

Administrative of Bangkok Metropolitan as Thai Special Local Government

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Abstract:

The title of the study is Local Administration is determined up on theoretical base of decentralization and democratic idealism which emphasized to give the opportunity and support the people to take participation in the political procedure and self- administrative activity in one level which will be possible for the important characteristic of local government which stressed to have free authority to govern oneself such as there are election, organization or necessary institute in self- administration whereas the most important thing is the people in the locality who can take participation in widely self- administration. Bangkok Metropolis with being the capital city to be the centralization in every side of the country along with various problems and one problem is very important one to be known as the difficult problem to solve such as the traffic problem, that is, it is because, the enlargement by Bangkok Metropolis together with cars and different vehicles have more added every day while the roads and the routs of communication are increased in limit quantity including the system of transportation in completed and uncover on the areas, so it causes general people to like using private cars more and more when having used the more private cars and then it made traffic to be jammed and the more quality of service and the service of cars because poor. The people struggled to buy the private cars more added more in order to escape poor service on the bus to circle as the vicious cycle no ended day; and it made the traffic solution become hopeless in the sight of the persons who take in a charge of and the country admit raters in the past; and to think very easily in the traffic solution on Bangkok Metropolis

Keywords: administrative Bangkok metropolitan Thai special local government

Introduction

The Kingdom of Thailand, located in Southeast Asia on the Gulf of Thailand and the Andaman Sea. It is bordered by Laos to the Northeast, Myanmar to the North and West, Cambodia to the East, and Malaysia to the South. Thailand, although rich in rubber and in mineral resources, was never colonized by Europeans and has existed as a unified monarchy since 1350. The capital, BANGKOK, an attractive blend of Western and Thai architecture, was established in 1782. Thailand extends about 2,500 kilometers from north to south and 1,250 kilometers from east to west, with a coastline of approximately 1,840 kilometers on the Gulf of

Thailand and 865 kilometers along the Indian Ocean. Geographically speaking, Thailand is divided into six major regions: the mountainous north where elephants work forests and winter temperatures are sufficiently cool to permit cultivation of temperate fruits such as strawberries and peaches; the sprawling northeast plateau, largely bordered by the Mekong River, where the world's oldest Bronze Age civilization flourished some 5,000 years ago,- the central plain, one of the world's most fertile rice and fruit-growing areas; the eastern coastal plain, where fine sandy beaches support the growth of summer resorts', western mountains and valleys, suitable for the development of hydro-electric power; and the peninsular south where arresting scenic beauty complements economically vital tin mining, rubber cultivation and fishing.

It is the policy of the Government to promote the country's political development towards participatory democracy in order to give the people the opportunity for greater self-government and protection of their own rights. In addition, the Government is committed to improving efficiency, creating greater transparency and eliminating corruption in public administration and services, with a view to enhancing social justice and national development at present and in the future.

In Thailand, the transfer of planning, decision making and administrative authority from the central government to the local administrative units, local government, or nongovernmental organizations to a certain degree may have begun over forty years ago when the Municipal Act of 1953 was adopted. The country has six types of local self-government (LSG), namely, Changwat (provincial) Administrative Organizations (CAOs), municipalities, sanitary districts, Tambon (sub district) Administrative Organizations (TAOs), Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) and Pattaya City.

Bangkok, the capital of Thailand is situated on the low flat plain of Chao Phraya River which extends to the Gulf of Thailand. Its latitude is 13 45' North, and the longitude is 100 28' East. The total area of Bangkok is 1,568.737 sq. km. divided into 50 districts. Bangkok has a monsoon type of climate, which can be classified into three main seasons: rainy (May-October), cool (November-January) and hot (February-April). The average annual temperature was 29.2 C in 2002. The highest temperature average in 2002 was 33.3 C and the lowest temperature average was 25.1 C. The average wind velocity was 2.23 m/sec. The relative humidity is high throughout the year. The provision of well-developed infrastructures has enabled development of Bangkok as the focal center for economic, culture and administrative activities. Thus, Bangkok is regarded as the growth flagship of the Central Region and the whole country.

The governor is the chief executive for the BMA administration with assistance from four deputy governors appointed by the governor. The governor is elected by popular vote of Bangkok constituents with a four-year term. The operations of the BMA activities are, however, supervised by a permanent clerk (chief clerk), who is the highest official among the BMA officers. Under the permanent clerk are 12 bureaus, each with a director and having different functions ranging from planning to city police.

