

EE563 Individual essay : Selected Topics in Development Economics

“Thailand Political Stability and Economy”

This essay is going to tell you about how political stability took effect on Thailand in aspect of economy. It also included political structure of Thailand, and nation development that related to political activities.

Thailand categorized itself political structure as Unitary Parliamentary constitutional monarchy which consist of prime minister as the head of the Thailand government and hereditary monarchy or King as head of the country. Thailand government system are separate into three branches which are consist of executive, legislative, and judiciary.

The executive are leading by the prime minister that also the leader of largest political party in the lower house of parliament. The prime minister is selected by the election in the house of representatives. Prime minister has duty to manage government services relied on constitution of Thailand, being representative of the country, and spokesperson of the government. Prime Minister can be removed from the government by distrust debate by registration from one in five of all members. Cabinet are consisted of 1 prime minister and other 35 ministers which have to provide government services that divide into 20 sectors called ministry. And The prime minister's office that have power equal to ministry. There office are governor's official residence. At least one minister must signing respond to royal command in statue, royal writings, and royal commands that related to government services. In case of emergency to the safety of nation, economy stability, and natural disaster, Cabinet be able to inform and let hallmark approve same as act and law about taxation and monetary that need to be emergency or secretly approve.

The legislatives are branch that was assign by monarchy to promulgate a law for country administration and management. Thailand parliament are 2 parliament which consist of senate and house of representative. There is 750 parliament members. 500 members are in the house of representative hold the position for 4 years and coming from district election for 350 members and listing for 150 members. Another 250 member are from senate or upper

house parliament holding the position for 5 years and coming from selection. They have power to choose and cease a law that has been accepted from house of representative. And advice about nation benefits.

The last one, The judiciary, it is organization that use judicial power relied on provision of constitution. Every class of the judge must be assign from Thai monarchy. There is four type of court in Thailand which is the constitution court, The court of justice, administrative court, and the military court.

There is the indicator that has been used to measuring country stability, it is Political stability index. This indicator is derived from many other indexes in aspect of both economic and political. In the past ten years, Thailand political stability index was dramatically decline and being negative to nowadays. The indicator was hit the lowest point on year 2010, about -1.44, and slightly recover. But in 2013, there is political crisis called Thailand political crisis 2013-2014. This crisis occurred by Anti-government protestors make the rally since August 2013 to May 2014 that was leading by PDRC or People's Democratic Reform Committee, Political benefits group. There is Suthep Thueksuwan, former member of the house of representative from Prachatippat political party, is the head of PDRC. The objectives of this protest is about to eliminate past power of former prime minister, Thaksin Chinnawat, from Thailand political and establish People's council without election for the Thailand Political reforming.

The main target of PDRC is to compel prime minister Yingluck Chinnawat to resign from head of the government for making gap of power. After that they would mention about Thailand's constitution year 2007 which is quote that sovereignty is owning by the citizen that would lead to government sectors would be based on rule of law. The trigger of this protest is act of amnesty to all sides since 2004.

In 20 May 2014, The Military of Thailand that was leading by Prayuth Jan o Cha informed martial law. Two days after the martial law was imposed, The protest was ended up by the coup de e tat by national council for peace and order. This incident make Thailand political stability index lower from -1.31 to -0.91. Hence, we can conclude that this action leaded Thailand to more peace. Since that day, it has been five years. Thailand economy is

slightly increase cause recovery from country shutting down due to political crisis. But in aspect of GDP growth rate, Thailand GDP changes is too little due to poor government services management of the executive branch. Although Thailand has overcome the past conflict and becoming more peace but in the aspect of economic development, Thailand economy growth is too little rising when compared with the past years.

If we think in aspect of Utilitarianism, The 2014 coup dee tat may increase public utility due to NCPR or National Council of Peace and Order bring peace to the country that lead to more stability to both economy and political to the nation. The factor that improve citizen's utility is economic recovery. The economic recovery make all of goods and services in the market can running again that lead to increasing of transaction and improved social welfare.

But nowadays Thailand economic situation is going to be bad due to Covid-19 pandemic that trigger and making Thailand suffering. Covid-19 make Thailand need to shutdown itself that make most of economic activity struggle. Many airlines facing crisis due to unable to circulate money to continue running their business. The obvious case is Thai airline that has been getting lost for several years. Covid-19 trigger Thai airline crisis that lead Thai airline need to declare bankruptcy and engage recovery plan. The government imposed plan to receiving a donation from the top richest people in the country to cure people that suffering from Covid-19 pandemic. If looking in the aspect of Liberalism and Kantian that person should not be used merely as means to the welfares of their, because doing so violates the fundamental right of self-ownership. The government optimal solution should running without hurting anyone else it must increase overall utility and not violate the fundamental right of their citizen.

There is another index to measure Thailand political stability that is global corruption index. This indicator illustrated transparency of a country. Thailand corruption index are ranked number 101 in the world from 180 countries. Thailand drop from 99th to 101st in 2019. Although Corruption eliminating is one of the objectives that NCPR stated in development plan but NCPR engaged to a corruption itself. While corruption is mostly occurred in higher class people in the government sectors and a little bribery it is obstacle to access public services that is Healthcare and education for an example. So, this make citizen bear with head

or cooperate corruption. All the mentioned thing make people felt hopeless to government stability and erode confidence of social to head of political, selected staff, and also democracy. Comparing in ASEAN country, Although Thailand corruption index remain the same but the ranking was drop due to improvement of Vietnam that corruption index is rose to 37. This make Vietnam overtake Thailand position and got ranked number 5th in ASEAN. The Judiciary of Thailand also getting worse and no transparency reach such a pitch that The Asian Human Right Commission has defined Thailand legal system such a mess.

Thailand also have extremely inequality problem. Thailand are ranked world number 3rd in aspect of inequality. Inequality and income gap in Thailand are coming from huge gap of education accessibility. The poor has less chance in access a proper education than the rich around 19 times. Thailand are focusing on development for the growth but lack of looking back to improve on income distribution and opportunity. There is indicator that use to measure inequality which is Gini coefficient. Thailand Gini coefficient is around 90.2, making Thailand is the country with the widest income gap or inequality in the ASEAN, and the top worst performers on the world.

We can obviously see that not only our economic condition is going into bad situation but also our freedom in political activity and comment. Thai peoples have been ruined Thai people's political freedom and need to accept everything no matter it bad or good. Hence, we can conclude that both political and economy are not completely related but still mutually supportive. Bad political could lead to many problems to the people in nation in many aspect and social class. Nowadays government policy are designed for some group of people benefit no overall benefits that is one of the factor why Thai people are still suffering from crisis. Political structure with lacking of stability cannot bring true prosperity to the country. Thailand need to making an improvement on development country in the sustainable ways without no one left behind. Our nation is not for only someone else but it is for everyone. Not government or other factors that need to improve but also starting from ourselves to make the real change. All of every process and transaction need to be more transparency to increase people confidence in Thailand government and also for stability of both economy and political.