

## Thai News Update: 22 February 2021

### **1. New institute set up to provide correct info on medical marijuana in Thailand**

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

The Public Health Ministry unveiled Thailand's Medical Marijuana Institute on Monday. The institute's focus will be to provide knowledge and correct information on marijuana and its medical uses to the public, Public Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul said. Now that cannabis has been removed from Thailand's list of Category 5 narcotics, more than 50,000 patients have been prescribed medical marijuana. Meanwhile, over 300 community groups are collaborating with the ministry to grow cannabis and produce cannabis oil and other traditional medicines to treat several diseases, including epilepsy, muscle spasms, cancer, insomnia, chronic pain, etc.

### **2. Phuket gets tourism industry up and rolling**

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

Phuket got the wheels rolling again on its tourism industry at the weekend by launching a new attraction – the “Amazing Thailand Phuket Surfskate Series 2021”. Local businesses have teamed up with the Tourist Authority of Thailand (TAT) to introduce surfskating as a trendy new way for visitors to experience the Andaman resort city. Launching the series on Saturday evening was the event “Tai Nai Lad” or Surfing in the Market, where participants rode through Phuket's old quarter accompanied by the thumping rhythms of a DJ.

### **3. First lot of Sinovac vaccine arriving on February 24**

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

Minister of Public Health Anutin Charnvirakul on Sunday shared photos of the made in China coronavirus vaccine Sinovac, and confirmed that the first lot of vaccines would arrive in Thailand on February 24. “Sinovac vaccine-maker sent me this picture to confirm that the first lot of Covid vaccine for Thailand would arrive at Suvarnabhumi Airport on February 24, as I have informed members of the House of Representatives. The vaccine will be dispatched on a regular basis until April when the 2 million doses ordered by the Government Pharmaceutical Organization are completed.”

### **4. Agencies to return unused budget for rehab projects**

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

State agencies that fail to disburse the budget allocated under the 400-billion-baht social and economic rehabilitation scheme by March are required to transfer the remainder back to the

government so the funds can be used for other projects deemed more important and urgent. Danucha Pichayanan, secretary-general of the National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC), said his agency is monitoring the progress of each project designated for economic and social rehabilitation under the 1-trillion-baht emergency loan decree to help ease the impact of the pandemic. Approved in April last year, the loan decree is aimed at shoring up the economy during the coronavirus crisis.

#### **5. Thai Union pact supports Songkhla food processors**

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

SET-listed Thai Union Group, a global seafood conglomerate, has signed a memorandum of understanding with two community groups in Songkhla to provide them with a solar-powered fish-house dryer that will double the amount of fish they can sell by shortening the drying time and greatly increasing product quality. The agreement with the Ban Na Thap Women's Group Seafood Processing in Songkhla province and the Thai Sea Watch Association also establishes a framework of cooperation between the three parties to improve food safety standards and develop knowledge about seafood processing techniques. The three parties want to work to conserve and restore community coastal resources and aquatic management.