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INSIGHTFUL, IN TREND, INDEPENDENT
THE SUNDAY NATION

FAREWELL TO OUR BELOVED MONARCH



Bhutan's King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and Queen Jetsun Pema arrive in Bangkok yesterday evening to pay their condolences over the passing of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej. The royal couple was welcomed at Suvarnabhumi Airport by Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak, right.

Bhutan king and queen here to pay condolences

THE NATION/KUENSEL
ASIA NEWS NETWORK

THEIR majesties the King and Queen of Bhutan arrived in Bangkok yesterday to pay personal respects to His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

Bhutanese King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and Queen Jetsun Pema were welcomed at the Suvarnabhumi Airport by Deputy Prime Minister Dr Somkid Jatusripitak.

The Bhutanese royal couple led prayers for Thailand's late King at the Thimphu National Memorial Chorten in Bhutan on Friday. Bhutan's national flags are flying at half-mast for three days as a mark of respect.

The royal families of Thailand and Bhutan share strong bonds.

Upon hearing of HM King Bhumibol's death on Thursday, King Khesar led the royal family, clergy, government officials and members of the Thai community in Bhutan in a candlelight prayer vigil at the royal palace in Thimphu, *Deutsche Presse-Agentur* reported.

The Bhutanese king on Friday also declared a public holiday, in conjunction with Thailand's observance. Vigils with butter lamps will continue to be held at temples across Bhutan, local media reported.

"His Majesty the late King Bhumibol has been an exceptional leader, a comforting presence in the lives of every Thai citizen," King Khesar wrote on Facebook.

"His Majesty's enduring service for the welfare and well-being of his people will be remembered with honour and respect," he added.

The Bhutanese king was among several royal family members from across the world to attend the celebration of the late King's 60th anniversary of his accession to the Thai throne in 2006.

Wissanu spells out Regent's role

'REGENT PRO TEMPORE' PREM TO ACT ON BEHALF OF KING UNTIL ROYAL HEIR TAKES THE THRONE

THE SUNDAY NATION

DEPUTY Prime Minister Wissanu Krea-ngam has clarified the role of the 'Regent pro tempore' during the accession to the throne after confusion and doubt about the process spread on social media since His Majesty the King's passing.

At this moment, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn is the heir to the throne and elderly statesman General Prem Tinsulanonda is the Regent pro tempore.

The Regent acts on behalf of the King while the heir to the throne functions at royal ceremonies, Wissanu explained yesterday.

He also noted that the new royal reign began on Thursday, the day His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej passed away.

According to Wissanu, it is not necessary to announce that the Privy Council president, Prem, is the Regent pro tempore since the constitution makes it clear that the president of the Privy Council becomes Regent pro tempore, pending the proclamation of the name of the royal heir.

"In this case, there will be neither an official announcement nor a parliamentary process of endorsement. Anybody in the position of Privy Council president is obligated to take the job," he told a special TV programme on Friday night.

His Majesty the King appointed his son heir to the throne in 1972 in accordance with the law of succession.

Article 23 of the 2007 Constitution, which is referred to in this case by the current draft charter, states: "In the case where the Throne becomes vacant and the King has already appointed His Heir to the Throne under the Palace Law on Succession, BE 2467, the Council of Ministers shall notify the President of the National Assembly. The President of the National Assembly shall then convoke the National Assembly for the acknowledgement thereof and shall invite such Heir to ascend the Throne and proclaim such Heir King."

However, the National Legislative Assembly did not do that during a session on Thursday night because the Crown Prince preferred to join people in grieving for his father before he will make



General Prem Tinsulanonda

a final decision on the succession ceremony, Wissanu said.

Therefore, according to Article 24 of the 2007 Constitution, the president of the Privy Council became the Regent pro tempore and functions in that capacity

until the Crown Prince is ready to take the throne, which might take one year, he said.

As Prem became the Regent pro tempore, the Privy Council, an advisory body for the King, has to select its new president to replace him as he cannot have dual roles at the same time, according to Wissanu.

Prem, 96, became a member of the Privy Council after stepping down as prime minister in 1988 and was appointed chief of the council in 1998.

