

New Role of Sub-District Administrative Organization to Local Community Development in Thailand

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ABSTRACT

Main objective of Sub-district administrative organization (Ao.Bo.To..) establishment is to decentralize authority and delegate responsibilities from central government to local government unit through local people's participation. Ao.Bo.To. is local organization that local people can participate in decision making process pertaining to analyze community problems and needs; define and finalize proper solution. Special characteristic of Ao.Bo.To. is official local government unit that it can freely self-manage its organization. Members of Ao.Bo.To. form the Ao.Bo.To. committee. The committee takes responsibilities to arrange and implement community development plan and action plan and also collect tax from community. Ao.Bo.To. is supposed as training center and/ or school that local people can learn, practice and gain experience means of democracy. They pay their vote in finalizing any community' agreement and decision making process. They participate in election, comprehension of laws and principle of governance and including principle of equity.

Keywords: Main objective of Ao.Bo.To. establishment, Ao.Bo.To. committee, local people's participation, means of democracy

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I. Introduction

1. The Sub-district Parliament and Sub-district Administrative Organization Act, 1994 facilitated an initial establishment of Sub-district administrative organization (Aongkanborihan Suan Tambol, Ao.Bo.To.) in 1995. Numbers of Ao.Bo.To. were initially established 617 organizations. Numbers of Ao.Bo.To. increased to 2,143 organizations in 1996 and 3,637 organizations in 1997. Thus, total numbers of Ao.Bo.To. were 6,397 organizations.
2. Ao.Bo.To. flexibly and freely administrates local governance function because Thai government has policy to devolve and delegate authority to Ao.Bo.To., therefore, new Thai constitution facilitates Ao.Bo.To. to involve in decentralization of authority policy. This resulted to Ao.Bo.To. is as a proper local governance organization that suitably administrate and develop logistic and current situation of community.
3. Main objective of Ao.Bo.To. establishment is to delegate and decentralize authority from central government to local community. This is to convince local people participated in decision-making process for community development and contribute people's capability to execute self-management in community. Thus, the special structure of Ao.Bo.To. composes of members who are representative of village or community. This structure distinguishes from other organization. Then, members of Ao.Bo.To. are key person to put right solution to right problems and local people's needs.

II. Importance of Sub-District Administrative Organization to Community and Nation Development

4. Central government formulates policy of authority decentralization to sub-district level through local governance community units. This policy is to institute and strengthen democratic system at grass root level, which places an emphasis on local people's participation. Local people's participation is key tool to cost-effectively and flexibly handle sub-district administrative work. Policy of authority decentralization also means that Ao.Bo.To. can manage its own resource base and manpower to develop community. Characteristics of Ao.Bo.To. are as follows:

1) Freely administrating and official organization

Government decentralizes and defines scope of authority to Ao.Bo.To. The Ao.Bo.To. takes responsibilities to make a community development plan, budget allocation plan and also regulate and control self-regulations that do not conflict with national laws. Therefore, Ao.Bo.To. can take responsibilities to collect tax from community.

2) Arrange Ao.Bo.To. member election and establish administrative committee

Ao.Bo.To. Members are two-third members come from election and one-third members are invited like village head, sub-district head to join Ao.Bo.To. Administrative committee members are elected from members of Ao.Bo.To. to manipulate sub-district administrative work.

3) Ao.Bo.To. as local government unit

Ao.Bo.To. is a primary local organization that local people requests to participate in Ao.Bo.To. administrative work. So, Ao.Bo.To. is enthusiastic local organization that members can learn how to work systematically, therefore, they can solve problems of community that proper to local people needs.

1. Importance of Sub-district Administrative Organization to Community

5. There are reasons why Sub-district Administrative Organization is very important to community as follows:

- 1.1 Sub-district Administrative Organization is local government unit that members of the organization are elected from candidate local people. Then these members form administrative committee and Ao.Bo.To. members' parliament. These members know well what problems that they and other local people are facing and what are needed.
- 1.2 Sub-district Administrative Organization also takes responsibilities to manage its own local resource base to provide advantage of resource base to local people. There are factors that encourage Sub-district Administrative Organization can solve problems in the right way and reach needs of local people.
 - 1) Manpower: Sub-district Administrative Organization has its staff and team that they are under instruction and assignment of the administrative committee. Therefore, these staff and working team are high capability that they are very helpful to implement community development project and policy.
 - 2) Income management: Sub-district Administrative Organization can do self-management on its own incomes. Source of incomes comes from community tax collection and government's budget allocation. The Ao.Bo.To. can manage and allocate accessible income to invest in community development and resource base management project. This leads to a rapid expansion of Ao.Bo.To. establishment that number of Ao.Bo.To. increased up to 6,397 Ao.Bo.Tos. within three years (however, 567 of Tambol parliaments do not change their status to be Ao.Bo.To. establishment)
- 1.3 Local community can conduct self-development. This follows principle and concept of democratic system. Ao.Bo.To. establishment and administration are systematic pattern of local governance that local people learn and keep practicing on how to participate in community development and management. The gained experience at local level would contribute and strengthen a national social and economic development.

