

Press Release



Taiwan Pingtung District Prosecutors Office

Press Release

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The Taiwan Pingtung District Prosecutors Office investigate the case of Mayor of Township to be suspected of alleged violation of Anti-Corruption Act

Pingtung District Prosecutor's Office prosecutor, Xiao Huiyu, commanded the Pingtung County Survey Station of Ministry of Justice Investigation Bureau to investigate a township mayor and three others in Pingtung County for alleged violations of Article 5, Paragraph 1, Subparagraph 2 of the Anti-Corruption Act (using their position to fraudulently obtain property/ defrauding property by making use of public position), Article 6, Paragraph 1, Subparagraph 4 of the same Act (profiting from their position/ abuse of public power for private profit), and Article 214 of the Criminal Code (causing a public official to make a false entry/ the offense of causing public officials to make false entry).

On March 12, 2024, after prosecutors executed to summon and collect evidence, the defendant Chen ○○ was released on bail of NT\$70,000. Additionally, the Pingtung District Court (hereinafter referred to as the Pingtung Court) was petitioned to detain and prohibit communication with defendants Pan ○○, Pan ○○, and Lai ○○. The Pingtung Court ruled to release them on bail of NT\$300,000, NT\$100,000, and NT\$150,000 respectively. The prosecutor will file an appeal according to the law.

The defendant, Pan ○ Jia, is the mayor of a township in Pingtung County. The defendant, Lai ○○, is the secretary of the township office, and the defendant, Chen ○○, is a temporary employee hired under a labor contract to work at the funeral management office. After taking office as mayor on December 25, 2022, Pan ○ Jia intended to hire Pan ○ Yi as a confidential staff member. However, due to the lack of such a position in the township office and Pan ○ Yi's lack of relevant experience and qualifications, he could only be hired as a temporary employee. Despite this, Pan ○ Jia, Pan ○ Yi, Lai ○○, and Chen ○○ conspired to fraudulently obtain money and benefits by exploiting their positions, and to falsify official documents. They

violated the regulations for hiring confidential staff by appointing Chen ○○ as a confidential staff member, while Pan ○ Yi actually received the salary difference. On the evening of March 12, 2024, the prosecutor interrogated Pan ○ Jia, Pan ○ Yi, Lai ○○, and Chen ○○, and found that they were all seriously suspected of the aforementioned crimes. There was sufficient evidence to believe that Pan ○ Jia, Pan ○ Yi, and Lai ○○ might destroy, forge, or alter evidence, or collude with co-defendants or witnesses. Therefore, they were arrested in court and the prosecutor requested their detention and isolation from the Pingtung District Court. On the afternoon of March 13, 2024, the Pingtung District Court held a detention hearing. After the prosecutor's detailed arguments, the judge found that although there were grounds for detaining Pan ○ Jia, Lai ○○, and Pan ○ Yi, there was no necessity for detention. They were released on bail of NT\$300,000, NT\$150,000, and NT\$100,000 respectively. The prosecutor will file an appeal according to the law.