

**Yingluck Confirms Thaksin Not In Amnesty List**  
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BANGKOK, Nov 22 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra has confirmed that her elder brother, Thaksin, was not in the government's proposed list for a pardon by the King.

"Yes, Thaksin's name was not in the proposed amnesty decree submitted by the government," she told reporters after chairing the cabinet meeting here Tuesday.

he reiterated her government did not have a policy to work for any particular person's interest.

"As prime minister, I will work for the people's benefit overall, and (for) the country's benefit. Everything the government does, it will be under the rule of law," she said.

Last week, the government was heavily criticised for allegedly proposing an amnesty decree designed to whitewash Thaksin and enable him to walk free.

The alleged proposal, among others, reportedly cited convicts who are at least 60 years old, sentenced to less than three years in jail, as well as not necessarily serving partially a jail term, as being eligible for the amnesty.

Thaksin, 62, was convicted by the Supreme Court in 2008 for corruption over his then-wife's purchase of a land in Ratchadaphisek here and sentenced to two years' imprisonment.

The former premier who was ousted in a bloodless coup in Sept 19, 2006, fled the country before the verdict was made and has lived in self-imposed exile since then.

The proposed decree, which was kept secret by the government but leaked to the local media, allegedly would also have enabled drug convicts to walk free.

Deputy Prime Minister Charlem Yubamrung chaired the Cabinet meeting last Tuesday and endorsed the proposal.

Yingluck did not attend the meeting as she was reported to be "stuck" in Sing Buri after visiting flooded areas there and could not fly home at night as her helicopter was not equipped with night navigation instrument.

Prior to today, when asked about the proposed decree, Yingluck's answer was merely: "I missed the Cabinet meeting and I don't know the details. Whatever we do, we will have to make sure it is within the rule of law."

Initially, Thaksin said he was unaware of the proposal.

As pressure from opposition and academicians mounted, as well as a threat of mass rally by the Yellow Shirts, he issued a handwritten statement on Sunday that he did not want any benefit from the upcoming royal decree for royal pardons early next month.

Hours later, Justice Minister Pracha Promnok said the draft decree would have conventional

conditions and did not cover convicts found guilty of drug and corruption offences and convicts who absconded.

Asked whether the government would still try to bring Thaksin back home, Yingluck said: "We will not try to bring Thaksin back home."

Asked about her deputy, Charlem's stand today, that he would try to bring Thaksin back as promised, Yingluck said: "That was the election promise."

Before the present government came to power, three months ago, Yingluck's Pheu Thai party had promised to bring Thaksin, its de facto leader, home if they clinched to power.

However, she refused to provide details of the proposed decree, saying that it was still a secret.

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