

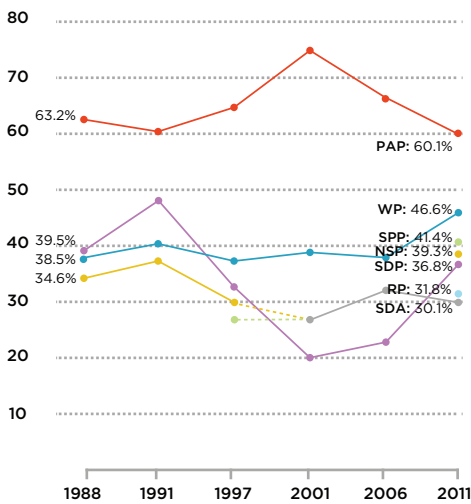
CARI CAPTURES









01 SINGAPORE TO HOLD GENERAL ELECTIONS

SINGAPORE

How Parties Did in The Last GEs



Parties and alliances	General Election 1997		General Election 2001		General Election 2006		General Election 2011	
	Contested Seats	Seats Won	Contested Seats	Seats Won	Contested Seats	Seats Won	Contested Seats	Seats Won
 People's Action Party (PAP)	83	81	84	82	84	82	87	81
 Workers' Party (WP)	14	1	2	1	20	1	23	6
 Singapore Democratic Party	13	0	11	0	7	0	11	0
 National Solidarity Party (NSP)	7	0	13	1	20	1	24	0
 Singapore's People Party (SPP)	3	1					7	0
 Democratic Progressive Party (DPP)	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Total		83		84		84		87

*The Singapore Democratic Alliance (SDA) was formed in 2001. National Solidarity Party (NSP) and Singapore People's Party (SPP) contested under the SDA banner in 2001 and 2006. NSP left the alliance in 2007 while SPP left in 2011. The Reform Party (RP) was formed in 2009.

[Straits Times](#)
[Wikipedia](#)

Whilst general elections were not due to be mandatory for another year, Singapore's President Tony Tan Keng Yam dissolved parliament on the 25 August and has scheduled snap elections to be held on 11 September 2015.

- ▶ Singapore's upcoming elections will be the first without Singapore's founding prime minister, Lee Kuan Yew, who died in March 2015; the elections will also be a critical showing for the governing People's Action Party (PAP) which recorded its worst ever showing in the last general election by only garnering 60% of the vote
- ▶ Currently, the PAP controls 80 out of 87 seats in Parliament, and may

continue to lose its historical majority due to present day political issues such as the high cost of living and immigration controversies

- ▶ Analysts say that the early call for elections is designed to capitalise upon the celebratory mood engendered by Singapore's recent SG50 celebrations marking the nation's 50th anniversary; calling early elections would also help to avoid deteriorating global economic conditions which would negatively impact the current ruling party's perception

[BBC News \(25 August 2015\)](#)

02 TELECOMMUNICATION INTEGRATION STILL FAR IN FUTURE



The standardisation of telephone charges and integration of service providers across ASEAN nations has been proposed and discussed, but has yet to see real progress in implementing changes.

- ▶ According to the Director General of the Telecommunications Department under the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, Xayluxa Insisiengmay, whilst the issue has been given initial studies within each ASEAN country, beyond feasibility studies in the Philippines, no real progress has been made
- ▶ The Filipino study, which is slated to be carried out after the AEC comes into effect at the end of 2015, will look into whether telephone rates could be standardised across the region; furthermore, the extent and timing of infrastructural development for the industry is to be a key consideration in the integration of the region's telephone charges
- ▶ Currently, it is viewed as difficult to standardise rate charges due to the disparity in development of telecommunication infrastructure between nations, as well as the difference in call rates in different nations

[Nation Multimedia \(26 August 2015\)](#)

2015 World Economic Forum Global Information Technology Report

	Affordability Rank	Affordability Score
Vietnam	2	6.8
Singapore	30	6.1
Cambodia	48	5.7
Laos	64	5.4
Malaysia	79	5.1
Thailand	84	4.9
Indonesia	99	4.3
Philippines	103	4.2

[World Economic Forum](#)

03 CAMBODIA WORKS WITH NEIGHBOURS ON TOURISM



Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam are conducting ongoing discussions on the creation of a Southern Tourism Corridor, which would promote tour packages across the southern provinces of the three countries, giving a boost to tourism across the region.