Bangkok City has been undergoing rapid urbanization and industrialization since 1960. The increasing population is due to the development of infrastructures such as road networks, real estate developments, land value, public policy as well as advancing economy which resulted in expansion into the surrounding areas. Bangkok Metropolis lies on both banks of the Chao Phya, the main river of Thailand, 20 kms upstream from the Gulf of Thailand. King Rama I, the founder of the present Chakri Dynasty built the present capital in Bangkok in 1782. The Royal Founder took great care to build palaces and temples of the new capital in the same style of Ayuthaya, the previous capital, which in turn had its origin from Sukhothai, the first Thai capital built in the 13th century. Both former capitals, now national historical parks, have been placed in the UN's list of world cultural heritages. Bangkok is considered the center of economic growth of Thailand and has therefore has long experienced and the impact of industrial expansion as well as a rapid increase in population. The number of motor vehicles has significantly increased, leading to traffic congestion and deterioration in quality of environment. One of the most severe environmental concerns facing our city is air pollution. It affects the quality of life of over 10 million inhabitants of the Bangkok Metropolis, including their

work productivity. The environmental deterioration brought about by the air pollution has also adversely affected tourism and the national image, and this has resulted in both direct and indirect economic loss. Bangkok traffic has become a priority issue for the government. Several traffic commissions have been formed but to no avail. Air pollution problems in Bangkok are mostly the result of heavy traffic congestion and a rapid raise in the number of motor vehicles. The problems have also been aggravated by the lack of sufficient and effective maintenance of vehicles. It has been estimated that the number of motor vehicles in Bangkok accounts for roughly one - third of the total number of vehicles in the country.

The strategic issues, strategic objectives and core strategies are specified by individual strategy and used as guiding framework of development directions but the need is not only to implement the policies and plan but to make it working. Moreover, the indicators of achievement in strategic issues and core strategies should be more specifically supervised, follow-up and evaluated; they must reflect the results to be obtained by the public and can be used for specifying the operational goals for developing the Bangkok City into a live able city according to the international evaluation criteria.

The BMA is increasing its role in urban economy development by supporting investors both local and international ones in various ways such as provision of information about potential projects, contact persons and related legislation. Any development project under its responsibility will be announced for investors especially those with big investment such as wastewater treatment, solid waste disposal, mass transport system and etc.

Social control entails rules of behavior that should be followed by the members of a society. Some of the rules of conduct fall into the realm of good manners as the culture defines them. As such they describe behavior that is socially desirable but not necessarily compulsory. Other rules of conduct are not optional and are enforced by laws. In complex, large-scale societies, laws are usually written down formally so that they can be known clearly to everyone. This is not the case with laws in small-scale societies such as those of foragers, pastoralists, and horticulturalists. Their laws commonly are much more informal, being rarely written down. Since they are part of the evolving oral tradition that is familiar to members of these societies, there is no need to explain them to anyone. However, people visiting from other societies are not likely to know what the laws are until there is a dispute. Law is the paramount agency of social control. It has gradually replaced religion and morality as the basic instrument for achieving social order. Social control is necessary for preserving civilization since its main function is human control over "internal or human nature" which is absolutely necessary for the conquest of external, i.e. physical, nature. This control over human nature upholds civilized society and deters antisocial conduct which is at variance with the postulates of social order. Law, as a mechanism of social control, is primarily the function of the state and it operates "through the systematic and orderly application of force by the appointed agents." However, law is not enough; it needs the backing-up of home training, religion, morality and education.

Bangkok Metropolitan is one another formation of local administration, even though there will be the Act of legislation in specific government service administration, but it must be under the constitution law which is the principal law of the nation also, physically speaking Bangkok Metropolis is the local administration organization as the special formation and it means it is the capital of the country also. Besides, in the state, it is the capital which belong to 70 the central city in every side of the country until there was someone said that Bangkok Metropolis is Thailand, so Bangkok Metropolis administration has the importance, it is effective to economic, society, politic and government of the country; and further more, in the state, it has been the capital of the country since 1782 Bangkok Metropolis has been developed and changed about the style of administration and/or the management all over; The background of the administration and the government service management of Bangkok Metropolis together with the reason of revolution or the establishment of the organization in each form which can be possibly Bangkok Metropolis at the present ; and it can brief respectively as shown below (Nathanon Daveesin M.P.P. from

1. To provide the system of administration in the city style; since Ratanakosin the capital in 1782 throughout the reign of His majesty the King Chulachomklau, he preceded administration as the same at that of administration in Ayuthya period that is the system of Wiang (city) (catusadom Unit Consistin of Wiang, Wang, Clang and Na) to be responsible by cabinet.

