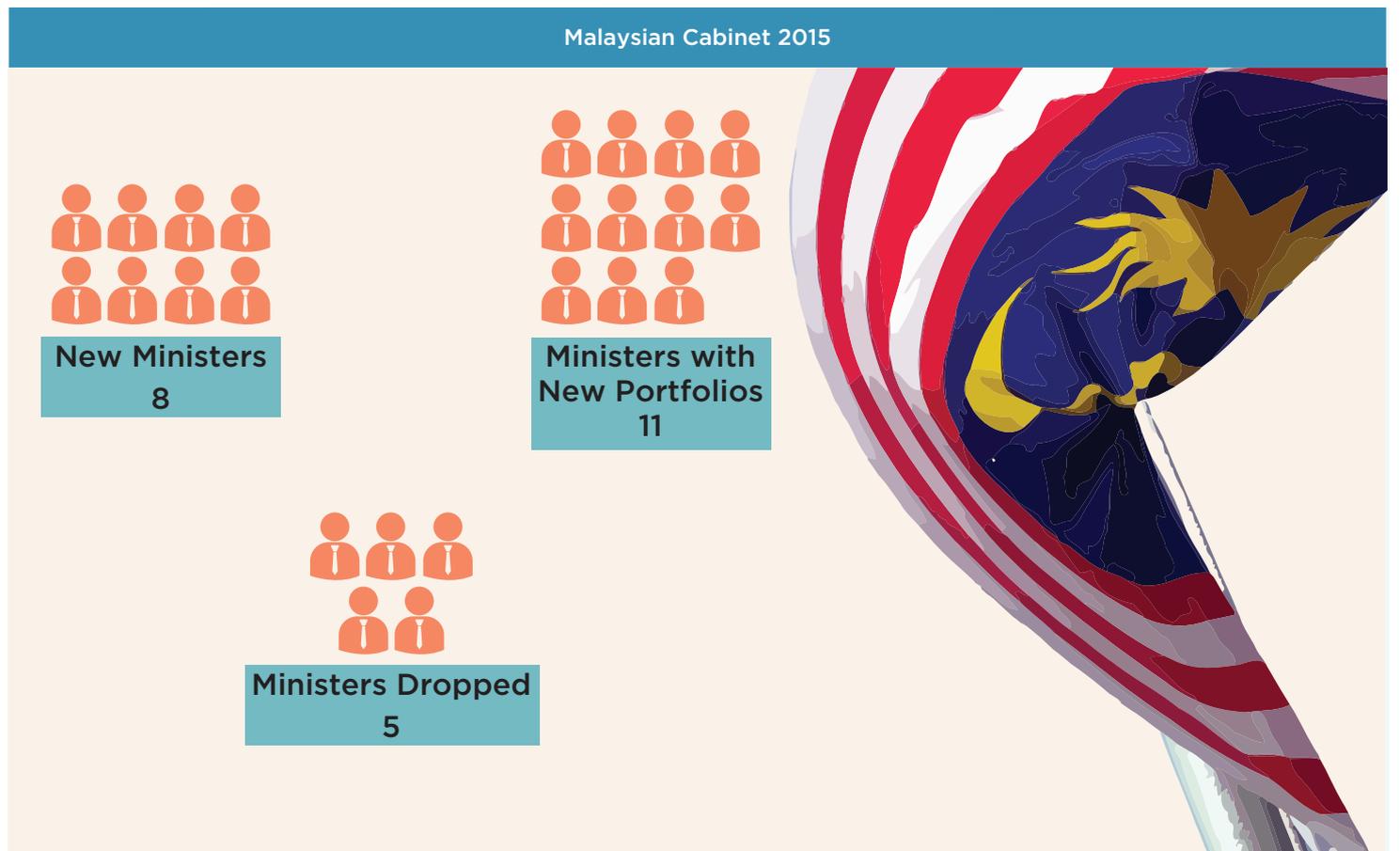


CARI CAPTURES



01 CABINET RESHUFFLE ADDS TWO MINISTERS



Malay Mail Online

Since Malaysia's last cabinet reshuffle in June 2014, the total number of ministers rose by two, bringing the new total to 37.

