



DHAMMAKAYA FOUNDATION

## PRESS RELEASE

### **An Official Statement from the supporters of Wat Phra Dhammakaya**

We wish to make the following statement in regard to special case no. 27/2559 in which Prathepyanmahamuni is unjustly charged with abetting in money laundering and accepting stolen property

- 1 In reference to the Klongchan Credit Union Cooperative (KCUC) case where 878 cheques were withdrawn from the Credit Union, the Department of Special Investigation (DSI) opened case no. 146/2556 which they submitted to the prosecutor naming Prathepyanmahamuni as a suspect. By law, once the findings by the DSI officials are submitted to the prosecutor, the authority to evaluate, or to further investigate, rests in the hands of the prosecutor. DSI officials are not permitted to investigate further or to charge an additional individual using the same findings at this stage, according to Criminal Code 141-143
- 2 The prosecutor subsequently requested DSI officials to obtain additional evidence relating to 878 cheques issued by Mr Supachai Srisupa-aksorn while serving as Chairman of KCUC. DSI officials had already questioned Prathepyanmahamuni about his role as the recipient of ten unsolicited cheques from Mr Supachai. The DSI then submitted their additional findings related to special case no. 146/2556 and recommended the prosecutor bring charges of money laundering and accepting stolen goods against Prathepyanmahamuni.
- 3 The lead prosecutor reviewed case no. 146/2556 on the 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2016 without charging Prathepyanmahamuni. If evidence emerged showing that there were individuals who conspired to engage in this alleged crime, then investigative officials were permitted to proceed in accordance with the law.
- 4 On the 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2016, DSI officials released a public statement that they would charge Prathepyanmahamuni with accepting stolen property. The attorney representing Prathepyanmahamuni filed a letter to the prosecutor asking if DSI officials were authorised to bring this additional charge. The prosecutor stated that the DSI would have to obtain additional evidence and submit these findings to the prosecutor first. DSI cannot legally construct a new case on their own. This response was notified to the Director General of DSI on 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2016.

- 5 Mr Thammanoon Attachoti filed a complaint against Prathepyanmahamuni in March, 2016, alleging he was an accomplice in laundering money and accepting stolen property, which led DSI officials to open special case no. 27/2559. DSI then issued a summons on the 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2016 for Prathepyanmahamuni to appear as accused, which is considered a misuse of authority (Based on Judgement no. 9/2481)
- 6 On the 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2016, Mr Pathajak Thepsorn filed a complaint to the Office of the Anti-Corruption Commission, charging that DSI officials in special case no. 27/2557 had performed their duties dishonestly. It was claimed that they had broken Criminal Code Article 157, sections 200, 83 and 86. He also filed a complaint against Mr Thammanoon Attachoti as being the person behind these illegal activities.
- 7 The investigation carried out by DSI officials for special case no. 27/2559 raises a number of questions. Why did DSI rapidly open a new case, and ignore the plea from Prathepyanmahamuni for a postponement of the hearings due to his serious health condition. This request was supported by a medical certificate from clinic-based and hospital-based physicians, with full documentation. DSI also refused to assign a physician from the Government sector to examine Prathepyanmahamuni.
- 8 The supporters and followers of Wat Phra Dhammakaya question the basis of special case no. 27/2559 by the DSI, and believe it to be illegal. Therefore, the judicial process was not carried out in a fair and honest manner. We intend to bring to the public's attention the illegal acts committed by each person in this case, in an attempt to prevent authorities from abusing their power.

Mr. Ongart Thammanita  
Spokesperson, Followers and Supporters of Wat Phra Dhammakaya