2. To provide the system of administration in the lieutenant governor of a circle in 1894 (the 5th reign) there were improvement, development and evolution modern administration system as the style of the administrative Unit, Bangkok Metropolis depended on the Ministry of the Municipality, Municipal Minister was the commander, for other monthons depended on the Ministry of Interior, later in 1922 (the 6th reign King) there was proclamation to gather the Ministry of Municipality with the Ministry of Interior and Samunakhonban as the leader to be in charge of the operation in Bangkok the same as that of Lord lieutenant of a circle (samuha desaphiban) as the leader to be in charge of the operation in other Monthon (a former administrative unit presided over by a lord lieutenant).

3. To provide the system of Province and Municipal after to change the administration in 1932, it had enacted the main legislation dealt with 2 copies of administrative system : an act of legislation concern the administrative government service of the Kingdom of Siam in 1933 that made the cause of reformation into new administrative system by abandonment of Monthon Municipal while to divide the part of government service into government service of central administration and local administration because of , these two copies of Laws, Bangkok and Thonburi, individual had provincial status and it was divide into district and Sub-district the same as that of other provinces countrywide; and for the part of local government service administration, there were Bangkok municipality and Thonburi municipality consisting of provincial organization and the public Health like local administration in other provinces everywhere.

4. To provide the system of the capital city Administration because of Bangkok province and Thonburi both of them have close relation with each other both in the history and the government for a long time and earns of a living of the people go on in the direction of the same province and to manage government service unit for a service to the people made in the manner to have together work unit such as court work ; register for certain activities should gather Bangkok and Thonburi as the same province in order that government could go on economically and efficiently until it was able to give rise the prosperity to both provinces right now ; it would incese the facility to the people more and more. So it had promulgated a group of revolutionists, the copy 24, on December 21, 1964 associated Bangkok province and Thonburi province in the status of regional civil service as only one province named Nakhonluang “Bangkok Thonburi” for the sake of civil service administration and for the facility of the people in the side of provision of local administration of Nakhonluang Bangkok Thonburi ; and it should organize the special form of government that was differentiated from other localities such as the musicality for specific capital city or metropolis in order to support municipality of metropolis to be able to manage the locality efficiently and agreed with the policy of the central government service administration more and more, so it had promulgated the mission of revolutionists, the copy 25, on December 1971, to associate Bangkok municipality metropolis and Thonburi municipality together named “Municipality Metropolis” and gathering Bangkok provincial administration organization with Thonburi provincial administration organization in the status as the local civil service joined together named “the capital city organization Bangkok”

Major causes of Maintenance of Law & order

The task and function of local administration organization has got the importance both in reflection on the level of decentralization and having freedom of local administration organization within any other states in the side of the level of political and administrative institutions of local administration organization and in the side of structural determination within local administration system. In this part, it will emphasize to suggest the idea in providing the task and function of the local administration organization to appear generally what its

principle and formation are, what local administration organization can do or not it lays on the way of thought and any determination and at the same time in the task and duty that the locality provided has the condition or not, so it becomes the background for laying out the principle and formation in arrangement of task and function of local administration organization that has appeared generally in which it consists of 3 main ideas below

1. The task as in the legislation of law (Ultra vires) the principle in determination of the task and function for local administration organization in this way, means the task of local administration organization that has how much limitation and what it covered in, will be assigned by the law given the authority to local administration organization to be able to manage in such a task. Besides it displayed that the task which local administration organization can provide and do, will have the law to approve or denote as the authority and the function of local administration organization if local administration organization has operated to do some affairs that the law has never denoted, this is regarded as to do with violation of limitation of the authority and duty that oneself can do or it is to use the authority over the law assigned so within such a principle, the task and duty of local administration organization is limited by the law itself.

If to consider from the point in the matter of only affair in the state to hold as the principle in providing the task and function as in the law maybe to see that being free for local administration organization according to the principle of self-government which will have rather limit because of local administration organization, it can provide specific duty that the law denoted only, for example, if the law denotes that to wipe out the garbages is known as the duty of local administration organization, it can operate to manage such a task but if local administration organization will operate to construct school, even though it will be the desire and the need within society of the locality, in this case, it is regarded that the said local administration had used the authority over than the law assigned indeed etc;

2. The affairs according to general competence within the state organization that the system of local administration has management of affair as in general competence, this means local administration can manage the duty broadly as far not to do violation to the law of affected to the authority of other administration institution, that is, it is to hold the principle of the necessity and the desire of society significantly; if society in the locality has the cause to call for what they want, local administration organization can operate in such activities in order to respond to the problem and the desire of society possibly, therefore in the principle of law, it did not have evidence to identify any task and important function for local administration organization to promote in the detail of activity but it will give the freedom to local administration organization to be able to go on any activity to respond the desire within society of oneself.