- ▶ The three countries will include select provinces, with Cambodia submitting the five southern provinces of Koh Kong, Preah Sihanouk, Kompot, Kep and Takeo. Thailand has agreed to include four provinces and Vietnam five
- ▶ The move comes on the back of Cambodia and Thailand's announcement in June that would allow tourists to travel to both countries if they have a visa from one of them
- ▶ The new corridor would also help Vietnam, which has seen a 30 to 40 per cent drop in tourist arrivals during the low season

[Phnom Penh Post \(26 August 2015\)](#)

04 CHINA VS JAPAN IN RACE TO BUILD INDONESIA BULLET TRAIN



China and Japan are locked in an increasingly heated contest to build Indonesia's first high-speed railway, with the Asian giants sweetening deals and turning up the charm as time runs out to woo Jakarta.

- ▶ The rivalry over this major project is just the latest to flare up as China challenges Japan's long-standing dominance in Southeast Asia as a key source of infrastructure funding
- ▶ Japan, a top-three investor in Indonesia with huge stakes in the automotive and mining sectors, seemed destined to build the high-speed railway until China muscled in with a counter offer earlier this year
- ▶ President Joko Widodo stoked the competitive spirit of the two Asian powerhouses as he toured China and Japan in April trying to drum up much-needed investment for a multi-billion dollar overhaul of Indonesia's ageing infrastructure

[Channel News Asia \(26 August 2015\)](#)

05 ASIA MIGRANT CRISIS: NEW MASS GRAVES ON MALAYSIA-THAI BORDER



New mass graves with 24 bodies thought to be those of migrants have been found in Malaysia, police say. The graves were found in the state of Perlis near the Thai border not far from 139 grave sites unearthed in May.

- ▶ Authorities believe they may belong to migrants held for ransom in jungle camps by gangs of human traffickers. Migrants from Bangladesh and Myanmar have left for Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia recently
- ▶ Most of the more than 100 bodies found in May belonged to Rohingya Muslims fleeing persecution in Myanmar. Malaysian police said the latest bodies have been sent for post-mortem examinations

[BBC News \(23 August 2015\)](#)

06 PHILIPPINES FLIES AID TO THOUSANDS OF MAROONED AS TYPHOON TOLL RISES



More than 30,000 people were evacuated in the northern Philippines due to fears of flooding and landslides as more nearly 1,000 homes were destroyed by Typhoon Goni, which has since lost some of its strength as it barrels northeast towards southern Japan.

- ▶ Disaster officials said about 20 people had been killed, most of them in landslides
- ▶ Goni is one of two cyclones hovering in the northwest Pacific. Super Typhoon Atsani had also been heading towards Japan, but has since weakened and on Monday was heading to the northeast out to sea.
- ▶ An average of 20 typhoons hit the Philippines every year. In November 2013, the strongest-ever typhoon to make landfall, Haiyan, struck the central Philippines, killing more than 6,300 people

[Times Lives \(24 August 2015\)](#)

07 FERDINAND MARCOS JUNIOR CONSIDERS PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN



Whilst the son and namesake of late former Philippine president Ferdinand Marcos has not openly declared his bid for the presidency, the senator has confirmed he would be seeking a higher office than senator in the coming elections.

- ▶ Ferdinand Marcos Junior, who is popularly known as “Bongbong”, won a Senate position in 2010, marking the first time since his father’s demise that a family member had won a nationally elected post; the ex President Marcos was exiled in 1986 following a populist protest after two decades of rule

- ▶ As current political polling indicates little support for Marcos Junior in a run for president, it is unlikely that his bid for the presidency will occur in the short term future; current president Benign Aquino has already endorsed his preferred successor and previous interior minister Manuel Roxas
- ▶ Additionally bolstering the Marcos name with political office positions would be Imelda Marcos, who since 2010 has also been a member of parliament representing her husband’s northern stronghold of Ilocos Norte

[Channel News Asia \(26 August 2015\)](#)

Ferdinand Marcos Junior

BACKGROUND

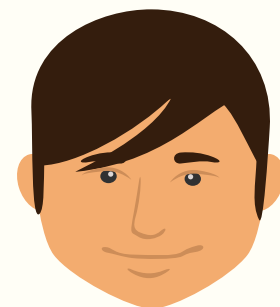
Born 13 September, 1957 (age 57)
 Attended undergraduate studies in Social Studies at Oxford University
 Masters in Business Administration at the University of Pennsylvania