Prem, as the Regent pro tempore, is authorised to function on behalf of the King. He will endorse the new charter, Wissanu said, adding that many constitutions in history were signed by regents.

The heir to the throne has no authority to endorse a constitution.

The Crown Prince would preside over royal ceremonies such as the royal procession of His Majesty's body on Friday, he said.

"It is untrue that the Regent is authorised to propose the new King. It is the role of the Cabinet to inform the chief of Parliament [of the new King] and the Parliament will hold a meeting to acknowledge [that fact] and the head of Parliament will invite the heir to become the King," he said.

Wissanu said that by doing so the

process of proposing the new King would be done "perfectly".

"The throne will never be empty. Indeed, the new reign began since October 13," he said.

Wissanu said it was the intention of the government, in accordance with the wish of the Crown Prince, to do it this way. "As it was the royal desire, there was no reason to do it another way. The late King is in our mind. Please think about the feelings of the Crown Prince. He is the son. So he needs times to prepare for everything," he said.

The deputy prime minister, who is the top legal expert of the government, urged Thais to trust and listen to official statements from authorised officials, rather than taking their lead from social media and rumours. The government wants the nation to be as stable as possible during this period, he said.

"HRH Crown Prince told the prime minister that he wanted to see everything remain the same as if His Majesty the King still existed," Wissanu told reporters.

"Don't make our land be empty, don't spend everything to the past so fast. Let it be at the present time. We are children, grandsons, granddaughters, nieces, nephews and relatives - we will do what we do for our parents," Wissanu said.

Irate mob storms Phuket shop over son's allegedly offensive FB post

PRATCH RUJIVANAROM,
JUTHATHIP LUCKSANAWONG
THE SUNDAY NATION

AN angry mob stormed a famous soy-milk shop in Phuket to look for the son of the shop owner who allegedly made an "offensive" post about His Majesty the King's death on his Facebook account.

The crowd raided the Sam Kong soy-milk shop in Phuket's Muang district on Friday night to find the shop owner's son, Suthee Arammethapongsa, whose Facebook post on the King's passing was seen as mocking.

The angry crowd hung damning posters in front of the shop, cursed Suthee, and hurled objects into the shop. The event was recorded and broadcast live on Facebook. It soon went viral on the Internet, sparking a hot debate on Suthee's and the mob's actions.

The protest was called off after Surathin Liam-udom, the former mayor of Tambon Ratchada Administrative Organisation, mediated. A complaint was filed against Suthee for alleged violation of the lese majeste law.

Pol Lt-Colonel Chao Phomna, Muang Phuket Police Station deputy superintendent, said the police had accepted the case and were investigat-

ing and collecting evidence. They said Suthee had already reported to the police.

"He is ready to be summoned again. The case is now under police investigation and there is no arrest warrant or any charge against him yet," Chao said.

"He [Suthee] said he did not intend to offend the King. I've read his post on Facebook and I did not find it offensive, so I think he should not be prosecuted under the lese majeste law."

"HE DID NOT HAVE A CONSCIENCE ABOUT THE KING'S BENEVOLENCE AND HE DID NOT RESPECT THE PEOPLE'S FEELINGS. HIS ACTIONS HURT THE PEOPLE AND HE SHOULD NOT LIVE IN PHUKET ANYMORE, BECAUSE THE PEOPLE HERE WILL NO LONGER ACCEPT HIM."

Chao said many people did not understand the law and were angered by anyone who did not appear to be saddened by the King's death. He said some people had complained to the police just because someone wore a red shirt during the mourning period

for the king, but the case against Suthee was the only one of its kind in Phuket so far.

One Phuket resident, Wisit Itthiwarapornkul, said that people were angered by Suthee's post because this was a sensitive time when all the loyal subjects of HM the King in the country were mourning his passing. So an offensive post about the King would obviously make people very angry.

"He did not have a conscience about the King's benevolence and he did not respect the people's feelings. His actions hurt the people and he should not live in Phuket anymore, because the people here will no longer accept him and his family," Wisit said.

Another Phuket resident, who asked not to be named, claimed Suthee's family was widely known to sympathise with the red shirts, so locals often avoided buying their soy milk. This time he had crossed the line and the people had staged a protest.

