

Report on the Work of the Administrative Court given on the Occasion of the Court's 17th Anniversary.

On 8 March 2018, Mr. Piya Patangta, President of the Supreme Administrative Court, reported to the media on the work of the Administrative Court for the year 2017. Below, are the main points mentioned in that report.

Case statistics revealed that 137,778 cases were submitted during calendar year 2017. Of these, 115,574 cases (83.88%) were completed: 86,906 cases (88.58%) were tried at the Administrative Courts of First Instance and 28,668 cases (72.28%) at the Supreme Administrative Court.

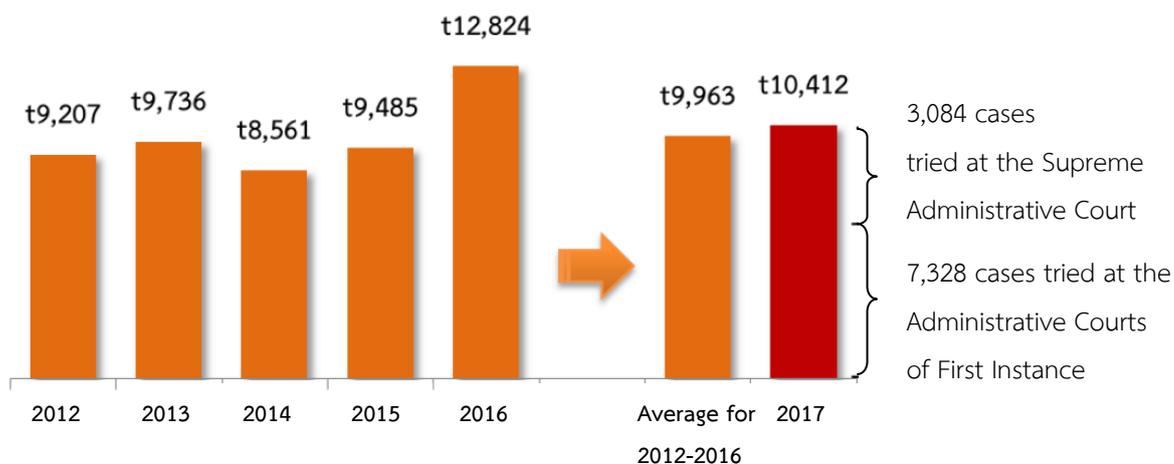
Number of submitted cases, completed cases, and case backlog classified by level of Administrative Court from its inauguration until 31 December 2017.

Administrative Court	Submitted Cases	Completed Cases		Case Backlog	
		Total	Percentage	Total	Percentage
Supreme Administrative Court	39,663	28,668	72.28	10,995	27.72
General Administrative Cases	33,547	26,767	79.79	6,780	20.21
Environmental Division	1,177	747	63.47	430	36.53
Personnel Administration Division	2,382	853	35.81	1,529	64.19
Budgetary and Financial Discipline Division	10	2	20.00	8	80.00
Public Administration Division	691	177	25.62	514	74.38
Wrongful Acts and Other Liabilities Division	1,856	122	6.57	1,734	93.43
Administrative Courts of First Instance	98,115	86,906	88.58	11,209	11.42
General Administrative Cases	87,701	79,384	90.52	8,317	9.48
Environmental Division	5,063	4,625	91.35	438	8.65
Personnel Administration Division	5,313	2,881	54.23	2,432	45.77
Budgetary and Financial Disciplinary Division	38	16	42.11	22	57.89
Total	137,778	115,574	83.88	22,204	16.12

NB: The Wrongful Acts and Other Liabilities Division of the Supreme Administrative Court commenced operation on 20 February 2017.

Last year, the results of trial and adjudication of cases were satisfactory. A total of 10,412 cases were tried and adjudicated which is now the second consecutive year in which more than 10,000 cases were tried. During the previous 5 years (2012 - 2016), the two levels of the Administrative Court averaged 9,963 cases per year so in 2017 the number of cases tried and brought to completion was 449 above the previous average.

Completed cases in 2017 compared to the previous 5 years (2012 - 2016)

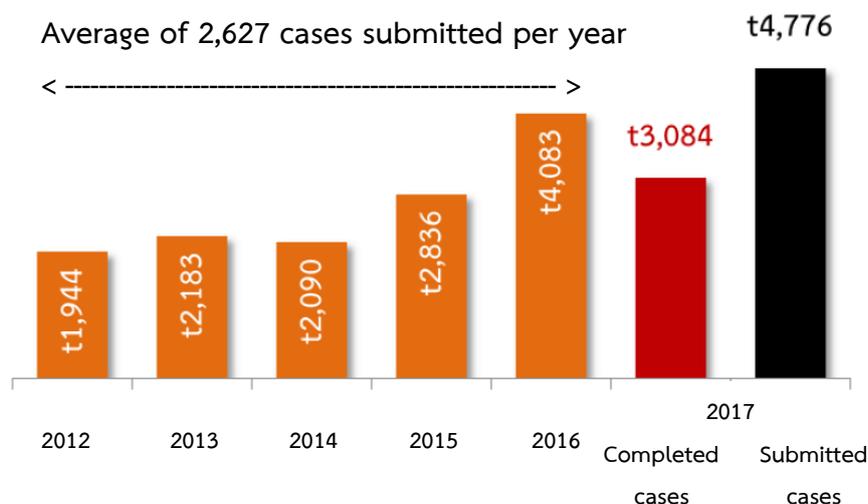


As a result of development and improvement in work performance standards and cooperation among personnel of the Office of the Administrative Courts, the Administrative Courts of First Instance tried more than 60% of cases pending from previous years (backlog) in 2017. Also, in 2017, the Supreme Administrative Court received the highest number of cases (4,776) in a single year since its inauguration.

