



## Press Releases

# Ex-company director jailed for bribing bank manager over account opening

2023-4-14

A former director of a trading company was brought to the Eastern Magistrates' Courts today (April 14) after being charged by the ICAC yesterday (April 13) with offering a bribe of \$1,000 to a bank manager for opening an account for his company. He was sentenced to two months' imprisonment after entering a guilty plea.

LI Qingbo, 33, former sole director-cum-shareholder of Sanfu Import & Export Co., Limited (Sanfu), pleaded guilty to one count of offering an advantage to an agent, contrary to Section 9(2)(a) of the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance.

In sentencing, Principal Magistrate Miss Ivy Chui Yee-mei said banks in Hong Kong maintained a stringent vetting mechanism. The offence committed by the defendant was serious, warranting an immediate custodial sentence, as he had offered bribe to a bank employee after knowing that the bank had reservation about his account opening application.

The court heard that on June 26, 2014, the defendant visited a business centre of The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited (HSBC) in Central to open a corporate bank account for Sanfu, a trading company registered in Hong Kong. He was received by an account opening manager, who conducted customer due diligence on Sanfu, including examining its background and business transaction records.

Since the defendant failed to provide Sanfu's transaction records with its business partners and could not answer basic questions about the company, the manager requested him to provide further supporting documents for considering the application.

The defendant then offered two \$500 banknotes to the manager for assisting him in opening an account. The manager turned down the offer immediately and reported the matter to HSBC. The defendant subsequently left Hong Kong, he was arrested and charged by the ICAC when he visited Hong Kong again recently.

HSBC rendered full assistance to the ICAC during its investigation into the case.

The prosecution was today represented by ICAC officer Fiona Wan.

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## 新聞公佈

### 前公司董事行賄銀行經理開戶遭廉署起訴認罪判囚兩個月

2023年4月14日

廉政公署昨日(4月13日)落案起訴一名貿易公司前董事，向一名銀行經理提供賄款1,000元以協助其公司開立戶口。被告今日(4月14日)被帶往東區裁判法院，認罪判囚兩個月。

李清波，33歲，三福進出口貿易有限公司(三福)前獨資董事兼股東，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。

主任裁判官徐綺薇判刑時指，香港銀行具備嚴謹的審查制度，被告知道銀行對其開戶申請有懷疑，遂行賄銀行職員，屬嚴重罪行，須判處即時監禁。

案情透露，三福是一間在香港註冊的貿易公司。被告於2014年6月26日到訪香港上海滙豐銀行有限公司(滙豐銀行)位於中環的中小企中心，為三福開立銀行戶口。一名開戶經理接待被告，並對三福進行盡職審查，包括查核其背景和商業交易記錄。

由於被告未能提供與商業伙伴的交易記錄及回答有關三福的基本問題，該名經理要求他進一步提交證明文件以考慮其申請。

被告其後向該名經理提供兩張500元紙幣，以協助他開立戶口。該名經理即時拒絕被告的要求，並向滙豐銀行匯報事件。被告之後離開香港，近日來港期間被廉署拘捕並落案起訴。

滙豐銀行在廉署調查案件期間提供全面協助。

控方今日由廉署人員尹穎茵代表出庭。

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