



**Lao People's Democratic Republic
Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity**

National Assembly

No. 01/NA
Vientiane Capital, Date: 29 June 2010

Unofficial translation

Law on HIV/AIDS Control and Prevention

**Part I
General Provisions**

Article. 1: Purpose

This law defines effective principles, regulations, measures, management and monitoring of HIV/AIDS control and prevention in order to reduce HIV infection, and AIDS with the aim to promote good health and a HIV free environment among all Lao people, so that they can contribute to the development and the protection of the country.

Article. 2: HIV/AIDS

HIV-Human Immunodeficiency Virus destroys white blood cells that maintain immunities to protect from infections.

AIDS- Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome is a set of different diseases caused by HIV.

Article. 3: Control and the fight against HIV/AIDS

HIV/AIDS control refers to prevention and education of HIV in order not to spread in the society.

HIV/AIDS prevention refers to treatment, care, and support for people living with HIV and AIDS to have better health.

Article.4: Interpretations of terms

Terminologies used in this law are defined as follow:

1. **HIV transmission refers** to HIV being transmitted to a person through any modes of transmission such as-sexual, blood, and mother to child;
2. **HIV infection through sexual transmission refers** to HIV being transmitted through unprotected sex with an HIV infected person;

3. **HIV infection through blood transmission refers** to HIV being transmitted through blood, blood products and organs contaminated with HIV by such as blood transfusion, sharing of unsterilized needles or sharp objects, injectable drugs, organ transplants, and others;
4. **Sterilization refers** to an act of disinfecting germs by means of washing with detergents, boiling, heating, steaming, etc.
5. **HIV transmission from mother to child refers** to child contracting HIV from a contaminated mother during pregnancy, delivery and breast feeding;
6. **HIV prevention refers** to the use of ways and measures to prevent HIV infection;
7. **HIV control refers** to the use of measures in the management, monitoring and supervision to prevent the spread of HIV infection to the society;
8. **Surveillance refers** to a systematic monitoring, data collection and data analysis of HIV epidemic as a proactive use for planning the responses;
9. **The spread of HIV refers** to an HIV transmission from one person to many others;
10. **The treatment refers** to a provision of medical services to people living with HIV and AIDS by means of medical check-up, diagnosis, prescription, monitoring, and undertaking other medical techniques including psychological counselling services to improve their health;
11. **A medical service provider refers** to health professional or other professionals who have knowledge, skills on HIV/AIDS and provide counselling services, advices, physical and psychological care services to clients.
12. **Clients refer** to people living with HIV/AIDS, Most at Risk Populations and those affected physically and mentally by HIV/AIDS;
13. **Most at Risk Populations refer** to groups of people with risk behaviours for HIV infection, such as sex workers, men having sex with men, those having unprotected sex, injectable drug users who shared unsterilized needles;
14. **Target groups refer to** groups of people who are at risk of HIV infection, and therefore should receive attention by concerned sectors;
15. **Confidentiality refers to** a non-disclosure of blood test result, treatment the protection of rights of individuals of people;
16. **Blood products refer to** full blood, plasma and platelet;
17. **Antibody refers** to a substance produced by the body and protecting against antigens from getting into the body such as germs;
18. **Immunity refers** to the immune system protecting the body against germs;
19. **Non-discrimination and non-stigmatization refer** to not isolating affectively people affected and infected with HIV and AIDS-

Article. 5: Policy on HIV/AIDS Control and Prevention

The Government is committed in the fight against HIV/AIDS to its role of developing policies, laws and setting up organizational structures, providing staffing and necessary budget, medicine and other essential equipments. Besides, the Government will encourage individuals, households, local and international organizations to be involved in the control, supervision, control and the fight against HIV/AIDS.

The Government recognizes the importance of propagating, educating, and advocating to the public by various approaches, so that people in the society, particularly target populations and vulnerable groups to be aware the harms and impacts of HIV/AIDS, to raise awareness, knowledge on how to prevent HIV infection and know where to look for support to treat the disease.

The Government uses various measures to prevent an increase of HIV infection among the general and target populations with focus on treatment, care and support for people living with HIV and AIDS without stigmatization and discrimination.

The Government provides an enabling environment for people living with HIV/AIDS and those affected to support their employment if possible.

