

Man charged for alleged role in electricity meter tampering scam after return to HK

21 June 2016

A man, who returned to Hong Kong after absconding for about 14 years, has been charged by the ICAC today (Tuesday) with conspiring with other persons to defraud two electricity companies of over \$465,000 in electricity charges by tampering with electricity meters of 18 commercial and residential premises.

Woo Hang-foo, 52, a cleaning worker, faces 17 counts of conspiracy to defraud, contrary to Common Law.

He will appear at the Eastern Magistracy on Thursday (June 23) for transfer of the case to the District Court for plea.

The case arose from corruption complaints. Subsequent ICAC enquiries revealed the above alleged offences.

Thirteen of the charges allege that between October 29, 2000 and October 29, 2001, Woo, then an electricity technician, conspired with other persons to defraud CLP Power Hong Kong Limited (CLP) by dishonestly tampering with the electricity meters of a unit of a public housing estate and 12 commercial premises, namely six eateries, two companies, a night club, a bakery, a fitness centre and a car services centre, in Kowloon and the New Territories, thereby causing CLP to undercharge the registered users for the units of electricity actually consumed.

The remaining four charges allege that between June 29 and October 29, 2001, Woo conspired with other persons to defraud Hong Kong Electric Company Limited (HK Electric) by dishonestly tampering with the electricity meters of four eateries and a flat of a residential building on Hong Kong Island, thereby causing HK Electric to undercharge the registered users for the units of electricity actually consumed.

As a result of the alleged tampering activities, Woo caused CLP and HK Electric to lose electricity charges of over \$236,000 and about \$229,000 respectively.

On October 29, 2001, ICAC officers arrested Woo for his alleged role in an electricity meter tampering scam. He was then released on bail pending further enquiries.

Woo absconded from ICAC bail on August 14, 2002. A warrant of arrest was subsequently issued against him.

On May 29, 2016, Woo was arrested by ICAC officers at the Lo Wu Control Point when he returned to Hong Kong from the Mainland.

CLP and HK Electric have rendered full assistance to the ICAC during its investigation.

Woo has been released on ICAC bail, pending his court appearance on Thursday.

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疑涉非法干擾電錶詐騙電費男子回港遭廉署起訴

2016年6月21日

廉政公署今日(星期二)落案起訴一名棄保潛逃約十四年後返港的男子，控告他涉嫌串謀其他人士非法干擾十八個商業及住宅單位的電錶，以詐騙兩間電力公司電費共逾四十六萬五千元。

胡恒富，五十二歲，清潔工人，被控十七項串謀詐騙罪名，涉嫌違反普通法。

他將於星期四(六月二十三日)早上在東區裁判法院應訊，以待案件轉介區域法院答辯。

廉署接獲貪污投訴，調查其後揭發上述涉嫌罪行。

其中十三項控罪指於二〇〇〇年十月二十九日至二〇〇一年十月二十九日期間，當時任職電力技工的胡恒富涉嫌與其他人士串謀詐騙中華電力有限公司(中電)，不誠實地干擾分別位於九龍及新界的一個公屋單位及十二個商業處所，即六間食肆、兩間公司、一間夜總會、一間麵包店、一間健身中心及一間汽車服務中心的電錶，因而導致中電就實際用電度數少收有關登記用戶的費用。

餘下四項控罪指胡恒富涉嫌於二〇〇一年六月二十九日至十月二十九日期間，與其他人士串謀詐騙香港電燈有限公司(港燈)，不誠實地干擾位於港島區的四間食肆及一個住宅大廈單位的電錶，因而導致港燈就實際用電度數少收有關登記用戶的費用。

胡恒富涉嫌非法干擾上述電錶，導致中電及港燈分別少收二十三萬六千多元及約二十二萬九千元。

廉署人員於二〇〇一年十月二十九日因胡恒富涉嫌參與非法干擾電錶勾當而將他拘捕，其後他獲准保釋以待進一步調查。

他於二〇〇二年八月十四日棄保潛逃，法庭其後發出手令緝拿他歸案。

胡恒富於二〇一六年五月二十九日經羅湖管制站從內地回港，遭廉署人員拘捕。

中電及港燈在廉署調查案件期間提供全面協助。

胡恒富已獲廉署准予保釋，以待星期四應訊。

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