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When answering questions from a lawmaker of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) about the cut-price land deal, he said that he thought politician intervention was involved.

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He said that he himself was surprised by the subtraction of around 800 million yen from the plot's appraisal price.

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He said that he still had in his possession a fax between him and an assistant to Akie in which he asked the prime minister's wife for favors.

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After giving sworn testimony before the House of Councillors Budget Committee in the morning, Yasunori Kagoike will move to the House of Representatives in the afternoon. He will also attend a press conference at the Tokyo-based foreign correspondents' club in the evening.

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There has been an escalating furor surrounding Moritomo Gakuen school for a cut-price land deal with the government.

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Moritomo Gakuen school reportedly bought a 8,770-square-meter piece of land last June in Toyonaka, Osaka Prefecture, for 134 million yen, equivalent to only 14 percent of its appraisal price.

????“????”??6??????????1.34??????????8770????????????????????14%?

The land, according to local reports, had been intended for a new elementary school to be opened in April with the prime minister's wife Akie as its honorary principal.

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Abe's wife Akie also gave several speeches at a kindergarten run by the school operator. The kindergarten has been under fire for imposing on its students hate speech and nationalist education.

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Akie has since stepped down as the scandal widened and videos of the school's nationalist agenda began to be beamed across social media platforms and regular broadcasting sites.

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Abe has on many occasions denied involvement in the land deal.

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The scandal presents the most serious crisis for Abe since he returned to office in 2012 and appears likely to further erode his support rates, according to analysts here.

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