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Eastern DC member and assistant charged for alleged fraud over false claims of DC funds

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A member of the Eastern District Council (DC) and his assistant were today (Tuesday) charged by the ICAC for alleged fraud in relation to false claims of Accountable Allowance and Operating Expenses Allowance (OEA) totalling \$1.7 million from the Eastern DC.

Manuel Chan Tim-shing, 52, Eastern District Councillor, and Jackie Ng Siu-lin, 44, Chan's Councillor Assistant, face four joint charges of fraud.

The defendants will appear in Eastern Magistracy at 9:30 am on Thursday (July 28) for transfer to the District Court for plea.

The case arose from a corruption complaint. Subsequent ICAC enquiries revealed the alleged fraudulent claims.

One of the charges alleges that between January 2000 and December 2003, the defendants, by deceit, had falsely represented in the "Applications for Accountable Allowance" that the claims for the expenses for the employment of councillor assistants were made and incurred wholly for the discharge of the duties of the DC.

The defendants also jointly face three similar fraud charges in relation to false representations made in the "Applications for Reimbursement of OEA" that were submitted to the Eastern DC between January 2004 and April 2010.

The defendants, with intent to defraud, are alleged to have induced the Eastern DC Secretariat to approve the reimbursement applications totalling \$1.7 million.

The defendants have been released on ICAC bail, pending their court appearance on Thursday.

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