

North Korea

N.Korea Lambasts Gangnam as Den of Iniquity

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Thae Yong-ho reacts to his election win in his office in Seoul on April 16.

North Korea has lambasted Seoul's fabled Gangnam district as a "den of corruption, drug abuse and gambling" after defector Thae Yong-ho was elected as a lawmaker there.

"The place is swarming with corrupt and decadent people and various entertainment facilities and brothels operate there," propaganda outlet Maeari said Friday. "The rich openly gamble or abuse drugs in that area, while police the eye."

The propaganda mouthpiece also said former President Park Geun-hye's confidante Choi Soon-sil led a life of "deb" that area and "controlled Park Geun-hye with the privileged elite."

None of the accusations are entirely unfounded, though the district is mostly notable as home to the rich and famous, overpriced real estate and shopping.

Maeari did not mention Thae by name, but since Gangnam has been the same for many years the timing suggests mostly incensed by Thae's election to the National Assembly last week.

Thae was the No. 2 man in the North's U.K. Embassy before making a highly publicized dash for it. He has since become a politician and quickly made his mark in Park's old party, now called the United Future Party.