

## **No Red Shirts Leaders In Yingluck's Cabinet**

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BANGKOK, Aug 10 (Bernama) -- Red Shirts leaders were not included in the new Thai Cabinet line-up announced Tuesday night.

Red Shirts top leaders including Jatuporn Prompan, Natthawut Saikua and Dr Weng Tojirakarn who won the July 3 general election under the Pheu Thai tickets were not on the list.

Four non-politicians were brought in to serve in the Cabinet, according to the Cabinet list issued by the Government House.

They are former Police General Kowit Watana as Deputy Prime Minister, Kittirat na Ranong (Deputy Prime Minister and Commerce Minister), Thirachai Phuvanatanarubala (Finance Minister) and Air Chief Marshall Sukampol Suwannathat (Transport Minister).

Kowit was the former police chief during the Thaksin Shinawatra administration and he also served as Interior Minister under the Somchai Wongsawat government while Kittirat was the former manager of the Stock Exchange of Thailand.

Thirachai resigned as secretary-general of Securities and Exchange Commission last week and Air Chief Marshall Sukampol was the former Army Inspector-General.

Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra will have five deputies and apart from Kowit and Kittirat, others are two Pheu Thai leaders namely Yongyuth Wichaidit, Charlern Yoobamrung and Chart Thai Pattana leader Chumpol Silapa-archa.

The Defence portfolio went to Pheu Thai MP Gen Yuthasak Sasiprapha while another Pheu Thai MP Surapong Towichukchaikul will lead the Foreign Ministry.

(It is a common practice in this country for former police and military generals to retain their titles after retirement.)

Chart Thai Pattana, a coalition partner of the Pheu Thai-led government, was also given another ministerial post for agriculture with Theera Wongsamut as the minister, apart from deputy premier Chumpol who will also hold the Tourism and Sports Minister portfolio.

Another two coalition partners, Phalang Chon, was given the Cultural Ministry led by Sukumol Kunplome while Chart Pattana Puela Pandin got the Industry Ministry with Wannarat Charnnukul as its minister.

Other important portfolios such as education, information and communications technology, energy, justice, labour and public health are held by Pheu Thai MPs.

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