

Biggest Heroin and Ketamine Cargo Smuggling in 20 Years Busted Under Joint Command of Prosecutors at New Taipei District Prosecutors Office and Taipei District Prosecutors Office

On October 11th, 2013, prosecutor Lee Tsao-Wai at New Taipei District Prosecutors Office (NTDPO) and prosecutor Su Chen-Wen at Taipei District Prosecutors Office (TDPO) directed joint force of law enforcement agencies to seize 270 bricks of heroin weighing approximately 103kg as well as 240kg of ketamine trafficked from Vietnam in the 70th Wharf of Kaohsiung Harbor, marking the biggest heroin and ketamine cargo smuggling ever busted in the past 20 years. Two suspects, Huang X-Hsien (黃 O 賢) and Chen X-Chi (陳 O 奇), were also arrested.

Prosecutors at TDPO, during the course of directing Taipei City Field Office (TCFO) of Investigation Bureau the investigation of another drug-related case, found out that Huang and Chen used seafood cargo as disguise to smuggle Myanmar-manufactured heroin from Vietnam to Taiwan. After long term monitoring, surveillance and intelligence gathering, it was indicated that the frozen taro cargo arrived on October 6th, 2013 was tremendously suspicious. Knowing that Huang and Chen were mainly situated in Sanchong District in New Taipei City, TDPO sought efforts from NTDPO to direct TCFO of Investigation Bureau to investigate the case. In the morning of October 11th, 2013, it was discovered that 270 bricks of heroin and 240kg of ketamine were stored in 40 marked bags which were mingled with 28 tons of frozen taro. In the afternoon of the same day, the prosecutor at NTDPO issued warrants to arrest Huang and Chen respectively in Sanchong District in New Taipei City and Taichung city. After overnight questioning, the prosecutor petitioned the court to issue detention orders for the fact that the crimes involved are punishable with a minimum sentence of five-year imprisonment and also for the possibility of fleeing as well as contaminating witnesses and concealing or destroying evidence. The detention orders were later granted by the court. Prosecutors at NTDPO will keep

investigating to determine if there is any accomplice at large so the crackdown of drug trafficking ring can be completed thoroughly.

Drug abuse has been on the rise in Taiwan, and the investigation of drug-related crimes has been the focus of NTDPO. Using frozen taro as a disguise to smuggle huge amount of drugs with success would definitely pose a serious threat to our society. It is fortunate that prosecutors with the assistance of the police force knew the pattern of crime and the trail of the suspects precisely in advance and successfully prevented the drugs from reaching the hands of our citizens by denying illegal drugs at an early stage. Prosecutors at NTDPO, for the purpose of protecting the health of our citizens, will keep directing the police force to fight drug-related crimes.