Case backlog at the Administrative Courts of First Instance classified by year of submission.

Year of Submission	Case Backlog as of 31 Dec 2016	Cases Completed in 2017	Case Backlog Remaining as of 31 Dec 2017
Delayed Case Backlog			
2009	1	-	1
2010	24	14	10
2011	86	55	31
2012	284	152	132
2013	1,445	1,124	321
2014	1,536	884	652
Total	3,376	2,229 (66.02%)	1,147 (33.98%)

Number of cases completed by the Supreme Administrative Court in 2017 compared to the previous 5 years (2012-2016)



In order to increase efficiency of administration and secretariat duties relating to adjudication procedures, the Act on Establishment of Administrative Courts and Administrative Court Procedure (No.9), B.E.2560 (2017) was amended. In addition, provisions beneficial to the work performance of administrative judges were adjusted and general administration, budgetary and financial matters as well as other aspects of operation of the Administrative Court were improved.

In accordance with the 4th Strategic Plan of the Administrative Court (2015-2018), one important function of the Administrative Court is to amend and adjust laws as well as rules so that they conform to the new Constitution.

The use of information technology by the Administrative Court was further enhanced and developed in 2017. Operational procedures such as the e-Court / e-Admincourt / Smart Admincourt have been implemented in accordance with the Thailand 4 policy as set by the Government in order to reduce operational procedures in the public sector and to provide services to the public according to the Licensing Facilitation Act, B.E.2558 (2015).

In addition, the systems of judicial administration and case information database have been improved and developed. Case information has been efficiently standardized and transcribed from paper documents into electronic source documents throughout the Administrative Courts.

The guidebook and internal work performance guidelines for administrative judges has been standardized.

During 2017, the Administrative Court has promoted and enhanced ethical behavior of personnel of the Office of the Administrative Courts by preparing an Anti-Corruption Plan for the Office of the Administrative Courts.

The Administrative Court has produced 25 books for visually impaired persons so that they can more easily access services of the Administrative Court. These publications,

disseminated via various media, include “Getting to Know the Administrative Court”, “Prior to becoming the Administrative Court”, and “Collected Summaries of Administrative Cases”. They have been disseminated through:

1. Daisy books composed of sounds and letters or complete printed material in order to help readers access a selected part of the book or search for content via computer.
2. GR code books which allow visually impaired persons to convert smartphone text messages into sounds. Epub books and eBook reader apps have also been provided.

In 2018

In 2018, the Administrative Court will emphasize the importance of “National Reform of Administrative Justice”. Guidelines for work performance of the Administrative Court have been prepared in order to develop work performance standards and to accelerate the trial and adjudication of administrative cases in accordance with its vision: *“To be the principal institution upholding administrative justice. To provide services efficiently according to internationally accepted standards and in accordance with the rule of law. To establish public administration norms. To maintain a balance between the rights and liberties of the people and the public interest.”*

Administrative justice reform guidelines that comply with articles 257 and 258 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand, B.E. 2560 (2017) are needed. These guidelines should include the following:

- A time frame for adjudication and execution of administrative cases will be stipulated. The Administrative Court’s jurisprudence must be improved and subject to more standardization. Laws and rules relating to adjudication and management of administrative cases will be amended to be more effective.
- Mediation as an alternative method of dispute resolution will be promoted.
- Application for exemption from court fees will be used in administrative cases.
- A form and process of e-court system will be developed that focuses on applications via e-document (zero paper system) in order that relevant court personnel and agencies will be able to easily access the data.
- The number of administrative judges required will be appropriate to case load.
- Technology will be used to support Administrative Court proceedings in order to establish standards of administrative case adjudication and advance towards a “Smart Court”.
- The Administrative Court will conduct more studies and research into reforming organization and work improvement in order that administrative justice will be rendered in an efficient, accurate, rapid, and equitable manner according to the rule of law.

- An International Framework for Court Excellence (IFCE) will be adopted in relation to six areas: leadership, strategy, court personnel, organization structure and court proceedings, service delivery to court visitors, and court performance.

- Existing knowledge and understanding of the causes of administrative disputes occurring in each region and in each sector of society will be enhanced in a proactive manner. Knowledge gained will be disseminated in a systematic manner in various forms and via various channels.

- E-learning courses on the e-court system designed for government officials will be improved to upgrade service delivery and provide convenient service which will save the public both time and money when making contact with the Administrative Court.

- Administrative Court personnel will be encouraged to adhere to the Administrative Court's core values which stress the performance of duties with independence, impartiality, and transparency.

In 2018, the Suphanburi Administrative Court will be inaugurated and construction of the Phuket and Yala Administrative Courts will be accelerated in order to commence handling administrative cases arising in those provinces and make it more convenient for the public, government officials and administrative agencies in those provinces to easily access administrative justice.

Office of the Administrative Courts

8 March 2018