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Security guards in court for alleged bribery and disclosing identity of person under ICAC probe

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Two former and serving security guards appeared at the Kwun Tong Magistracy today (Friday) after being charged by the ICAC with offering bribes to the chairman of a mutual aid committee (MAC) at a public housing estate and disclosing the identity of a person under probe.

Wong Kuk-lan, 44, a former security guard of Hong Kong Guards Limited (HKGL), who was charged on Wednesday (May 8), faced three counts of offering an advantage to an agent, contrary to Section 9(2)(b) of the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance (POBO), and two of disclosing the identity of a person being investigated, contrary to Section 30(1)(b) of the POBO.

Also charged on Wednesday was Lam Yung-biu, 64, a security guard of Creative Property Services Consultants Limited (CPSC), who faced one count of offering an advantage to an agent, contrary to Section 9(2)(b) of the POBO.

Wong and Lam today pleaded not guilty to their respective charges. Principal Magistrate Mr Ernest Lin Kam-hung adjourned the case to June 6 this year for a pre-trial review.

At the material time, Wong and Lam were respectively security guards of HKGL and CPSC deployed to station at Sau Mau Ping Estate (SMP Estate), a public housing estate managed by the Housing Department.

CPSC subcontracted its security service of SMP Estate to HKGL on October 1, 2011.

Three of the charges alleged that between the summer of 2011 and January 2012, Wong offered a total of \$1,200 to a MAC chairman at SMP Estate on three separate occasions as rewards for the latter not to complain against the standard of work performed by Wong.

Two other charges alleged that on June 15, 2012, Wong, knowing that an investigation in respect of an offence suspected to have been committed under the POBO was taking place, without lawful authority or reasonable excuse, disclosed to two persons that the MAC chairman was the subject of such investigation.

The remaining charge alleged Lam of offering 10 packs of cigarettes to the MAC chairman in July 2010 as a reward for the latter to exercise his influence to retain Lam's job posting.

Wong and Lam were granted cash bail of \$5,000 and \$3,000 respectively. They were also ordered not to leave Hong Kong and not to interfere with the prosecution witnesses.

The prosecution was today represented by ICAC officer Guys Wong.

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