

Impact Players

Kim Moo-sung

By Sarah Hong

Who Is He?

Kim Moo-sung, 62, is the newly elected chairman of the supreme council of the Saenuri Party. Currently, he is a member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea representing Yongdo District of Pusan and was a member of the Land and Transportation Committee in the National Assembly from April 2013 to May 2014. Other committees on which he has served include the National Assembly Steering Committee, Legislation and Judiciary Committee, and Budget Settlement Committee. A fifth-term lawmaker, Kim began his service in the National Assembly in 1996 as a part of the 15th National Assembly.



Kim has been heavily involved with the Saenuri Party. In 2004, he was the chief secretary of the president of the Grand National Party (GNP), the predecessor of the Saenuri Party, and was the deputy floor leader of the party. Kim eventually became the floor leader of the Saenuri Party in 2010. He has also been the chairman of the GNP Emergency Planning Committee and the general director of the Central Election Measures Committee of the party.

Before entering politics, Kim worked in the steel industry and was the CEO of Sam Dong Industrial Co., Ltd in 1982. Kim holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Hanyang University and an honorary PhD in political science from Pukyong National University.

Why Has He Been in the News?

Kim was elected chairman of the Supreme Council of the Saenuri Party on July 14 at the Saenuri Party Convention. He defeated eight other candidates running for the position, including his main rival, Representative Suh Chung-won who represents Hwaseong of Gyeonggi Province.

What Can We Expect from Him?

Kim's first major task as the new chairman is to lead the party to victory in the upcoming National Assembly by-elections on July 30 where 15 seats are being contested. The Saenuri Party currently holds 147 out of the total 300 seats in the National Assembly. In his acceptance speech on July 14, Kim shared his vision of making the Saenuri Party into the "the icon of innovative conservatism," in the face of criticisms of the party for splitting into pro-Park or anti-Park factions and engaging in internal political struggles. Kim has promised to restore regular meetings between the Saenuri chair and President Park, signaling an effort to mend the drift that has been occurring between the party and the president. Park and Kim have made initial soundings about working together to bridge the divide, so analysts will be closely watching the relationship between the two in their public statements.



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