

Thai News Update: 5 February 2021

1. DLT unveils new rules on power, speed of electric vehicles

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

New Department of Land Transport (DLT) regulations governing the minimum speed and power of electric vehicles (EVs) were published in the government gazette on 4 February. The rules apply to the engine size of electric cars, pickups, taxis, three-wheelers and motorcycles. The first category covers inter-provincial service vehicles carrying up to seven passengers – taxis, rental cars, pickups and small four-wheel trucks. These must have an electric motor of least 15 kilowatts (kW) and a top speed of not less than 90 kilometres per hour. They must also show a letter E for regular EVs or S for small EVs at the rear of the vehicle.

2. Jurin eases restrictions on big ships to tackle container shortage

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

Commerce Minister Jurin Laksanawisit has resolved to tackle the global shortage of cargo containers by easing restrictions at Laem Chabang Port in Chon Buri. Jurin, who doubles as deputy PM, said the ministry and the Port of Authority of Thailand had agreed to requests from shipping companies to allow large cargo vessels of 18,000 TUE (400 metres-plus) to dock at the port without asking permission. Meanwhile export permits for shippers will take just one day to process and be valid for two years.

3. New discount scheme to ease hardships

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

The Commerce Ministry has teamed up with 11 digital platforms to roll out new discount campaigns, running until Feb 28, to relieve economic hardship amid the pandemic. According to Commerce Minister Jurin Laksanawisit, more than 100,000 shops are participating in the new campaign, with 1 million products and service items available. The 11 digital platforms participating in the scheme comprise Foodpanda, Grab, Lineman, Robinhood, Gojek, Lazada, Shopee, Ohlala, Lalamove, JatujakMall and Thailand Post via Thailandpostmart.com. According to Mr Jurin, the campaign offers discounts in four main categories: foods and beverages; delivery fees; utility payment fees such as power and water bills; and purchases from fresh markets.

4. Joint PPP for elderly housing

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

The Social Development and Human Security Ministry and the Finance Ministry are jointly pushing forward a public-private partnership (PPP) project to develop a 649-rai model city branded as the "Happiness Social City". The plot is owned by the government and located in Bang Lamung district in Chon Buri province. The cost of the PPP development project is estimated at 16 billion baht, said Patcharee Arayakul, permanent secretary for social development and human security. The next step is to invite interested private parties to invest in this project and propose investment conditions for consideration by the Social Development and Human Security Ministry, said Mrs Patcharee.

5. Thap Lan national park reopening

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

Thap Lan National Park will reopen to visitors on 6 February, after being closed for a month under nationwide Covid-19 controls, but camping tents and overnight stays will not be allowed. Park chief Prawatsart Chantep issued the order on 4 February. All attractions in Thap Lan National Park will be reopened on Feb 6. However, activities inside the park will be limited to day trips. Camping tents, overnight stays and all water activities remain closed.