

## Thai News Update: 2 April 2019

### **1. Visa-on-Arrival Waiver Extension In The Works**

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

Plans are afoot to extend the waiver of the visa-on-arrival fee for visitors for another three months to ward off an economic slump during the transition to a new government. Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak said the Immigration Bureau is scheduled to propose to the cabinet at its April 9 meeting an extension of the exemption of the 2,000-baht visa-on-arrival fee for visitors from 21 nations until July 31 this year. The fee waiver, designed to give a much-needed boost to the tourism industry, is scheduled to expire on April 30.

### **2. 700 SMEs Sign Up For Single Account Scheme**

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

Some 700 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) signed up for the single financial account scheme as of 1 April to obtain the exemption from penalties for increased tax liability, says the Revenue Department. "This is the last chance for SMEs to show their intention to join the single financial account scheme, exempting them from higher tax penalties and criminal liability," said director-general Ekiniti Nitithanprapas. Department. Under the single account scheme, the Bank of Thailand requires banks give greater consideration to financial statements submitted to the Revenue Department when considering SME loans, starting next year.

### **3. Homeless To Be Helped By Launch Of ‘Census’**

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

With the number of homeless people in Thailand estimated to be at least 30,000, nine agencies have joined forces to aim to confirm their exact numbers and provide them with better help. The survey, being conducted this month and next, would determine the numbers of homeless people in 70 municipality areas across 45 provinces, said General Anantaporn Kanjanarat, head of the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS). The Homeless Association

estimate that just 1,200 of Thailand's total homeless are in the capital, although other officials have put the figure as high as 3,000.

#### **4. Dusit, Central Pattana Join Hands**

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

Hotel and property development firm Dusit Thani Plc and retail and property developer Central Pattana Plc are collaborating to develop a mixed-use project, Dusit Central Park, at a cost of Bt36.7 billion. The project will cover 440,000 square metres on the intersection of Silom and Rama IV Road in what was once the location of Dusit Thani Hotel. The project is expected to be complete in 2024. The project brings together luxury residences, a state-of-the-art office tower, a high-end shopping complex with a large rooftop park and a distinctive reimagining of Dusit Thani Bangkok hotel, Dusit's iconic flagship property, which served as a symbol of Thai hospitality for 50 years.