Article. 6: HIV/AIDS control and prevention principles

HIV/AIDS control and prevention should be carried out on the following core principles:

1. Prevention through education and treatment, as well as care and psychological support;
2. Increase responsibilities of organizations, societies, communities, families and individuals;
3. Ensuring that equality, justice, compassion, and non-discrimination and non-stigmatization principles are respected;
4. Voluntary counselling and Testing unless otherwise stated by law;
5. Ensuring the principles of confidentiality and privacy for people living with HIV/AIDS.

Article. 7: Commitments on the control and the prevention of HIV/AIDS

Individuals, families, all local and international organizations are committed to the control and prevention of HIV/AIDS. Principle is that HIV should not to spread into the society by limiting the risky behaviours and factors that would lead to HIV infection. Individuals, families, all local and international organizations should participate in HIV/AIDS interventions through implementation, and by providing information.

Article. 8: International Cooperation

The Government promotes relations and cooperation at regional and international levels on HIV/AIDS control and prevention by sharing experiences, information, science, technologies, and gaining support in different areas.

Part II
Harm (threats) of HIV/AIDS

Article. 9: Harm of HIV/AIDS

HIV is harmful, and spreads widely from one person to others and can harm, and kill many people.

There is no vaccine to prevent HIV infection and no cure is available..

HIV stays in the body of the infected person for life and has impacts on his/her health, life, on the country socio-cultural and economy environment.

Article. 10: Impacts on health and life

HIV/AIDS has the following impacts on the health and life of infected people as follow:

1. Increase morbidity and mortality;
2. More severe illnesses due to opportunistic infections;
3. Decrease life expectancy.

Article. 11: Impacts on economy

Main impacts of HIV/AIDS on the economy are as follow:

1. Increase health care expenditures on treatment and care;
2. Decrease effectiveness of the workforce needed for the country development;
3. Weaken the living conditions of the families of people living with HIV/AIDS;
4. Impair poverty reduction National plan.

Article. 12: Impacts on socio-cultural

HIV/AIDS has main impacts on the socio-cultural as the following:

1. Face stigmatization and discrimination against people living with HIV and AIDS and their families;
2. Increase welfare needs for the Government, societies, communities and families with regards to treatment, and care for people living with HIV and AIDS;
3. Increase the number of orphans and other negative phenomena in the society.

Part III
HIV/AIDS Control

Article. 13: HIV/AIDS control

HIV/AIDS control is a primary and essential duty of the society, communities and families.

HIV/AIDS control should apply the following methods and measures:

1. Control by advocacy, and education on HIV/AIDS;
2. HIV/AIDS control of sexual transmission;
3. HIV/AIDS control of blood transmission;
4. HIV/AIDS control of the transmission from infected mother to child;
5. HIV/AIDS control knowledge of his/her own HIV status.

Article. 14: Control by Advocacy and education on HIV/AIDS

Advocacy and education on HIV/AIDS are as the following:

1. Improve advocacy and education on HIV/AIDS for a wide understanding throughout the society mainly at secondary schools, vocational schools, universities, factories, detention centres (closed settings), correctional institutions, and among the most at risk populations;
2. Undertake various means of advocacy and education through mass medias, etc;
3. Provide information on harms of HIV/AIDS, modes of transmission, ways of prevention, treatment, care, and living in harmony without stigmatization and discrimination against people living with HIV and AIDS.

Article. 15: HIV prevention through sexual transmission

HIV prevention through sexual transmission should apply the following key means and measures:

1. Voluntary Counselling and Testing before marriage;

2. Faithful monogamy;
3. Always use a condom when having unsafe sex;
4. Other protective measures;

Article. 16: HIV prevention through blood transmission

HIV prevention through blood transmission should apply the following key means and measures:

1. Blood donation, blood transfusion, blood products or organs transplants shall be screened properly for HIV for safety reasons;
2. Use of needles, injectable drugs, medical equipments, and sharp objects shall follow strictly the principles of infection control.

Article. 17: HIV prevention from mother to child transmission

HIV prevention from mother to child transmission, should apply the following key means and measures:

1. A woman wishes to have a baby and a pregnant woman should receive a blood test for HIV;
2. HIV-positive pregnant woman shall receive ARV drugs;
3. A baby born to an HIV infected mother shall receive ARV drugs according to national treatment guidelines;
4. An HIV infected mother may not have normal delivery and may not breastfeed her baby.

Article. 18: HIV prevention through blood test

In generally, everyone has the right to voluntary counselling and testing for HIV at facilities with unless exceptional case required by law.