- ▶ The increase in cabinet size can be attributed to the creation of an extra minister position within the Prime Minister's personal department, and the addition of another Minister of International Trade and Industry; MCA Secretary-General Datuk Seri Ong Ka Chuan was appointed to be the second Minister of International Trade and Industry, whilst Datum Seri Azalea Othman Said is to be the additional minister within the Prime Minister's Department
- ▶ The reshuffle also saw the departure of former Deputy Prime Minister

Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, former Domestic Trade, Cooperatives and Consumerism Minister Datuk Seri Hasan Malek, former Rural and Regional Development Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal, amongst others from the Prime minister's cabinet

- ▶ The reshuffle came as the Prime Minister has come under criticism from members of his party and the public for his handling of the allegations of abuse of public funds linked to troubled state investor 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB)

The Star (28 July 2015)

02 BRITAIN - INDONESIA REAFFIRM EFFORTS AGAINST ISLAMIC STATE GROUP



Following a meeting between Prime Minister David Cameron and President Joko Widodo, both countries have voiced their concerns surrounding the threat posed by Islamic State Militants.

▶ Indonesia has battled terrorist groups since 2002, when militants linked to the Southeast Asian network Jemaah Islamiyah attacked nightclubs in Bali killing 202 people; since then, an estimated 500 Indonesians have joined ISIL, posing a threat to the world's most populous Muslim nation with a secular central government

▶ The heads of state agreed to step up joint efforts in tackling the terrorist threat, with Britain providing a package of counter-terrorism support which includes the improvement of security within Indonesia's Jakarta and Bali airports; furthermore, training for 50 of Indonesia's counter-terrorism officers would be overseen in the United Kingdom

▶ Additionally, the UK is prepared to learn from Indonesia's approaching to countering extremism through the establishment of an exchange program between religious and community leaders between both states

[CTV News \(27 July 2015\)](#)

Recent Terrorist Attacks in Indonesia

Date	Perpetrator	Type	Deaths	Injuries
28 May 2005	Tentena	Improved explosive device	22	90
31 December 2005	Kuta & Jimbaran	Suicide bombing	23	100
31 December 2005	Palu	Nail bomb	8	53
17 July 2009	Setiabudi	Suicide bombing	9	53
15 April 2011	Cirebon	Suicide bombing	1	26
25 September 2011	Solo	Suicide bombing	1	14
16 October 2012	Poso	Small armsfire	2	0
2 June 2013	Poso	Suicide bombing	1	1

03 LAOS SEEKS REGIONAL FINANCIAL INNOVATION FOR POVERTY REDUCTION



The Chairman of the Lao National Leading Committee for Rural Development and Poverty Eradication Mr Bounheung Duangpachanh made the announcement at the two-day 9th Asean-China Forum on Social Development and Poverty Reduction.

▶ He reminded the participants about the government giving top priority to addressing poverty as its level in the country has been reduced step by step

▶ According to the latest five-year poverty and development assessment based on international standards, poverty in Laos has been reduced from 27.6 percent in 2008 down to 23.2 percent in 2013

▶ But, for the assessment using local standards, up to now the poverty level covers 20.5 percent of all the villages throughout the country

▶ Mr Bounheuang noted the two biggest challenges for addressing poverty in the short term. They are limited health accessibility due to road access conditions as well as family income generation issues

▶ He cited the best solution in the address by promoting people's access to micro-credit, which he said was the means to address poverty issues in a sustainable manner in line with the direction of self-reliance

[Vientiane Times \(29 July 2015\)](#)

04 SINGAPORE'S RULING PARTY CONTENTS WITH NEW VOTING MAJORITY



When Singapore celebrates its 50th year of independence on 9 August and its older citizens organise the country's economic feats, its ruling party founded by the late Lee Kuan Yew faces an unprecedented wave of young voters who may not be as nostalgic.

