



April 10, 2023

Thai Enquirer News Summary

Political New

- Pheu Thai party is leading in the latest polls that has been leaked out by the ‘Santi Baan’ or the secret services of the Royal Thai Police.
- ❖ Santi Baan, whose polls are usually considered to be very precise showed that Pheu Thai party was on the way to winning as many as 265 seats out of the 500 seats in the parliament. This poll by ‘Santi Baan’ was done before the announcement of the 10,000 Baht giveaway announced by Pheu Thai on April 5th.

<u>Party Name</u>	<u>Expected Seats</u>
Pheu Thai	265
Bhumjai Thai	65
Palang Pracharat	53
Democrat	32
Move Forward	28
Ruam Thai Saang Chart	26
Thai Saang Thai	9
Chart Thai Pattana	8
Chart Pattana Kla	8
Seri Ruam Thai	5
Data as of April 5, 2023	
Thai Enquirer	

- Meanwhile the man infamous for ‘borrowing’ multi-million dollar watches from dead friends and who is also the caretaker Deputy Prime Minister - Gen Prawit Wongsuwan, came out to say that he was confident that his political party - Palang Pracharath, would win more than 70 constituency seats and no less than 10 party-list seats in the upcoming elections, judging from the recent “secret” poll conducted by military and police intelligence agencies.

- ❖ The poll found that Prawit had a better chance than Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha by 3%. Nonetheless, Paethongtarn Shinawatra from Pheu Thai still ranked first at 24.43%.
- ❖ The poll also studied the popularity of political party’s policies, which found that the first-ranked policy was the raising of the minimum wage to 600 Baht and a salary to 25,000 Baht for bachelor's degree holders, also belonging to the Pheu Thai Party.
- ❖ Pheu Thai also ranked first with 48.5% among northeast respondents as to the party to lead the formation of the next government.



- Paetongtarn Shinawatra once again left 2014 coup leader and incumbent caretaker PM General Prayut Chan-o-cha – and all other rivals – in the dust in a survey of voters’ preferred candidate for prime minister, outranking him by a margin of four to one among the 1,100 eligible voters surveyed in the province of Ubon Ratchathani.
- ❖ The Pheu Thai candidate was named the top choice for premier by 45.55% of respondents in the northeastern province, while Prayut was selected by a mere 10.82% in the telephone survey conducted by the National Institute of Development Administration (Nida) from March 27 to 30.
 - ❖ The 2nd Pheu Thai candidate for prime minister, former property tycoon Srettha Thavisin, ranked 4th in the Nida poll with the support of 7.45% of respondents.
 - ❖ Thailand’s largest political party was also the 1st pick for both constituency and party-list elections, with more than 60% support, according to the results of the poll released by Nida on Sunday.
 - ❖ The party offering Prayut as its PM candidate, Ruam Thai Saang Chart Party (RTSC), was unable to surpass single-digit support.
 - ❖ The Northeast is one of Pheu Thai’s strongholds. It was also a stronghold of Pheu Thai’s predecessor, Thai Rak Thai, which was formed by Paetongtarn’s father, former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra who lives in self-imposed exile.

- A total of 4,781 constituency candidates and 1,898 party-list candidates have applied to contest the May 14 election nationwide, with 63 prime ministerial candidates, the Election Commission (EC) said on Saturday.

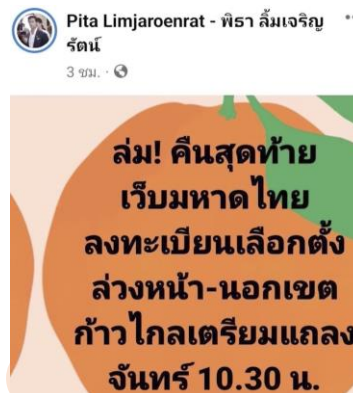
กต.สรุปการรับสมัคร ส.ส.		
ส.ส.แบ่งเขต	ส.ส.บัญชีรายชื่อ	แคนดิเดตนายกฯ
70 WSSK	67 WSSK	43 WSSK
4,781 คน	1,898 คน	63 คน
ผู้ชาย	ผู้หญิง	
3,903 คน	878 คน	

- Srettha Thavisin, Pheu Thai's Prime Ministerial candidate, said at a rally in Lampang province that the controversy surrounding the 10,000-Baht handouts could be because other parties struggle to match its impact with their policies.
 - ❖ In support of Srettha's statement, Paetongtarn Shinawatra, another Pheu Thai's PM candidate, promised to assist farmers in Lampang by deferring their debt and interest payments for three years, creating new agricultural markets, and increasing the daily wage to 600 Baht.



