



Press Release

Taipei District Prosecutors Office

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A clarification on speculation in former president Ma, Ying-Jeon's privilege to make speech in the corridor of our office regarding his indictment as a wrongful conduct of "shooting before drawing the target":

The first court hearing after the indictment was scheduled by court on April 14 2017. Our office has no involvement in defendant's subpoena, court activity, and defendant's appearance. Therefore, we have no prior information regarding Mr. Ma's statement and feel regret that he abruptly made public speech while walking through the judicial building.

Defendant Ma's wrongdoings had been confirmed by the Taiwan High Court in previous civil and criminal cases of Mr. Wang, Jin-Pyng (former head of legislators) and of Mr. Huang, Shih-Ming (former Prosecutor General). Pursuant to explanation no. 729 of the Constitutional Court, Defendant Ma's wrongdoings were considered to have exceeded the boundary of separation of powers. Ma's indictment certainly has a solid foundation as stated above. Defendant Ma's blame on indictment without evidence is obviously untrue.

Defendant Ma complained that our office selectively not to indict those who lobbied judicial case illegally. However, illegal lobbying regarding a judicial case is not a criminal conduct under the Criminal Law. Having served eight years as President of our country and six years as Chairman of the ruling political party, the KMT Party, Defendant Ma never tried to amend law to criminalize such a crime. Prosecutors should not be blamed for incomplete legislation.

Defendant Ma also asked prosecutors to step in his shoes and to tell him how to deal with the illegal lobbying on a judicial case. However, since Mr. Ma had been served in the government for nearly 2 decades, as Minister of the Ministry of Justice, Mayor of Taipei City Government, and President of our country, he should have better knowledge regarding the issue rather than prosecutors.

We expect Mr. Ma's case will be discussed on the ground of evidence and rationale, instead of political or misleading statements.