Meanwhile, many academics such as Sarinee Achavanuntakul, the managing director for knowledge development at Sal Forest Co Ltd, warned people against "improper behaviour" in targeting vaguely defined criminal offences. He said such behaviour could hurt national stability and jeopardise peace and harmony in society.

"I would like to ask the people to respect each other and treat other people in a proper manner," Sarinee said.

THE SUNDAY NATION

MEMBERS of the public will be allowed to pay respects to His Majesty the King in front of his royal urn inside the Grand Palace's Dusit Maha Prasat Throne Hall after 15 days of daily royal prayers, the Royal Household Bureau announced yesterday.

As from yesterday, people will also be able to pay homage to His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej before his portrait at the Sahathai Samakhom Hall between 8.30am and 4pm.

People can also bring wreaths after the royal prayer ritual is concluded, while the rest of the Palace and Emerald Buddha Temple will remain closed until October 20.

Mourners from all over the country headed to Bangkok to pay homage to the late King, with long lines forming inside the Grand Palace compound.

Mek Chaithep, a 49-year-old police senior sergeant major, along with a seller, prepared 400 meal boxes and 400 glasses of fresh water to provide to some of the growing throng. "I feel grateful for the King's kindness, which is indescribable," he said.

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha has ordered more free bus services for mourners on the routes passing the Grand Palace, Government Spokesman Sansern Kaewkamnerd said yesterday.

During the mourning period, entertainment venues will be permitted to

People will be able to pay their respects to King in Throne Hall

open as normal. However, they should operate indoors and not too loudly, the spokesman said. Restaurants and cinemas can also operate as usual.

Sansern said organisers of concerts and entertainment events would initially have to ask for permission to stage their productions during the 30-day period.

According to the Tourism Authority of Thailand, some events such as concerts, musicals and festivals have been postponed. These include the Bangkok Street Show 2016, a concert by the band Modern Dog, an ETC music concert, and the OTOP SME Excellence Fair.

Meanwhile, all provinces have been asked to perform prayer rituals for the late King, while a nationwide 30-day ban on gambling came into effect on Friday, according to a statement signed by the Minister of Interior Krissada Boonrat to governors across the country.

Local government agencies were expected to facilitate people wishing to join the praying rituals, said the statement.

Exhibitions regarding the King's royal duties would also be held, it added.

The statement came after the Bureau of Royal Household announced that the royal praying rituals would be performed at the Grand Palace for 100 days.

Meanwhile, as people rush to snap up black shirts and dresses to wear as a mark of respect for the late King, Sansern said the Ministry of Commerce was inspecting prices to prevent overcharging.

FAREWELL TO OUR BELOVED MONARCH



An honest ruler honestly appraised

‘A LIFE’S WORK’, RELEASED AT THE END OF 2011, REMAINS THE MOST FRANK ASSESSMENT OF HIS MAJESTY KING BHUMIBOL ADULYADEJ – AND THUS THE MOST ENDEARING

This review, by The Nation’s Manote Tripathi, first appeared on January 16, 2012. It is reprinted here in full:

IN QUIET MOMENTS in the days and weeks that follow, His Majesty King Bhumibol’s legions of admirers will be turning to their personal memories of him and reaching out for whatever might be at hand to hold his spirit closer.

Those who have collected writings about Bhumibol the Great will likely have the remarkable and revealing “A Life’s Work” from 2011, possibly the best book about him ever published.

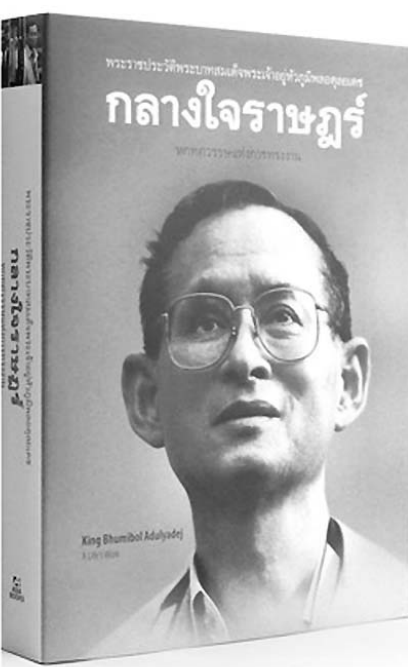
“King Bhumibol Adulyadej: A Life’s Work”, issued by Editions Didier Millet, is the most authoritative treatise to date about His Majesty and Thailand’s 750-year-old monarchy.

