



Press Statement by PDRC Spokesperson Akanat Promphan: 9 Feb. 2014

**Yingluck must stop blaming everyone including farmers;
PDRC to fundraise for farmers again tomorrow**

Yingluck must stop blaming farmers and everyone else for her failures

(9 Feb. 2014) Despite the onslaught of demonstrations by rice farmers demanding payment from her caretaker government, Yingluck Shinawatra continues to blame other people for her own mistakes. PDRC spokesperson Akanat thus demanded that she learn to take responsibility for her failures.

“According to Yingluck, everyone and everything - the PDRC, BAAC (Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives), GSB (Government Savings Bank), commercial banks, the dissolution of parliament - is to blame for her inability to pay the rice farmers. What about the fact that she failed to sell the rice over the past 2 years, despite price peaks in the global market? What about the fact that she was missing payment deadlines before the PDRC movement even commenced? What about the fact that she dissolved parliament without considering the outstanding rice payments? What about the fact that her rice scheme is fraught with mismanagement and corruption? It seems that everyone is at fault except the real culprit - the caretaker Prime Minister.

Now Yingluck and her cabinet are actually blaming the farmers. Not only have they threatened those peacefully demonstrating to demand what they are rightfully owed, they have accused the farmers of being fake. Farmers have now taken to showing their rice bonds to the media to prove they are real farmers (see image below). This is highly offensive - it is Yingluck, and not the farmers, who must prove her sincerity.”

“Robin Hood” rally proceeds to support farmers’ protests and lawsuits

Spokesperson Akanat noted that Bangkokians warmly welcomed the PDRC’s first rally for the farmers held on Friday, 7 February 2014 and donated 9,209,440 baht. Several more millions would likely be raised during the second rally tomorrow.

“These funds will provide farmers the freedom to organize protests to demand their overdue payments, as well as take legal action against the caretaker government if they so wish,” said Akanat. “Unlike Yingluck who continues to ignore the farmers’ pleas, the PDRC will expend every effort to ensure that farmers’ voices are heard. We are willing to be used as a platform.”

The PDRC rally will depart from underneath Ekamai BTS station at 10.00 hours tomorrow, 10 February 2014, to march along the following route:

BTS Ekamai —> Soi Ekamai —> Petchaburi Road —> Soi Thong Lor —> Sukhumvit Road —> Asoke stage.