In case of an unconscious inpatient or a child under 14 years of age, parent or guardian or the next of kin should give consent for HIV testing.

Test results should be kept confidential unless required by law.

Any one diagnosed with HIV should strictly follow advices from medical personnel particularly not to infect other people.

**Part IV
HIV/AIDS Prevention**

**Section 1
Treatment**

Article. 19: Treatment for People Living with HIV and AIDS

Treatment for people living with HIV, AIDS and those who have opportunistic infections should follow instructions from the medical personnel, and receive ARV drug according to the national guidelines.

A person who is infected by HIV following an accident while being on duty or while helping an infected person should be entitled to a free of charge treatment and receives compensations according to regulation.

Article. 20: Treatment Facilities

Treatment facilities for people living with HIV/AIDS who need ARV drugs are to be defined by the Ministry of Public Health.

Article. 21: Medical Ethics

A medical professional or a person working in the area of HIV/AIDS control and prevention should be liable to their duties and maintain confidentiality for people living with HIV/AIDS unless required by court. In addition, he or she should respect rights to survival, daily activities and dignity of a patient, and their relatives without discrimination and stigmatization.

Section 2 Care

Article. 22: Care Provision in general treatment facilities

Medical staff should take care for people living with HIV/AIDS and those with opportunistic infections on an equal manner like any other patients.

Article. 23: Care in Societies and Communities

Societies and communities take care for people living with HIV/AIDS without discrimination and stigmatization, providing support, care, and encouragement including educating them not to transmit the HIV virus to other people and live a normal life with others.

Civil societies, NGOs and other organizations can establish foundations, associations, funds and provide facilities for caring people living with HIV and AIDS in communities in accordance with the law.

Article. 24: Care in families

Families should be responsible, offer morale support, provide care and support to people living with HIV/AIDS without stigmatization and discrimination.

Section 3 Support

Article. 25: Counselling

Counselling is a process in a conversation of exchanging ideas in privacy between a counsellor and a client for knowing and understanding about HIV and finding ways for the client to find his/her own solutions. In any circumstances, a pre and post-test counselling process should be followed and confidentiality must be maintained.

A counsellor should have received teaching on counselling techniques and have knowledge and competences and get certified as defined by specific regulations.

Article. 26: Economic Support

Committee for the Control of AIDS at each level, organizations and individuals have a role to mobilize resources from national and international to support people living with HIV/AIDS to have opportunities for jobs employment according to the real situations.

Article. 27: Social Support

Committee for the Control of AIDS at each level, organizations and individuals should coordinate, sensitize, and encourage sectors and other concerned parties to provide enabling environment for people living with HIV and AIDS so that they can live a normal life in the society, have access to treatment, employment, education and information in an equal manner like other community members without discrimination and stigmatization.

Part V
Measures in HIV/AIDS Control and Prevention

Section 1
Medical Measures

Article. 28: Surveillance

Health sector in collaboration with concerned institutions have a role to carry out surveys, monitoring, data collection and data analysis on a regular basis in order to report on HIV/AIDS trends in particular among most at risk populations. Findings would be used for planning on HIV/AIDS responses.

Article. 29: Laboratory examination

Those at risk for HIV infection shall receive a HIV test.

People living with HIV and AIDS shall receive a laboratory examination to check their viral load level as well as other laboratory examinations.

Article. 30: Treatment

People living with HIV and AIDS may get treatment at a general treatment facility. With regards to ARV drugs treatment, service is only available at identified ARV sites.

The expenses on the treatment with ARV and opportunistic infection drugs should be in accordance with identified regulations.

Article. 31: Scientific Researches

Scientific researches at national, regional and international levels on HIV/AIDS on prevention, treatment are encouraged in order to disseminate information on HIV/AIDS control and prevention.

Such researches should get approval from authorized institutions.

Section 2 Social Measures

Article. 32: Information Provision

Lao citizens, aliens, foreigners and people with no nationality residing in Lao PDR have rights to have access to information on HIV/AIDS control and prevention.

The government, organizations and societies should provide information on HIV/AIDS control and prevention consistently with regulations, laws, traditions, cultures, and local contexts.

Article. 33: Health insurance

People living with HIV/AIDS and affected people have rights to have access to health insurance scheme in order to guarantee an equitable medical service as defined by a relevant regulation.

Article. 34: Non-discrimination and non-stigmatisation

People living with HIV/AIDS as well as affected people are equal to other people in the society with regards to living in the society and daily life activities without stigmatization and discrimination.

