

Why has Thailand's development slowed in the last few years ?

According to the world bank report in the last year , it announced that between 2015 and 2018 the poverty rate in Thailand skyrocketed from 7.2 percent in the year 2015 to 9.8 percent in 2018. It increased the number of Thai people who need to be stuck in poverty around 4.85 million increased to approximately 6.8 million people. This impact occurred in every part of Thailand(61 provinces out of 77) , especially in the Central and Northeast , where a half million of new people in each region became poor. Moreover , the Southern part was proclaimed since it had the highest poverty rate in 2017. The huge increase of poverty affects the overall economy to shift and turn into more challenging situations. The negatively affected factor of this event do not only the external effect from the world economic crisis but also the most impacted factor which plays an important role which could lead the country's direction to right or wrong is the government and the policies. These are the main important points which need to be more considered.Can the better government reduces Thailand's poverty rate or not?

Over the past few years , Thailand's GDP growth rate is lower than other countries in Southeast Asia like Indonesia , Philipin or Vietnam and it continued to slowly grow from 2015 which the report announced that peasants was the poorest occupation in Thailand even though Thailand was one of the largest countries of rice production. It occurred only one year after the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) took power from the Government of Yingluck Shinawatra in May , 2014. The NCPO is the military junta that takes control of government power with an attempt to stop the country's political crisis. The military regime firstly suspended the constitution and started to operate the country under the new system by using martial law. In the new temporary regulation created by the NCPO , there was one section called "section 44" that allowed the NCPO to receive the powerful ability of controlling citizens , press , freedom even human-right permitted by the law. As a result of taking control of military , there was not have any professional in the field of political which deeply respect the right of Thai people and fully believe in demorcratic system and also the field of economic.

In the aspect of politics under the NCPO , there were some failures which held off Thai democratic progress. The clearest evidence is section 44 said that in any case deemed necessary by the Head of the NCPO, with the approval of the NCPO, the Head of the National Council for Peace and Order shall, as authorized, issue an order, restrain or perform any act regardless of whether such act enters into legislative, executive or judicial force. In this regard, all orders, acts as well as performance in compliance with such orders shall be deemed lawful and constitutional. It completely lessens the people's contribution to politics , destroys the unity of all political parties and eliminates people's political freedom. People's voices were obstructed for 5 years along with the unprofessional management of the system by the leader. Useless policies and a long period of corruption were continuously released and occured to Thai society. A huge number of subsidies which collected from tax was used to drive the policies that do not generate any clear results that directly benefit to Thai people or provide some economic efficiency such as the campaign of buying submarines from China with a financial amount of 36,000 million baht. It was clear for Thai situation at that time that submarines could not bring any welfare to the overall country. On the other hand , one of the most necessary things like public healthcare was not supported. Thai public healthcare service at that time had a lot of inequality due to the government providing more than 2 times subsidy to public health service

for 5 million government employees in amounts around 70 billion baht than other 48 million citizens with only 140 billion baht. It created a big gap of equality among Thai people and also reduced people's standard of living which is the root cause of inefficient economic results. This event looks to be a more serious and important problem. It would definitely bring a huge welfare back to Thai people, if the government chooses to spend the money on healthcare service instead of submarines. However, NCPO did not choose the best choice for people. Furthermore, one of the most recognized stories is the story about "watch". It implied some additional unknown wealth of the high level government officers which they received during the period of their control along with undeveloped wealth of the nation and people. However, there was not any effort to investigate the case but there were some attempts to protect from relatives meanwhile if there were any people who tried to complain would be prosecuted. From these examples, it shows a clear picture of how Thai people's money was wasted for some reason that does not generate any good and detain the majority of Thai people in unwanted circumstances.