POLITICAL CAREER

1980 - 1983 : Vice Governor, Province of Ilocos Norte
 1983 - 1986 : Governor, Province of Ilocos Norte
 1992 - 1995 : Congressman, 2nd District of Ilocos Norte
 1998 - 2007 : Governor, Province of Ilocos Norte
 2007 - 2010 : Congressman, 2nd District of Ilocos Norte
 2010 - Present : Senator, 15th & 16th Congress

LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Postponement of the SK elections was enacted into law (RA 10632)
 SK Reform Bill (SB 2401) passed on third and final reading
 Worked on House Bill No. 3017 or the Binan City Legislative District (Signed into law as RA 10658 on March 27, 2015)
 Worked on House Bill No. 5209, or the SK Elections Postponement (Signed into law as RA 10656 on March 25, 2015)
 Worked on House Bill No 4769 or the General Trias Cityhood (Approved on Third Reading in the Senate and sent back to the House of Representatives)



Ferdinand Marcos Junior

www.bongbongmarcos.com

08 MYANMAR MONITOR

POLITICS

- ▶ NLD leader Aung San Suu Kyi has appealed to ethnic rebel groups not to rush the ceasefire deal, but work slowly on an agreement that would ensure long-lasting peace and stability. The comments come ahead of a meeting between Myanmar President Thein Sein and ethnic rebel groups on 9 September in Naypyidaw to discuss a draft of the long-discussed ceasefire proposal.

[Reuters \(6 September 2015\)](#)

ECONOMY

- ▶ Heavy storms, floods and landslides across nearly all provinces in Myanmar have dealt a major blow to the country's agriculture and are expected to severely limit the availability of food if aid is not provided to farmers swiftly, the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said on 3 September.

[World Grain \(4 September 2015\)](#)

- ▶ "Road congestion already costs Asian economies an estimated 2-5 percent of their gross domestic product every year due to lost time and higher transport costs," the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said, adding that concerns over traffic were not just economic. The bank's warning comes alongside the news that the Japanese government will put more funding into upgrading Yangon's circular railway line.

[The Irrawaddy \(5 September 2015\)](#)

BUSINESS AND INVESTMENT

- ▶ The Thai Subcontracting Promotion Association (TSPA) will accompany more than 40 part-makers to the Intermach and Subcon Myanmar 2015 with the hope of establishing a link and partnership with Myanmar manufacturers. "All our members want to expand their markets and are willing to cooperate with companies in neighbouring countries," said Somkiat Chupukcharoen, president of TSPA and managing director of SCC Tech Co. "The event is timed perfectly ahead of the launch of the Asean Economic Community," he said.

[The Nation \(7 September 2015\)](#)

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

- ▶ Myanmar and China have agreed to step up cooperation in border management and work together to maintain peace and stability in the border areas. The agreement came during discussions between President Thein Sein and Chinese leader Xi Jinping in Beijing during Thein Sein's trip to Beijing on 2-4 September.

[Mizzima \(5 September 2015\)](#)

09 SOUTH SUMATRA TO BUILD MONORAIL FOR 2018 ASIAN GAMES

INDONESIA

The South Sumatra provincial administration plans to expedite the construction of a monorail in Palembang city to support the Asian Games slated for 2018.

- ▶ South Sumatra Governor Alex Noerdin explained that the construction of the monorail was important because the road congestion level in Palembang was increasing
- ▶ The government is expected to give priority to the construction of the monorail, discussions around which have been underway for a long time, the Governor said
- ▶ The monorails construction in Palembang, which will host the Asian Games 2018, is the priority of the ministry and will be immediately started. Monorail construction will help reduce traffic congestion due to the rapid growth of the number of vehicles in Palembang

[Antara News \(26 August 2015\)](#)

10 THAILAND RETURNS ORANG UTANS TO INDONESIA

THAILAND

The 13 primates, and a newborn baby, were smuggled into the country illegally in 2010 and were found by police.

- ▶ Since then, the 13 orang-utans were later taken to Khao Pra Thab Chang wildlife breeding centre in Ratchaburi province; however, when the Indonesian government were informed of their existence, the primates were refused repatriation
- ▶ Five years later, Department deputy chief Adisorn Noochdumrong has requested the return of the animals, and a C-130 Hercules transport aircraft will fly to Thailand to pick up the orang-utans on 7 September
- ▶ Kasemsun Chinnavaso, permanent secretary of the Natural Resources and Environment Ministry, said the ministry would amend the 1992 Preserved and Protected Wildlife Law to address the issue of the ministry having to take care of confiscated or non current native wildlife; under current regulations, local authorities must take care of protected wildlife for at least five years

[Bangkok Post \(17 August 2015\)](#)



[Health Xchange](#)