▶ For the first time, citizens born after the country's independence in 1965 will likely account for the majority of voters in a general election due to take place by January 2017

▶ As of 2014, almost 54 percent of citizens above 20 were born in 1965 and later, compared with 46 percent born after independence in 2010. Singapore's voting age is 21

▶ Voters born after 1965 grew up in an era of economic ascendancy as Singapore's pioneer leaders turned the former British colony into a First World business hub

▶ While they acknowledge the economic miracle engineered by the People's Action Party (PAP), they are unhappy about the rising cost of living and an influx of foreign workers, particularly from China. Those issues took center stage in the last poll in 2011

▶ The PAP won its smallest ever share of votes since 1959, when it became the ruling party of a semi-independent Singapore. (Britain still had sway over external matters.)

▶ Young Singaporeans are generally happy with the PAP-led government, but are less satisfied than older Singaporeans with public transport, population management and civil liberties, according to a survey in June by Singapore-based Blackbox Research

[Singapore Star \(28 July 2015\)](#)

05 GOVERNMENT PREPARES ITS TOURISM STRATEGY FOR 2020

SINGAPORE

The Cambodian government has finalised a five-year Tourism Marketing Strategy that it hopes will help lure more visitors and investors to the Kingdom.

- ▶ According to Ho Vandy, co-chair of the Government-Private Sector Working Group for Tourism, the strategy will provide direction for government support of the sector over the next five years
- ▶ The strategy and guidelines is set to pave the way to attract more tourists. Soon it will be submitted to the Council of Ministers for approval, will give help investors to understand the potential in the industry

- ▶ Besides, Ho Vandy agreed that transparency on the public side will encourage the public and private sector to work together

[The Indian Express \(22 July 2015\)](#)

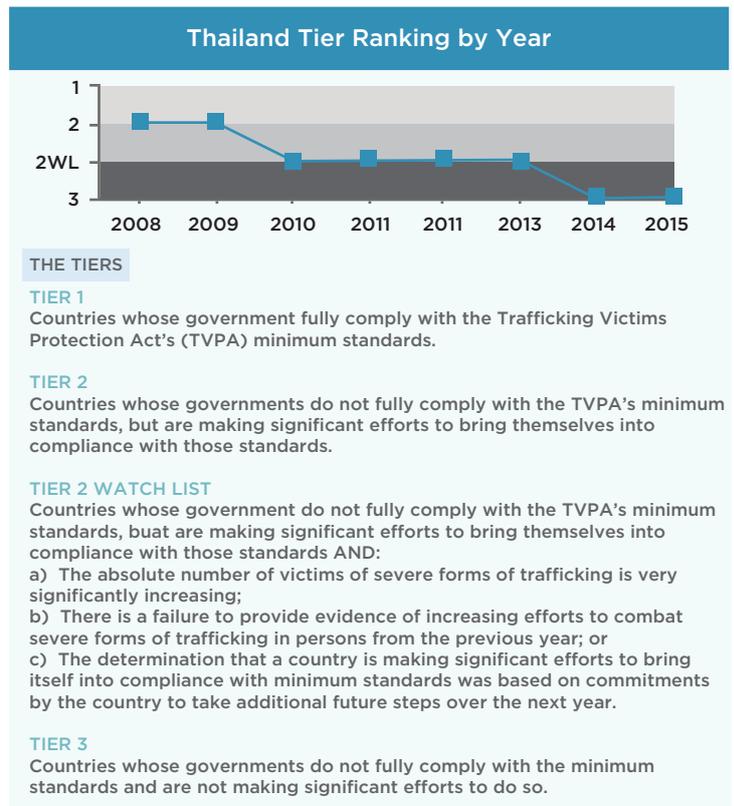
06 THAILAND REAFFIRMS EFFORTS AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

THAILAND

In a statement on 28 July, Prime Minister Prayut Chan-ocha emphasised the nations commitment towards combatting human trafficking within the nation.

