

President Chen Shui-bian's Four Viewpoints on the March 27 Public Gathering

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1.Regarding a ballot recount:

The Central Election Commission promulgated the electees of eleventh-term presidential election yesterday, so procedures for a ballot recount in accordance with law can be initiated at once. If the public think that a judicial recount is too slow for such a critical situation, then we should resort to amending the law through negotiation between the ruling and opposition parties in the Legislative Yuan. This should be kept simple, thus allowing for a fast, comprehensive and open recount. As for other political considerations or subsidiary conditions, these should be set aside temporarily. Only by doing so can the goal of a rapid recount be reached.

2.Regarding investigation of the gunshot case:

The State Public Prosecutor General of the Supreme Court Lu Ren-fa has expressed that an independent task force will be established and operate outside of the normal system. Furthermore, forensic experts such as Mr. Henry Lee will be invited to lead the investigation. I believe that very soon the results of a fair and objective investigation will be presented to the public.

3.Regarding activation of the national security mechanism:

The national security mechanism was activated during the 1996 Presidential Election because of crisis over the Taiwan Strait, with one-sixth of military personnel being kept on duty to ensure military preparedness. The number kept on duty during the 2004 election because of the gunshot incident was only one-ninth of total military personnel. This was not inappropriate and nor was its effect as serious as some people have conjectured.

4.Regarding today's public gathering:

The President himself lost in two previous elections and participated in many protest campaigns, so he can fully sympathize with the people assembled today. Nevertheless, he urges the people to present their appeals rationally and peacefully, so not to create an impression to people throughout the country but also and more importantly, to the international community, of a country without the rule of law. The President believes that most of the people assembled today are peaceful and rational. If there is improper violent behavior, however, governmental agencies at all levels must demonstrate their authority by tackling violence according to the law. We cannot give people the impression that Taiwan is a country without law and order. The President hopes that the gathering will conclude peacefully and that every participant may return home safely.