

THIRAPAT SERIRANGSAN : OMBUDSMAN AS AN INNOVATIVE IDEA FOR POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT IN PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM. THESIS ADVISORS : PROF. CHAI-ANAN SMUDAVANIJA, Ph.D., ASSO. PROF. PORNSAK PHONGPHAEW, Ph.D., 363 pp. ISBN 974-578-165-7

The studies of "Ombudsman" in the course of political development toward parliamentary democracy target 3 important points altogether: (1) To study ways to monitor the executive branch, particularly with regard to its performance and the outcome thereof. (2) To study a possibility of setting up and institutionalizing the Ombudsman to act as an organ to alleviate public interest conflicts. (3) To ascertain a suitable pattern, structure, authority, and work procedure for the Ombudsman in dealing with public interest conflicts in Thailand.

From the studies, three conclusions are drawn in conformity with the antecedent hypotheses. The first one involves the general condition of public interest conflicts in respect of the executive's performance and its consequences upon the general public. These conflicts are increasing every day with more and more complexity, and on occasion they could not be dealt with in time. As a result, violence will be increased both in quantitative and qualitative terms, which means that violence will involve more and more people in a large scale and its content will probably lead to political violence in the future.

The second conclusion is that if the Ombudsman is successfully established, it will act as an agent of the legislative branch to monitor the executive one. At the same time, it can also supplement the executive branch's role in alleviating public interest conflicts for people's sake.

Thirdly, the Ombudsman will be a political institution of which the pattern and the authority are conducive to the elimination of public interest conflicts, mostly resulted from the discretion exerted by the administration. It also renders momentous impacts upon parliamentary democracy. In parallel, the achievement of the Ombudsman is likely to strengthen the parliamentary democracy to a certain extent, which will eventually lead to political stability, orderly and peaceful transformations, administrative and juristic developments and also uphold popular participation in our political system.

In the final analysis, it can be said that if there is genuine consensus and cooperation from all concerned to make the Ombudsman materialize in Thai society, the Ombudsman will actually uphold our political stability and advance the political system toward parliamentary democracy with national and people's interests kept intact.