

Press Releases

Six months' jail for ex-manager of HKJC charged by ICAC with bribery for favouring co-organiser of equestrian events

2024-4-10

A former manager of the Hong Kong Jockey Club (HKJC), charged by the ICAC, was today (April 10) sentenced to six months' imprisonment at the Eastern Magistrates' Courts for accepting a watch from a co-organiser of an annual world-class equestrian event sponsored by the HKJC, and submitting to the HKJC expenses claim forms which contained false information about meal expenses with its business partners.

Chu Lui, 51, former Senior Programme Manager (Development and Marketing) of the HKJC, was earlier found guilty of four charges – one of public servant accepting an advantage, contrary to section 4(2)(a) of the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance (POBO); and three of agent using a document with intent to deceive his principal, contrary to section 9(3) of the POBO.

In sentencing, Magistrate Ms Stephanie Tsui May-har said the defendant's acceptance of gift through his official capacity was intolerable in the society. The court had to mete out an immediate custodial sentence in view of the seriousness of the offences involved in the present case.

The court heard that since 2013, the HKJC, EEM Asia Limited (EEM) and the Hong Kong Equestrian Federation started to co-organise an annual world-class equestrian event – Longines Masters of Hong Kong (the Event). Two tripartite agreements covering the terms of co-organising the Event between 2017 and 2021 were respectively signed in November 2016 and November 2018.

Under the agreements, the HKJC was the major sponsor of the Event and EEM would invite overseas riders and provide logistics and administration support to the Event. The defendant was delegated to discuss and negotiate the agreement terms and event details with EEM on behalf of the HKJC.

On November 23, 2018, the defendant accepted a watch with a listed price of \$8,200 from the son of the director of EEM for remaining favourably disposed to EEM in his capacity as a public servant.

The ICAC investigation arose from a corruption complaint referred by the HKJC. Enquiries revealed that contrary to the Code of Conduct and the Anti-Bribery Policy of the HKJC, the defendant did not report to the HKJC his acceptance of the watch.

It was also revealed in the ICAC investigation that two additional programmes with increased overall sponsorship by the HKJC were included to the agreement signed in November 2016 upon the suggestion of the defendant. Separately, in an addendum agreement signed in January 2019, the HKJC undertook to pay EEM two extra sponsorships totalling \$2.5 million for two other networking events on top of the original agreed sponsorship of the Event for 2018 and 2019.

The court also heard that between October 2018 and April 2019, the defendant used three expenses claim forms which contained false statements that he had incurred expenses totalling about \$5,500 for four working meals with staff of EEM and a football club to deceive the HKJC. However, investigation revealed that the staff concerned did not attend those working meals.

The HKJC had rendered full assistance to the ICAC during its investigation into the case.

The prosecution was today represented by Senior Public Prosecutor Chan Sze-yan, assisted by ICAC officer Christine Wong.

An ICAC spokesperson notes public servants, including employees of public bodies, should maintain a high standard of integrity when discharging their duties. Obtaining personal gain by corrupt or deceptive means would be subject to criminal liability.

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新聞公佈

馬會前經理收賄優待馬術賽事合辦機構遭廉署起訴判囚半年

2024年4月10日

廉政公署早前落案起訴一名香港賽馬會(馬會)前經理,在籌辦馬會贊助的世界級年度馬術賽事時收受合辦機構一隻手錶,以及向馬會提交載有虛假資料的申請發還費用表格, 訛稱與馬會業務伙伴舉行聚餐。被告今日(4月10日)在東區裁判法院被判入獄半年。

朱磊,51歲,馬會前高級項目經理(發展及市場),早前被裁定共四項罪名成立,即一項公職人員接受利益,違反《防止賄賂條例》第4(2)(a)條;以及三項代理人意圖欺騙其主事人而使用文件,違反《防止賄賂條例》第9(3)條。

裁判官崔美霞判刑時稱,被告藉公職收取禮物,不為社會容忍,由於案情嚴重,法庭須判處即時監禁的阻嚇性刑罰。

案情透露,馬會、EEM Asia Limited (EEM)及香港馬術總會自2013年起合辦一項名為「浪琴表香港馬術大師賽」(大師賽)的世界級年度馬術賽事,並分別於2016年11月及2018年11月簽訂兩份三方協議,訂明2017年至2021年大師賽的合辦條款。

根據協議馬會是大師賽的主要贊助者,而EEM則負責為大師賽邀請海外騎師,以及提供物流及行政支援。被告獲委派代表馬會與EEM商討協議條款及賽事細節。

被告於2018年11月23日從EEM的董事的兒子接受一隻標價為8,200元的手錶,以其公職人員身分保持傾向優待EEM。

廉署接獲馬會轉介的貪污投訴遂展開調查,發現被告違反馬會的行為守則及防貪政策,沒 有向馬會申報自己曾接受該手錶。

廉署調查又發現,該份於2016年11月簽訂的協議,因被告提議而加插兩項計劃,馬會亦因

而增加其總贊助金額。馬會另於2019年1月簽訂一份協議附錄,承諾在2018年及2019年大師賽的原本贊助上,就另外兩項交流活動向EEM額外支付兩筆贊助共250萬元。

案情又透露,被告於2018年10月至2019年4月期間,使用三份載有虛假陳述的申請發還費用表格欺騙馬會,報稱曾經四次與EEM及一個足球會的職員進行工作聚餐,招致開支共約5,500元。調查發現,相關職員並沒有出席該等工作聚餐。

馬會在廉署調查案件期間提供全面協助。

控方今日由高級檢控官陳詩欣代表出庭,並由廉署人員黃詠詩協助。

廉署發言人表示,公職人員(包括公共機構僱員)在履行職責時必須維持高度誠信,切勿透過 貪污或其他違法行為謀取私利,否則須負上刑責。

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