

Ex-bodybuilding association chairman and athlete guilty of bribery

29.10.10

A former chairman of a bodybuilding association and a suspended bodybuilding athlete, charged by the ICAC, were today (Friday) convicted at the District Court of their roles in a bribery scam to assist the suspended athlete in competing in the 2006 Doha Asian Games.

Chan Siu-man, 40, former chairman of Hong Kong China Bodybuilding and Fitness Association (HKCBBA), and Chan Yun-to, 44, a bodybuilding athlete, were found guilty of a joint charge of conspiracy to offer an advantage to an agent, contrary to Section 9(2)(a) of the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance and Section 159A of the Crimes Ordinance.

Chan Siu-man alone was convicted of four other charges - two of conspiracy to offer an advantage to an agent, one of conspiracy to defraud and one of fraud.

Judge Susanna D'Almada Remedios adjourned the case until next Tuesday (November 2) for sentence, and remanded the defendants in the custody of the Correctional Services Department.

The court heard that Chan Yun-to and two other bodybuilding athletes failed doping tests in October 2005 after competing in a bodybuilding championship held in South Korea. The trio was banned from any bodybuilding competition for different periods of time.

Between January and December 2006, Chan Siu-man, then chairman of HKCBBA, and Chan Yun-to conspired together with another person to offer a bribe of US\$10,000 to Paul Chua, secretary-general of the Asian Bodybuilding and Fitness Federation as a reward for shortening or lifting the period of suspension of participating in any bodybuilding competition imposed on Chan Yun-to, and enabling him to participate in the 2006 Doha Asian Games.

Between January 2006 and May 2009, Chan Siu-man conspired together with another suspended bodybuilding athlete and the above person to offer a bribe of between HK\$100,000 odd and \$200,000 to Chua for the same reason.

Chan Siu-man also conspired together with a third suspended bodybuilding athlete to offer another bribe of US\$10,000 to Chua between May 2006 and February 2007 for the same reason.

The court heard that between April 2007 and May 2009, Chan Siu-man conspired together with a bodybuilding athlete to defraud the Hong Kong Sports Institute (HKSI).

Chan Siu-man falsely represented to the HKSI that the athlete was a full-time athlete and that his occupation was a part-time personal trainer. In fact, the athlete was a part-time athlete. As a result of the false representation, the HKSI was induced to approve an elite training grant to the athlete in the total sum of HK\$600,000.

Between the end of 2007 and May 2008, Chan Siu-man falsely represented in the annual return of HKCBBA for the financial year ended March 31, 2007 that the statement of programmes subvented by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) was true and correct and the amounts of actual expenses stated therein were genuine.

Chan Siu-man, with intent to defraud, induced the LCSD to accept the annual return submitted as genuine and not to demand a return of subvention totalling over HK\$250,000 from HKCBBA to the LCSD, the court was told.

The prosecution was today represented by prosecuting counsel Lisa Yip, assisted by ICAC officer Sarah Wong.