



DHAMMAKAYA FOUNDATION

PRESS RELEASE

Wat Phra Dhammakaya denies all allegations that temple funds were invested in the stock market and is preparing to contest the suspension of the DMC satellite television network.

In response to recent allegations set forth by the print media and online media regarding Wat Phra Dhammakaya and the DMC satellite television network, Wat Phra Dhammakaya would like to make the following statements:

1. On December 6th, 2016, the media reported on remarks made after a meeting between the Department of Special Investigation (DSI), the Office of the Attorney General (OAG), and the Police Department involved in the case of Phrathepyanmahamuni. Pol. Col. Paisit Wongmuang, Director of DSI, and Pol. Maj. Worranan Srilum, Director of the Special Case Management Center, stated that checks from Klongchan Credit Union Cooperative (KCUC) were donated to Wat Phra Dhammakaya and were subsequently invested in the stock market.

Wat Phra Dhammakaya denies all allegations. No temple funds have ever been used to purchase any shares on the stock market. The DSI official's suspicions are, therefore, unfounded. Wat Phra Dhammakaya has always received donations with transparency and honesty, and all donated funds have always been allocated in accordance with donors' wishes. Therefore, if DSI officials have any documentation or evidence that clearly indicates that Wat Phra Dhammakaya allocated the funds from KCUC's checks towards the purchase of shares on the stock market, please present them to avoid public confusion in matters regarding Wat Phra Dhammakaya, and for the sake of impartiality towards Wat Phra Dhammakaya.

2. Online news platforms recently broke news that "DSI submitted a request to the Office of National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission to suspend Wat Phra Dhammakaya's DMC satellite television network for inciting disorder". Wat Phra Dhammakaya denies these allegations and maintains that the DMC satellite television network does not incite disorder in any way.

DMC, a satellite network for Buddhism established on May 9th, 2002 (14 years ago), is a 24-hour network that disseminates the teachings of the Buddha in four languages, namely Thai, English, Chinese, and Japanese via the Internet and seven satellites to every continent. The contents of the program include a history of the Buddha, *The Lord Buddha*; a collection of Jatakas, *Dasa Jata Jataka*; a guided introduction to meditation, *Meditation for Beginners*; a youth program, *Good and Virtuous*; multiple Buddhist dramas for the revival of world ethics; Dhamma teachings in English and Chinese; news on the dissemination of Buddhism abroad; and *Questions and Answers about Dhamma*. **These programs have earned a total of five different awards:**



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1. “Excellence in Television Promoting Buddhism” awarded in 2008 from His Holiness Somdej Phra Nyanasamvara, the late Supreme Patriarch of the Sangha Supreme Council
2. “Quality Media Production Telly Awards” - a total of 12 awards received in the 28th Telly Awards in 2007
3. “Contributor of Buddhism Award,” Watchara (Wisdom) Honor type, received in 2010 from the Subcommittee of Buddhism Affairs, House of Representatives, Thailand
4. “Chor Sa-ard (Clean Bouquet) Award” received in 2010 from the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC), Thailand
5. “Media Promoting the Five Precepts Project Award” received in 2016 from the Sangha of Pathum Thani Province, Thailand.

Altogether, the DMC satellite television network would like to clarify that it has always abided strictly by the law and media ethics. DMC’s stance is to promote moral education and contribute towards the preservation of Buddhism. It is a neutral medium for applying the Buddha’s teachings to foster peace among individuals, societies, and the nation as a whole. Under no circumstances has the station ever been a threat towards peace and order. Nor has it disseminated information considered within the scope of persuading or inciting, for the purpose of creating disorder or defiance among the citizens, or for the citizens to violate the law at all as alleged.

Currently, the station is preparing to contest the broadcasting suspension. This action of DSI officers violates citizens’ rights to information. Please be informed accordingly.

Blessings,

Phra Sanitwong Wuttiwangso
Director, Communications Department
Wat Phra Dhammakaya
December 7, 2016