Following by bad result in overall economic over the period of NCPO, it was clearly seen that economical management by this government was miscarriage and introduce to some unstability monetary system in long term. Because there was some enormous injection of money for unsuitable events that caused the overbalance subsidy instantly affected all Thai people to get the responsibility for returning that debt without any reasons. In 2018, NOPC used a larger amount of budget than the budget of the year 2013 combining with 2014 in the government of Pheu Thai party which the source of money came from raising an international loan. It causes Thai's debt per hand to increase automatically in only a short time. Although Thai people would not gain any welfare from this however the solution for fixing this problem still exists along with Thai people. The answer is increasing tax. Since October 2015, Thailand's VAT has increased from 7% to 10% which could generate more than 700 billion baht for the government. Moreover, the government tried to reform the tax system by bringing some taxes that people were not aware of for a long time such as House tax and Windfall tax. It caused a lot of Thai people to have collected the reversed tax which some people were charged in a very huge amount. People need to pay it anyway. In some cases, people have to borrow money from informal organizations which charge them very high interest. This was the root cause of personal debt that slowed down individual's opportunities to spend their money in other efficient economic activities and bring someone into the poverty trap. Although, immense money was brought to the government which was a good sign of emerging expected new benefits to Thai citizens however economic outcome turned into the wrong side. Thai economic growth in that period of time had a slow growth which brings overall society to difficulty. There is some evidence that we can observe from statistical data because Thailand's poverty rate increased from 7.1% to 8.4% in the year 2016. Additionally, NCPO created a policy that has an objective to facilitate only the group of people who own big businesses in Thailand which did not relate to the normal Thai people from the policies. The assets of Top Thailand millionaires were doubled in the period of this government. This increase in power of money did not make a higher wealth to any general Thai people at all. This causes the definition of Thai society called "jon krajuk, ruay krajai" which means small percentage of rich people but huge percentage of poor people.

Moving to the aspect of human right protection , NCPO did not perform well enough to make sure the people that they would be safe and completely free in their country. Because the effort of NCPO did not provide political freedom to people and block all the political movement which could happen by the people even though it is the right of the citizens to freely exercise their political freedom under the support of the constitution. However , this accuracy was not worked with by the government of NCPO. People who have different views and try to ask a question or blame them would be arrested to confess. In some cases , people were taken to legal proceedings due to their suspicion of the working of the government. For example , there was a case that NCPO sued and wanted to prosecute 7 students who organize a meeting of people that want an election as fast as possible and want NCPO to give the democracy power to the people. The students were sued in two indictments. One is “disobey an order of NCPO”. Another is doing an action that incite and agitate people. It forced people to limit their right and freedom because of the fear of law violation but the law did not give any fairness to people. It would not happen , if the government did the right things. Moreover , NCPO took control of the press and media. The news of their work had been presented only in a good way via social media and television. Most people especially in rural areas did not know the correct information about them and believe in what they see from the news. Because the government had taken the power over every news agency.

For instance , the comment of Facebook that has an objective to blame the government would be deleted. This was the worst of disobedience to human rights even on a personal social media platform.

Lastly , one of the most affected factors that would lead the country forward or backward into the never ending loop is the transfer of power to other leaders after the end of NCPO which had been seen to be an only hope for the end of dictatorship power from Thailand. But Thai people were surprised again in the year 2019 because general Prayut Chan-o-cha the leader of NCPO attended the election as a candidate of primernister with the representative of PALANGPRACHARATH PARTY. According to the new congress system that allows the senate as a main voice to vote for primernister in congress. It made General Prayut receive that position again because all 250 senators were people under the order of NCPO. The government led by him performed again last year. Meanwhile , the parties that have strong democratic purpose like Future party or Pue thai party that led by Mr. Thanathorn Juangroongruangkit and Miss Sudarat Keyuraphan respectively did not receive a chance to lead Thailand out of the nightmare and give democracy back to Thai people. Until today , in the year 2020 , Thailand will still be governed by ambiguity between dictatorship and democracy. A black power is still alive in the congress. Democracy that all power along with Thai citizens does not exist. Majority of people face poverty. Some useless policies are released every single day. People are not helped as much as expected. However , hopefully that Thai people will still believe in democracy and try to change our society by our right and power.

In conclusion , using power without any correction of method and conscious mind by only one person who has the most power could turn the country into a bad situation which directly impacts the citizen. Some wrong decision making could be fixed in anyways but the solution is just put the right man into the right job. Trying to own the power or other benefits from

that power within oneself that allow the man to corrupt the country should not be done by Thai people who were born , growed and took advantage of Thailand. Moreover , democracy is the thing that is most wanted in Thailand. There is no reason that it would not exist and deserve in Thailand with the power of free Thai people.

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