

*E-Knowledge Service  
Providing information for  
Members  
Of Parliament*







### *Mezzanine*

This place used for observing the parliamentary meeting has 145 seats. General public can ask for the permission to observe the meeting.



### *Parliamentary Meeting System and Closed Circuit Television Control room (CCTV)*

This control room records the event, sound and voting system including broadcasting parliamentary meeting live through CCTV.



### *Parliamentary Building 2*

is a three-storeyed building comprising office of the President of the Senate, Committees' meeting rooms and offices of Committees' Chairpersons.



### *Parliamentary Building 3*

Parliamentary Building 3 is a seven-storeyed building comprising the National Assembly Library, Budgetary meeting room, offices of Committees' Chairpersons and Committees' meeting rooms.



### *The National Assembly Library*



### *Budgetary meeting room*



### *Offices of Committees' Chairpersons*



### *Parliamentary Club Building*

Parliamentary Club Building offers restaurant facilities with a wide range of food and beverages, as well as a fitness center for Members of Parliament.



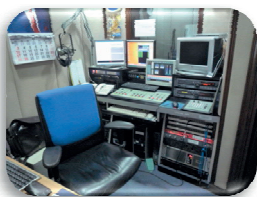
### *Parliamentary Television Studio (Studio I)*

Parliamentary Television Studio is located on the second floor of Parliamentary Club Building. Its function is to record television programs of the Parliament.



### *Parliamentary Radio Broadcasting Studio*

Parliamentary Radio Broadcasting Studio is located at the Parliamentary Club Building behind the Parliamentary Building I. Its function is to broadcast radio programs of the Parliament.





## PAINTINGS OF HIS MAJESTY'S ACTIVITIES

There are 50 Paintings within the National Assembly Hall showing major activities of Kings Ram I – IX of the Chakri Dynasty. Many are oil paintings by several famous artists, and were donated to the Secretariat of the House of Representatives by a sub-committee on the Royal Thai Kings for the Rattanakosin bicentennial celebrations in 1982. The intention was for the people to remember the sacrificial deeds of all Thai King for the country and Thai people.



*King Rama I establishing the city and the royal palace.*



*King Rama II promoting Thai music and dances.*





*King Rama III directing the port and royal Chinese junk commerce.*



*King Rama IV observing eclipse of the Sun at Tambon Wakor.*



*King Rama V visiting Russia and having a photograph of himself  
with Tsar Nicholas II taken.*



*King Rama VI organizing groups of student scouts in various regions of the Kingdom.*



*King Rama VII inaugurating the Pathom Borom Rajanusorn Bridge.*





*King Rama VIII visiting China Town in Sampeng area.*



*King Rama IX visiting soldiers who suffered injuries in line of duty  
for national security.*

## Paintings and Sculptures

Oil painting on the second and the third floor of the Assembly Hall display significant royal activities of the Kings in Chakri Dynasty, ranging from King Rama I to King Rama IX.



Painting of country with red background represents the violence.

The picture of pots containing traditional Thai medicine, representing peace and settlement of disputes.





Picture of leaves sprouting from branches, symbolizing the beginning of prosperity of the country.

Picture represents trade and economy on the basis of equality.



The picture of dharmachak (a circle of dharma) and symbols of other religions, such as a cross and vine, representing moral principles in the hearts of the people of the country.





The picture of the constitution, the supreme law, on a bundle of grains, symbolizing a society of farmers.



The picture of the sun shining brightly, symbolizing unity leading the country to prosperity.

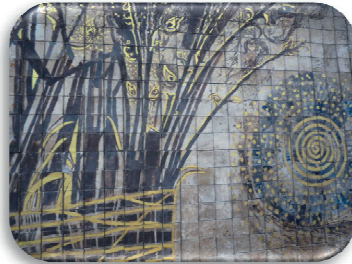


The picture of the inscription stone of King Ramkhamhaeng with an excerpt describing the fight between King Ramkhamhaeng and Khun Samchon on elephants' backs, depicting the sovereignty of Thailand, security and readiness of the Thai people to defend themselves.



The picture of sculptural works on the exterior of the wall of the Parliament Club Building showing the people's jubilation and happiness after achieving a long-awaited objective.

Within the Parliament Club, there are paintings on terracotta mosaic representing the harmony which is the power and armour to protect attacks by enemies. The branches of various kinds of plants symbolize unity of members. The enemy is portrayed as a crab (the symbol of cancer) waiting to destroy the plants on the right.



The picture on the left shows divisiveness as a result of various forms of unrests once there is no unity.



## The Stone Sculptures around the Parliamentary Building 1



*The “water-jar carrying lady” sculpture at the front, right corner represents “water”*



*The “wooden-stick carrying lady” sculpture at the front, left corner represents “earth”*



*The flame-shaped sculpture at the left corner represents “industrial power”*



*The bird sculpture at the rear, right corner represents “wind, cool, tranquility and peace”*





*The Sculpture of golden flower* in front of the parliamentary building 1 is a free standing sculpture made of iron from industrial factories in the country. It represents the present Thai society which has developed with industrial products. The gold flower is a sign of growth in the administrative system. The topmost and most perfect petal indicates the highest objective of the democratic system and other less perfect and lower petals represent obstructions to the growth of the country's administrative system in the past.





## Gatehouse

It is located on the left side of the entrance to the Parliament, and is used for providing information and for issuing passes cards to visitors before entry to the Parliament.



## Gatehouse

In addition to the Secretariat of the House of Representatives at U-Thong Noi Road, Dusit, Bangkok, three offices of the Secretariat of the House of Representatives are located as follows:

1. Tipco Tower. Floors 16<sup>th</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, Rama 6 Road, Sam Sen Nai, Phaya Thai, Bangkok.
2. The Building of the Secretariat of the House of Representatives, Pradipat Road, Bangkok.
3. Deeprom Building, Sukhothai Road, Dusit, Bangkok.





