

National Economic and Social Development Council Act, B.E. 2561 (2018)

English machine translation (DeepL, Aug 2026) prepared for the PIM policy repository from the Thai text. Not an official translation — the Thai original is authoritative.

Latest revised version (consolidated text) — Office of the Council of State, searchlaw.ocs.go.th. Source: <https://searchlaw.ocs.go.th/council-of-state/#/public/doc/OFo2TzRMVlhoWWZhU1RaQlhpZUFPQT09> — retrieved Aug. 13 Aug 2026 via the OCS public API. Rendered for the PIM policy repository; the Thai gazette text is authoritative. Act on the National Economic and Social Development Council B.E. 661 His Majesty King by His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn, King of Thailand, on the 25th of December B.E. 2561 as* a 3rd in the Royal Gazette His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn, His Majesty the King has issued a Royal Decree whereas it is deemed appropriate to amend the Act on National Economic and Social Development His Majesty has therefore graciously decreed that this Act be promulgated upon the advice and consent of the National Legislative Assembly, acting as the National Assembly, as follows: Section 1. This Act shall be known as the “National Economic and Social Development Act B.E. 2561” Section 2 This Act shall come into force on the day following its promulgation in the Royal Gazette. Section 3 The National Economic and Social Development Act B.E. 2521 is hereby repealed. Section 4 In this Act “Economic and Social Development” means the expansion of the nation’s productive capacity and the increase in its output at all levels and in all regions, through increased productivity and the application of innovation in all fields and at all levels, based on the efficient use of resources, the elimination of unfair economic monopolies, the equitable distribution of income maintaining economic stability, and ensuring comprehensive and equitable improvements in the people’s education, health, housing, nutrition, and other welfare conditions, as well as related matters, with the aim of achieving sustainable national development “Plan” means a program for coordinating various development projects and work plans that have been selected

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at the national, regional, or sectoral level for specific industries or types of businesses in a particular locality, in order to achieve the desired objectives and goals, and to be consistent with the capacity in terms of financial resources and other resources “Work Plan” means a system for coordinating two or more related development projects to ensure that the implementation steps are consistent and interrelated in order to achieve the desired objectives and goals “Development project” means an investment project for economic or social development with clearly defined objectives and targets, as well as a specified implementation period, to be carried out by a government agency other than as part of that agency’s normal administrative duties “National Strategy” means the National Strategy as defined in the Act on the Formulation of the National Strategy “National Reform Plan” means the National Reform Plan as defined in the Act on the Plan and Stages of Implementation of National Reform “Government agency” means central government agencies, regional government agencies, state-owned enterprises, and other government units, but does not include local government agencies “State-owned enterprise” means (1) a government agency as defined in the Act on the Establishment of Government Agencies, a state enterprise established by law, or a business

entity wholly owned by the State (2) A limited liability company or a public limited company in which the Ministry of Finance or a state-owned enterprise as defined in (1) holds a combined equity interest of more than fifty percent Provided, however, that the provisions of (1) and (2) do not include entities engaged in financial institution or insurance business “Office” means the Office of the National Economic and Social Development Council “Secretary-General” means the Secretary-General of the National Economic and Social Development Council “Council” means the National Economic and Social Development Council “Chairperson of the Council” means the Chairperson of the National Economic and Social Development Council “Council Member” means a member of the National Economic and Social Development Council

Section 5 The Prime Minister shall administer this Act Chapter 1 National Economic and Social Development Council

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Section 6. The National Economic and Social Development Council shall consist of one Chairperson and no more than fifteen distinguished members appointed by His Majesty the King from among individuals with knowledge, expertise, or experience in economic and social matters, as recommended by the Council of Ministers; and the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Finance the Secretary-General of the Council of State, the Secretary-General of the Civil Service Commission, the Secretary-General of the Public Administration Reform Commission , the Secretary-General of the National Security Council, the Director of the Budget Office, and the Governor of the Bank of Thailand shall serve as members of the Council The Secretary-General of the National Economic and Social Development Council shall serve as a member of the Council and as its Secretary, and the Secretary-General shall appoint no more than two officials from the Secretariat to serve as Assistant Secretaries For the purpose of carrying out the Council’s duties and powers, the Council may, by resolution, invite a Permanent Secretary or the head of a government agency with direct duties and authority over the matter under consideration, or a person with knowledge, expertise, or experience in economic and social matters to attend meetings on an ad hoc basis as Council members. In such cases, the invited person who attends the meeting shall have the status of a Council member for the duration of that meeting