- Boonyod Sooktinthai, an MP candidate for the Ruam Thai Saang Chart Party, claimed that the budget Pheu Thai would use to fund its 10,000-Baht handout scheme would come from tax revenue collected during the administration of caretaker Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha.
 - ❖ He also said Pheu Thai miscalculated the Value Added Tax (VAT) revenue that the government would obtain from the policy, adding it was impossible to reach 100 billion Baht as Pheu Thai claimed.
 - ❖ Meanwhile serial petitioner Srisuwan Janya revealed he will file a petition against Pheu Thai for its campaign promise of giving 10,000 Baht in digital currency to citizens over 16 years old nationwide.

- ❖ He claimed the promise could violate the election regulations because Pheu Thai reportedly did not disclose the fact that people may receive only 8,500 Baht after deducting a 15% withholding tax of 1,500 Baht.
- The Ministry of Interior's online registration system for the voters that ended at midnight last night CRASHED as millions of Thais living outside the borders tried to register themselves before the deadline.
 - ❖ As many as 2.2 million people were able to register before the system crash but many were left stranded and have been complaining on social media platforms.
 - ❖ Move Forward party is to hold a Press Conference @ 10:30 am today to state their stance on this issue.



- Wan Ubumrung, the son of firebrand Pheu Thai politician, Chalerm Yubamrung, has come out to accept on his social media account that his rating in the Bang Bon constituency, where he already is an MP during the past parliamentary term, is slightly below that of 'other'.
 - ❖ He did not say who that 'other' was but Move Forward party's candidate was a close competitor during the previous election in 2019.



แหล่งข่าวแจ้งมาว่าตอนนี้คะแนนผมยังเป็นรองเขาอยู่พอสมควร แบบสู้ๆ สู้ๆ ผมขอกราบกลางดวงใจพี่น้องประชาชนช่วยเมตตาสนับสนุนผมด้วยเถิดครับ ขอให้ผมได้เข้าไปทำงานต่อทำงานใหม่ ดูแล้วรับใช้พี่น้องประชาชนต่อไปด้วย 🙏

วัน อยู่บำรุง
#เบอร์10
แขวงหนองแขม
แขวงบางบอนเหนือ
แขวงคลองบางพราน
แขวงบางขุนเทียน
#... See more

8.4K

485 comments 59 shares

พรรค	ผู้สมัคร	คะแนนเสียง	%
เพื่อไทย	วัน อยู่บำรุง (13)	30,538	29.00
อนาคตใหม่	กันตพงศ์ ประยูรศักดิ์ (9)	27,244	25.87
ประชาธิปัตย์	พินดาจวงเอก สามารถ ม่วงศิริ (8)*	19,202	18.24
พลังประชารัฐ	วิรัช กรณิการ์ (14)	18,032	17.12

- One of Pheu Thai party's 3 prime ministerial candidates, Chaikasem Nitisiri, was taken to hospital in the northern province of Nan for a CT scan Saturday, which revealed a small blood clot in his brain.
 - ❖ An informed party source said that doctors at the hospital suspect that the clot might have been in the brain for some time and the condition is mild, but recommended that he undergoes a more thorough examination at a hospital in Bangkok.
 - ❖ Chaikasem and other party members were campaigning in Phu Phiang district, but he did not take part in a rally held at the stadium of Rajamangala University of Technology in the evening.
 - The Army has apologised to the mother of a young man kept alive by oxygen and feeding tubes after she was forced to take him by ambulance to a military-conscription site in Lamphun province on Saturday to prove he is unable to be a soldier.
 - ❖ Disturbing photos and videos of the young man taken at the conscription-centre in Lamphun's Muang district caused an uproar on social media and heated criticism of the Army, which is in charge of provinces in the North.
 - ❖ Colonel Rungkhun Mahapanyawong, deputy spokesman for the 3rd division of the Army, apologised on Sunday to the mother, Duangkamol Wutthirothong, and to her comatose son, Thanakrit. He promised no such incident would happen again.
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Economic News

