



Press Releases

Intermediary charged by ICAC for bribing bank manager over account opening

2023-5-18

A director of an intermediary company was charged by the ICAC yesterday (May 17) for allegedly offering bribes totalling \$20,000 to a bank manager for assisting two non-domestic clients to open corporate accounts with the bank.

Tam Wing-kin, 35, sole shareholder-cum-director of Minerva Services Limited (Minerva), faces one count of conspiracy for an agent to accept advantages, contrary to section 9(1)(a) of the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance and section 159A of the Crimes Ordinance.

The defendant was released on ICAC bail, pending his appearance at the Eastern Magistrates' Courts tomorrow (May 19) for plea.

The defendant was the sole shareholder-cum-director of Minerva, an intermediary company providing secretarial services to clients.

It is alleged that between September and October 2020, the defendant offered bribes of \$20,000 to a then senior relationship manager of The Bank of East Asia, Limited (BEA) for opening bank accounts at BEA for clients referred by the defendant.

BEA required corporate account applicants to attend its branches in person and to provide identification documents for verification for due diligence purpose. The bank would not accept application to open a corporate bank account if an applicant could not meet those requirements.

ICAC investigation revealed that the defendant had allegedly provided information of two clients to the bank manager, and the applicants did not meet with the bank manager.

The aforesaid bank manager Lai Chee-wai, 39, was earlier charged with offences including bribery. He pleaded guilty to the charges and his case was adjourned to January 10 next year for mitigation and sentence.

BEA has rendered full assistance to the ICAC during its investigation into the cases.

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 through case scenarios and corruption prevention safeguards. To promote probity culture in the banking sector, an Ethics Promotion Programme for the Banking Industry was also launched, under which a self-learning animation series "Unveil the Secret: Integrity Myths in the Banking Industry" was produced to help frontline bank staff understand common corruption loopholes.

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新聞公佈

廉署起訴中介人涉嫌行賄銀行經理助客開戶

2023年5月18日

廉政公署昨日(5月17日)落案起訴一名中介公司董事，控告他涉嫌向一名銀行經理提供賄款兩萬元，以協助兩個非本地客戶在該銀行開立企業帳戶。

譚永健，35歲，Minerva Services Limited (Minerva)唯一股東兼董事，被控一項串謀使代理人接受利益罪名，違反《防止賄賂條例》第9(1)(a)條及《刑事罪行條例》第159A條。

被告已獲廉署准予保釋，明日(5月19日)在東區裁判法院答辯。

被告是中介公司Minerva唯一股東兼董事，該公司為客戶提供秘書服務。

被告涉嫌於2020年9月至10月期間，向一名時任東亞銀行有限公司(東亞銀行)高級客戶經理提供賄款兩萬元，換取為被告轉介的客戶於東亞銀行開立銀行帳戶。

東亞銀行要求企業帳戶申請人須親身到分行開戶，以及提供身分證明文件供銀行職員核實，以符合盡職審查要求。若申請人未能符合相關規定，東亞銀行不會接受其申請。

廉署調查發現，被告涉嫌向該名銀行經理提供兩個客戶的資料，而申請人並沒有與該經理會面。

上述銀行經理黎賜慧，39歲，早前被控貪污等罪名。他承認控罪，案件押後至明年1月10日求情及判刑。

東亞銀行在廉署調查案件期間提供全面協助。

廉署推出全新《銀行防貪指南》，以貪污案例和防貪措施，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，提升銀行的防貪能力。廉署亦推出「銀行業誠信推廣計劃」，包括製作「銀行業誠信解密系列」網上自學培訓動畫，協助前線銀行職員了解常見的貪污陷阱，與業界共建廉潔文化。

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