

2011년 9월 23일 키워드 스피킹 방송 / 주제: 연예인 탈세

Recently Kang Ho-dong, one of Korea's most famous and well-paid celebrities, held a public press conference where he admitted to **tax evasion** and is currently under investigation from the **Korean National Tax Service**. During his **heart-felt speech** to the public, he sincerely apologized for **improperly declaring his income** and that it was unintentional. The 41-year-old traditional Korean wrestler-turned-comedian currently hosts many popular TV shows such as "One Night, Two Days" and "Star King". Kang stated that he would **"tentatively" retire** from the entertainment industry due to the public uproar over his evasion of taxes. Kang has reportedly paid hundreds of millions of won owed in **back and penalty taxes** while the NTS continue their **audit** of his finances.

Though the majority of the public have been quick to judge and wag their finger at the disgraced celebrity, a civic group called the Korean Tax Payer's Federation **filed a complaint against** the NTS. The civic group stated that it was unfair for the NTS to have singled out the celebrity just to **make an example of him** to the public. They also stated that, based on protection of privacy, the NTS had no right to expose the details of their audit to the public. The NTS has responded stating that **celebrities are more prone to tax evasion** since their income comes from various sources such as TV shows and commercial endorsements. Celebrities have also been known to falsely **inflate the stated wages of their managers** and staff to lower their own income taxes. It is still controversial if Kang's wrongdoing is truly severe enough to make him tentatively retire from entertainment industry. But it is clear that in the Korean society now celebrities are **not immune from cheating on their taxes**.

Key Words

1. 탈세 tax evasion, cheat the IRS
2. 국세청 NTS, Korean IRS
3. 잠정적 은퇴 tentatively retire, take a break, take a hiatus
4. 세금을 추징당하다 required to pay back taxes, required to pay penalty taxes
5. 비용처리를 하다 expense a certain payment, claim a certain payment as a business expense
6. (국세청) 조사를 받다 be audited, receive an audit
7. 연예인들의 탈세가 많다 celebrities are prone to tax evasion
8. 비용을 부풀리다, 비용과다계상 blow up expenses, inflate expenses, blow expenses out of proportion
9. ~로부터 안전하지 않다, ~로부터 예외일 수 없다 not immune from
10. 소득미신고, 소득누락 not state one's income, not report one's income
11. 공백을 초래하다 leave a big shoes to fill
12. 프로그램의 폐지 cancel the program, put the program off the air
13. 대중이 컴백을 원해서 돌아오다 back by popular demand
14. (돌아오기를 바라며) 간절히 그리워하다 dealy miss somebody, somebody is dearly missed

More Key Words

1. 진심이 담긴 발표문 heart-felt speech
2. 고발하다 file a complaint against
3. 시범 케이스로 삼다 make an example of him
4. 과세표준 taxable income
5. 세금을 덜 내다, 과세표준을 낮추다 lower one's taxable income
6. 세상에 확실한 것은 죽음과 세금뿐이다. Nothing is certain in life except death and taxes.