Article No. 44/2569
Mr. Artit Johnjaras
Public Relations Officer

Disclosure of the Shorthand Meeting Minutes

Mr. Hattachai submitted a written request to the Office of the National Upper House for shorthand meeting minutes of the Inspection Committee for the Construction Project of the New National Upper House Building, sessions No. 21/2022 and No. 52/2023, together with related documents. However, the Office refused, on the grounds that the minutes contained opinions, suggestions, and resolutions of the meeting participants, as well as other related matters, whose disclosure could affect the inspection and acceptance of construction work under the contract, including contractual disputes in the administration of the construction contract, which had not yet been completed. Disclosure at this stage could therefore undermine law enforcement efficiency or prevent the achievement of its objectives under Sections 15 (2) and (3) of the Official Information Act B.E. 2540 (1997). Mr. Hattachai subsequently filed an appeal against the non-disclosure order.

The Information Disclosure Commissioner relating to society, public administration, and law enforcement considered that the information subject to the appeal comprised the shorthand meeting minutes of both sessions of the Inspection Committee for the Construction Project of the New National Upper House Building. The Committee secretariat recorded the shorthand minutes solely for the purpose of preparing the official meeting minutes, and these shorthand records are destroyed once the official minutes have been certified. Furthermore, the Office of the National Upper House has no law, regulation, or rule requiring meeting minutes to be taken in shorthand form. The shorthand meeting minutes are therefore no longer in the possession of the Office of the National Upper House. Should Mr. Hattachai dispute this claim, he may file a complaint with the Official Information Commission under Section 13 in conjunction with Section 33 of the Official Information Act B.E. 2540 (1997) for further investigation. Accordingly, the Commissioner orders this matter to be closed and dismissed from the appeal register.

Should there be any inquiries on practices regarding the Official Information Act, B.E. 2540 (1997), please contact the Office of the Official Information Commission, the Office of the Permanent Secretary, the Prime Minister's Office via telephone at 0 2283 4678-79, or by e-mail at oic@opm.go.th or saraban@opm.go.th

The Official Information: "To disclose is the key, to conceal is the exemption"

Translated by
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