- ▶ The press release comes shortly after the US State Department highlighted in its annual report on trafficking the suspected role of Thai officials in preventing human trafficking from being eradicated in one of the worlds most notorious centers for human trafficking
- ▶ Though Thailand recently escalated its efforts in stamping out human trafficking, U.S. diplomats have continued to espouse that Thailand's stated intent and the situation in the nation still have a large gap which can only be filled by continued commitment
- ▶ More recently in May, Thai authorities have indicted 72 people, including 15 state officials, over suspected links to trafficking in what police said was their biggest investigation of people smuggling; the most senior official to face trafficking charges is Manus Kongpan, a three-star army general who surrendered to police on 2 June

[Channel News Asia \(28 July 2015\)](#)



[American Association of Singapore](#)

07 CAMBODIA URGED TO ACT ON PLANS TO REINTRODUCE TIGERS

CAMBODIA

The Cambodian arm of the World Wildlife Fund has called on the government to move forward with plans to reintroduce wild tigers in the country's eastern forests, but reiterated concerns over possible development in the area.

- ▶ Globally, the reintroduction plan is part of a wider effort to double the number of wild tiger numbers. There are an estimated 3,200 left in the world
- ▶ In January, a proposal drafted by the Department of Wildlife and Biodiversity and titled the "Cambodia Tiger Action Plan", was sent in to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, but it has yet to

- ▶ be finalized by the government
- ▶ Since then, the Cambodian and Indian governments have been in talks about the possibility of India donating tiger cubs to Cambodia in a bid to help with the proposed reintroduction of the species

[World Bulletin Net \(29 July 2015\)](#)

08 MYANMAR MONITOR

POLITICS

▶ Myanmar's government admitted its weak response to floods had hampered evacuation efforts, state media said on 4 August. Flash floods and landslides caused by unusually heavy monsoon rains have claimed at least 46 lives and affected some 215,000 people, submerging massive areas of the country.

[Bangkok News \(4 August 2015\)](#)

▶ Great expectations from Myanmar's first general election in decades on 8 November are unlikely to be met but transition will continue, analysts caution. The post-election scenario, which as many as 89 political parties are contesting for positions in the 664-seat Parliament, remains a huge uncertainty. The elections "won't bring liberal democracy" but "Myanmar will muddle through", said Dr Tin Maung Maung Than, senior research fellow at Singapore's Institute of Southeast Asian Studies.

[Straits Times \(4 August 2015\)](#)

ECONOMY

▶ Leading Myanmar rice exporters decided on 3 August to suspend exports until 15 September in an effort to stop prices rising during heavy floods across the country, traders said. The Myanmar Rice Federation said it was planning to ship rice to flood-affected areas later this week, in corporation with other rice trader groups.

[Bangkok Post \(3 August 2015\)](#)

▶ If Myanmar hopes to maintain its growth momentum, there needs to be more collaboration among the central bank, local banks and foreign entrants, financial experts said during a panel discussion last week. "Foreign banks should provide more training for local banks and the central bank should seek the opinions of local banks before making further steps in liberalising the financial sector," said Sein Maung, chairman of First Private Bank and vice president of the Myanmar Banks Association (MBA).

[The Nation \(3 August 2015\)](#)

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

▶ Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi claims his government has signed on 3 August a 'historic accord' to end the six decade long insurrection by the Nagas in northeast India. Modi's attempt to settle India's oldest insurrection is seen as essential for the success of his 'Act East' foreign policy -- one that seeks to use India's northeast as a gateway to south-east and East Asia.

[Mizzima \(4 August 2015\)](#)

▶ Special envoy for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Angelina Jolie, who is on a four-day visit to Myanmar, visited female factory workers with opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi. Jolie and Suu Kyi witnessed first-hand the conditions the women live in, mostly low-cost hostels. She travelled to Kachin state earlier this week, home to more than 10,000 displaced people since the end of a cease-fire between the government and ethnic rebels in 2011.

[ABC News \(1 August 2015\)](#)

09 ASEAN MINISTERS AGREE TO TACKLE TRANSBOUNDARY HAZE



Five ASEAN countries agreed to remain vigilant and step up their efforts to minimise any possible occurrence of transboundary smoke haze from land and forest fires in anticipation of the extended drier weather in the coming months.