Section 7 The Council shall have the following duties and powers: (1) To establish the framework for the country’s economic and social development in accordance with the National Strategy and the economic and social conditions of both the country and the world (2) To prepare a draft of the National Economic and Social Development Plan (3) To make recommendations, provide advice, and offer opinions to the Prime Minister or the Council of Ministers regarding the promotion of economic and social development in accordance with the National Economic and Social Development Plan, including amendments or revisions to laws, regulations, or rules that affect economic and social development in various sectors (4) To make recommendations, provide advice, and offer opinions on development work plans and projects to present for the Cabinet’s consideration (5) To review annual budget proposals from state-owned enterprises that are not public limited companies regarding increases in fixed assets intended for use in economic and social development, as well as the amounts to be expended for this purpose, whether paid from the national budget, loans, accumulated profits, or any other funds, in accordance with the procedures and criteria set forth in a decree issued by the Assembly, and submit them to the Cabinet for consideration and approval (6) Appoint subcommittees to consider or carry out any action as delegated by the Council (7) To invite any person to provide facts, explanations, opinions, or recommendations when deemed appropriate (8) To perform other duties as prescribed by law as the responsibilities of the Council,

or as delegated by the Cabinet or the Prime Minister

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The appointment, performance of duties, and removal from office of the subcommittee referred to in (6) shall be as prescribed by the Assembly, and the provisions of Section 11 shall apply mutatis mutandis to the meetings of the subcommittee

Section 8 The President of the Council and the distinguished members of the Council must possess the following qualifications and must not have any of the following disqualifying characteristics: (1) Be a Thai national by birth (2) Not be a bankrupt person or have ever been a bankrupt person due to fraud (3) Not be a person lacking legal capacity or deemed to lack legal capacity (4) Not have been sentenced to imprisonment by a final and binding judgment, except for a sentence for an offense committed through negligence or a minor offense (5) Not currently or previously a political official, a person holding a political office, a member of a local council, or a local government administrator, unless at least two years have elapsed since leaving such a position (6) Not currently or previously serving as a board member, advisor, or in any other capacity within a political party or as a political party official, unless at least two years have elapsed since leaving such position (7) Has never been removed from office pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution (8) Has never been dismissed, removed, or expelled from civil service, a government agency, or a private entity due to misconduct in office or serious misconduct

Section 9 The term of office for the Chairperson and members of the Council of Elders shall be four years each. Upon the expiration of the term specified in the preceding paragraph, if a new Chairperson or members of the Council of Elders newly appointed President of the Council or Council Member of Distinguished Merit, the outgoing President of the Council or Council Member of Distinguished Merit shall remain in office to continue performing their duties until the newly appointed President of the Council or Council Member of Distinguished Merit assumes office A Chairperson or Distinguished Council Member who has vacated office upon the expiration of their term may be reappointed, but shall not serve more than two consecutive terms.

Section 10. In addition to vacating office upon the expiration of their term, the Chairperson and Distinguished Council Members shall vacate from office when (1) they die (2) they resign (3) they lose their eligibility or are disqualified under Section 8 In the event that the Chairperson of the Council or a member of the Council of Experts vacates office before the end of their term, the following procedures shall be followed

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To appoint a Chairperson of the Council or a Council Member of Distinguished Standing to fill a vacancy, or in the event that additional Council Members of Distinguished Standing are appointed while the terms of previously appointed Council Members of Distinguished Standing are still in effect, the appointee to fill the vacant position or to serve as the additional member of the Council of Distinguished Members for a term equal to the remaining term of the Council President and the member of the Council of Distinguished Members whom they are replacing or who was previously appointed, unless the remaining term of the Council Chair and the additional Council member of distinguished standing is less than one hundred eighty days, no appointment to fill the vacancy or additional appointment shall be made, and the Council shall consist of all existing Council members The term of office of the Chairperson of the Council or a member of the Council of Distinguished Scholars who vacates office before the end of the term or who serves as a substitute or is appointed as an additional member shall not be counted toward the term of office under

