

Ex-guesthouse operator charged with bribery over tenancy agreement

2019-12-13

A former guesthouse operator has been charged by the ICAC today (December 13) with offering bribes in cash, travel packages and reimbursements worth totalling over \$30,000 to a flat owner's brother to resolve tenancy matters.

Sze Ching-lok, 52, faces two counts of offering an advantage to an agent, contrary to Section 9(2)(a) of the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance.

The defendant will appear at the Kowloon City Magistracy next Tuesday (December 17) for plea.

In April 2013, the defendant rented a flat in Yaumatei for operating a guesthouse. The flat was owned by a company held by a couple, and the younger brother of the wife was entrusted to handle its leasing matters. Before leasing out the flat, the brother had to seek instructions from his elder sister.

In early 2016, the defendant was in talks with a potential investor over transferring the guesthouse business. Since then, the defendant had been trying to terminate his tenancy so that the new operator could sign a new agreement with the couple.

One of the charges alleges that on or about December 13, 2016, the defendant, without lawful authority or reasonable excuse, offered free travel packages and reimbursements to the brother as an inducement to or reward for assisting to obtain the sister's agreement in the negotiation of terms in respect of a new tenancy agreement of the flat.

Another charge alleges that on or about June 9, 2017, the defendant offered \$30,000 in cash to the brother for the same purpose.

The defendant has been released on ICAC bail, pending his court appearance next Tuesday.

廉署起訴前賓館經營者涉嫌就租賃協議事宜行賄

2019年12月13日

廉政公署今日(十二月十三日)落案起訴一名前賓館經營者，控告他涉嫌以總值逾三萬的現金、免費旅遊套票及發還款項，賄賂一名物業持有人的弟弟以解決租賃事宜。

施政樂，五十二歲，被控兩項向代理人提供利益罪名，違反《防止賄賂條例》第9(2)(a)條。

被告將於下星期二(十二月十七日)在九龍城裁判法院答辯。

被告於二〇一三年四月承租油麻地一個單位以經營賓館。有關單位由一對夫婦持有的公司擁有，而該妻子的弟弟受委託處理單位的租賃事宜。弟弟須於出租單位前請示其姐。

被告於二〇一六年初與一名潛在買家商討轉讓賓館的事宜。被告自始嘗試終止租約，以便新營運者能與該對夫婦簽訂新協議。

其中一項控罪指被告涉嫌於或約於二〇一六年十二月十三日，無合法權限或合理辯解而向該弟弟提供免費旅遊套票及發還款項，作為就該單位新租賃協議的商議條款，協助取得該姐姐同意的誘因或報酬。

另一項控罪指被告涉嫌於或約於二〇一七年六月九日，以相同目的向該弟弟提供現金三萬元。

被告已獲廉署准予保釋，以待下星期二應訊。