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Anti-Crime Operations

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Twenty six arrested in crackdown of case of organised manipulation of prostitution



Having received reliable intelligence in as early as 2019 that criminal syndicates had been covertly engaging in prostitution manipulation under the camouflage of running sauna venues in Macao, the Judiciary Police launched rigorous investigation. Long-term in-depth investigation revealed that the involved sauna venues mainly belonged to three different criminal syndicates, ostensibly offering services like spas, massages, etc., when sex services were actually provided for customers by women in sauna rooms, with items such as condoms, mouthwash, lubricants, etc. supplied.

Investigation showed that the criminal syndicates were highly capable of counter-surveillance, involving incumbent and retired law enforcement personnel, who, upon hearing of the news of police patrols, or learning about cases involving the investigation into sauna venues or related persons, contacted the criminal syndicates with secret communication forms in pre-agreed code words in an attempt to dismantle the facts of crime and circumvent law enforcement of the police. They had settled bribe money in circuitous ways regularly each month.

Taking the opportune moment on 4th June 2026, the Judiciary Police, under the supervision and issue of detention orders of the judicial authority, took action during the settlement of bribe money of the criminal syndicate members, deploying personnel to raid three sauna venues, five offices and 23 involved locations, arresting 26 individuals from Macao, mainland China and Hong Kong, who were respectively the mastermind and 25 core members of the criminal syndicates, including three incumbent personnel of public security forces and two retired Judiciary Police personnel. Three hundred eighty-one involved persons were also taken in for investigation. Meanwhile, illegal proceeds that totalled to an equivalent of over MOP 50 million were also seized.

The three criminal syndicates were found to have engaged in manipulated prostitution from 2016 to 2024 respectively, receiving illegal proceeds ranging from about MOP 230 million to 320 million. The aforesaid

incumbent personnel of public security forces had profited no less than HKD 470,000 each month, while the two retired Judiciary Police personnel no less than HKD 300,000 each month.

Each criminal syndicate had offered bribe money to the involved law enforcement personnel each month, detailed below:

Criminal syndicate A: respectively offered no less than HKD 300,000 to the incumbent personnel of public security forces and no less than HKD 150,000 to the retired Judiciary Police personnel each month;

Criminal syndicate B: respectively offered no less than HKD 100,000 to the incumbent personnel of public security forces and no less than HKD 150,000 to the retired Judiciary Police personnel each month;

Criminal syndicate C: offered no less than HKD 70,000 to the incumbent personnel of public security forces.

Based on investigative findings, the Judiciary Police transferred all involved persons to the Public Prosecutions Office respectively for the charges of organised crime, manipulation of prostitution, malfeasance, accepting bribes for illegal acts, abuse of power and personal favouritism by a civil servant, while continuing in-depth investigation into the case.

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