Section 9 Section 11: A meeting of the Council shall constitute a quorum only if at least one-half of the total number of Council members are present. The President of the Council shall preside over the meeting. If the President of the Council is absent or not present at the meeting, the Council members present shall elect one of their number to preside over the meeting. Decisions of the meeting shall be made by a majority vote. Each member of the Council shall have one vote in the ballot. In the event of a tie, the presiding officer shall cast an additional vote as the deciding vote Section 12. In exercising the duties and powers of the Council under Section 7, in any matter where the Council deems it necessary to consider and act in accordance with a specially assigned mission, or where there are other reasons in the interest of the proper exercise of the Council's duties and powers, the Council shall have the authority to appoint a special ad hoc committee to act on its behalf The special ad hoc committee referred to in the preceding paragraph shall consist of one chairperson and no more than five other members appointed from among the Council members. If necessary, the Council may, by resolution, invite individuals with knowledge, expertise, or experience regarding the matter under consideration to attend meetings on an ad hoc basis as members. In such cases, the invited person who attends the meeting shall have the status of a member for that specific meeting, and the Secretary-General shall appoint an office staff member to serve as secretary and assistant secretary The term of office, removal from office, duties, and powers, as well as the performance of duties by the Special Ad Hoc Committee, shall be as determined by the Assembly. Once the Special Ad Hoc Committee has passed a resolution on any matter, it shall be deemed a resolution of the Assembly, and the Secretariat shall act in accordance with that resolution, unless the Assembly specifies otherwise in specific cases Section 13: The Speaker of the Assembly, members of the Assembly, the Chairperson of the Committee, members of the Committee, the Chairperson of the Subcommittee, members of the Subcommittee, the Secretary, and the Assistant Secretary of the Assembly, the Special Ad Hoc Committee, or the Subcommittee shall receive remuneration

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Reimbursement of expenses and other benefits as determined by the Council of Ministers Section 2 National Economic and Social Development Plan Section 14. A National Economic and Social Development Plan shall be established to serve as a guideline for the country's sustained economic and social development over each five-year period, and shall be consistent with state policies, national strategies , the economic and social conditions both nationally and globally, and the appropriate direction for national development, which must be in accordance with the principles of good governance, through integrated and collaborative implementation aimed at ensuring a prosperous and sustainable livelihood for the people at both the national and regional levels The promulgation of the National Economic and Social Development Plan shall be issued by Royal Decree, and upon publication in the Royal Gazette, it shall come into force Section 15: The Assembly shall establish the framework for the National Economic and Social Development Plan, which shall include, at a minimum, provisions on the economy, society, human resource development, the environment, sustainable development, science, technology, and innovation, urban and regional development, and the development of the country's competitiveness. The Assembly shall ensure that public consultation is conducted with all sectors of society The consultation process referred to in the preceding paragraph shall be conducted in accordance with procedures established by the Assembly, which must ensure that the public can conveniently and comprehensively access the process and express their opinions or suggestions, and sufficient information must be provided to enable the public to understand the matter and express their

views Section 16: The Assembly shall appoint a committee to draft the National Economic and Social Development Plan for each sector in accordance with the framework of the National Economic and Social Development Plan in its entirety, to undertake the task of drafting the National Economic and Social Development Plan and submitting it to the Assembly for consideration. In doing so, the results of the public consultation under Section 15 shall be taken into account in the drafting process The term of office of the Plan Drafting Committee referred to in the preceding paragraph shall commence on the date of its appointment by the Assembly and continue until the date of the Royal Decree promulgating the National Economic and Social Development Plan The criteria and procedures for appointing the Plan Drafting Committee referred to in the preceding paragraph in each sector shall be as determined by the Assembly The Chairperson and members of the Plan Drafting Committee referred to in the preceding paragraph shall receive remuneration, expenses, and other benefits as determined by the Council of Ministers Section 17. Upon completion of the draft National Economic and Social Development Plan, the Assembly shall submit it to the National Strategy Committee in accordance with the Act on the Formulation of the National Strategy for review of its consistency with the National Strategy, which must be completed within thirty days from the date of receipt of the draft National Economic and Social Development Plan

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The National Assembly shall submit the draft National Economic and Social Development Plan, as reviewed by the National Strategy Committee, to the Cabinet for consideration. If the Cabinet deems it necessary to make amendments to any part of the plan, the National Assembly shall amend it as deemed appropriate and then forward it to the Cabinet for approval. Upon receiving approval from the Cabinet and reporting the matter to the National Assembly for information, the Prime Minister shall present the draft National Economic and Social Development Plan National Economic and Social Development Plan to His Majesty the King for His Royal Assent, so that the National Economic and Social Development Plan may be implemented accordingly Section 18. In the event that the economic and social conditions of the country and the world, or the National Strategy, change to such an extent that it becomes impossible or inappropriate to proceed in accordance with the National Economic and Social Development Plan, if the Assembly deems it appropriate to amend the National Economic and Social Development Plan to align with such changes, the Assembly shall seek the approval of the Cabinet before proceeding Once the Council of Ministers has approved the amendments to the National Economic and Social Development Plan, the Council shall proceed in accordance with the procedures for formulating the National Economic and Social Development Plan as prescribed in this Act, and the amended provisions shall be deemed part of the National Economic and Social Development Plan Section 19. Once the National Economic and Social Development Plan has been promulgated and has come into force, the relevant government agencies shall prepare annual action plans and annual expenditure budgets for the fiscal year to achieve the objectives set forth in the National Economic and Social Development Plan. In cases where the National Economic and Social Development Plan stipulates that the implementation of any matter requires coordination among government agencies or cooperation with local administrative organizations, the private sector, or the public, the preparation of the annual action plan of the government agency must specify methods to ensure such implementation For the purpose of monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the National Economic and Social Development Plan, the government agencies referred to in paragraph (1) shall report their annual performance results and the evaluation of their administrative performance to the Office, demonstrating the extent to which the

