

Protest



02 MAR 13:11 UTC Thailand Tactical: Rice farmers to protest outside Government House in Bangkok during afternoon hours (local time) on March 4; maintain vigilance

Current Situation:

- Rice farmers from the 12 central and northern Thai provinces will gather outside Government House in Bangkok during the afternoon hours (local time) on March 4.
- While the exact timing of the protest has yet to be announced, rice farmers will gather to demand that the government guarantee the price per ton of rice in the upcoming cabinet meeting.
- The slated protest follows a similar protest that took place at the same location on February 19, after no government guarantee was secured.



Source: Bangkok Post

Assessments & Forecast:

- 1. The attendance at the demonstration is expected to range in the low-to-mid hundreds, based on the mobilization capabilities of the farmers and the precedent witnessed at earlier protests. The authorities will likely bolster security in the vicinity of the Government House due to the sensitive nature of the location. These measures will likely include the deployment of additional police personnel and the setting up of barricades to monitor the crowd.
- 2. There remains a latent risk of scuffles between protesters and the authorities, should participants attempt to breach security measures or approach the Government House building. In case of unrest, the police will forcibly disperse the crowd through the temporary detention of protesters. Localized disruptions to pedestrian and vehicular traffic are expected in the vicinity of Government House due to the anticipated turnout and related security measures during the protest hours on March 4.

Recommendations:

Those operating or residing in Bangkok on March 4 are advised to maintain vigilance in the vicinity of the Government House due to the slated protest and associated risk of scuffles while allotting for travel disruptions.