

## Jennifer Wang's crocodile tears

Written by Taipei Times Editorial  
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In tears, Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) vice presidential candidate Jennifer Wang (王心恬) yesterday apologized to the public over her “investments” in military housing units, while stressing that all the transactions were legal and that she is concerned about issues that affect people from disadvantaged groups, though a look at her political career shows just the opposite.

In the past couple of weeks, the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) has questioned Wang's dealings in military housing units in Taipei and New Taipei City, alleging that she and her husband have been involved in property speculation involving as many as 19 military housing units.

In a press conference at KMT headquarters yesterday afternoon, Wang admitted that she had bought and sold military housing units as an “investment,” but said that the number of units had been exaggerated.

Wang apologized to the public and her supporters for causing such a controversy with her personal “investment arrangements,” and shed tears as she explained how her family had been affected by criticism in the media.

Wang said several times that she has always been concerned about the disadvantaged, whether acting as a lawyer or serving in government positions, adding that she had agreed to become KMT presidential candidate Eric Chu's (朱立倫) running mate because she wanted to contribute more to society.

Ironic, very ironic.

Military housing units were built for military personnel who followed the KMT regime into exile in Taiwan after it lost the Chinese Civil War to the Chinese Communist Party after the end of World War II.

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Although high-ranking military officers were also allocated housing units, the majority who were granted the units were low-ranking troops and their families, who would otherwise have had no place to live in Taiwan.

Today, there are still veteran KMT troops living in disadvantaged conditions and having a hard time finding a place to call home.

At the press conference, Wang was asked if she was aware that a veteran who sold her a military housing unit was now living in poverty in Changhua County. Wang replied that she could not be expected to know the story of every seller, adding that all those who dealt with her did so voluntarily and that both sides were happy when the deals were completed.

More irony.

If Wang is concerned about the disadvantaged, she should know not to “invest” in military housing units because these are supposed to be public housing for disadvantaged veterans and their families, and investment activity in any form would inflate prices, making it impossible for those who are in need to purchase the units.

Wang likened the DPP's criticism to a form of “political murder,” but perhaps she should be reminded that, when she served as Council of Labor Affairs minister, she showed no mercy when using NT\$20 million (US\$605,382) of taxpayers' money to hire lawyers to file suits against elderly laid-off workers, mostly economically disadvantaged and many of them in bad health.

Did Wang shed tears for them?

No.

Did Wang ever think of the suffering that those laid-off workers would have to deal with when

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they were being pursued by the state?

Probably not.

Wang needs to respond to criticism with more sincerity and honesty, and stop pretending to be someone she is not.

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