Former prime minister Anand Panyarachun, who chaired the book project’s editorial advisory board, has stressed the team’s commitment to presenting fact and shedding light on key issues regarding the monarchy.

“This book speaks the truth about every story, our beloved monarchy and other things,” Anand said when the book was launched. “This book will fill the void of ignorance ... Readers will learn many things they never knew. They will know our King much better.”

For the most part a thorough study of the royal institution and of the King and his views on the world and Thai society, the book also addresses the controversies. It looks at the Constitution, lese majeste, water management and politics – including the red-yellow divide.

Much that is already well known about King Bhumibol is amply covered, and yet there are also stunning descrip-



tions of people, places and events we knew little about and even hesitate to discuss in public. Anand wants us to know the facts of these matters, not grasp at straws and rumours.

Nicholas Grossman served as editor-in-chief, Dominic Faulder senior editor and Grissarin Chungsirawat deputy editor, and contributions came from, among others, David Streckfuss, Chris Baker, Porphant Ouyyanont, Julian Gearing and Joe Cummings.

Thanks to the material’s unmatched sources, this book is an eye-opener even for veteran Thai journalists.

There are three sections: The Life, The Work and The Crown.

Though the book essentially begins



in 1927, the year the King was born, it harks back to old Sukhothai, whose rulers pioneered the concept of kingship as paternalistic and righteous in the Buddhist sense. Every monarch since then has adhered to this moral template.

“A good king who fulfils the expectations of the Buddhist ideal can command enormous reverence and authority. A bad king rules weakly,” writes one contributor. In the Buddhist perspective, the ruler is accorded tremendous respect and power and titles such as God upon Our Heads and Dhammaraja.

Extensive descriptions of Thai kings going to war to protect sovereignty and independence, from Sukhothai to the founding of the Chakri Dynasty and Bangkok in 1782, remind us of the inseparable link between the monarchy and the land and its people. So readers will come across titles like “Lord of Life”, “Lord of the Land” and “Great Warrior”.

There are some interesting epochs discussed in detail, with the end of absolute monarchy in 1932 warranting special attention. King Rama VII’s abdication statement is displayed:

“I feel that the government and its party employ methods of administra-



tion incompatible with individual freedoms and the princes of justice,” he wrote. “I’m willing to surrender the powers I formerly exercised to the people as a whole, but I am not willing to turn them over to any individual or any group to use in an autocratic manner without heeding the voice of the people.”

Within days, Siam had a draft of its first constitution.

An article titled “Tragedy Strikes” offers a scene-by-scene analysis of the death of King Ananda, Rama VIII, elder brother of King Bhumipol. Most Thais know only that Ananda was shot at 9.20am on June 9, 1946. Who pulled the trigger has never been satisfactorily established.

“The events that followed have never been clearly explained,” the article acknowledges. We read about the Colt pistol, the gunshot overheard, the bullet that was found, and the confusion in the palace and among political leaders, about the panel of physicians summoned and even about a 1979 BBC television documentary on the subject.

Yet the tragedy remains “the mysterious death”, as one contributor puts it, and it seems we will never know more. Many theories arose. One that’s mentioned in this book involved Colonel Tsuji Masanobu, a Japanese spy who disappeared into Laos and died in 1968.

The brothers who became Kings Rama VIII and Rama IX were constant companions. They were “look-alikes”. But Prince Bhumibol was clearly in King Ananda’s shadow on a visit to Sampheng Lane in Bangkok’s Chinatown, in fact serving as the official photographer for the outing.

But this was how Bhumibol learned to be a king – by observing his brother through the camera lens. He discovered much about the world through photography.

When it comes to the jagged issues of our times, the lese majeste law is heavily discussed from a range of perspectives. The most compelling view is that of the King himself, who said during his televised address marking his birthday in 2005 that he was a human being and as such could be subject to criticism.