Article. 35: Confidentiality

Medical professionals and people working in the area of HIV/AIDS control and prevention should strictly keep confidential all information concerning HIV/AIDS patient, still alive or already dead unless there is a court order or a willingness of the person concerned.

Part VI Responsibilities about HIV/AIDS Control and Prevention

Section 1 Responsibilities of Committees for the Control of AIDS

Article. 36: Committees for the Control of AIDS

For the effective of HIV/AIDS control and prevention, the Government established the Committees for the Control of AIDS as the following:

- National Committee for the Control of AIDS;
- Provincial Committee for the Control of AIDS, Vientiane Capital;
- District Committee for the Control of AIDS, municipal.

Each level of the Committee for the Control of AIDS has its secretariat and its role is defined in a separate decree.

Article. 37: Location and Roles of the Committees for the Control of AIDS

The Committee for the Control of AIDS is a governmental structure comprising of representatives from different sectors in which the health sector is a focal point. It has a role of guiding the response and reporting to the government.

Composition of the Committees for the Control of AIDS at each level are defined in a separate decree.

Article. 38: Rights and duties of the National Committee for the Control of AIDS

The National Committee for the Control of AIDS has the following rights and duties,

1. Consider and approve relevant policies, laws and strategies on HIV/AIDS control and prevention from the Ministry of Health which will be submitted to the government for endorsement;
2. Give guidance on advocacy, dissemination policies, regulations and laws on HIV/AIDS control and prevention throughout the country;
3. Give counselling, advise, support, monitor and supervise the implementation of interventions on HIV/AIDS control and prevention;
4. Listen to reporting from concerned sectors on the implementation of interventions on HIV/AIDS control and prevention;
5. Mobilize and get assistance from national and international to be used for HIV/AIDS control and prevention efforts;
6. Summarize, evaluate and report on the implementation of interventions of HIV/AIDS control and prevention to the government on a regular basis;
7. Undertake other rights and duties as defined by law.

Article. 39: Rights and duties of the Provincial Committee for the Control of AIDS, Vientiane Capital

The Provincial Committee for the Control of AIDS, Vientiane Capital have the following rights and duties:

1. Translate policies, laws and strategies, endorsed by high level authority, into plans and projects to be further submitted for approval and implement them;
2. Give guidance on advocacy, disseminate policies, regulations and laws on HIV/AIDS control and prevention within its mandates;
3. Give counselling, advise, support, monitor and supervise the implementation of interventions on HIV/AIDS control and prevention within a respective province, Vientiane Capital;
4. Mobilize and get assistance from national and international to be used for HIV/AIDS control and prevention efforts as assigned by a higher authority;
5. Summarize, evaluate and report on the implementation of interventions of HIV/AIDS control and prevention to the government on a regular basis;
6. Undertake other rights and duties as defined by law.

Article. 40: Rights and duties of the District Committee for the Control of AIDS, municipals

The District Committee for the Control of AIDS has the following rights and duties:

1. Implement the policies, the laws, the strategies, the plans and the projects on HIV/AIDS endorsed by higher authorities;
2. Disseminate policies, regulations and law on HIV/AIDS control and prevention within its mandates;
3. Summarize, evaluate and report on the implementation of interventions of HIV/AIDS control and prevention to the government on a regular basis;
4. Undertake other rights and duties as defined by law.

Section 2

Responsibilities of the Government

Article. 41: Responsibilities of the Government

The Government has set up rules and regulations on HIV/AIDS management, supervision, control and prevention, treatment, care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS and affected people, and allocates budget, provides vehicles, equipment and human resources to undertake the mentioned tasks.

Article. 42: Responsibilities of sectors

Concerned sectors, in particular Education, Information and Culture, Labour and Social Welfare, Public Works and Transport, Defence and Public Security, Tourism, Lao Red-Cross, Public Prosecutor's Office, People's Court, Lao Front for National Construction, and Mass Organizations have the duties to supervise, support and monitor on HIV/AIDS control and prevention efforts according to their respective mandates and in collaboration with the Health Sector or Committees for the Control of AIDS.

Concerned sectors have to set up their focal points to implement on HIV/AIDS control and prevention interventions.

