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Man gets 15 months for bribery over murder probe

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A man, charged by the ICAC, was today (Tuesday) sentenced to 15 months' imprisonment at the District Court for conspiracy for a policeman to solicit a bribe of \$13,000 for divulging information on the investigation of a murder case.

Kwan Kwok-leung, 31, a goods van driver, was also ordered by Deputy Judge Gary Lam Kar-yan to pay \$3,000 as restitution to the government.

The judge said the defendant's jail term was reduced from a starting point of two years to 15 months in view of his guilty plea and co-operation with the ICAC to testify against other co-defendants in the case.

The defendant had earlier pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy for a public servant to solicit an advantage, contrary to Section 4(2)(a) of the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance and Section 159A of the Crimes Ordinance.

At the material times, Wong Wing-kai, a Police Constable attached to the District Crime Squad of Tai Po District, was one of the officers tasked to investigate a case in which Pun Fuk-kwan was murdered in Fanling in June 2006.

The court heard that in mid 2007, the defendant contacted Mok Shu-yik, the father of two suspects who were brothers in the murder case, to arrange a meeting with Wong.

At a meeting among the defendant, Wong and the parents of the suspects in Shenzhen on July 28, 2007, the defendant requested Mok to give some "tea money" to Wong for his assistance in handling the case. However, the request was declined.

Later on, the defendant told Mok that he was acquainted with some lawyers and solicited \$13,000. Mok acceded to the defendant's request in the belief that it was "legal fees".

On September 8, 2007, the defendant lined up another meeting with Wong, Mok, a legal executive and family members of Mok in Shenzhen. During the meeting, Wong and the legal executive provided the Mok brothers with information and advice in respect of the murder investigation, and Mok gave \$13,000 "legal fees" to the defendant.

Having been arrested by the ICAC in April 2011, the defendant admitted under caution that he came to an agreement with Wong and the legal executive to solicit \$13,000 from Mok in mid July 2007.

The trio further agreed that the defendant and Wong would take \$3,000 each and the legal executive would take \$7,000, the court was told.

The Police had rendered full assistance to the ICAC during its investigation.

Wong, 47, who retired from the Police, absconded. A warrant for his arrest had been issued by the Eastern Magistracy for his alleged involvement in the case.

The prosecution was today represented by Senior Public Prosecutor Olivia Tsang, assisted by ICAC officer Calvin Wong.

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