- ▶ This is a move to deal with the high risks of occasional extended periods of drier and warmer conditions due to the possibility of the prevailing moderate El Nino strengthening in the coming months
- ▶ Such weather condition, which is drier than usual, could lead to increase in hotspot activities and transboundary smoke haze from land and forest fires in the region during the season
- ▶ This was among other outcomes produced in Jakarta, Indonesia on 28 July during the 17th Meeting of the Sub-Regional Ministerial Steering Committee (MSC) on Transboundary Haze Pollution, which was attended by ministers responsible for the environment from Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand
- ▶ The steering committee welcomed Thailand's offer to host a workshop to draft the Roadmap next year with a view to promote sharing of experiences and lessons learned, enhance institutional capacities, human resources development and technology transfer to achieve a vision of haze-free ASEAN by 2020

[Brunei Times \(29 July 2015\)](#)

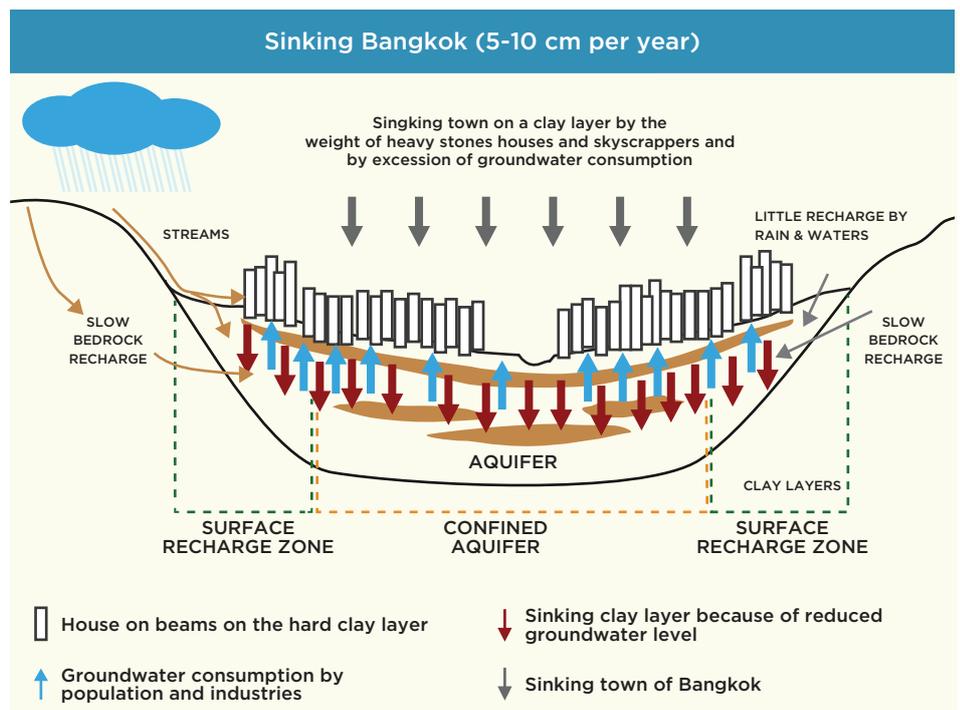
10 BANGKOK MAY SINK IN 15 YEARS



A recent report by Thailand's government says that Bangkok may sink in 15 years due to a combination of sinking land and rising global sea levels.

- ▶ The report, which comes from Thailand's National Reform Council, warns that immediate and costly solutions need to be implemented to avert the sinking of the nation's capital; the sinking situation has been exacerbated in recent times by overdevelopment and the pumping of underground water
- ▶ The city is set to sink around 0.8 inches yearly, and will continue to do so until 2100, whereby the entirety of Bangkok will cease to be above sea level; whilst the relocation of the city is already being considered, the slowing of unabated groundwater and city development is also being discussed as ancillary measures to slow Bangkok's descent
- ▶ Among the committee's recommendations were the construction of a seawall to protect the greater Bangkok area from rising seas, estimated to cost about US\$14.3 billion

[AOL \(28 July 2015\)](#)



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