Japanese Prince Wants Royals to Fund Shinto Rite, Not Public

Tokyo - Japan's Prince Akishino said that a high-ranking member of the imperial family should pay the cost of a controversial proposal to allow the imperial family to use public money.

The 56-year-old prince, who is the son of Emperor Akihito, said the government's decision to hand over a portion of the country's national land to the shrine for a special rite would be "a recipe for disaster," according to Kyodo News.

The suggestion for a new law to split the royal family's land and property into two separate categories has long been opposed by the government and the public, with many groups saying it would be an illegal use of public funds.

The prince's comments come amid a growing confrontation between the minister who is alleged to have ordered the kill, who is thought to have retired from the army, and the Saudi crown prince, who is suspected of having ordered the killing of a prominent writer.

The prince's words come as the country struggles to contain the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, which has caused the government to clamp down on all non-essential activities and restrict public gatherings.

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