

Trio in court over \$450,000 false claims for lost registered mails

2 September 2016

A former officer of the Hongkong Post (HKPost) and two others appeared in the Eastern Magistracy today (Friday) after being charged by the ICAC with conspiracy to defraud the HKPost of compensation totalling over \$450,000 for lost registered mails.

Chan Ka-yau, 31, former Customer Service Officer of HKPost; Cho Shek-hang, 31, unemployed; and Ng Chun-yin, 33, system analyst, who were charged on Wednesday (August 31), faced a joint charge of conspiracy to defraud, contrary to common law.

No plea was taken today. Acting Principal Magistrate Mr Joseph To Ho-shing transferred the case to the District Court for plea on September 23 this year.

The case arose from a corruption complaint referred by HKPost. Subsequent ICAC enquiries revealed the above alleged offence.

At the material time, Chan was a Customer Service Officer of HKPost posted to its Mail Tracing Office. Cho and Ng were former schoolmates of Chan.

According to the policy of HKPost, the sender of a registered mail is eligible for compensation of up to a maximum of \$320 plus postage, if the mail is lost during delivery.

The charge alleged that between an unknown date in 2012 and May 20, 2015, the defendants conspired together to defraud HKPost.

The defendants were alleged to have dishonestly sent 3,039 mails via HKPost by registered post in the name of "Mr Cho", "Mr Ng" or "Mr Choi" to various persons being the addressees of the mails in Pakistan, the Philippines, India, Italy, the United Kingdom and Kuwait.

They were also alleged to have falsely represented that 1,531 of the 3,039 registered mails, which could not be traced and were regarded as lost by HKPost, contained each a ball pen at a value of either \$460 or \$500; and that "Mr Cho" and "Mr Ng" were entitled to claim the maximum amount of compensation in the sum of \$320 plus postage from HKPost for each of the 1,531 registered mails.

As a result, the defendants allegedly caused and induced staff members of HKPost to release a total sum of over \$451,000 to Cho and Ng as compensation for 1,398 of the 1,531 registered mails.

The defendants were each granted cash bail of \$10,000. They were also ordered not to interfere with prosecution witnesses.

HKPost had rendered full assistance to the ICAC during its investigation.

The prosecution was today represented by ICAC officer Eric Chan.

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廉署起訴三人疑涉詐騙遺失掛號郵件賠償四十五萬元今提堂

2016年9月2日

廉政公署落案起訴香港郵政一名前員工及另外兩名人士，控告他們涉嫌串謀詐騙香港郵政遺失掛號郵件賠償合共逾四十五萬元。三人今日(星期五)在東區裁判法院應訊。

陳嘉祐，三十一歲，香港郵政前客戶服務員；曹碩恒，三十一歲，無業；及伍俊諺，三十三歲，電腦系統分析員，於星期三(八月三十一日)同被控一項串謀詐騙罪名，違反普通法。

三名被告今日毋須答辯。署任主任裁判官杜浩成將案件轉介區域法院至本年九月二十三日答辯。

廉署早前接獲香港郵政轉介的貪污投訴，調查其後揭發上述涉嫌罪行。

陳於案發時為香港郵政的客戶服務員，並派駐郵件查詢組。曹及伍則是陳的舊同學。

根據香港郵政的政策，掛號郵件在投寄過程中若有遺失，有關寄件人可獲得每件郵件最高三百二十元賠償連郵費。

控罪指三名被告涉嫌於二〇一二年某日至二〇一五年五月二十日期間，一同串謀詐騙香港郵政。

他們涉嫌不誠實地以「Mr Cho」、「Mr Ng」或「Mr Choi」名義，透過香港郵政以掛號郵遞方式將三千零三十九件郵件寄給在巴基斯坦、菲律賓、印度、意大利、英國及科威特的不同收件人。

被告涉嫌虛假地表示該三千零三十九件掛號郵件中，有一千五百三十一件因無法追查而被香港郵件當作遺失郵件，當中各載有一支價值四百六十元或五百元的原子筆，而「Mr Cho」及「Mr Ng」有權就該一千五百三十一件的每件掛號郵件，向香港郵政申索最高賠償額三百二十元另加郵費。

他們因而涉嫌導致和誘使香港郵政的職員向曹及伍發放合共逾四十五萬一千元，作為該一千五百三十一件掛號郵件當中一千三百九十八件的賠償。

三名被告各獲准以現金一萬元保釋，並受命不得騷擾控方證人。

香港郵政在廉署調查案件期間提供全面協助。

控方今日由廉署人員陳卓熙代表出庭。

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