Among social and political change in Thailand, three general strategies for action are being debated. The first is to work within the existing system and to press for changes in law, law enforcement, institutions, and mindsets, through various forms of social action and political lobbying. The second alternative is to form a political party to provide a more direct channel for change. The third alternative is the so-called New Anarchism-people should just ignore the state, pursue their preferred way of life, and seek strength within the community and through networking between communities.

Conclusion

The portion separating management without the unity because the important cause of the problem is: there is no unity in the city management, the city problem, the people problem, the plan for developing Bangkok Metropolis to be forced to use with Bangkok Metropolis only one unit and there is no plan to develop Bangkok and surrounding provinces of Bangkok Metropolis. There is no determination of the authority and function between the government sector and Bangkok Metropolis suitably and precisely; the service of government sector overlapped with Bangkok Metropolis a lot while in the part of the government itself had separately managed without the unity. The District Council comes from election directly by the people but it has no status as the local council not to be able to express the role as the agent of the people efficiently and

confusingly.

Decentralization of Bangkok Metropolis is still the problem in the following characters: There is still no decentralization to Bangkok Metropolis to have absolute authority in the task and function, forcement to use the law, to arrange the city order of the government sector. To transfer the task to Bangkok Metropolis in number 84 tasks known as the failure not accordance with the volition of the Constitution and the act to set up the plan and the gradation of decentralization in 1998 not to support and encourage the management of Bangkok Metropolis more strongly, opposite there are a lot of tasks which affected the quality for giving a service that the people can receive.

Conclusion of Bangkok Metropolis Government Policies

1. Freedom from Internal Control

Thais are free to do what they want because in Thailand government give authority and freedom to do what they want.

2. Freedom of Speech

The law provides for freedom of religion, and the Government generally respects this right in practice; however, it does not register new religious groups that have not been accepted into one of the existing religious governing bodies on doctrinal or other grounds.

3. Effective Fair Police Force

Police officers in Thailand still don't have enough powers to protect citizens because there are some people who are more powerful than police so it is difficult to arrest them when they do something wrong. However, normally police are responsible for citizen.

4. Private Property

Thailand government has always protected the right of Thais to own property. In Thailand people have to prove that they own the property before they can do anything with it. A person who owns a property must have a title deed to show that the property is owned by him/her legally.

5. Commercial banks

The Bank of Thailand had revised the notification regarding the usage of the Internet network for undertaking of commercial banking business by issuing a new. The objective is to expand the scope of the usage of the Internet network for undertaking of commercial banking business in order to support both commercial bank and electronic commerce transactions which play an important role in future economic development of the country

6. Communication system

The communication in the capital city of Thailand is quite good. There are many modes of communication in Bangkok. For example, cell phones, faxes, telephone and etc. However, those communications aren't widespread in countryside.

7. Transportation

The transportation of Thailand carries many modes of transportation. Such as, airport, train, railway, highway, waterway, buses. However, those transportations aren't widespread in countryside.

8. Education

Thailand's education requires students to at least graduate a high school or grade 12. Most of Thai students always keep studying until they at least graduate a university. There are multiple universities offered to students. And Thai education is also considered to be one the best in Asia.

9. Social mobility

In Thai society, Thai always accept and respect people with high education. People who have special

abilities can get good jobs, so Thai people can succeed their needs without any connection, on the other hand, we can say that there usually is no need for people to know someone with a high position in a society in order to get a good job.

10. Freedom from outside control

Thailand is free from other countries because Thailand has never been defeated by other countries. Thailand isn't a colony of any country. So Thais are subject to the laws of the country only.

11. Foreign currency transaction

Thais usually don't transact to foreigners by using foreign currency. But there are some people like to accept US dollars from foreigners. However, if you really want to transact to Thais, you should convert your money to Thai currency first because there are still tons of people who don't like taking other foreign currency.

12. Border control

Thai government has given so much attention on illegal goods because there are many people who make illegal products. For instance, there is tons of illegal software, CDs, waiting for you to buy. Therefore, it is suggested that the government should try to increase the punishment for people who make illegal copies.

13. Cultural, Language Homogeneity

Thais always respect the history of Thailand. They never surrender the culture. Thais are friendly to foreigners. They always welcome all the visitors. The official language of Thailand is Thai, Thai is spoken everywhere, 99% of language used in Thailand is Thai.

14. Political effectiveness

Recently, Thai government has solved a lot of problems about economics and politic which improves the business climate in the country. Therefore, Thai government has made a lot of successes in the past 3 years.

