

Press Release

Devotees of Wat Phra Dhammakaya

The press has published reports that the Department of Special Investigation (DSI) discovered additional cheques from the Klongchan Credit Union Cooperative that were wired to Wat Phra Dhammakaya in the amount of 400 million Baht.

The Devotees of Wat Phra Dhammakaya would like to make the following statements:

1. In the investigation conducted jointly by Klongchan Credit Union Cooperative, DSI, and Wat Phra Dhammakaya, it was found that Mr. Supachai Srisupa-aksorn made donations to Phrathepyanmahamuni with a total of 10 cheques in the amount of 387,160,000 Baht and had made donations with a total of 11 cheques to Wat Phra Dhammakaya in the amount of 668,400,000 Baht using the credit union cheques. The total combined amount is 1,055,560,000 Baht.

2. Devotees of Wat Phra Dhammakaya established an emergency relief fund for Klongchan Credit Union in the full amount of 1,055,560,000 Baht. The Credit Union then presented a letter of appreciation to the devotees of Wat Phra Dhammakaya and submitted documentation to DSI to inform them that the Credit Union, which is the aggrieved party, no longer supports both the civil and criminal cases against Wat Phra Dhammakaya and Phrathepyanmahamuni.

3. As for the 400 million baht that made the news, if there is any clear evidence that this donated money was taken from the credit union unlawfully, temple devotees will convene to determine how to help the victims.

4. Klongchan Credit Union filed a civil lawsuit against the 32 cheque recipients for a total amount of 13 billion baht. However, the devotees of Wat Phra Dhammakaya were the only ones who helped the credit union by raising emergency relief funds in the exact amount that was donated to the temple. As for the other 30 cheque recipients, not even one returned a single baht to the credit union.

5. Why is DSI gathering forces numbering in the thousands to proceed with a case against only Phrathepyanmahamuni who has performed wholesome deeds throughout his life--cultivating monks, building a temple, and disseminating the teachings of the Lord Buddha to the world. In addition, the devotees have already helped with the entire amount. The actions by DSI, therefore, have not brought a single baht of benefit to the credit union members.

Why isn't DSI expending their energy and forces to seek the remaining 13 billion Baht from the remaining cheque recipients - which exceeds our amount by tenfold?

6. Phra Suvit Thirathammo of Wat O-noi and Mr. Paiboon Nititawan, the main advocates behind the push for the arrest of Phrathepyanmahamuni are both suspects in an on-going criminal case involving the shutdown of Bangkok. DSI has already opened a criminal case against them, and the court has ruled that

there is sufficient evidence to prosecute. The next step for them is to appear in court as defendants. Yet they have both pleaded for justice with the supreme court, asking for the court's reconsideration.

This case has been ongoing for two years now. Why has the news been so silent when their cases are so extreme that they are both wanted for treason. They occupied government offices for months, closed down the capital, and caused major damage to public administration and national unity.

Has DSI issued a summons, an arrest warrant, and a search warrant to bring these two individuals in for further investigation so the prosecutor can swiftly proceed with their cases?

7. Are the actions by DSI a double standard? Are there expected outcomes? Is there an order? How is DSI going to gain the trust of society and all temple devotees that DSI will proceed lawfully, without bias and double standards? At the moment, the devotees are reviewing whether charges can be filed against those involved.

8. If DSI's operations are perceived as having double standards, as selectively prosecuting, and having a hidden agenda, it will be hard for society to accept and develop confidence. The request by DSI for all parties to respect the law may sound absurd because it may be seen that the law is being used by authorities as a means to destroy a political adversary.

The most pressing issue in the judicial process today is the need to improve its process, so the public has confidence that there is no bias and no double standards, and the legal system will not fall into the hands of the authorities as a means for political destruction. Only then will the legal system be respected and followed by all people.

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