

Trio charged for alleged bribery over air cargo and logistics services

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Three persons, including two former managers of an air cargo handling company, have been charged by the ICAC in two separate cases for bribery in relation to the awarding of air cargo contracts and expediting financial payments.

In the first case, Ma Hung-chiu, 58, former General Manager of the Customer Services Division of Asia Airfreight Terminal Company Limited (AAT), faces one count of agent accepting an advantage.

Co-defendant William Low Teck-ann, 52, former employee of Silver Express International Limited (SEI), faces one count of offering an advantage to an agent.

SEI is a major contractor of AAT which operates an air cargo terminal based at the Hong Kong International Airport.

Ma is alleged of accepting a monthly payment of \$22,000 from Low as a reward for Ma to remain in his employment at AAT and not leaving AAT to join SEI, so that Low might have a greater chance to succeed in bidding for the business of AAT when the contract between SEI expires in June 2010.

The alleged offence took place between September 2008 and June 2009.

Low is alleged of offering a monthly reward of \$20,000 to \$22,000 to Ma between November 2008 and May this year for the same purpose.

In the second case, Chan Wing-sum, 48, former General Manager of the Finance and Administration Division of AAT, faces one count of agent accepting an advantage.

The charge alleges Chan of accepting \$2,000 to \$3,000 in early 2009 from a contractor that provides logistics services to a subsidiary of AAT.

The said sum is alleged to be a reward for Chan to process advance payment for the said contractor.

The defendants of the above two cases will appear at Tsuen Wan Magistracy at 9:30 am tomorrow (Wednesday). The case involving Ma and Low will be transferred to the District Court while Chan will appear for plea.

Meanwhile, an operation manager of a logistics company has been charged in a separate case for allegedly accepting illegal kickbacks in relation to the renting of warehouse facilities.

Chan Tak-chun, 38, operation manager of UFM Container Line (UFM), faces one count of agent accepting an advantage. He will appear at Kwun Tong Magistracy at 9:30 am tomorrow (Wednesday) for plea.

It is alleged that between April 2008 and February this year, Chan, being an employee of Right Time Enterprise (RTE), accepted about \$30,500 from a shareholder of a logistics company for recommending UFM, which was operated by RTE, to rent a warehouse and employ other services from the logistics company.

Chan also faces two alternative bribery charges.

All defendants have been granted ICAC bail pending their court appearances.