

Administrative Court News

President of the Supreme Administrative Court reported to the media on the works of the Administrative Court on the occasion of its 16th anniversary.

On 8 March 2016, on the occasion of the 16th anniversary of the Administrative Court, Mr. Piya Patangta, President of the Supreme Administrative Court, reported to the media on the trial and adjudication of administrative cases and other important works during the year of 2016. Details are as follows:

1. In 2016, the Administrative Court tried more administrative cases than in any year since its inauguration in 2001. In 2016, the Court tried 12,842 cases which is significantly more than the annual average since 2001 of 8,735 cases per year.

2. In 2016, the Supreme Administrative Court tried 4,102 cases which is more than twice the yearly average of 2,122.

3. Also, 2016 was the first year in which the Supreme Administrative Court finished trying more cases than those submitted to the Court in the same year. The number of cases submitted was 3,353 but, including the trying of backlog cases from previous years, the Supreme Administrative Court finished trying 4,170 cases. Backlog cases during the previous two years was 60% or 5,690 cases and backlog cases from more than two years previous was 40% or 3,812 cases.

4. The year 2016 was the first year that the Administrative Courts of First Instance finished trying more cases than the number submitted to the Court in the same year. There was 6,601 cases submitted and the adjudication of 8,740 cases was completed.

5. The Administrative Courts of First Instance tried more cases – 8,740 - than the yearly average over the past five years which was 6,614 cases.

6. The trend is for more cases to be completed each year by the Supreme Administrative Court, the Central Administrative Court and the Regional Administrative Courts if we compare the number of cases completed during the period 2001-2016.

7. Overall, the number of backlog administrative cases in 2016 has reduced dramatically when compared to previous years.

8. The number of backlog cases in the Administrative Courts of First Instance is decreasing gradually.

9. Overall summary of cases submitted, cases completed, and backlog of cases of the administrative Court

From commencement of operation to 31 December 2016, there were 125,760 cases submitted to the Administrative Court. Of these, 105,180 cases have been tried (83.64%) and there is a backlog of 20,580 cases awaiting completion (16.36%).

A break down the above statistics into the two levels of the Administrative Court reveals that 90,873 cases were submitted to the Administrative Courts of First Instance. Of these, 79,577 cases were completed (87.57%) and 11,296 (12.43%) not yet complete.

A total of 34,887 cases were submitted to the Supreme Administrative Court of which 25,603 cases were completed (73.39%) and 9,284 (26.60%) not yet complete.

10. Important Outcomes for 2016

10.1 Adding channels for accessing administrative justice

The inauguration of the Nakhon Sawan Administrative Court which has jurisdiction throughout the four provinces of Nakhon Sawan, Phetchabun, Uthai Thani and Chai Nat has made it more convenient for people in those provinces to contact the Courts or file cases. There are now twelve Administrative Courts of First Instance in operation throughout the country and three more in Suphan Buri, Phuket and Yala will commence services in the near future.

10.2 Inauguration of the Wrongful Acts and Other Liabilities Division of the Supreme Administrative Court and the Public Administration Division of the Supreme Administrative Court on 20 February 2017

The Wrongful Acts and Other Liabilities Division of the Supreme Administrative Court and the Public Administration Division of the Supreme Administrative Court were established due to the large number of administrative cases being filed with the Supreme Administrative Court for trial and adjudication. In these divisions, chambers of judges who are specialized in specific areas are appointed in order to expedite the trial and adjudication of relevant cases.

10.3 Increasing the number of administrative judges to handle the increasing number of administrative cases

In 2016, the Administrative Court selected 42 qualified judges to try and adjudicate administrative cases. Of these, 13 were appointed as judges of the Supreme Administrative Court and 29 as judges of the Administrative Courts of First Instance. They will soon appear before His Majesty the King to make their solemn declarations.

10.4 Adjustment and amendment of the *Act on the Establishment of the Administrative Court and Administrative Court Procedure* and relevant laws

In 2016, the *Act on the Establishment of the Administrative Court and Administrative Court Procedure* as well as relevant laws were adjusted and amended in order to strengthen case management, especially the sections prescribing execution of administrative cases.

10.5 Development of service quality by using information technology systems

In order for the Administrative Court to become an e-Court and a Smart Court as well as take steps to enter Era 4 of the Administrative Court and conform to the Thailand 4 policy as set by the government, information technology systems have been developed to support the trial and adjudication of administrative cases and services rendered to the public. There are 14 support systems currently involved.

1) **The security access system of the Administrative Court premises** on Chaeng Wattana Road was implemented and will be used for parking access control starting in April 2017;

2) **The Admincourt Mobile application** was launched for Android and iOS in order to provide information on administrative cases; for example, court appointment schedules and Administrative Court decisions/orders etc. This was the introductory initiative to the Smart Court;

3) **Some kinds of documents have been entered and collected in the form of e-Records** for use with paper documents; for example, letters of attorney etc.

In 2017, the Administrative Court will continue to the next step in information system development as follows:

1) Electronic signatures will be used in the **e-certification system**;

2) **The second version of the mobile application** for personalized services will be launched. These services will be used for advance requests for copying or certifying paper documents or e-documents, follow-up on court appointment schedules, saving frequently used decisions/orders in a personal bookshelf and reserving car parking in advance for the day of court appointments;

3) **e-Courtrooms** will be prepared; and

4) **An e-Filing system** will be developed.

10.6 National and international level relations and technical cooperation

- Agreements have been signed for technical cooperation with domestic organizations; for example, technical cooperation between the Constitutional Court, the Court of Justice and the Administrative Court;

- Training courses on administrative law for personnel of the People's Supreme Court of LAO PDR under a technical cooperation project between the Office of the Administrative Courts of Thailand and the People's Supreme Court of the Lao PDR.

On the occasion of the 16th anniversary of the Administrative Court of Thailand, the Court organized an agreement signing ceremony between the Office of the Administrative Courts of Thailand and the University of Carlos III de Madrid of Spain. This

agreement will enable the exchange of knowledge relating to law and personnel development and will also strengthen relations between the two institutions. At a conference held concurrently with the signing ceremony, a professor from the University of Carlos III de Madrid delivered a lecture on the topic “La jurisdicción contencioso-administrativa en España” on 8 March 2017.

10.7 The Integrity and Transparency Assessment (ITA) conducted by the National Anti-Corruption Commission revealed that integrity and transparency at the Administrative Court was at a very high level (81.20%).

10.8 A survey of public confidence conducted by NIDA Poll revealed that the general public trusted in the provision of justice by the Administrative Court (85.95%).

Objectives of the Administrative Court for 2017

1. The overall objective of the Administrative Court for the year 2017 is “**to adjudicate all pending cases and new cases filed within a reasonable time frame**”. Cases that have been pending for more than 2 years in the Administrative Court of First Instance will be adjudicated within 2017. Those in the Supreme Administrative Court will be adjudicated within 2018. Newly filed cases will be adjudicated within 1 – 7 days for provisional measure cases, within 1 month for accepted and rejected cases, within 1 year for cases of other divisions and within 2 years for general cases;

2. The Administrative Court will be further developed by focusing on:

2.1 Providing the best justice and service to both parties in cases and the public;

2.2 Providing judgments and orders quickly and in accordance with the principles of rule of law principle and transparency;

2.3 Accountability and public announcements;

2.4 Cooperation with both national and international organizations; and

2.5 Performing tasks for national happiness following King Bhumibol's guidance and oath of allegiance given to His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn Bodindradebayavarangkun expressing our gratitude to the King.
