



The Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation has declared 21 provinces drought-stricken areas and continued assistance have been given to these provinces, located in the North, the Northeast, and the central region.

The department has worked closely with relevant agencies in providing aid to the drought-hit provinces in line with the conditions of each locality. The assistance includes, for example, water pumping, the digging of artesian wells, the distribution of sufficient water for consumption in the affected communities, and the arrangement of kam ling water retention areas.

Affected people may seek assistance from the department around the clock through the hotline 1784. The Government has called on all sectors of society to use water sparingly, so that there will be enough water for all activities throughout the drought season and in the next rainy season.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister and Defense Minister General Prayut Chan-o-cha on 12 February 2020 traveled to the northern province of Phayao to follow up on water resource management and the development of Nong Leng Sai, which is a large natural water source in this province.

Nong Leng Sai is also a major watershed area to facilitate the flow of water to Kwan Phayao (Phayao Lake), which is the largest freshwater habitat in the upper northern part of Thailand that provides livelihood for local people of the region.

At present, most areas in Nong Leng Sai have become shallow. So Phayao province has worked out the Nong Leng Sai development plan, as part of the Kwan Phayao Development Project.

Major measures under this development plan include the clearing of waterways, the construction of weirs and floodgates, the removal of water hyacinth, and the development of Nong Leng Sai into a tourist site and a public park.

Speaking to local residents, the Prime Minister stressed the need for everyone to help preserve Nong Leng Sai and develop the water management system on a sustainable basis.

