

**THE MAYOR IN THAI MUNICIPALITY : A CASE STUDY IN ACCORDANCE  
WITH THE REVOLUTIONARY PROCLAMATION**

*by Pongsak Pipatanadeja*

The municipality is a political and administrative institution which plays an active role in the National Development Plan. In order to become a successful institution it is essential that the municipality has an efficient executive in charge of its functions. At present, municipal executives fall into two categories; most are appointed, but some are elected by the people. As it is worthwhile to make comparative studies, the author of this thesis concentrates on comparing the roles of the different types of municipal executives.

This thesis indicates that the Mayor is the most important person in the municipal administration. He assumes the leadership role both in the politics and in the administration of the local government. The Mayor has authority and duties as set forth in the Municipal Act. He prescribes the municipal policies and acts as a chief executive in municipal administration. Aside from the legal authority and duties of the mayor, his success depends to a large extent on his individual personality, capability and leadership. Upon this premise, it is evident that some municipalities function with considerable efficiency while some others are deplorably inefficient. This deficiency is responsible for the slow development of the municipal system in Thailand.

The Revolutionary Government has, therefore, outlined a policy whereby mayors are appointed in order to secure competent and well qualified persons to occupy mayorships. In implementing this policy, the Ministry of Interior appointed 64 deputy governors and district officers to serve as mayors and maintain efficiency in municipal administration. The other 56 municipal governments are headed by elected mayors and councillors.

This study will point out the problems encountered by the mayor as a chief executive and as an administrator, and propose solutions to these problems. It will emphasize the importance of job security for the office of the mayor and the necessity for greater continuity in administration than in the past. These proposals, it is believed, will result in greater popularity and confidence in the mayorship among the people.

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**THE ROLE OF MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY OF THAILAND  
IN THE CONTROL OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATION**

*by Prathan Kongrithdi*

The present system of Thai municipal government first came into existence in 1933. It has been said that the system imitates the national parliamentary government and that its first and most immediate purpose is to familiarize the Thai people with the parliamentary system of government. The municipal government thus serves as a school of political democratization for parliamentary democracy. All municipal corporations are deemed by law to be composed of the Municipal Assembly and the Municipal Council. Under the current system the Municipal Assembly, as the representative body of the local people and being entirely empowered to perform legislative function and to control executive administration, is of great significance for effective local administration.

This thesis attempts to indicate how the existing role of the Thai Municipal Assembly adversely affects administration by the executive committee, resulting in difficulties and ineffectiveness of the Municipal Council. The study covers the historical evolution of Thai municipal government, the nature and significance of the municipal assembly, the role of the municipal assembly in the enactment of by-laws based upon the power provided in the Municipal Act, its role in municipal financial control and in administrative control over the Municipal Council acting as the executive agency of the municipality, and its role in the present Revolutionary Period. The thesis also explains some of the crucial problems involved in the improvement of local administrative controls by the Assembly.

The author points out four problems that have become the main barriers to the progress of local government and administration in Thailand. First, there is the problem of the decentralization of municipalities. Secondly, the passive character and behavior of the people manifests itself in political apathy, as is shown by the concept of acceptance. This creates problems in in-

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itiating and conducting local popular elections. The third problem originates from the legal fact that the Assembly has no ultimate authority. Its decisions are somewhat perfunctory, as they are sometimes influenced by the executive committee as well as by central government. Lastly, the experience, competence, initiative and reasonable use of discretion by the assemblymen themselves is not of uniformly high quality.

Since the Municipal Assembly has a key role in municipal government, it should be dominant, fair and beneficial to local administration. This study on the role of the Municipal Assembly of Thailand in the control of local administration indicates clearly the immediate need for improvement, particularly in the four problem areas which are discussed.

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