The contributors try their best to clarify such issues, and Anand stressed their commitment to surveying the full scope of opinions. “We debate issues in Thai society with this book” he said. “Differences of opinion should be heard so that we learn from facts, not rumours.”



Sunday

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His Majesty the King, pictured here in March 2015, monitored work at the Royal Chitralada Projects constantly.

The royal seeds that prosper

HIS MAJESTY THE KING'S EXPERIMENTS WITH SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AT HIS RESIDENCES HAVE BENEFITED MILLIONS

KUPLUTHAI PUNGKANON
THE SUNDAY NATION

BEFORE THE FIRST RAYS of dawn appear in the skies over Dusit Palace, the team at the Royal Chitralada Dairy Farm is hard at work most days, transporting the fresh milk from the cows to an adjacent plant where it's pasteurised and put into cartons.

It's a routine that's been in place since 1962, when His Majesty the King was presented with several head of cattle. Always interested in agriculture, the King invested his personal funds into establishing a dairy herd of some 40 cows for demonstration purposes.

Today the herd produces between 200 and 300 litres of milk a day, and while some of the milk and milk products are sold to create a revolving fund, much of it is delivered to schools, where it nourishes thousands of children.

Throughout his reign, His Majesty dedicated his efforts to accumulating knowledge, committing personal resources to advance the wellbeing of the people of Thailand.

The transformation of his private residence, Chitralada Villa, which is part of Dusit Palace, into experimental plots began in 1961 and has helped the King find solutions to a variety of problems affecting farmers.

A recent talk organised by the Office of His Majesty's Principal Private Secretary and the Pid Thong Lang Phra Foundation at Chitralada Villa's Sala Mahamongkol focused on His Majesty's lifelong journey to help his subjects develop the skills and know-how to combat health problems and poverty and become self-reliant.

"As a building, His Majesty's home is smaller than those of many of our richest men," said Thanpuying Putrie Viravaidya, the King's deputy principal private secretary.

"Chitralada Villa has just two floors, and the main hall is where His Majesty welcomes guests and sometime dines. Otherwise there are just bedrooms and a study, like in any regular house. The compound of the palace is large and houses many departments that work for the King, including the kitchen, the pages, the security guards and physicians.

"When they were on their own Their Majesties used to run at least three kilometres around Dusit Dalai pavilion in the grounds," Thanpuying Putrie recalled. "His



Contented cows are part of the Chitralada Villa dairy project.



Suan Chitralada rice is packed for shipment.

Majesty always said he had to be strong in order to help others.

"Local folk knew when Their Majesties would be visiting their palaces upcountry. I remember people queuing in front of the palace from very early in the morning to see the doctors. When I asked them why they didn't go to the nearby hospitals, they told me they wanted the medicinal envelope that featured the royal emblem.

"The homes of His Majesty – here at Chitralada Villa, Klai Kangwon Palace in Hua Hin, Bhuping Palace in Chiang Mai, Thaksin Ratchaniwet Palace in Narathiwat and Phu Phan Palace in Sakon Nakhon – all house development projects designed to help the people," she said.

Each May at the Royal Ploughing Ceremony, the rice seeds cultivated on experimental plots at the Royal Chitralada Projects are brought to Sanam Luang and sown into a furrow ploughed by two oxen. Farmers attend the ceremony and go to great lengths to obtain samples of the rice seeds, which they consider the best available. Right now 49 different varieties of rice are being grown for experimental purposes.

Chitralada Villa is currently home to 36 projects, both non-commercial



The Chitralada Dairy Farm produces the popular Suan Dusit Milk Powder distributed to schools.



A biodiesel plant explores methods of energy conservation.



Rice husks are burned as part of the Royal Chitralada Projects to generate heat with which to boil water.



Bicycles are the usual mode of transport around the fields where agricultural experiments are conducted.

(geared towards long-term improvements) and semi-commercial. All surplus funds from sales are invested in further development.

In addition to the agricultural experimental plots and milk production, the Royal Chitralada Projects team carries out energy conservation, alternative-fuel production and fish farming.