Section 3

Responsibilities of societies, communities, families and individuals

Article. 43: Responsibilities of societies and communities

Societies and communities collaborate with concerned sectors in relation to HIV/AIDS control and prevention through advocacy, dissemination of relevant materials, mobilization and raising awareness among people of different communities to be aware of harms caused by HIV/AIDS, to avoid risks or factors leading to HIV infection, share information with concerned institutions, provide support and care for people living with HIV/AIDS and affected people without discrimination and stigmatization.

Article. 44: Responsibilities of families

Families have direct responsibilities in educating their family members on the harms caused by HIV/AIDS, and raise awareness to avoid risk behaviour for HIV infection.

Families are to provide moral support, giving care and aid for the treatment for their family members with HIV/AIDS without stigmatization and discrimination.

Article. 45: Responsibilities of individuals

Individuals regardless of age and gender residing in Lao PDR should actively participate in HIV/AIDS control and prevention, avoiding risk behaviour for HIV infection, getting blood test on the voluntary basis for HIV and in case of positive blood test; they should promptly seek for treatment and not further infect other people.

Those who are at risk of HIV infection through their occupations should strictly observe preventive measures according to principles, regulations, approaches and measures on HIV/AIDS prevention.

Article. 46: Responsibilities of people living with HIV and AIDS

People living with HIV and AIDS should adhere for their treatment and report on their health status to concerned authorities, and strictly follow advises and instructions from medical personnel on their treatment and care.

In addition, people living with HIV and AIDS have the following rights and duties:

1. Rights to the protection from the government regarding to employment, education, and are entitled for other rights like other people;
2. Participate in HIV/AIDS control and prevention by providing advisory and counselling services to other people living with HIV and AIDS and other people especially among risk and vulnerable populations;
3. Avoid behaviour that transmitting HIV infection to other people.

Part VII HIV/AIDS Control and Prevention Fund

Article. 47: Funding

The Government encourages for establishment of HIV/AIDS support funds at different level with the agreement of the health sector in order to fund AIDS awareness raising, treatment and care and support for people living with HIV and AIDS.

Article. 48: Sources of Funding

Sources of funding for HIV/AIDS control and prevention are from:

1. The Government's budget;
2. Contributions from individuals, local and foreign organizations in Lao PDR;
3. Assistance from international organizations and foreign countries;
4. Income generating activities such as sports competition, performances, etc.

Article. 49: Management and the use of funds

The management and the use of HIV/AIDS funds should be conformed to National regulations on fund management.

Part VIII Prohibitions

Article. 50: Prohibitions for people living with HIV and AIDS

People living with HIV and AIDS are prohibited to perform the following actions:

1. Transmit HIV infection to other people by all means;
2. Donate blood, tissues and organs;
3. Bribing officials or authorities responsible for HIV/AIDS control and prevention;
4. Not following advises and instructions from medical personnel on HIV/AIDS control and prevention;
5. Engaging in any actions prohibited by relevant regulations and laws.

Article.51: Prohibitions for health service providers

Health service providers are prohibited from the following actions:

1. Take blood test for HIV without a consent from the concerned individual with an exceptional cases requested by law;
2. Inform or report positive blood test result if no confirmation is validated;
3. Disclose the HIV/AIDS status of people living with HIV/AIDS, unless required by law;
4. Give blood transfusion to a patient without blood screening for HIV;
5. Deny to provide treatment, care and support to people living with HIV/AIDS;
6. Use unsafe medical equipment for treating a patient;
7. Forge, withhold documents on HIV/AIDS;
8. Take opportunities on his/her position for taking bribes for himself/herself or on behalf of others;
9. Engage in any actions prohibited by relevant regulations and laws.

Article. 52: Prohibitions for individuals and other organizations

Individuals and other organizations are prohibited from the following actions:

1. Obstruct and ignore the duty undertaken by concerned authorities concerning HIV/AIDS control and prevention;
2. Promote individual's freedom to spread HIV infection;
3. Have a risky behaviour influencing the spread of HIV infection;
4. Deny to treat, to provide care and support to people living with HIV/AIDS for whom they are responsible for, while they are able to perform the tasks;
5. Take or offer bribes to concerned authorities concerning HIV/AIDS control and prevention;
6. Discriminate, stigmatize, look down on, use violence, threaten and say bad things about people living with HIV and AIDS or affected people and health service providers;
7. Expel a healthy HIV positive person from his/her jobs or refuse to employ him/her;
8. Engage in any actions prohibited by relevant regulations and laws.

