

Couple in court for alleged \$250,000 retraining funding and allowances fraud

23 July 2015

Two operators of a training body appeared in the Eastern Magistracy today (Thursday) after being charged by the ICAC with conspiracy to defraud the Employees Retraining Board (ERB) of funding and trainee allowances totalling over \$250,000.

Winnie Ng Wai-man, 48, director of Knowledge Education Centre (KEC), and Ng's husband Lui Pun-kuen, 49, general manager of KEC, who were charged on Tuesday (July 21), jointly faced one count of conspiracy to defraud, contrary to Common Law.

No plea was taken. Principal Magistrate Ms Bina Chainrai transferred the case to the District Court for plea on August 11 this year.

The case arose from a corruption complaint referred by the ERB. Subsequent ICAC enquiries revealed the above alleged offence of conspiracy to defraud.

At the material time, KEC was approved by the ERB to provide two training courses – Certificate in Nail Technician Training and Certificate in Nutrition Therapist Assistant Training (the courses).

The charge alleged that between June 1 and October 4, 2013, Ng and Lui conspired together with the staff members of KEC and some trainees of the courses to defraud officers and staff members of the ERB.

Ng and Lui were alleged to have falsely represented that the courses were organised by KEC between July 2 and August 5, 2013 and between July 2 and August 13, 2013 respectively.

They were also alleged to have falsely represented that the enrolment rate and attendance rate of the courses were respectively at or over 90 per cent and 80 per cent, and that the trainees in the courses had taken examinations.

As a result of the alleged false representation, the officers and staff members of the ERB were induced to grant funding to KEC and allowances to the eligible trainees of the courses. The funding and trainee allowances were said to amount to over \$250,000.

Ng and Lui were each granted cash bail of \$10,000, and ordered to reside at the reported address.

The ERB had rendered full assistance to the ICAC during its investigation.

The prosecution was today represented by ICAC officer Ricky Cheuk.

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廉署起訴夫婦涉嫌詐騙再培訓撥款 津貼二十五萬元今提堂

2015年7月23日

廉政公署落案起訴一間培訓機構的兩名負責人，控告他們夫婦二人涉嫌串謀他人向僱員再培訓局詐騙撥款及學員津貼共逾二十五萬元。被告今日(星期四)在東區裁判法院應訊。

吳惠敏，四十八歲，紐魯詩教育中心(紐魯詩)董事，及其丈夫雷品權，四十九歲，紐魯詩總經理，同於星期二(七月二十一日)被控一項串謀詐騙罪名，涉嫌違反普通法。

被告毋須答辯。主任裁判官錢禮將案件轉介區域法院至本年八月十一日答辯。

廉署較早時接獲僱員再培訓局轉介的貪污投訴，調查其後揭發上述涉嫌串謀詐騙罪行。

紐魯詩於案發時獲僱員再培訓局批准提供兩個培訓課程，即專業美甲師證書課程及營養顧問助理證書課程。

控罪指吳及雷涉嫌於二〇一三年六月一日至十月四日期間，一同與紐魯詩多名職員及課程數名學員串謀詐騙僱員再培訓局人員及職員。

吳及雷涉嫌虛假地表示紐魯詩分別於二〇一三年七月二日至八月五日期間及於二〇一三年七月二日至八月十三日期間舉辦該兩個課程。

他們又涉嫌虛假地表示該兩個課程的報讀率及出席率分別達到百分之九十及百分之八十或以上，而兩個課程的學員已參加考試。

被告涉嫌以上述虛假陳述，誘使僱員再培訓局人員及職員，向紐魯詩批出撥款及向該兩個課程的合資格學員批出津貼。有關撥款和學員津貼據報共逾二十五萬元。

被告各獲准以現金一萬元保釋，並須在報住的地址居住。

僱員再培訓局在廉署調查案件期間提供全面協助。

控方今日由廉署人員卓偉基代表出庭。

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