

Article 28.- The Election Committee shall receive all claims concerning the elections, submitted not later than 15 days after the voting. After this period, no claim shall be entertained. These claims shall be transmitted to the National Assembly which, alone, shall give a majority decision on the validity of the election.

Article 29.- In the event of invalidation following irregularities in one or more voting centres, the National Assembly shall rule whether the elections should be held once again in all the centres of the province or only in the centre or centres where the irregularities occurred, this to avoid the onerous charges and the delays in a fresh procedure of election and bearing in mind the communication difficulties.

In such a case, the results obtained in other places stand.

Elections for all regions where the number of persons exercising their franchise does not reach a quarter of the total number of voters, shall be held again. The elections organized for the 2nd time shall stand valid even if the number of persons exercising their franchise still remains low.

Article 30.- The same rules shall be followed in the case of elections in part. The deputy shall only be elected for the remaining legislature period.

There will only be elections in part when the above-mentioned period exceeds 9 months.

Article 31.- The officials elected deputies shall be considered as detailed to the National Assembly till the end of their tenure.

They shall keep the right to seniority and promotion in their original cadre.

They can, with their concurrence and the agreement of the President of the National Assembly, be entrusted with missions by the Government.

Article 32.- Any infringement to the present Law shall be repressed by the law called "guarantee of freedom and secrecy of vote".

Article 33.- The present electoral Law is applicable only with regard to the future elections.

Article 34.- Law No. 99 dated 5 April 1951 is abrogated.

The two Parties unanimously agree that the Government should forward the text of the above-mentioned electoral law to the National Assembly for its study and application. If, in the course of the examination made by the National Assembly, points of view different from those mentioned in this agreement arise, the National Assembly shall be requested to inform the Joint Political Commission about them, for the latter's examination and counter proposal, if need be.

Done in Vientiane on the 21st Feb./57.

The Head of the Political
Delegation of the Royal
Government,
(Sgd.) H.E. Ngon Sananikone

The Head of the Political
Delegation of the Pathet
Lao Forces,
(Sgd.) Mr. Thao Phoumi Vongvichit