## Powers and duties of the National Assembly of Thailand

The National Assembly of Thailand under the provisions of the Constitution covers 4 areas which include:

### *1. The Power to legislate laws*

Legislating power involves the enactment of law and is regarded as the main power of the National Assembly. It also plays a vital role in maintaining freedom, liberty, equality and fairness in society. Any enactment of the law must provide the maximum benefit to the people.





## *2. The Power to control the administration of the State affairs*

Power to control the administration of the State affairs is considered the most substantial principle of the parliamentary system. After the cabinet announces its policies to parliament in order to enunciate state policy, the parliament will continue to monitor the administrative work of the government. If members of parliament encounter any faults or ambiguities, they can file questions to the Prime Minister or Ministers over the administration of State affairs. If the government's administration is untrustworthy or poses a serious threat to the people or damages the reputation of the country. Parliament is entitled to hold a general debate.

All members of parliament can participate in a no-confidence debate on the Prime Minister or an individual Minister. Meanwhile, senators also can hold a general debate to request Ministers to give statements of fact or explain important problems in connection with administration of State affair but they cannot participate in votes of confidence.



### *3. The Power to give approval of important issues*

The authority is given approval on significant matters such as the appointment of a Regent, the taking of the oath of a Regent before Parliament, approval of the succession to the throne, approval of a declaration of war, approval of the closing of a conference session 120 days prior to its due date and other such matters.

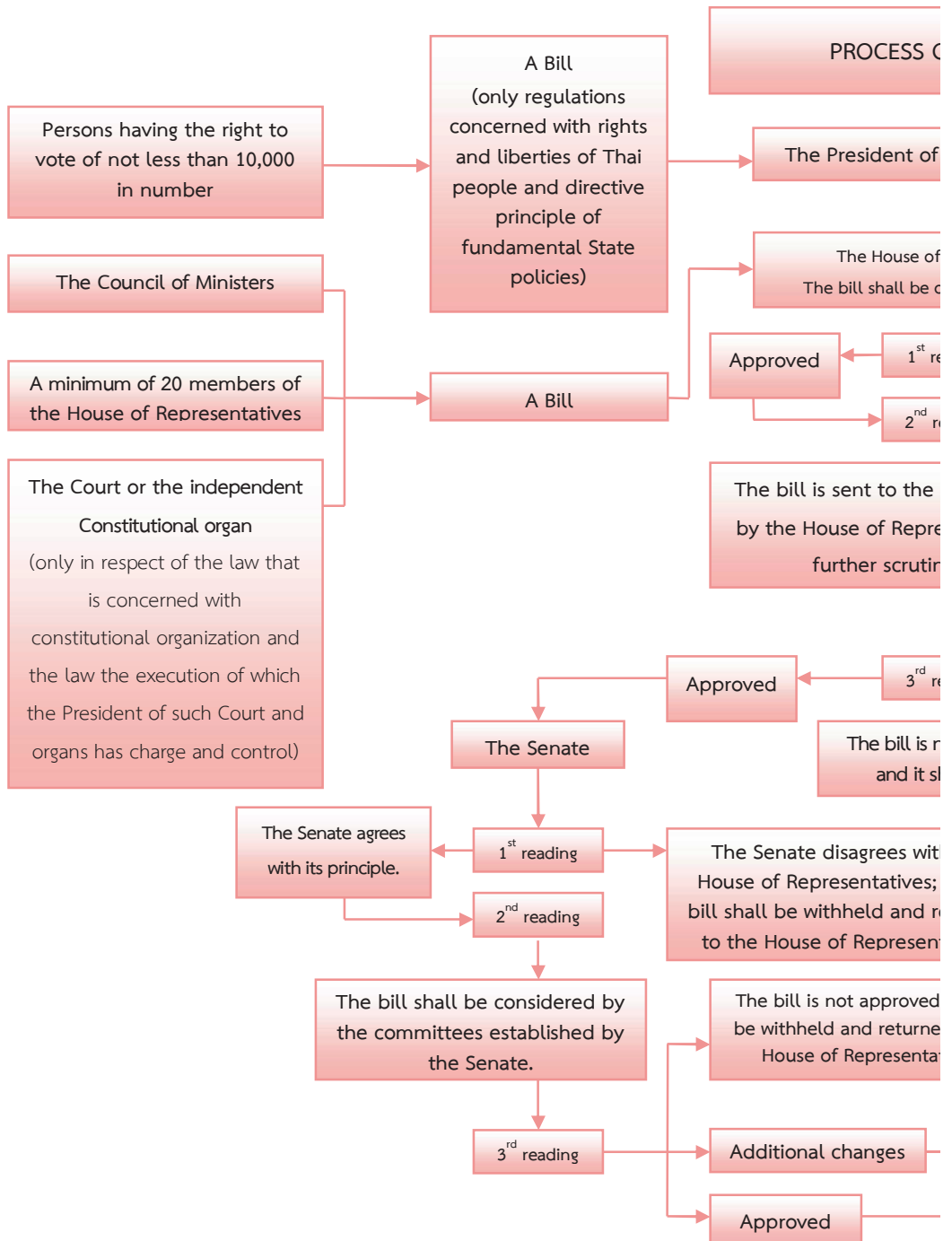




#### *4. The Power to appoint and remove individuals as stipulated by the constitution*

The authority is given to appoint and remove individuals as stipulated by the constitution, for example the Chairman and members of the Election Commission, the Ombudsman, and the President of the Commission for the Prevention and Suppression of Corruption and so on. There is also the appointment of persons as stipulated in the Constitution, for example the Prime Minister, Members of Parliament.





## OF ENACTMENT OF ACT

