

Press Releases

Ex-listed company independent non-executive director and 11 others charged by ICAC with alleged 66 million share options fraud

2024-10-25

The ICAC this morning (October 25) charged a former independent non-executive director of a delisted company and 11 others for allegedly conspiring to deceive the company into granting share options. The 12 defendants will appear at the Eastern Magistrates' Courts this afternoon for mention.

Tsang Chung-yu, 56, former independent non-executive director of Zioncom Holdings Limited (Zioncom); and 11 others associated with the scam, namely Chan Wai-lung, 43; Joyce Chan Oi-yan, 32; Chan Wai-sze, 48; Kenneth Chan Sze-chai, 54; Chow Ching-ho, 24; Chung Shing-yip, 37; Giles Lee Hung-kai, 61; Leung Lok, 23; Pui Li-ming, 40; Brian Wong King-lok, 32; and Eric Yeung (formerly Eric Yeung Ching-lap), 45, jointly face one count of conspiracy to defraud, contrary to the Common Law; and an alternative charge of conspiracy to deal with property known or believed to represent proceeds of an indictable offence, contrary to section 25(1) of the Organized and Serious Crimes Ordinance and section 159A of the Crimes Ordinance.

In January 2018, Zioncom, principally engaged in manufacturing and sale of networking communication products, was listed on the Growth Enterprise Market Board of the Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited (HKEX). On October 21, 2022, Zioncom was renamed as Metaverse Yunji Technology Group Company Limited, and was eventually delisted from the HKEX on December 4, 2023.

Since 2017, Zioncom adopted a share option scheme by granting share options of the company as a reward to its employees and other qualified individuals who had contributed to the company, so as to encourage them to contribute to the benefits of the company and its shareholders as a whole and to work towards enhancing the value of the company and its shares.

The alleged offences took place between April and September 2022. At the material time, Tsang was an independent non-executive director of Zioncom. It is alleged that the 12 defendants had conspired together to falsely represent that Joyce Chan, Chan Wai-sze, Kenneth Chan, Chow, Chung, Lee, Leung, Pui, Wong and Yeung were employees of the company or its subsidiaries, with an intent to induce Zioncom to grant the aforesaid 10 defendants 66 million share options of the company.

The alternative charge alleges that the defendants had conspired together to arrange the aforesaid 10 defendants who were granted share options of Zioncom to deal with the crime proceeds in relation to 66 million shares of Zioncom subscribed by the aforesaid share options, involving a total amount of over \$4.35 million.

The ICAC investigation commenced upon receipt of a corruption complaint, followed by an operation jointly mounted with the Securities and Futures Commission (SFC) in January this year.

The SFC and the HKEX offered full assistance to the ICAC during its investigation.

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新聞公佈

廉署起訴上市公司前獨立非執行董事及11名同黨疑涉詐騙6,600萬份購股權今午提堂

2024年10月25日

廉政公署今早(10月25日)落案起訴一名已除牌上市公司前獨立非執行董事及其11名同黨,控告他們涉嫌就授出購股權串謀詐騙該上市公司。12名被告今日下午在東區裁判法院應訊。

曾頌愉·56歲·百家淘客股份有限公司(百家淘客)前獨立非執行董事;以及其11名同黨:陳偉龍·43歲;陳藹恩·32歲;陳偉思·48歲;陳思齊·54歲;周正濠·24歲;鍾成業·37歲;李雄佳·61歲;梁樂·23歲;貝里明·40歲;王景樂·32歲;及楊家經·45歲·同被控一項串謀詐騙罪名·違反普通法;以及一項串謀處理已知道或相信為代表從可公訴罪行的得益的財產(即串謀「洗黑錢」)的交替罪名·違反《有組織及嚴重罪行條例》第25(1)條及《刑事罪行條例》第159A條。

百家淘客於2018年1月在香港交易及結算所有限公司(港交所)創業板上市,主要從事製造及銷售網絡通訊產品。該公司於2022年10月21日易名為元宇宙雲基科技集團有限公司,其後於2023年12月4日被港交所除牌。

百家淘客自2017年起設立購股權計劃,透過批出該公司的購股權獎勵對該公司作出貢獻的僱員及其他合資格人士,並鼓勵他們為該公司及其股東的整體利益,努力提升該公司及其股份的價值。

本案發生於2022年4月至9月,曾頌愉當時是百家淘客獨立非執行董事。12名被告涉嫌串謀 訛稱陳藹恩、陳偉思、陳思齊、周正濠、鍾成業、李雄佳、梁樂、貝里明、王景樂及楊家 羥均為該公司或其附屬公司的僱員,目的在於使百家淘客向該10名被告授出6,600萬份購股 權。 交替控罪指,各被告涉嫌串謀安排上述10名獲批百家淘客購股權的被告,處理藉該購股權作認購的6,600萬股百家淘客股份犯罪得益,涉及款項共逾435萬元。

廉署早前接獲貪污投訴,遂展開調查,並與證券及期貨事務監察委員會(證監會)於今年1月 採取聯合行動。

證監會及港交所在廉署調查期間提供全面協助。

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