

Control Yuan investigates I Pin case

Written by Taipei Times

Thursday, 08 October 2009 10:48 -

The Control Yuan yesterday dismissed media speculation that it planned to censure President Ma Ying-jeou (馬英九) over the Taipei City Government's decision to grant Yuanta Group (遠東集團) permission to build a 23-story building near the president's residence during Ma's term as Taipei mayor.

"It is true that we are investigating this case, and we also found some problems as alleged by the print media [Chinese-language Next Magazine]," Control Yuan member Ma Yi-kung (馬宜君) told reporters.

But Ma Yi-kung denied that the Control Yuan planned to censure the president, who was Taipei mayor when the city government issued a construction permit for the I Pin Building (一品), a 23-story apartment complex that has a clear view of the president's official residence.

Ma Yi-kung made the remark after the latest issue of the magazine alleged yesterday that senior officials in the city government agreed to allow the Yuanta Group to increase the number of parking spaces in the building so that the group could increase the building bulk ratio.

The magazine alleged that the group increased the parking spaces by 200 so that the company could increase the height of the building by three floors.

Under construction regulations, the cap on the height of buildings in the Boai Special District (寶安區) is 20 floors.

The magazine said the group could bring in another NT\$500 million (US\$15.5 million) as a result of the deal, adding that Control Yuan members, who launched a probe into the matter, did not rule out censuring the president in his capacity as former Taipei mayor.

The report said the Control Yuan was probing whether the contractor's application to build more parking spaces and floors was legal and whether the city government's approval amounted to profiteering, adding that the government watchdog intended to issue corrective measures against the city government and was likely to investigate Ma and determine responsibility for the incident.

The Presidential Office yesterday said that Ma was not personally involved in approving the construction of the building, but that he would fully cooperate with the Control Yuan investigation.

Presidential Office Spokesman Wang Yu-chi (王郁琦) said the project was approved by department heads in the Taipei City Government, not Ma.

"Everything was done according to the law," Wang said. "If the Control Yuan wants to investigate, we will fully cooperate."

Control Yuan investigates I Pin case

Written by Taipei Times

Thursday, 08 October 2009 10:48 -

The controversy surrounding the I Pin Building emerged in March when Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) legislators questioned the president's safety. The building has a clear view of the president's official residence.

KMT legislators requested that the city government suspend a construction license and that the National Security Bureau consider relocating the presidential residence.

After the Presidential Office called a meeting in July, the city government issued a directive on Aug. 10 limiting the height of buildings in the Boai Special District to 24m.

The special district is where the Presidential Office, Ministry of National Defense and many other government buildings are located.

The Presidential Office, however, said that the decision did not amount to extending the perimeter of Boai Special District nor ban the construction of new buildings.

Instead, the city would reduce incentives to discourage contractors from building taller buildings or ask them to build lower buildings inside the district while offering them incentives for projects outside the district.

DIFFERENCES

Taipei Mayor Hau Lung-bin (郝龍斌) offered a different account, saying the city government's directive on the expansion of the district was issued in accordance with the Presidential Office's plan.

Seeking to prevent the matter from escalating, Presidential Office Secretary-General Liao Liou-yi (廖力宜) summoned Taipei Deputy Mayor Lee Yong-ping (李永萍) and Department of Urban Development Commissioner Ting Yu-chun (丁玉春) to discuss the matter on Sept. 30.

Hau revoked the new restriction on the height of buildings in the special district shortly after the meeting.

KMT Legislator Lo Shu-lei (羅淑蕾) said the Control Yuan should censure the president if he broke the law, adding that this was how such matters were resolved in democracies. The Control Yuan, however, is not empowered to censure a sitting president.

BODYGUARD

Meanwhile, Wang yesterday refused to comment on the magazine's report of a presidential bodyguard who allegedly fathered a child out of wedlock.

Saying that he would not comment on personal issues, Wang said they would only consider making adjustments to the bodyguard's job if his personal life interfered with his work.

Control Yuan investigates I Pin case

Written by Taipei Times

Thursday, 08 October 2009 10:48 -

The allegation came on the heels of other problems involving Ma's security detail.

The Presidential Office last month confirmed that one of Ma's bodyguards had acted "inappropriately" while under the influence of alcohol onboard the presidential plane when Ma visited the nation's diplomatic allies in Central America in June.

There were also allegations that some of Ma's senior security detail had drinking problems and that first lady Chow Mei-ching (周美青) had witnessed their bad behavior.

Source: [Taipei Times 2009/10/08](#)