



Press Releases

Woman admits bribing bank staff with watch for opening account

2019-12-2

A woman, charged by the ICAC, admitted at the Kowloon City Magistracy today (December 2) that she had offered a watch to an employee of a bank for assistance in opening an account for her husband's company.

Ma Zhenlian, 61, authorised signer of Hongkong Huilin Int'l Finance Group Limited (HIFGL), and Han Xianli, 67, husband of Ma and sole director-cum-shareholder of HIFGL, faced a joint charge of offering an advantage to an agent, contrary to Section 9(2)(a) of the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance.

Ma today pleaded guilty to the charge while the prosecution offered no evidence to the joint charge laid against Han.

Acting Principal Magistrate Ms Ada Yim Shun-ye remanded Ma in the custody of the Correctional Services Department until December 16 for sentence, pending her background and medical reports.

The court heard that at the material time, Ma and Han were respectively authorised signer and sole director-cum-shareholder of HIFGL, which was incorporated in Hong Kong in October 2005 and acquired by Han in May 2019.

On August 23, 2019, the couple arrived at a Business Centre of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited (HSBC) in Mongkok to open a bank account for HIFGL.

The couple was received by an assistant manager of HSBC. When the assistant manager went out of his room to arrange some refreshments, Ma placed a bag containing a gift set of watch underneath his desk.

After the couple left the bank, the assistant manager noticed the bag containing the watch and immediately reported the matter to his supervisor, the court heard.

Later on the same day, the assistant manager phoned Ma to ascertain if the watch belonged to the couple. Ma said it was a small gift to him to show their appreciation. Ma insisted that she would not take it back despite the assistant manager's refusal to accept it.

Afterwards, Ma called the assistant manager up several times to ask if the bank account opening application was approved. In September 2019, the assistant manager informed the couple through email that the application was rejected.

The court heard that Ma offered the watch to the assistant manager with a view to influence him in assisting them to process the application.

HSBC had referred the case to the ICAC and rendered full assistance to the Commission during its

investigation.

The prosecution was today represented by ICAC officer Seth Yiu.

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新聞公佈

女子承認以手錶行賄銀行職員開設戶口候判

2019年12月2日

一名女子向一名銀行職員提供一隻手錶，以協助其丈夫的公司開設戶口，早前被廉政公署起訴。被告今日(十二月二日)在九龍城裁判法院承認控罪。

馬振蓮，六十一歲，香港滙霖國際財務集團有限公司(滙霖)獲授權簽署人，及其丈夫韓先利，六十七歲，滙霖獨資董事兼股東，同被控一項向代理人提供利益罪名，違反《防止賄賂條例》第9(2)(a)條。

馬振蓮今日承認該項控罪，而韓先利同被控的控罪獲控方不提證供起訴。

署理主任裁判官嚴舜儀將馬振蓮還押懲教署看管至十二月十六日判刑，以待她的背景及醫療報告。

案情透露，馬振蓮及韓先利於案發時分別為滙霖的獲授權簽署人及獨資董事兼股東，該公司於二〇〇五年十月在香港成立，並於二〇一九年五月被韓先利收購。

二人於二〇一九年八月二十三日到香港上海滙豐銀行有限公司(滙豐銀行)一間位於旺角的中小企中心為滙霖申請開立一個銀行戶口。

二人獲滙豐銀行一名助理經理接待。當該助理經理離開辦公室為他們安排茶點時，馬振蓮將一個載有一個手錶禮盒的袋放在他的工作枱下方。

案情透露，二人離開銀行後，該助理經理發現該個載有手錶的袋，於是立即向其上司匯報事件。

該助理經理於同日稍後時間致電馬振蓮，查詢該手錶是否屬於他們。馬振蓮表示，該手錶是送給他的小禮物，以表心意。雖然該助理經理拒絕接受該手錶，馬振蓮堅持她不會取回。

馬振蓮其後多次致電該助理經理查詢開戶申請是否已獲批准。該助理經理於二〇一九年九月發電郵通知二人有關申請已被拒絕。

案情透露，馬振蓮向該助理經理提供該手錶，希望藉以影響他協助處理有關申請。

滙豐銀行將投訴轉介廉署，並在廉署調查案件期間提供全面協助。

控方今日由廉署人員姚思浩代表出庭。

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