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President Lai on the Constitutional Interpretation Request Regarding Legislative Power Reform

August 6, 2024

Today (August 6), the Constitutional Court held an oral debate on the request for constitutional interpretation regarding the Legislative Yuan's reform of its powers. As one of the petitioners, [President Lai Ching-te emphasized in a post on Threads](#) that while he supports legislative reform, he is deeply concerned about the Legislative Yuan's unilateral alteration of the constitutional separation of powers through legislative procedures rather than constitutional amendments, which may infringe upon the rights of the people.

President Lai stated, as both he and the Secretary-General to the President, Pan Men-an have served as legislators and participated in multiple legislative reforms, they are highly concerned about the passage of the so-called "reform" of the amendments to the Law Governing the Legislative Yuan's Power ([立法院職權行使法](#)). President Lai stressed that as a supporter of legislative reform, he believes that any changes to the constitutional power structure should follow constitutional procedures and cannot be achieved solely through legislative amendments.

President Lai pointed out that this legislative process lacked sufficient

discussion. The general public felt anxious about the lack of transparency and the potential impact on their rights. Therefore, he believes that the President and all constitutional institutions have the responsibility to protect the rights of the people and defend the Constitution through this request for interpretation.

He further explained that (1) the Additional Articles of the Constitution stipulate that the Legislative Yuan may hear the President's national reports, but this does not mean that the Legislative Yuan can impose obligations on the President that are not stipulated in the Constitution through legislative amendments. (2) Similarly, the exercise of government personnel confirmation by the Legislative Yuan should not hinder the functioning of constitutional institutions through non-review or non-consent. When an institution cannot function, it violates the constitutional duty of institutional loyalty. (3) Furthermore, the exercise of investigative powers by the Legislative Yuan should follow the principle of proportionality and not infringe upon the basic rights of the people.

Lastly, President Lai reiterated, as the guardian of the Constitution, he has an unshakable duty to be accountable to the country and protect the rights of the people. He called on all sectors to work together to safeguard the constitutional system and ensure the sustainable development of Taiwan's democracy.

Summary of Debate Results: The Constitutional Court conducted an oral debate on the constitutionality of the amendments to the Law Governing the Legislative Yuan's Power. The debate lasted for six hours, covering legislative procedures, the obligation of the President to report to the Legislative Yuan, the exercise of personnel consent rights, the exercise of investigative powers, and Article 141-1 of the Criminal Code (Contempt of Legislative Yuan). The presiding judge declared the debate concluded, with a ruling expected within three months, extendable by two months if necessary.

The DPP US Mission will continue to follow the progress of this case and stand with the people of Taiwan to firmly uphold constitutional order and democratic values.

[Link to President Lai's statement on Threads >>>](#)

[Link to the debate results >>>](#)

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