



Topic: What's The [Hell] PM selection today?

Today's parliamentary session marked another turning point in Thailand's political landscape. For me, the most striking aspect of the day was the decisive success of Anutin Charnvirakul, who managed to secure 311 votes—well beyond the required majority. His ability to gather such broad support, particularly from the People's Party, demonstrated not only political pragmatism but also an impressive talent for coalition building. In a time of tension and uncertainty, his calm and calculated approach, coupled with a clear promise to hold elections within four months and to consider constitutional reform, stood out as an example of compromise and effective leadership.

At the same time, the day carried its disappointments. Thaksin Shinawatra's sudden departure to Dubai, just hours before the vote, cast a shadow over the proceedings. Once the face of populist politics in Thailand, his exit symbolized the dramatic weakening of his family's influence following his daughter Paetongtarn's removal from office by the courts. What was most discouraging was not only his retreat from the political stage but also the inability of the Pheu Thai Party to mount a convincing defense or present a strong alternative candidate. This left many feeling that a significant political tradition had collapsed under legal and institutional pressure, leaving supporters without a clear path forward.

Looking ahead, today's outcome is likely to set in motion several important shifts. The most immediate will be the dissolution of parliament and a new election within the next few months, as promised in the deal with the People's Party. This will give voters a chance to reset the balance of power, though the alliances that brought Anutin into office may remain fragile. Calls for a referendum on a new constitution are also likely to grow louder, especially among reformist groups and younger voters, though whether such reforms will be delivered remains uncertain. Meanwhile, the decline of the Shinawatra family's role in Thai politics seems increasingly clear, as legal challenges and leadership gaps continue to erode their base.

Despite the promise of renewal, risks remain. Anutin's government rests on a delicate coalition, and any breakdown in trust could quickly lead back to paralysis or unrest. However, his past record of pragmatic policymaking—ranging from his leadership during the pandemic to his role in cannabis legalization—suggests that he may govern with a balance of caution and incremental reform. Whether this moment marks the beginning of a more stable political chapter or just another brief interlude in Thailand's ongoing cycle of upheaval will depend largely on the months ahead.