15. Honest Government

Corruption is still a serious problem in Thailand, many of the governors corrupt. The poor are still poor because there is less progress in Thailand. While the poor are still poor but people who corrupt become rich.

16. Common Laws

From the study it is known that equality really exists in Thailand because some questionnaires personal experience, shows that a lot of poor people who aren't treat as well as they should be. Normally, the law is good but there are some officers who break the rule. Therefore, person with lots of money will be treated a lot better than the poor.

17. Domestic budget management

The country's debt problem must be resolved by the creation of income. Therefore, the Government would support and promote the process of income creation for the people at all levels. Towards this end, the Government would promote the principles of the Sufficiency Economy in accordance with the potential of each community at the grassroots level of the country. The Government would also support villagers to join together in conducting economic activities at the community level, accelerate the development of small- and medium-scale entrepreneurs, promote mutually beneficial and supportive linkages between such entrepreneurs and large-scale enterprises, and provide access to domestic and overseas markets in order to systematically strengthen the income creation process for the people.

18. Protection of public health and safety

The foundation of the Thai public health system has been laid since the early days in the Thai history. It has been developed from the period when there was no state agency responsible officially for health activities. It can be stated that the Ministry of Public Health is the main national health agency that plays important role in health program development and the improvement of health status of Thai people.

19. Environmental Protection

The Ministry of Industry, while proud of its achievements to date, is well aware of the toll rapid economic development has taken on the Kingdom's natural environment and quality of life.

Supporting the greening of Thailand is one of the MOI's top priorities. Besides monitoring individual factory pollution control and assisting firms with environmental problem solving, the MOI plays a central role in highlighting investment opportunities in Thailand's environmental sector.

Several MOI agencies are engaged in environmental services. The Department of Industrial Works monitors effluent and emissions, regulates environmental policy, and reviews the required environmental impact assessment prior to license issuing.

20. Pro-business climate

People usually give respect to persons who have a power to open up a business. And they also feel that all businessmen, Thai or foreign alike. Therefore, people can be confident that when they invest in Thailand, they will receive fast, fair and transparent treatment.

Recommendations

Access to Information

about the Environment

- 1) Every government office should be able to make available information associated with their area of work, free of charge.
- 2) Private actors particularly in the industrial sector should be open for public access to facility-level information. Which allows people to have direct access to the facilities' information database on releases and emissions.
- 3) The existing laws related to access to information should be.
- 4) Apart from appeal mechanisms, people should have more channels for their convenient access to information.
- 5) The Constitution of Thailand should also guarantee the public's right to know.
- 6) The government should support alternative media for information dissemination especially at local level, such as community's radio stations.

Access to Participation in Decision-Making

- 1) The government should make an effort to establish the Public Participation Act to guarantee the public's right to, to receive information and express their opinions, to participate in the decision-making process, and to present petitions.
- 2) Public participation should be carried out 1) before a decision is made, 2) during the project implementation, and 3) after the project is completed (monitoring process)
- 3) The government should allow people to participate in the decision-making on projects that will rely on foreign loans.
- 4) Apart from providing policy guidance to the government, Thailand's National Economic and Social Development Board should also put more emphasis on communicating with the people in order to learn about their real needs and act as their representative in dealing with the government.
- 5) The term 'decision-making' should be clearly defined by law and publicly acceptable. The law should spell out scopes, levels, decision-makers, outside participants, mechanisms and channels for the proper public participation process.

Access to Justice

- 1) Laws should be amended to conform with the Constitution, for example on relation to public participation in land use planning.
 - 2) The general public must have equal access to justice in decision-making.
 - 3) A legal system is not the only mechanism to ensure access to justice. Alternative ways and means should be explored to provide opportunities to the general public to actively participate in a decision making process
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at relevant levels. Information used in the process must be academically accurate, legitimate and publicly acceptable. Decisions should be based on consensus, not voting.
Capacity Building for Meaningful Public Participation

- 1) The Office of the Decentralization Committee under the Office of the Prime Minister should promote the role of Tambon Administration Organizations as service centers to provide administration information and assistance in access to justice at sub-district level.
- 2) Tambon Administration Organizations should establish separate committees to oversee administration matters and budgets in their respective areas.
- 3) Capacity building for Tambon Administration Organizations should include enhancing administration of law and order awareness and understanding of administration problems, legal matters and a concept of public participation.
- 4) The government should build the capacity of civil society organizations in understanding legal matters, and provide financial support for their efforts to monitor the degree of public participation in administration decision making.
- 5) Government agencies should aim at being an alert organization that are well prepared and able to change their attitudes from 'authoritative' towards 'service minded', as well as recognize that people can make their own decisions for themselves.

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