## **The most impressive moment**

For me, the most impressive moment was simply witnessing the entire process unfold from start to finish. I have only ever witnessed such a political shift once in my lifetime; the impeachment of a sitting prime minister followed so swiftly by the parliamentary election of a new one is something that will no doubt serve as a powerful case study for future political science students. The pace at which the constitutional court’s decision immediately altered the political trajectory of the nation, and the parliamentary body’s ability to adapt and proceed with an internal vote for a new leader, demonstrated the intense fluidity of Thai politics today. Regardless of one’s stance on the outcome, seeing the mechanisms of accountability, power transfer, and political maneuvering all at play in real time was both historic and academically invaluable.

**The most disappointing moment**

The most disappointing part of today’s proceedings was how anti-climactic the entire resolution felt to me. As soon as Anutin Charnvirakul’s name appeared on the candidate list and the coalition forces began solidifying around him, it seemed clear that this was the “endgame” for Chaikasem and any other challengers. The suspense that typically accompanies parliamentary contests was absent, replaced by an air of inevitability. On top of that, seeing Prawit Wongsuwon remain in office highlighted a persistent issue I see in Thai politics: the resilience of old power structures. Even when new leadership rises, the presence of entrenched figures who embody continuity rather than change can leave the process feeling less like a fresh chapter and more like the recycling of familiar faces.

**Future implications for Thai politics**

The immediate outcome of today’s meeting signals a new balance of power, but the broader implications for Thai politics remain uncertain. Anutin’s rise to the premiership is likely to usher in a short period of pragmatism and compromise before the parliament dissolves, especially given his position as the temporary figurehead rather than the current dominant political visionary. His ability to maintain cohesion will be tested, particularly as factions jockey for influence in cabinet positions and policy direction; we will see if he will stay true to his MOA/MOU or not.

At the same time, the removal of Paethongtharn Shinawatra on charges of high treason and low ethical values will not be forgotten easily. It sets a precedent that could be used against future leaders, particularly those associated with populist movements. The Shinawatra legacy continues to cast a long shadow over Thai politics, and we can expect renewed debates over the role of the judiciary in shaping political outcomes.

In the short term, stability is possible if Anutin manages to hold his coalition together, but in the longer term, this episode could deepen public cynicism about the fairness of the system and the durability of democratic institutions. Political science students will likely look back at this moment not just as a leadership change, but as a turning point in the ongoing struggle between entrenched power networks, judicial interventions, and popular mandates in Thailand.