

A delegation headed by a member of the Judicial Committee of the Legislative Yuan, Mr. Hsieh Guoliang, was accompanied by Administrative Deputy Minister Wu of the Ministry of Justice on a study visit to the office of the Special Investigation Division of this Office today (January 27). The delegation was received by Acting Prosecutor General Tseng of this Office, who also explained the relevant administrative matters to the delegation. Committee member Hsieh completed the study visit at noon and left after a press conference to explain the results of the visit. Below is an explanation of Committee member Hsieh's visit and the information provided by the Special Investigation Division of this Office to the delegation:

1. After the resignation of former Prosecutor-General Chen of this Office, the President has instructed that Chief Prosecutor Tseng of this Office will take over as acting prosecutor-general and the relevant transfer procedures were completed on January 26. Acting Prosecutor-General Tseng had immediately begun chairing investigative meetings at the Special Investigation Division after the transfer and expressly instructed that all colleagues must continue investigation of all cases currently under investigation, without any special consideration due to the change in leadership. Externally, Acting Prosecutor-General Tseng will also be accountable for investigation of all cases.
2. Pursuant to the Court Organization Law, prosecutors of the Special Investigation Division are nominated by the prosecutor-general, approved by the Prosecutors Personnel Review Committee, and must then be approved by the Minister of Justice before being temporarily transferred to investigative duties at the Taskforce. Out of respect of the new Prosecutor-General's full powers to nominate investigators for the Taskforce, it is the view of prosecutors of this Office that it is appropriate to request that existing prosecutors of the Taskforce be returned to their original appointments, so as to enable the new Prosecutor-General to re-form the Special Investigation Division. As for how the new Prosecutor-General will decide upon the personnel to be returned, the number and new personnel to be nominated, these are all within the scope of the new Prosecutor-General's powers and duties and existing members of the Special Investigation Division will, naturally, fully respect such decisions. At present the media-reported situation of all prosecutors of the Taskforce being returned, or the extent of such return, has not yet arisen.
3. The Special Investigation Division of this Office has the continued investigation of cases following the resignation of former Prosecutor-General Chen on January 19. To date, a total of 70 people have been summoned for interrogations and prosecutors are continuing their existing schedules for investigative trips and attending hearings at the Taiwan High Court or Taipei District Court of Taiwan to assist with public prosecutions. The Taskforce definitely has not neglected its duties, as alleged by certain media.
4. There have been media reports that former Prosecutor-General Chen and prosecutors of the Special Investigation Division dined together at a certain restaurant in Jiaoxi on January 21 and that the "Taskforce had hoped that its members would be retained because of the cases." These reports are completely without truth.
5. Certain media may have misunderstood the substance of Prosecutor-General Chen's impeachment by the Control Yuan and have published various commentaries based on such misunderstanding. Most significantly, certain media erroneously believe that Prosecutor General Chen and Dr. Huang Fang-Yen met at the "spring banquet" at a "key period during the Special

Investigation Division's investigation of the Chen Shui-bian and Wu Shu-Jen case. In actual fact, Prosecutor General Chen and Dr. Huang's "spring banquet" had taken place before forming the Special Investigation Division and the investigation into former President Chen's corruption case had not even commenced at that time. The extensive media commentary on this so-called coincidence is contrary to fact.

The Supreme Prosecutors Office