

Thai News Update: 7 March 2019

1. Top Fund Says Election Will Boost Stocks Despite Drama

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

One of the nation's top funds says the poll will boost stocks despite tension as Thailand is braced for more political drama from a court ruling that may disband the Thai Raksa Chart Party contesting this month's election. The new government is likely to implement investment-friendly policies that bolster the economy, said Dennis Lim, the president of MFC Asset Management Plc, which oversees about US\$15 billion (478 billion baht) of assets. That should spur equities providing the next administration is stable, he said.

2. 6-Region Cluster Upgrade Of B94.4bn Approved

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

The government has approved the regional development plan worth a combined 94.4 billion baht. Of the total budget, 66.5 billion baht is allotted to develop six regions comprising the central, northeast, north, south, eastern and three southernmost provinces, with funding from the fiscal 2020 budget. The remaining 27.9 billion baht is to be allocated to provincial cluster development between fiscal 2018 and 2025. Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak said on 5 March that the regional development plan will be instrumental to Thailand's economy.

3. Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia To Cut Rubber Exports For 4 Months

Source: Bangkok ([Link](#))

The world's top producers of natural rubber will curb exports by 240,000 tonnes for four months from April, they said on 6 March, in a bid to prop up global prices for the commodity. Formally known as the Agreed Export Tonnage Scheme (AETS), the export cuts will start in April and last for four months, the group said in a joint statement after a follow-up meeting in Bangkok this week to finalise details. The three countries account for around 70% of the world's natural rubber production.

4. Govt Urged To Extend EEC Incentives To Local Businesses

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

Civil Society groups have called on the government to extend the special privileges it is offering to investors in the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) to local business activities and sustainable development. They also urged the government to give priority to local solutions in solving ongoing land conflicts caused by the impact of investment promotion for the EEC. Environmental and land rights experts on land rights joined academics and local residents of the EEC provinces in objecting to the corridor's new city plan, which they say grants absolute administrative power over land to an EEC committee, thus fuelling land conflicts and intensifying social and economic disparities among the local citizens.