

Thailand: Elections Results: May 14

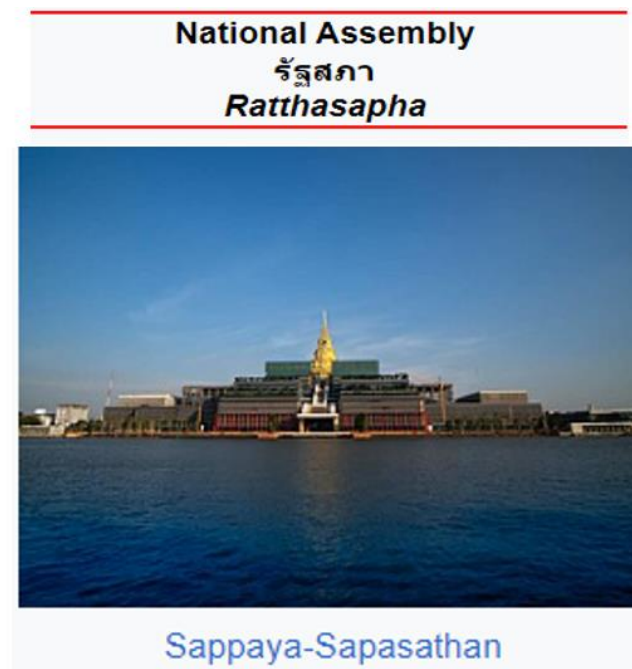
May 14, 2023

May 14, 2023: Bangkok, Thailand: On Sunday, Thailand voted out Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha's government, pushing the ruling party to the 5th position in the House of Representatives. General Prayut had ruled Thailand since the 2014 coup.

Results for a 500 Member House of Representatives:

1. Move Forward Party: Leader: **Pita Limjaroenrat**: The Move Forward party won 151 of the 500 seats in the in the lower house, House of Representatives.
2. Pheu Thai, Leader: **Paetongtarn Shinawatra**, daughter of former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra: won 141 seats out of 500 in the lower house

The two parties have joined with 4 other parties to a coalition of 309 Members of the House of Representatives to have **Pita Limjaroenrat** as the next Prime Minister of Thailand.



Parliament House for Thailand's National Assembly

Every voter has two votes. One vote is for a direct election of a Member of the House of Representative. The second vote is for the party that the voter prefers.

Out of 500, 125 members are from the Party Lists, according to the totality of votes for the parties by voters.

The turnout was high, since the voters were asking for a change.

The term of the House is of 4-years.

The National Assembly consists of the House of Representatives and the Senate. The Senators are appointed by the Military for a period of 6 years. The Senate was instituted after the 2014 coup by General Prayut Chan-O-Cha.

The Prime Minister is elected by the National Assembly (i.e. at a joint sitting of the House of Representatives and Senate.)

MOVE FORWARD Party: **Pita Limjaroenrat**, 42, who is likely to be the next Prime Minister, is a Harvard alumni with a background in business. He said that his party plans to amend the country's strict *lese majeste* laws. In Thailand, no discussion of the royal family is allowed in any media.



Leader of MOVE FORWARD party: Pita Limjaroenrat

Pita wants to support people facing jail terms on *lese majeste* charges for participating in nation-wide protests of 2020. Pita said that change in the *lese majeste* laws will help stop worsening the relation between the Thai people and the monarchy.

Charles Santiago, from the ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights (APHR) said that he hoped that Move Forward government will help end the carnage in Myanmar and will stand for democracy and human rights in East Asia. (**Reference:** <https://aseanmp.org/>) In particular, Cambodia is going to polls, without any major

political opposition. APHR feels that the success of Move Forward party in Thailand would encourage the young in Cambodia to come forward.

When General Prayut was the Prime Minister of Thailand, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) seemed to be split between mainland authoritarian states – Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam – which are predominantly Buddhist and lean towards China, and maritime members of the bloc - Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines. Singapore and Brunei, who worry about a stronger and aggressive China. If the Military-controlled Senate does not block it, Pita Limjaroenrat as the Prime Minister, Thailand will restore the balance between Democratic and other regimes in ASEAN.

www.DiGiNews360.com calls upon both **Pita Limjaroenrat** and **King Maha Vajiralongkorn** to respect their own traditions, to critically examine and to carry forward Thai traditions for the next generation.

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