

Hualien District Prosecutors Office Press Release



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Contact person: Head Prosecutor Tsai Shenghao

Contact number: (03) 822-6153 No: 2024011001

**Taiwan Hualien District Prosecutors Office investigated the case of Li ○
○ giving gift boxes to bribe the election. The investigation was
concluded and public prosecution was initiated. Strict enforcement of
the law before the election maintained the electoral fairness.**

Prosecutor Wang Bo-shun of this office commanded the Hualien County Investigation Station of the Investigation Bureau of the Ministry of Justice and the Criminal Police Brigade of the Hualien County Police Department to jointly investigate Defendant Li ○○, who had repeatedly visited hospitalized patients and their families between August to October 2023. According to the investigation, he went to the hospital in person to deliver fruit gift boxes of considerable value (NT\$330 per box) and asked the patients and their families to vote for an indigenous legislative candidate. In this way, he solicited and paid bribes in exchange for exercising their voting rights to a specific candidate. After active investigation, it was found that the defendant had been involved in the crime of requesting and delivering bribes for voting under Article 99, Paragraph 1 of the Public Officials Election and Recall Act. The evidence of the crime was clear. The investigation was completed and the defendant was prosecuted on January 5, 2024. Today (10), the case was transferred to the Taiwan

Hualien District Court.

From the investigation, Defendant Li○○ was found to have joined the **"Hualien City ○○ Association Cadres,"** a LINE group belonging to an indigenous legislator candidate's campaign team, since June 2023. He solicited and paid bribes to people with voting rights. He took advantage of his position as an assistant to a township representative in ○○ Township, Hualien County, and used the excuse of condolences as a cover to visit hospitalized persons in some hospitals in Hualien County from August to October 2023. Taking the opportunity to express condolences to the patients, he gave fruit gift boxes of considerable value to those who have the right to vote for Aboriginal Legislators. The defendant handed over the candidate's campaign business card to the electors and asked them to take photos with the business card in their hands. The defendant thereby asked these electors, including Zhou ○○, Yang ○○, Yang □□, Lin ○○, Hu ○○, Huang ○○, and Jin ○○, to vote for ○○○, with the intent of having ○○○ elected as an aboriginal legislator. By this mean, the defendant solicited and delivered bribes in exchange of exercising voting rights in a certain way. Later, the defendant uploaded each of these photos to the **"Hualien City ○○ Club Cadres"** LINE group to showcase his performance in illicit canvassing votes for the legislative candidate. On November 28, 2023, the prosecutor directed the Hualien County Investigation Station and the Hualien County Police Criminal Police Brigade to search and verify. The result indicated that the defendant had been involved in the voting request and delivery of Paragraph 1 of Article 99 of the Public Officials Election and Recall Law. The criminal suspicion of bribery was obvious and grave. The court granted our application to detain the defendant. With continuous and detailed investigation, the evidence manifested clear pertinent criminal facts. The investigation was thus

completed, and the defendant was prosecuted on January 5, 2024, effectively showcasing our dedication to preventing crimes from affecting the fairness of the election.

As the 2024 presidential, vice-presidential, and legislative election is approaching, our office reiterates that "**vote-buying is the beginning of corruption,**" and will strictly investigate and deal with all types of election-obstructing cases, regardless of party or ethnic origin, and will adhere to the principle of "**no bottom line, no upper limit, and no time limit policy**" to the last minute. We will continue to investigate bribery proactively, and make every effort to stop illegal infiltration and influence from hostile foreign forces, misinformation, and election betting, ensuring the fairness and justice of the election process and safeguarding the foundation of democracy. If the public knows of election bribery or election obstruction, please call the "Hualien District Prosecutors Office anti-election bribery hotline (03) 8230159" or the "Ministry of Justice anti-election bribery hotline 0800-024-099 (press 4 after dialing)". The maximum amount of reporting reward is NTD20 million. ◦