

INVESTIGATION TOWARDS KOREAN PRESIDENT LEE JAEMYUNG'S APOLOGY



SBS Investigative Program 'Unanswered Questions' Apologizes for Groundless Allegations of President Lee Jae-myung's Gang Affiliation 8 Years Ago _ 김주빈

Source: MBC

The SBS investigative program 'Unanswered Questions' has issued an official apology regarding allegations of organized crime affiliation involving President Lee Jae-myung, which the show first aired eight years ago.

In an episode titled "Power and Organized Crime: One Year After the Pattaya Murder Case," broadcast on July 21, 2018, the program raised suspicions of ties between Seongnam-area politicians and violent crime syndicates. At the time, the show claimed that Lee, then-Governor of Gyeonggi Province, had been listed as a defense attorney for two members of the Seongnam International Mafia gang in 2007.

The Presidential Office stated on the 19th, "It has been legally established that the allegations raised thus far were based on falsehoods, not facts." The office further noted, "Hardly any media outlets have issued proper corrections. We request that the media report on this in a way that resolves public misunderstandings caused by the original coverage and restores the President's damaged reputation." President Lee also addressed the issue on X on the 20th, targeting the program by stating, "Thanks to the 'realistic acting' of the production team and host Kim Sang-joong, I was suddenly framed as a murderous gangster." He publicly demanded an apology, calling for reflection on what he characterized as a fabricated broadcast.

In response, the production team of 'Unanswered Questions' released an official statement on the 20th, apologizing for the 2018 report. "We apologize for raising these suspicions without solid evidence," the statement read. Furthermore, the program pledged to uphold the 'SBS Journalism Code of Ethics'—established in 2024—to ensure accurate and objective broadcasting moving forward.