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## **Wat Phra Dhammakaya files a complaint against Khlong Sam Sub-district Administrative Office for improper governmental action of prohibiting the utilization of its Main Chapel.**

Wat Phra Dhammakaya (WPD) received information from the press that Mr. Virasak Hadda, mayor of Khlong Sam Sub-district Administrative Office, reported to authorities on December 16, 2016 that various buildings in the 196-rai section of WPD have violated the Building Control Act of 1979 because construction permits were never requested. WPD would like to make the following statements:

1. Wat Phra Dhammakaya began construction of the Main Chapel in 1977 and received its Royal Granting of land on January 12, 1982.
2. The Building Control Act of 1982 is valid under the royal decree.
3. The laws in the Khlong Sam Sanitation area, Khlong Luang District, and Prachathipat Sanitation area, Thanyaburi District, Pathum Thani province were established in 1987.
4. All Buddhist temples in Thailand are not required to request a permit for construction of the main chapel or other religious structures. They are considered exempt due to their use in conducting Buddhist rituals and/or activities.

Therefore, construction of WPD's Main Chapel was completed before the aforementioned law was approved for usage, and has been used for sacred Sangha activities that include the Patimokkha chanting every fortnight, and ordination of monks and novice monks for males for the past 47 years. The notification from authorities prohibiting the temple from using its main chapel is an inappropriate action, not to mention obstructs sacred Buddhist ceremonies, which has led to great consternation by Buddhists throughout the world. This type of action will force temples across Thailand to confront the same fate as Wat Phra Dhammakaya—that is, not being able to use the Main Chapel to conduct religious activities.

On December 19, 2016, WPD filed a complaint against Mr. Virasak Hadda, Mayor of Khlong Sam for inappropriate behavior while conducting his official duties at the Central Criminal Court for Corruption and Misconduct Cases in Case no. 163/2559. The case is currently being processed by the first level court. WPD is lodging this complaint to affirm that the temple's actions have been lawful and to prevent this case from becoming a standard for other cases in the future.

Communications Department  
Wat Phra Dhammakaya  
December 20, 2016