# Former Thai PM Thaksin Shinawatra Faces Royal Defamation Indictment



**Former Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra to be Indicted for Royal Defamation**

BANGKOK - Former Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra is set to face an indictment for defaming the monarchy, as announced by the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) on Wednesday, May 29, 2024. This development comes three months after his release on parole for prior charges.

Thaksin's indictment is currently postponed due to his COVID-19 diagnosis, confirmed by Prayuth Bejraguna, an OAG spokesperson. The new date for Thaksin's indictment is scheduled for June 18, 2024. Additionally, Thaksin will be charged with violating the Computer Crime Act.

Thaksin, who returned to Thailand in August 2023 after a self-imposed exile since 2008, initially began serving an eight-year sentence for corruption-related offenses before being released on parole from a Bangkok hospital in February 2024, reduced by the King to one year. The investigation into the defamation case, which dates back to comments made in 2015, was revived after his return.

The defamation charge, filed against Thaksin in January 2016, carries a sentence of up to 15 years in prison. Thaksin has denied the allegations and asserted his loyalty to the monarchy.

During his return, Thaksin was swiftly transferred to a hospital from prison due to health issues. The OAG asserts there is sufficient evidence for the indictment, with proceedings to continue next month.