

## Thai News Update: 17 June 2020

### **1. Cabinet gives the nod to B3.3tn fiscal budget bill**

**Source: Bangkok Post ([Link](#))**

The cabinet on 16 June approved a bill for the fiscal 2021 budget of 3.3 trillion baht which will be tabled to parliament, government spokeswoman Narumon Pinyosinwat said. Under the bill, the central fund in fiscal 2021 budget is set at 614.6 billion baht while expenditure for state agencies is set at 1.13 trillion baht. Expenditure for integration is set at 257.8 billion baht whereas expenditure for public sector personnel is set at 776.8 billion baht. Expenditure for revolving funds is set at 221.9 billion baht and that for management of public debt at 293.4 billion baht.

### **2. Thailand Board of Investment to attract more foreign investment in food industry and tourism**

**Source: The Pattaya Mail ([Link](#))**

To cope with the adverse impact of COVID-19 on foreign investment, the Deputy Prime Minister, Dr. Somkid Jatusripitak, has assigned the Board of Investment (BOI) to fine-tune its work by highlighting the strengths of the country to attract more foreign investors, with a focus on agricultural business to help raise income distribution in the local economy. Deputy Prime Minister Somkid said on 17 June that the BOI will find ways to create strong points in the country's investment sector during the pandemic, which is expected to have an impact on the global economy for one to two years. They will focus on the food industry, agriculture, processed food, medical services, tourism, logistics and digital technology, in an effort to make Thailand the investment center of the CLMTV (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam) region.

### **3. Overseas commercial flight ban might not end on July 1**

**Source: Bangkok Post ([Link](#))**

The ban on commercial international flights might not be lifted on July 1 as originally planned and, if and when the ban is scrapped, business people will likely be the first to be allowed to travel, according to the Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand (CAAT). CAAT director-general Chula Sukmanop made the statement after meeting representatives from 10 commercial airlines operating both domestic and international flights, five private jet firms and four airport operators on Tuesday. Mr Chula said it is not certain if the July 1 planned re-

opening of airports to international flights will proceed. The ban went into effect on April 27 at the height of the Covid-19 lockdown.

#### **4. Top IT firm's shares start rising now that it's business as usual**

**Source: The Nation ([Link](#))**

The shares of Com7 Plc, a leading supplier of IT products, have rebounded significantly at Bt29.75 per share from the lowest point of Bt13.20 per cent. Com7 shares dropped sharply in April as most of its shops had to be temporarily closed in line with the government's lockdown measures imposed to curb the spread of Covid-19. Chief executive officer Sura Kanittaweekul said the company's overall situation improved as soon as the government allowed shops to reopen, and the demand for its products also rose.

#### **5. HK ushers Thailand towards 'new normal' with anti-virus tech solutions**

**Source: The Nation ([Link](#))**

Hong Kong will share the technological innovations it used to keep Covid-19 at bay with Thailand in a series of webinars this month. The territory has been successful in containing Covid-19, with only about 1,100 cases to date and four deaths among a population of some 7.5 million. The Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) will host a webinar at 2pm-3.30pm on June 30 to share tech solutions to prevent, detect and monitor Covid-19 with Thai businesses, in a bid to help kick-start Thailand's economy after lockdown

#### **6. Farms in North, South expected to brim over with fruit this year**

**Source: The Nation ([Link](#))**

Fruit growers in the South are expected to harvest 5.93 per cent more durian, mangosteen, rambutan and langsat this year compared to last, while the production of longan in the North is expected to rise by 2.42 per cent year on year, the Office of Agricultural Economics said. Pollachet Tracho, the office's deputy secretary-general, said the increase in production of the four fruits in the South was mainly due an extra 43,810 rai dedicated to fruit orchards. The land dedicated to growing fruit has risen 5.19 per cent from 884,042 rai to 887,852 rai.

#### **7. Phuket entrepreneurs offered loans to kick-start business**

**Source: The Nation ([Link](#))**

Local businesses in Phuket are being offered a financial kick-start as the holiday province prepares to welcome back tourists after months of Covid-19 lockdown. City Hall on 16 June (June 16) hosted a meet-and-greet between local entrepreneurs and providers of loans and other financial services, in a bid to get businesses back on their feet after the long shutdown. Phuket governor Pakkapong Taweepat said 85 per cent of the province's GDP

came from the services and tourism sectors, which had been battered by the pandemic. The absence of visitors for the past two and half months had left tourism businesses with no revenue and huge debts, he added. Local authorities had therefore liaised with 15 financial institutes to bring support measures for residents and entrepreneurs.

#### **8. Thai Cabinet approves three packages to boost domestic tourism**

**Source: Thailand Business News ([Link](#))**

The Cabinet has approved three tourism campaigns, aimed to kick start the recovery of the tourism sector from July to October. Thailand's Cabinet approved three packages intended to boost Thailand's declining tourism industry, hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding for the three packages will come from the 1.9 trillion baht budget intended to cushion the impacts on the economy and the Thai people from COVID-19 pandemic. The first package is intended to provide incentives to about 1.2 million front-line medical personnel and public health volunteers. The second package is intended to encourage two million people to travel and spend . The third, which will cost an estimated 18 billion baht, will cover 40% of the hotel expenses of customers, for room rates not exceeding 3,000 baht per night, and food expenses.