

Thai News Update: 2 March 2021

1. Govt urged to promote savings as society ages

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

The government is being advised to improve savings-related regulations in order to build up financial security, particularly for the elderly. Danucha Pichayanan, secretary-general of The National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC), said the state planning unit is about to propose the government improve regulations in relation to savings to encourage Thai people to increase their savings which would create greater financial security and reduce the government's financial burden over the long term. "The issue will be raised soon for consultation at the NESDC's board meeting and will later be proposed to the government," said Mr Danucha.

2. South Korea greenlights 'rainbow' mangoes after 9 years of negotiations

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

Negotiations with South Korea over the export of Mahachanok or "rainbow" mangoes, which began in 2011, were finally completed last month, Deputy Agriculture and Cooperatives Minister Mananya Thaiset said. "Thailand began exporting three types of mango to South Korea in 2002, namely the Nam Dok Mai, Raet and Nang Klang Wan breeds," she said. "Then in 2011, we proposed the new breed of Mahachanok mangoes, and South Korea has been revising the criteria until finally granting us approval on February 23 to import the first lot of 100 kilos of Mahachanok mangoes."

3. Thailand poised to adopt vaccine passports to kick-start tourism

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

The tourism minister has asked the Public Health Ministry for approval to launch a vaccine passport system in a bid to kick-start the tourism industry this year. Tourism and Sports Minister Pipat Ratchakitprakarn said on 1 March that the government was waiting for a World Health Organisation announcement on vaccine passports before issuing the measure. He said that adopting a vaccine passport or a similar method of enabling foreign tourists to skip quarantine would guarantee at least 5 million foreign visitors to Thailand this year.

4. EEC panel okays additional Bt2.7 billion for land expropriation for airports high-speed rail link

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

The Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) Policy Committee on 1 March approved an additional budget of Bt2.17 billion for land expropriation for the high-speed rail project linking

Suvarnabhumi, Don Mueang and U-Tapao airports, Transport Minister Saksayam Chidchob said. “The State Railway of Thailand, which is responsible for the expropriation, has proposed that the land expropriation budget be increased to Bt5.74 billion from the original budget of Bt3.57 billion to ensure that the construction was completed within the set timeframe,” he said.