Part IX

Management and Supervision of HIV/AIDS Control and Prevention

**Section 1
Management**

Article.53: Management body

The government is responsible for the management of HIV/AIDS control and prevention effort in a centralized and harmonized manner throughout the country by designating MOH coordinate with other sectors and concerned local authorities.

HIV/AIDS control and prevention management bodies consist of:

1. Ministry of Health;
2. Provincial and Vientiane Capital Department of Health;
3. District and Municipal Health Offices.

Article. 54: Rights and duties of the Ministry of Health

By managing HIV/AIDS control and prevention, the Ministry of Health has the following rights and duties:

1. Develop and draft policy, law and strategies on HIV/AIDS control and prevention to be submitted to the government for an endorsement once the National Committee for the Control of AIDS has approved it;
2. Translate a policy, law and a strategy on HIV/AIDS control and prevention into detailed plan, program, project including scientific medical research on HIV/AIDS and, supervise implementation;
3. Advocate, and disseminate broadly the policy, regulations, law and strategies on HIV/AIDS control and prevention;
4. Consider and address any complains from citizens, sectors and other parties with regards to HIV/AIDS control and prevention efforts;
5. Train, retrain, and upgrade concerned personnel to be equipped with the right knowledge, skills and ethical professionals;
6. Collaborate with other concerned sectors and parties on the implementation of HIV/AIDS control and prevention according to the Ministry's mandates;
7. Cooperate with other countries and International Organizations with regards to HIV/AIDS control and prevention;
8. Summarize, evaluate, and report on the implementation of HIV/AIDS control and prevention efforts to the National Committee for the Control of AIDS and the government on a regular basis;
9. Undertake other rights and duties as stated in the law.

Article. 55: Rights and duties of the Provincial and Vientiane Capital Health Departments

To manage HIV/AIDS control and prevention, Provincial and Vientiane Capital Health Departments have the following rights and duties:

1. Translate the already approved policy, law and strategies into its plan, program and projects on HIV/AIDS control and prevention, and effectively implement them;
2. Advocate, and disseminate broadly the policy, regulations, law and strategies on HIV/AIDS control and prevention in the Provinces and Vientiane Capital;
3. Monitor and supervise HIV/AIDS control and prevention efforts implemented by the Districts and Municipal Health Offices;
4. Provide guidance to the treatment and support of people living with HIV/AIDS according to its responsibilities;
5. Consider and address complaints from citizens, sectors and other parties with regards to HIV/AIDS control and prevention efforts;
6. Collaborate with other concerned sectors and parties on the implementation of HIV/AIDS control and prevention according to its mandates;
7. Cooperate with other countries and International Organizations with regards to HIV/AIDS control and prevention as delegated by higher level authorities;
8. Summarize, evaluate, and report on the implementation of HIV/AIDS control and prevention efforts to higher level authority on a regular basis;
9. Undertake other rights and duties as addressed in the law and as assigned by higher level authority.

Article. 56: Rights and duties of the District and Municipal Health Offices

To manage HIV/AIDS control and prevention, District and Municipal Health Offices have the following rights and duties:

1. Implement the set up policy, plan, program, project and legality on HIV/AIDS control and prevention effectively;
2. Disseminate relevant regulations and law on HIV/AIDS control and prevention according to its roles and responsibilities;
3. Consider and address complaint proposals from citizens, sectors and other parties with regards to HIV/AIDS control and prevention efforts according to its mandates and responsibilities;
4. Collaborate with other concerned sectors and parties on the implementation of HIV/AIDS control and prevention within its responsibilities;
5. Summarize, evaluate, and report on the implementation of HIV/AIDS control and prevention effort to its higher authority on a regular basis;
6. Undertake other rights and duties as addressed in the law and as assigned by higher authorities.

If there is a need to, units can be established at health centres according to the approval of the Ministry of Health in order to support HIV/AIDS control and prevention efforts carried out by the District and Municipal Health Offices.

Article. 57: Rights and duties of other sectors

Other sectors and local authorities have the rights and duties to HIV/AIDS control and prevention according to their mandates and responsibilities as defined in Article 42 of this law.

Section 2 Supervision

Article. 58: Supervision body

The supervision body for HIV/AIDS control and prevention efforts comprises of:

1. Internal supervision body which is the same as the management body of HIV/AIDS control and prevention as defined in Article 53 of this law;
2. External supervision bodies are the National Assembly, State Inspection Organization, State Audit Organization, and the public and people's voices in the society.

