

2011년 2월 10일 키워드 스피킹 방송 / 주제: 개헌

Paul's Summary (transcribed)

The issue of **constitutional amendment** is back in the political spotlight. Discussions for the need to **revise the constitution** have been around for sometime but a serious tone has struck this issue after the President's comment that 2011 will be the best time for such a revision.

The current constitution was revised in 1987. One of the key features included the **public direct election of the president** who only can **serve a single five year term**. This was to prevent the emergence of a dictatorship. To give context to the significance of this, before the revision in 1987, Korean politics had been dominated by the **military dictatorship**.

The problem of a **single five-year term presidency** is that local and general elections are held every four years. This **timing mismatch** with the presidential election creates problems with the lack of mid-elections. Also the President is not allowed to **seek a second term**. Therefore the issue of **being a lame duck** arises when the president enters his fourth year of his term.

However the response to the President's suggestion is pretty mixed. Ideas are even split within the ruling party. While some argue that it's time to revise the constitution to reflect the various needs of a new era, other suspect that the revision is **politically motivated**. If the issue of **rewriting the constitution takes centerstage** then all other political issues will **be put on the backburner**. This would conveniently overlook the unsatisfactory nature of the current government. Obviously it is the politicians not the average Korean citizen, who are more interested in the issue of constitutional amendment.

Key Words

1. 개헌 constitutional amendment(개헌)/revision(수정), scrap(폐기)
2. 내각제 parliamentary system/style
3. 대통령제 presidential system
4. 4년중임 two-term presidency, two four-year terms
5. 5년단임 single five-year term
6. 2원집정부제, 분권형대통령제 semi-presidential system
7. 정략적으로 이용하려 하다 politically motivated
8. 민생문제 standard of living, livelihood (of the average Korean)
9. 재적의원의 2/3 이상의 동의 need a majority vote of two-thirds of the national assembly, two-thirds of the national assembly need to consent
10. 국민투표에 부치다 put to a national referendum

More Key Words

1. (정치외) 쟁점사안이 되다 put in the political spotlight, make center stage
2. 관심에서 벗어나다, 뒤로 미루어지다, 보류되다 be put on the back burner
3. 이 사안이 진지하게 논의되고 있다 a serious tone has struck this issue
4. 대통령 직선제 public direct election of the president
5. 군부독재 military dictatorship
6. 지방선거와 총선거 local and general elections
7. 중간선거 mid-term elections
8. 두번째 임기 second term
9. 레임덕 문제가 생긴다 the issue of being a lame duck arises
10. 입헌군주제 constitutional monarchy
11. 대중에 의해 주도되다 motivated by the public

12. 현재 헌법은 (과거 민주화의 열망을 반영한) 오래된 헌법이므로 새 시대에 맞게 고쳐야 한다. The current constitution is outdated and it's time to revise it to reflect the various new needs/demands of a new era in Korea.
13. 현재 대통령제를 재선 없는 5년 단임제로 제한하게 한 군부독재에 대한 과거의 우려는 현대의 한국에는 적용되지 않는다. The past concerns of military dictatorship that imposed the current restrictions on the presidency, making it a five-year single term with no renewal, no longer apply to modern Korea.
14. 현재 정치의 낙후는 헌법의 문제가 아니다.
We should not blame the constitution for current political problems.
15. 지금 중요하게 다루어져야 할 다른 사안들이 있다.
There are other issues to address.
16. 개헌이 모든 문제를 고쳐주지는 않을 것이다.
Amending the constitution will not fix everything.
17. 임기의 마지막 2년동안 현정부는 당면과제들에 더욱 집중해야 한다.
For the last two years of its term, the current administration should focus more on the current issues at hand.