

## **Press Releases**

# Merchant charged by ICAC gets two weeks' jail for bribing bank staff for expediting account opening

### 2024-8-1

A merchant, charged by the ICAC, was today (August 1) sentenced at the Eastern Magistrates' Courts to two weeks' imprisonment after admitting that he had offered a bribe of \$2,000 to a bank employee for expediting the process of opening personal bank account.

Bian Weilong, 39, merchant, today pleaded guilty to one count of offering an advantage to an agent, contrary to section 9(2)(a) of the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance. Principal Magistrate Mr Don So Man-lung imposed a jail term of two weeks and a fine of \$10,000 on Bian.

The court heard that at the material time, Bian was a merchant operating duty-free shops in Southeast Asia. In early May 2023, Bian visited a branch of China Construction Bank (Asia) Corporation Limited (CCB (Asia)) in Central for opening a personal account. He was received by Law Tsz-hin, a then sales executive of the branch.

Bian was later told by Law that due to a large number of account opening applications, it was estimated that the account opening process would take about a month. The next day after his visit to the branch of CCB (Asia), Bian offered a bribe of \$2,000 to Law for expediting the account opening process at the bank.

The ICAC investigation arose from a corruption complaint in relation to opening bank accounts. Enquiries revealed that Bian' s bank account was opened shortly after he had paid the bribe to Law.

Law Tsz-hin, 31, the then branch sales executive of CCB (Asia), was also earlier charged by the ICAC for his role in the scam. In May this year, Law was sentenced to six weeks' imprisonment after pleading guilty at the Eastern Magistrates' Courts to four bribery charges for soliciting and accepting bribes totalling \$13,000 for expediting the process of opening personal bank accounts for six clients, including Bian.

CCB (Asia) had rendered full assistance to the ICAC during its investigation into the case.

The prosecution was today represented by ICAC officer Kiki Chu.

The ICAC reminds the general public not to bribe bank staff in exchange for its services. Should anyone comes across any suspicion of corruption, he or she should report to the ICAC immediately. The ICAC has recently launched the "Corruption Prevention Guide for Banks" to enhance the corruption prevention capabilities of banks and assist banks in managing corruption risks in core operations including account opening and referral of client. To promote probity culture in the banking sector, an Ethics Promotion Programme for the Banking Industry was also launched to help managerial and other ranks of bank staff understand common corruption loopholes.

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#### 新聞公佈

#### 遭廉署起訴商人承認行賄銀行職員助加快開戶判囚兩星期

#### 2024年8月1日

廉政公署早前落案起訴一名商人,控告他以2,000元行賄一名銀行職員,以加快開立個人銀 行戶口的流程。被告今日(8月1日)在東區裁判法院承認控罪,被判入獄兩星期。

卞维龙,39歲,商人,今日承認一項向代理人提供利益罪名,違反《防止賄賂條例》第 9(2)(a)條,主任裁判官蘇文隆判處卞维龙監禁兩星期及罰款一萬元。

案情透露·卞维龙案發時是一名在東南亞經營免稅店的商人·他於2023年5月初到中國建設 銀行(亞洲)股份有限公司(建行(亞洲))中環一間分行·打算開立個人戶口·獲該分行時任銷售 主任羅子軒接待。

卞维龙其後獲羅子軒告知,由於開戶申請眾多,預計需時約一個月才能開立其戶口。卞维 龙於到訪上述建行(亞洲)分行的翌日,向羅子軒提供賄款2,000元,以協助他加快在該銀行 的開戶流程。

廉署早前接獲涉及開立銀行戶口的貪污投訴遂展開調查,發現卞维龙向羅子軒支付賄款後 不久便成功開立銀行戶口。

涉案31歲時任建行(亞洲)銷售主任羅子軒,早前亦被廉署落案起訴。他今年5月在東區裁判 法院承認四項貪污罪行,被判入獄六星期,涉及藉索賄及受賄共13,000元,為包括卞维龙 在內的六名客戶,加快開立個人銀行戶口的流程。

建行(亞洲)在廉署調查案件期間提供全面協助。

控方今日由廉署人員朱嘉祺代表出庭。

廉署提醒公眾,切勿行賄銀行職員以獲取服務。任何人士如遇到懷疑貪污情況,應立即向 廉署舉報。廉署早前推出全新《銀行防貪指南》,協助銀行管理主要營運範疇包括開戶及 轉介業務的貪污風險,提升銀行防貪能力。廉署亦推出「銀行業誠信推廣計劃」,協助銀 行管理層及各級職員了解常見的貪污陷阱,與業界共建廉潔文化。

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