

Opposition Lawmakers Investigate Thaksin's Visa For Japan
Bernama
August 17, 2011

BANGKOK, Aug 17 (Bernama) -- Thailand's opposition Democrat Party had launched an enquiry to examine whether any government official influenced Japan's decision to grant an entry visa for ex-premier Thaksin Shinawatra.

Former Prime Minister and Democrat Party leader Abhisit Vejjajiva said such an act was illegitimate as Thaksin was a fugitive, according to Thai News Agency on Wednesday.

"We are examining evidence through many channels to verify a recent report suggesting that the new Thai government has sought the temporary visa for Thaksin," he said to reporters on Wednesday.

Separately, opposition chief whip Jurin Laksanavisit said a working group will be formed to investigate if Foreign Minister Surapong Towijakchaikul had asked Japan to grant the visa to Thaksin.

Jurin said if the Thai government was found guilty, it could be prosecuted for violating Section 157 of the criminal law.

With the entry visa, Thaksin would be temporarily allowed to enter Japan, where he would deliver an economic lecture at an educational institute on August 22, besides visiting areas devastated by the March 11 earthquake and tsunami.

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