The most spectacular of the projects is the Demonstration Forest, which His Majesty set up to study tree species after observing a large number

of dipterocarp trees being felled for timber.

Aware of the ecological need to preserve a rainforest, the King planted dipterocarp seeds at Klai Kangwon Palace and later had saplings transferred to Chitralada Villa, as well as other species from different parts of the country.

In 2011 this demonstration forest – with more than 1,000 saplings – marked 55 years as a thriving forest, with its own localised climate that induces rainfall over the villa.

Tung, Chiang Rai province," said forestry specialist Pinit Sornlamp.

"Later, when the Royal Family was together, the Princess Mother said her vetiver grass grew better than that of the King, developing roots more than three metres long in just nine months. The trick, she noted, was to plant the grass with a tilt of three degrees."

Another useful initiative in the North, the Huai Hong Khrai RDSC, was established in Chiang Mai's Doi Saket district in 1982 at the King's initiative, as a result of droughts and forest fires caused by extensive tree-felling.

"His Majesty told me I should look forward, not just five years but 50 years," recalled Viriya Chuaybamrung, a specialist in natural resources and the environment.

"He told me, 'When the land leeches come, you'll know your work has succeeded.' Now, 33 years later, we have land leeches. I'm so proud!"

Chaiwat Sithibus, a land-development specialist, remembered the King's visits to Thaksin Ratchaniwet Palace in Narathiwat between 1973 and 1996.

"His Majesty would stay at his southern palace for one to two months. One rainy day, without any advance notice, he visited the Pikun Thong RDSC, which was in charge of the Klaeng Din project to study the natural acidification caused by deep layers of pyrite in peat swamps. I'm a specialist in soil, and yet I'd never thought of monitoring the research during the rainy season before. It made a lot of sense. His Majesty wanted to see how vetiver grass works in the rain," Chaiwat said.

Today, His Majesty's selfless efforts can be measured in more than 4,000 royal development projects undertaken for the benefit and happiness of the Thai people.

"I've been serving His Majesty for more than four decades and I'll turn 75 soon," Thanpuying Putrie said.

"His Majesty used to say that his work would never come to an end, that it was a 'work in progress'. The more the development, the more benefit, and the greater the sustainability for the future.

"You do what you can, for the individual, family, society and the nation. With a good foundation, the prosperity from development will benefit future generations, and we should do it with unity and generosity."

FAREWELL TO OUR BELOVED MONARCH



A worker installs a portrait of the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej outside the Royal Thai Police headquarters in Bangkok.



A loyal subject of the King buys his portrait to place in front of his home, to arrange a memorial ceremony.



Mourners gather near the Temple of the Emerald Buddha to join a candlelight vigil in remembrance of His Majesty the King on Friday evening.



People buy local newspapers issued yesterday, that featured pictures of the King, as souvenirs.



People pray as they mourn the death of King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who was the world's longest-reigning monarch, at Wat Thai Temple in the North Hollywood section of Los Angeles.



People in Yala make merit to monks yesterday to offer good deeds for His Majesty.



A woman bends on her knees in front of a sign on a wall that says, "May I be the King's servant in all future lives", on Srinakarin Road in Bangkok.



People in Samut Prakan province join the traditional and unique Throwing Lotus Festival on the Sam Rong canal. The festival is held annually on the second last day of Buddhist Lent.

FAREWELL TO OUR BELOVED MONARCH



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn leads a royal bathing rite for His Majesty the King at the Dusit Maha Prasat Throne Hall inside the Grand Palace on Friday night. The ceremony was also attended by other members of the Royal Family.



Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn conducts a ceremony to offer alms to monks at the Dusit Maha Prasat Throne Hall inside the Grand Palace yesterday morning.



Thousands of mourners form long lines inside the Grand Palace compound yesterday to pay homage to His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej.



Palace officials take part in a royal prayer ceremony on Friday night.



Civil servants pray at the Grand Palace's Dusit Maha Prasat Throne Hall on Friday night.



People write messages of condolence at Saha Thai Samakhom Hall inside the Grand Palace yesterday.



Mourners flock to the Grand Palace yesterday to write messages of condolence following His Majesty's passing.



Foreign tourists gather with Thai mourners at the Grand Palace yesterday.