objectives of the National Economic and National Economic and Social Development Plan, both directly and indirectly. In cases where the Office determines that the implementation by a government agency does not conform to the National Economic and Social Development Plan, it shall report to the Cabinet for further consideration Reports under paragraph two shall comply with the criteria and procedures established by the Office, and such reports shall not duplicate or add to the reporting procedures for government agencies' performance under the National Strategy and the National Reform Plan, as well as any other laws requiring government agencies to report their performance to the Office, and the Office may utilize the information from such reports in an integrated manner It shall be the duty of the Cabinet to oversee and support all government agencies in ensuring that they operate in accordance with paragraphs one and two Section 3

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Office of the National Economic and Social Development Council Section 20. There shall be an Office of the National Economic and Social Development Council, which shall have the following duties and powers: (1) To act as the secretariat of the Council (2) To study, analyze, research, and monitor the economic and social conditions of the country and the world, including economic and social issues and opportunities, and to forecast trends and significant changes in both the national and global contexts, in order to prepare policy proposals and measures for national development or to mitigate the impacts on the country's economic and social conditions, and to submit such proposals to the Cabinet, the Prime Minister, or the Council for consideration (3) Coordinate with government agencies and various sectors of the public regarding the preparation of draft National Economic and Social Development Plans (4) Carry out tasks related to the National Strategy and the National Reform Plan (5) Compile economic and social databases and the country's national accounts in accordance with international standards to support the formulation of national development policies and reports on the country's economic and social conditions, to be submitted to the Cabinet for information and disseminated to the general public (6) Prepare the overall annual investment framework for state-owned enterprises (7) Prepare annual budget proposals for state-owned enterprises that are not public limited companies, regarding for use in economic and social development, including the amounts expended for this purpose, whether paid from the national budget, loans, accumulated profits, or any other funds, while providing recommendations on adjusting such expenditures as necessary to ensure the efficient construction and maintenance of such fixed assets, and submit them to the National Assembly for consideration (8) Review the work plans and development projects of ministries, departments, bureaus, or other government agencies with the status of a bureau, as well as state-owned enterprises with a value as determined by the Cabinet, and coordinate such work plans and development projects to ensure overall planning aligns with the National Economic and Social Development Plan (9) Support and coordinate with government agencies, state-owned enterprises, and relevant stakeholders in the preparation of development plans and projects and in driving the implementation of activities in accordance with the plans (10) Monitor and evaluate the results of implementation in accordance with the National Economic and Social Development Plan, policies plans, work plans, and development projects that have a broad impact on the country's overall development, and provide recommendations regarding the acceleration, modification, or discontinuation of any development project as deemed appropriate (11) Request government agencies to submit work plans and development projects, along with facts and details necessary for studying the country's economic and social conditions or for evaluating the performance of ongoing development projects

To summon or invite any person to provide facts, explanations, opinions, or recommendations as deemed appropriate (12) To perform other duties as prescribed in this Act, other laws, or as directed by the Cabinet the Prime Minister, or the Assembly, including issuing regulations in relevant areas as necessary In cases where an opinion is sought regarding the performance of duties under this section that relates to the duties and powers of the Assembly, the Office may submit the matter to the Assembly for consideration and opinion; and in cases where the Office provides the opinion, it shall report to the Assembly accordingly

Section 21. For the purpose of facilitating the Office's performance of its duties under Section 20(4), the Assembly shall appoint a Committee to Coordinate the Implementation of the National Strategy and National Reform, tasked with analyzing, monitoring, and evaluating the results of the implementation of the National Strategy and the National Reform Plan, as well as perform other related duties as assigned by the Assembly. There may be multiple Committees for Coordinating the Implementation of the National Strategy and National Reform, as necessary. Each committee shall consist of one chairperson and no more than five other members, who the Assembly shall appoint from the public sector and other relevant sectors The Secretary-General shall appoint Office staff to serve as secretary and assistant secretary The provisions of Sections 9, 10, and 11 shall apply mutatis mutandis to the term of office, removal from office, and meetings of the Coordinating Committee for National Strategy and National Reform by analogy. The Secretary-General shall appoint working groups to support the Coordinating Committee for National Strategy and National Reform