- Somchai Jitsuchon, research director for Inclusive Development Policy at the Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI), pointed out that the political parties' policies were highly conflicting.
 - ❖ Several parties introduced welfare policies, such as raising the monthly allowance for the elderly by 3,000 Baht. However, the cost of such policies, which could exceed 100 billion Baht annually, has raised concerns about the lack of clarity regarding potential revenue sources.
 - ❖ As a result, political parties need to be transparent and inform the public about how they plan to finance such policies, Somchai stated.



- Meanwhile high-level executives from 4 economic agencies, including the National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC), the Ministry of Finance, the Budget Bureau, and the Bank of Thailand (BoT), recently met to discuss economic proposals to propose to the new government.
 - ❖ They mainly discussed the country's fiscal status, ways to increase revenue for the government, and tax reform.
 - ❖ The economic agencies also talked about policies that political parties are using to gain popularity, which could significantly increase the budget deficit and have long-term financial consequences.
- The Revenue Department sent warning letters to 35,000 individual taxpayers who have income that meets the threshold for filing a tax return.
 - ❖ The letters urge them to come forward and submit their tax returns. There are 10,000 more people this year, the department said.
 - ❖ On another note, the Revenue Department's revenue collection exceeded the target by more than 70 billion Baht for the first five months of the 2023 fiscal year (October 2022-February 2023).
 - ❖ This was due to the country's improving economy, increased domestic consumption, and improved tax collection efficiency, the department stated.
- The Government Housing Bank (GHB) announced an increase in interest rates for savings accounts and fixed deposits by 0.05-0.40% per annum, as well as an increase in interest rates for all types of loans by 0.25% per annum, effective from April 10th, 2023.

- Charoen Pokphand Foods Plc (CPF) is expected to release weaker-than-expected financial results for the first quarter of 2023.
 - ❖ Brokerage firms estimated that CPF's net profit will be around 1.47 billion Baht, a 48% decline from the same period last year when the net profit was 2.84 billion Baht, and an 18.56% drop from the previous quarter's net profit of 1.81 billion Baht.
 - ❖ This is due to a drop in pork prices in China, as major producers have increased production, leading to an increase in supply while demand is still weak. In Thailand, the price of pork is currently at 82 Baht per kilogram, down from the same period last year and the previous quarter, and is also being pressured by the smuggling of pork and lower consumption.
 - ❖ Nevertheless, consumption will expectedly recover in the second half of the year. The sales volume of CPF is also expected to increase along with the recovery by up to 10%.
- Srettha Thavasin's previous record and his company's – Sansiri Plc (SIRI), past use of digital currency has all come into question.
 - ❖ SIRI had a few years ago issued digital currency to build its 'Siri Campus' that has now become the headquarters of SIRI and a high-end gated community.
 - ❖ SIRI has issued 2.4 billion Baht worth of digital currency to build 'SIRI Hub'.



- ❖ Questions have also been raised on the 10,000 Baht handout, which is now being compared to the self-exiled former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra's comments in which Thaksin had said about a year ago that handing out free cash is not the way to go.
 - A total of about 54 million Thais are expected to be given 10,000 Baht in digital currency to be spent within 6-months and in a radius of no more than 4-kilometers of their official residence.

Political News Headlines in Thai Media

- On May 14th, Thailand will be holding a general election, following the dissolution of parliament by Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha. His government served essentially its full four-year term, after the last general election in 2019.
 - Link- <https://www.thaienquirer.com/49098/the-thai-enquirer-voter-guide-2023-general-election/>
- With Thailand's House of Representatives dissolved and the next general election scheduled for 14 May 2023, Thai political parties are competing to outdo each other with populist policy pledges.
 - Link- <https://www.thaienquirer.com/49125/political-dealmaking-will-determine-the-winner-and-twist-policy-outcomes-in-thailands-election/>
- Prime Minister General Prayut Chan-o-cha said Pheu Thai's policy of handing out 10,000 baht worth of digital currency to voters is "risky" and warned the party to be "extremely careful".
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/politics/40026448>
- The Pheu Thai Party's pledge to give 10,000 baht to every Thai 16 years of age or older if it forms the next government is unworkable and illegal, Somchai Srisutthiyakorn, a former election commissioner who now leads the Thai Liberal Party's strategic team, said on Friday.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/politics/40026444>
- Bangkok is suspending some services for migrant workers until after the general election to ensure voting goes ahead without a hitch.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/general/40026450>
- Police submitted a letter to the suspect's supervisor and the army staff judge advocate to have him brought in for questioning within seven days.

- Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2545915/search-for-military-hacker-escalates-as-police-give-seven-day-deadline>
- Whistleblower Chuvit Kamolvisit has welcomed the Civil Court's revocation of its injunction which had required him to suspend criticism of the Bhumjaithai Party's cannabis policy.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2546080/cannabis-critic-welcomes-gag-order-revocation>
- United Thai Nation (UTN) Party leader Pirapan Salirathavibhaga has vowed to take action against "nation haters" if his party forms the next government, saying Thailand is a land for patriots and those who don't like it can live somewhere else.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/politics/2545925/utn-leader-stands-up-for-patriotism-tells-nation-haters-to-leave>
- The Election Commission (EC) has ordered the Pheu Thai Party to clarify the source of finance for its policy of giving away 10,000 baht to everyone aged 16 and older.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/politics/2545875/ec-wants-pheu-thais-giveaway-details>
- A total of 4,781 constituency candidates and 1,898 party-list candidates have applied to contest the May 14 election nationwide, with 63 prime ministerial candidates, the Election Commission (EC) said on Saturday.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2545739/70-parties-fielding-4-781-constituency-candidates>
- The Supreme Administrative Court on Friday ruled in favour of the Election Commission (EC) in a dispute between the poll regulator and four parties who do not agree with the former's approach to redrawing election constituencies for the May 14 general election.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2545476/court-backs-ecs-constituency-map>
- Former anti-establishment student activist Netiwit Chotiphatphaisal announced (Sunday) that he is ready to face legal action for missing the military lottery draw for conscription in Theparak sub-district of Samut Prakan.
 - Link- <https://www.thaibsworld.com/former-student-activist-netiwit-vows-to-leave-monkhood-to-face-justice-for-evading-conscription/>

- Politicians have the right to share their party's vision, but they should not condemn Thai politics as undemocratic, a United Thai Nation Party (UTNP) member said on Sunday.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/politics/40026487>
- Pheu Thai's two PM candidates and several core members called on voters in Nan's three constituencies to ensure they do not bring back the "two Army generals".
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/politics/40026481>

Economic News Headlines in Thai Media

- Some 5.1 million people are expected to travel during this year's Songkran Festival, generating over 23 billion baht in revenue -- a 26.3% increase from last year's figures.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2546526/over-5m-people-set-to-travel-over-songkran-holiday-period>
- The first direct shipment of Thai durians to China by train will occur on April 19, Chanthaburi Governor Monsit Paisarnthanawat said on Saturday.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/general/40026456>
- The Digital Economy and Society Ministry confirmed that Monday, April 17, is an extra day added to the Songkran holidays that kick off next Thursday.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/general/40026447>
- More than 30,000 Malaysians are expected to come to Songkhla during the Songkran Festival, and hopes are high they will pump 300-500 million baht into the local economy, tourism operators say.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2546020/smiles-ready-for-return-of-malaysians>
- Due to a decrease in the population in the past three years, Thailand is expected to become a super-aged society by 2029, according to research conducted by Kasikorn Research Centre (KResearch).

- Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2545900/thailand-will-be-super-aged-by-2029>
- The United Thai Nation (UTN) Party has trumpeted the government's achievement in reviving Phuket's pandemic-battered tourism sector through its "sandbox" scheme.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/politics/2545905/utn-applauds-govts-sandbox-scheme>
- SET-listed Demco, a contractor and engineering service provider, is expanding its clean energy business following diversification into this sector by joining the government's promoted renewable power development scheme.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/2545641/demco-keen-on-expansion-in-renewable-energy-sector>
- The Designated Areas for Sustainable Tourism Administration (Dasta) is aiming to earn revenue of at least 5 million to 10 million baht per year, reducing dependency on the state budget.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/2545481/dasta-sets-goal-for-b5m-10m-revenue>
- The Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) is encouraging companies not selected for power projects under its 5.2-gigawatt renewables scheme to participate in the second phase after the general election.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/2545541/renewables-scheme-targets-new-firms>
- Seven people have applied for the post of secretary-general of the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission, with the agency extending the application deadline to May 7 after opening on March 20.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/2545456/nbtc-position-draws-7-applicants>
- Earnings plays are expected to feature heavily in the near term as SET-listed companies start to report their first-quarter results. A downbeat surprise, however, could send equities down.

- Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/2545616/look-for-potential-election-season-winners>
 - UAC Global Plc, a chemical trader and clean power operator, plans to allocate 300 million baht to support diversification into renewable energy and oil production development.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/2544889/uac-allots-b300m-for-renewable-drive>
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Issues to be watched out for

- April 3-7, 2023 - Registration for Constituency MP
- April 4-7, 2023 - Registration for Party-List MP candidates
- April 28th, 2023 - The Ministry of Finance announced its own GDP data
- March 27 – April 17 - Period to register for Advance Voting
- May 7, 2023 - Day for Advance Voting
- May 14, 2023 - General Election Day
- May 7-13, 2023 - Period to report on reasons why eligible voters can't cast their votes.
- May 15-21, 2023 - 2nd period to report on reason why voter was unable to cast their vote.
- July 13, 2023 - Election Commission's last date to announce the election results with 95% of the constituency MPs elected.
- July 28th, 2023 - The opening of the new session of the parliament with its 1st meeting after the 2023 elections to elect the speaker of the house.
- July 31st, 2023 - The Ministry of Finance announced its own GDP data

- October 31st, 2023 - The Ministry of Finance announced its own GDP data

Key Data

SET Index **1,575.87** **+4.74**

Link - https://www.set.or.th/en/company/ipo/upcoming_ipo_set.html

Global Commodities

Metal -Link <http://www.bloomberg.com/markets/commodities/futures/metals/>

Energy -Link - <http://www.bloomberg.com/energy/>

Baltic Dry Index (BDI)-Link - <http://www.bloomberg.com/quote/BDIY:IND>

Global Equity Market's Movements

Link - <http://www.bloomberg.com/markets/stocks/world-indexes/asia-pacific/>

Asian Equity Markets Movement

Link - <http://www.bloomberg.com/markets/stocks/world-indexes/>

Information on April 7, 2023

Buying, Selling or Transfer of shares by Owners/Management

Stock Code	Volume	Value	Action
AAI	80,000	5.65	Purchase
DACON	44,400	4.5	Purchase
DACON	19,400	5.15	Sale
EP	36,400	3.34	Purchase
HARN	1,000,000	2.16	Purchase
HARN	600,000	2.16	Purchase

Unit: M.Baht						
Investor Type	Buy		Sell		Net	
	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%
Local Institutions	12,321.63	7.19	14,780.05	8.63	-2,458.43	-
Proprietary Trading	13,355.81	7.80	12,139.58	7.09	1,216.23	-
Foreign Investors	94,265.37	55.03	94,787.44	55.34	-522.07	-
Local Individuals	51,347.00	29.98	49,582.73	28.95	1,764.27	-
Yearly Cumulative since 1 Jan -7 April 2023						
Unit: M.Baht						
Investor Type	Buy		Sell		Net	
	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%
Local Institutions	328,598.32	7.91	325,536.55	7.84	3,061.78	-
Proprietary Trading	305,366.08	7.35	307,347.35	7.40	-1,981.26	-
Foreign Investors	2,117,146.73	50.96	2,174,544.92	52.34	-57,398.19	-
Local Individuals	1,403,409.86	33.78	1,347,092.18	32.42	56,317.68	-

Total Trading Value 3,683.12 Million Baht

Background Information –

The strength of each party in the Thai Parliament as of May 8, 2019 as per the report by the Election Commission of Thailand. Elections took place on March 24, 2019

- https://www.ect.go.th/ect_th/news_all.php?cid=24
- List of MPs - https://www.ect.go.th/ect_th/download/article/article_20190508184334.pdf

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