Article. 59: Rights and duties of supervision bodies

Supervision bodies have the following rights and duties,

1. Supervise the implementation of policies, regulations, laws, strategies, plans, and projects on HIV/AIDS control and prevention;
2. Supervise the implementation results of HIV/AIDS control and prevention measures mainly the advocacy on the harms of HIV/AIDS, the treatment, the care, the support, the non-discrimination and the non-stigmatization for people living with HIV and AIDS;
3. Supervise and solve complaint proposal from citizens, sectors and other parties with regards to HIV/AIDS control and prevention;
7. Collaborate with other sectors and other concerned parties, from local and international on the supervision and solving problems related to HIV/AIDS control and prevention in accordance with its mandates;

8. Amend supervision results according to its mandates or submit to a higher authority for consideration;
9. Summarize, evaluate, and report on supervision results to a higher authority on a regular basis;

Article. 60: Supervision approaches

Supervision of HIV/AIDS control and prevention has three approaches as the following:

1. Supervision on regular basis;
2. Supervision with a notice;
3. Urgent supervision.

Supervision on regular basis should be scheduled once a year.

Supervision with a notice should be undertaken when there is a need to do so, and should be notified at least 24 hours in advance.

Urgent supervision should be undertaken immediately without any notice.

Part X
National AIDS Day and Symbol

Article. 61: National AIDS Day

Lao PDR has adopted the World AIDS Day, Dec 1st of each year to be it's the National AIDS Day in order to encourage and mobilize efforts on HIV/AIDS control and prevention through various activities.

Article. 62: National AIDS symbol

Lao PDR has adopted the World AIDS Symbol as the national AIDS symbol, a crossed single red ribbon, which means to care and support for people affected or infected with HIV/AIDS.

Part XI
REWARDS AND PENALTIES

Article. 63: Rewards

Individuals, families or organization who distinguished themselves by their compliance with this law enforcement primarily in the area of prevention, treatment, care, and support for people living with HIV and AIDS, contribution of by means of financial, energy and ideas to HIV/AIDS control and prevention shall be entitled to rewards, lump sum payment or other benefits according to regulations.

Article. 64: Penalties

Individuals, families or organizations that fail to comply with this law may be educated, disciplined, fined, subject to civil compensation or criminal penalty, depending on the seriousness of the facts proven.

Article. 65: Education measures

Individuals, families or organizations who fail to comply with this law mainly on the instructions of medical personnel, discrimination, stigmatization, looking down on people living with HIV and AIDS or affected people, and failure to comply on HIV/AIDS control and prevention efforts should be educated and warned.

Article. 66: Disciplinary Measures

Any official, civil servant or health provider who fail to comply with the law on HIV/AIDS control and prevention mainly in the area of prohibitions, not considered as a criminal offense should be subject to the following disciplinary actions apart from being educated,

1. Giving a feed back, a warning and recording in his or her profile;
2. Suspending from any promotion, pay raise, and rewards;
3. Degrading, or reassigning to another duty with lower position;
4. Expelling from the civil service without any benefits.

Article. 67: Fined Measures

Any individual, family or organization have been educated, warned, or received disciplinary actions but still fail to comply this law mainly in the area of prohibitions, not considered as a criminal offense should be subject to a fine on a case by case, based on an identified regulation.

Article. 68: Civil Measures

Any individual, family or organization fail to comply with this law and cause damages to others should be liable for compensation payment mainly in the area of treatment, psychological damage compensations, and work absence, according to relevant laws and regulations.

Article. 69: Criminal Measures

Any individual who fails to comply with this law mainly prohibitions, considered as a criminal offense should be punished according to the penal law.

People living with HIV and AIDS or individuals who intentionally transmit HIV infection to others, such action shall be regarded as a criminal offense and those found guilty shall be imprisoned from five to ten years and fined from LAK 10,000,000 to 50,000,000.

In case an offender transmits HIV infection to others by habits or by organized group, an imprisonment sentence shall be from five to fifteen years and fine shall be from LAK 50,000,000 to 70,000,000.

Part XII

FINAL PROVISIONS

Article. 70: Implementation

The Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic shall be responsible for the implementation of this law.

Article.71: Effectiveness

This law is effective ninety days after its promulgation by the President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

All regulations and decrees that are contrary to this law are hereby abrogated.

The president of the National Assembly

Thongsing Thammavong