

Abstract



Taiwan Pingtung District Prosecutors Office Press

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The Agency has formally filed public prosecution against the mayor of a township in Pingtung County for alleged violations of the Anti-Corruption Act

In adherence to the principles of justice and the rule of law, Prosecutor Chiu Ching-Hui of this office directed the Southern Investigation Division of the Agency Against Corruption to investigate Wu ○-Chung, the mayor of a township in Pingtung County, for allegedly accepting bribes in connection with his official duties, in violation of Article 5, Paragraph 1, Subparagraph 3 of the Anti-Corruption Act. Upholding impartial law enforcement, the prosecutor filed a motion with the Pingtung District Court (hereinafter referred to as 'the Court') for the detention and incommunicado custody of the defendant Wu ○-Chung. On November 8, 2024, the Court approved the motion. Following the completion of a thorough evidence-gathering process, the investigation has concluded, and public prosecution has been lawfully initiated. The case has been formally transferred to the Court for trial today.

According to the investigation, Wu ○-Chung has served as the mayor of a township in Pingtung County since December 25, 2022 (ROC Year 111). In this role, he is responsible for overseeing township affairs, reviewing the township office's budget proposals, supervising local administrative measures, and holds authority over personnel appointments and approvals within the sanitation team. As a public servant serving in a local self-governing body, Wu ○-Chung possesses legally mandated official powers. Lin ○-Ping is the spouse of Hsieh ○-Yang; Chang ○-Lan is Hsieh ○-Yang's mother; and Hsieh ○-Fei is his mother-in-law (Lin ○-Ping's mother). Lin ○-Ping, Chang ○-Lan, Hsieh ○-Fei, and Hsieh ○-Yang were separately granted deferred prosecution for suspected violations of Article 11, Paragraph 2 of the Anti-Corruption Act, involving the act of offering bribes to a public official for actions not in breach of official duties.

In January 2023, prior to January 10, Hsieh ○-Fei sought to secure a sanitation team position at the township office for her son-in-law, Hsieh ○-Yang. She reached a mutual understanding with Wu ○-Chung that a payment of NT\$900,000 would be made in exchange for the appointment. Hsieh ○-Fei informed Lin ○-Ping, who then relayed the information to Hsieh ○-Yang and Chang ○-Lan. The parties jointly conspired to offer a bribe to a public official for actions not in violation of

official duties. After pooling the NT\$900,000 in cash, Hsieh ○-Fei drove to Wu ○-Chung's residence in Pingtung County on the morning of January 27, 2023 (during the Lunar New Year period) and handed the cash directly to Wu ○-Chung as payment for appointing Hsieh ○-Yang to the sanitation team.

Subsequently, on April 10, 2023, the township office's administrative division announced the recruitment of sanitation team members. Hsieh ○-Yang applied and participated in the interview during the application period. On May 10, 2023, the township office officially announced his appointment as a new sanitation team member. After multiple interrogations, the defendant Wu ○-Chung eventually changed his statement and admitted to accepting NT\$900,000 in cash bribes. Since he has returned the illicit gains to the court. However, as an elected head of a local self-governing body, Wu ○-Chung was expected to fulfill his duties with integrity and abide by national laws. Instead, he abused his authority over personnel appointments for personal gain through the aforementioned conduct. His actions not only undermined public trust in the government but also violated principles of social justice.

In order to firmly combat corruption and restore integrity in public service, the prosecution respectfully requests that the Pingtung District Court impose an appropriate sentence. Furthermore, in accordance with Article 17 of the Anti-Corruption Act and Article 37, Paragraph 2 of the Criminal Code, the prosecution petitions for the revocation of Wu ○-Chung's civil rights.