2. Importance of Sub-district Administrative Organization to Nation

- 2.1 As supporting agency of central government: central government delegates local governance authority and responsibility to Ao.Bo.To. The Ao.Bo.To. takes in charge to analyze problem and provide solution by itself that bases on means of local people's participation.
- 2.2 Enhance and increase human resources to local community: Ao.Bo.To. is local organization that takes responsibility to systematically develop and train local people to be high capacity building and leadership skill. These types of local people are key person to contribute self-developing and managing local community.
- 2.3 Means of democracy: Ao.Bo.To.' s managing and administrative system is way that local people learn how to participate in democratic system.

Ao.Bo.To. undertakes means of democracy are as follow:

- 1) Finalize decision-making process by voting
- 2) Ao.Bo.To.' s member election under Thai new constitution, 1997
- 3) Relying on national laws
- 4) Equity to all local people under national laws



III. Responsibilities of Ao.Bo.To. to local community and nation

6. This topic is categorized into two parts

1. Responsibilities of Ao.Bo.To. to nation

1.1 Ao.Bo.To. is as core local organization that lead and head to develop local community and remote areas. Therefore, Ao.Bo.To. have to contribute any grant and subsidy from external agency, and incorporate with other Ao.Bo.To. and government agencies in adjacent sub-district to facilitate development of local community network.

1.2 Ao.Bo.To. is expected to be local government unit that can alleviate local people's suffer from deficiency of fundamental infrastructure provision. Then, central government would reduce its role on allocating budget for provision of infrastructure construction to local community. But, the central government would take a role as coordinator of inter-local governmental agencies.

1.3 Ao.Bo.To. is local government take main responsibility to train local people to understand means of democracy and practice through election. This process is way to develop local people to participate in democratic system at national level.

2. Responsibilities of Ao.Bo.To. to local community

2.1 Ao.Bo.To. takes full responsibilities to provide and manage fundamental infrastructure and community welfare for local people in community. The Ao.Bo.To. performs its role that it can provide and manage well infrastructure and community welfare to reach need of local people.

Eligible characteristics of Ao.Bo.To. to local community development

1) Ao.Bo.To. clearly comprehends problems in community and local people's needs. This is because members of Ao.Bo.To. are elected from local residence. They provide a proper solution and put in place at the right time.

2) Ao.Bo.To. has its own natural resource base and human resource and manpower. Therefore, it also has its own budget that freely and flexibly uses to develop community.

3) Ao.Bo.To.'s administration and management bases upon local people's participation in decision-making process. This is under decentralization of authority from central government that encourages local people involving in local community development.

2.2 Ao.Bo.To. is core local organization that enhance means of democracy to local people and community. Ao.Bo.To. handles administration and management on framework and process of democracy basis. Members of Ao.Bo.To. come from election. Local people's agreement finalizes by voting. Local people participate in making community development plan which arranges through process of democracy.

Four main fundamental disciplines of Ao.Bo.To.'s administration

1) Right implementation: follows national laws and regulations and considers local people's needs

2) Know how to think: can make community development plan, far vision and coordinate with other government agency

- 3) Liberty: freely thinking and have self-management its own right
- 4) People's participation: people involves in decision-making process, learning, following and monitoring action plan and implementation of Ao.Bo.To.'s administration.

IV. Conclusion:

7. Ao.Bo.To. is core local organization to enhance means of democracy to local people and community. Process of democracy basis contributes Ao.Bo.To. to manipulate self-development in community. Therefore, Ao.Bo.To. takes a role as leader of other local people's groups to participate in community development. Ao.Bo.To. leads other group to assign direction of community development which considers based on local people's opinion, ideas, and recommendations. Ao.Bo.To. heads to analyze and prioritize problems in community. Thus, Ao.Bo.To. performs as local government unit, and as human resource development center that local people are trained on thinking, implementing, responding participations and taking advantage.