Section 22: For the purpose of gathering opinions and expertise from specialists in specific fields to collaborate in achieving positive results for national development, in performing the Office's duties—in addition to the duties of the Office, the Office may proceed in the following manner: (1) Appoint individuals from the public or private sector to serve on expert committees in each field to analyze national development issues, monitor global economic and social development trends, and recommend the establishment of policy-level objectives The composition, number, appointment, duties, and removal from office of the chairperson and members of the expert committees shall be in accordance with the criteria, procedures, and conditions prescribed by the Assembly In this regard, the Secretary-General shall serve as Chairperson of the Committee, while the Secretary-General shall appoint the other members and notify the Assembly thereof; and the provisions of Section 11 shall apply mutatis mutandis to the meetings of the expert committees (2) Make recommendations to the Assembly requesting that the relevant Minister of the responsible government agency issue an order directing officials in the unit

A government official from that agency is assigned to work at the Office to perform duties related to a specific matter concerning that government agency for a specified period not exceeding one year, during which such duties shall be deemed to constitute full-time government service or the performance of duties for that government agency (3) To engage individuals, both domestic and foreign, educational institutions, or any other institutions, with the approval of the Council, to conduct studies, research, or work on specific matters requiring speed and the specialized expertise of such individuals or institutions, to perform duties related to the country's economy and society on an ad hoc basis

Section 23: The Chairperson and members of the Committee for Coordinating the Implementation of National Strategy and National Reform and the Expert Committee shall receive remuneration, expenses, and other benefits as prescribed by the Council of

Ministers Section 24. The Secretary-General of the National Economic and Social Development Council shall be a general civil servant responsible for the administration of the Office, reporting directly to the Prime Minister, and serving as the commanding officer of civil servants in the Office. There shall be a Deputy Secretary-General to assist in directing and carrying out the affairs of the Office. Transitional Provisions Section 25. The National Economic and Social Development Council established under the National Economic and Social Development Act, B.E. 2521, whose members hold office on the day prior to the effective date of this Act, shall continue to perform the duties of the National Economic and Social Development Council under this Act on an interim basis until the Chairperson of the Council and the members of the Council of Experts are appointed in accordance with this Act; provided, however, that this period shall not exceed one hundred eighty days from the date this Act comes into force Section 26. All operations, powers, duties, assets, budget, rights, debts, obligations, civil servants, government employees, staff, and personnel of the Office of the National Economic and Social Development Commission shall be transferred to the Office of the National Economic and Social Development Council under this Act Section 27. Any provisions of laws, regulations, rules, orders, directives, or resolutions of the Cabinet that refer to the National Economic and Social Development Board, the Chairman of the National Economic and Social Development Board, the Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board, the Secretary-General of the National Economic and National Economic and Social Development Board, and civil servants, public employees, and employees of the Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board shall be deemed to refer to the National Economic and Social Development Council, the Chairperson of the National Economic and Social Development Council, the Office of the National Economic and Social Development Council, the Secretary-General of the National Economic and National Economic and Social Development Council, and civil servants, public officials, or employees of the Office of the National Economic and Social Development Council, as provided for in this Act, as the case may be

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Section 28 of the National Economic and Social Development Plan pursuant to the Royal Decree on the No. 12 (B.E. 2560–2564), dated December 29, B.E. 2559, as in effect the day prior to the effective date of this Act shall be deemed to be the National Economic and Social Development Plan under this Act and shall remain in effect until September 30, B.E. 2665 Mr. R. General Prayu Thadth² Chanthorn² Ochia Mr. Yukrath Thammanat Note: The reason for promulgating this Act is that the Office of the National Economic and Social Development Council currently has an increased workload, particularly in implementing the Act on the Preparation of the National Strategy and the Act on the Plan and Procedures for National Reform. It is therefore appropriate to revise the structure duties and powers of the National Economic and Social Development Council and the Office of the National Economic and Social Development Council by changing the name of the National Economic and Social Development Council to the National Economic and Social Development Council, in accordance with the National Economic Development Act, B.E. 2502, as commonly known, and to align with its expanded responsibilities, as well as to establish criteria and procedures for the formulation, monitoring, and evaluation of the implementation of the new National Economic and Social Development Plan to ensure consistency and integration with the National Strategy and various national development plans, it is therefore necessary to enact this Act Footnotes Royal Gazette, Vol. 135, Part 112 K, p. 30, December 28, 2561

