

Chen Jing-Teng(陳靖騰) and Other 6 defendants are charged with violating The Banking Act, etc.

It was reported that there was an alleged local fraud ring said to be using sham business opportunities in Malaysia as a bait to defraud thousands of would-be investors. The New Taipei District Prosecutors Office (NTDPO) therefore organized a joint task force led by prosecutor Nie-Jhong(聶眾), consisting of the Ministry of Justice's Investigation Bureau(MJIB) and New Taipei City Police Department into investigation. On January 6th, 2015, Prosecutor Nie indicted 7 main defendants Chen Jing-Teng(陳靖騰), Cao Yan-Jhen(曹晏甄), Lin Jhih-Yu(林致宇), Chen Jhen-Yi(陳楨易), Chen Jhen- Yue(陳楨岳), Chen Dan-Yu(陳丹渝) and Cao Cing-Ling(曹慶齡), on violating The Banking Act, Fair Trade Act and Money Laundering Control Act, while other defendants were under further investigation.

Organized in July 2012, the local fraud ring was led by the main suspect Chen Jing-Teng(陳靖騰) and operated as a family business. The members included Chen Jing-Teng's girlfriend Cao Yan-Jhen(曹晏甄), Cao Yan-Jhen's cousin Lin Jhih-Yu(林致宇), Chen Jing-Teng's two sons Chen Jhen-Yi(陳楨易) and Chen Jhen- Yue(陳楨岳), as well as Cao Yan-Jhen's parents Chen Dan-Yu(陳丹渝) and Cao Cing-Ling(曹慶齡). The suspects had told potential investors that they would be investing in an upscale gaming resort in Malaysia, and there had been different sets of investment choices. Each of them provided returns as high as 76 percent to 90 percent per year. To draw more participants, they also conducted illegal multi-level marketing activities which rewarded their investors to promote the alleged investments. To win the trust of the investors, the fraud ring also organized investor sessions at luxury hotels and treated investors to free overseas trips, while the main suspects showed off their wealth by living a deluxe lifestyle. Lured by the promise of extremely high returns, more than 4,400 people were hooked by the scheme. Some had lost more than NT 121 million, 67 million, 57 million, 38 million, 26 million and so on due to the fake investments. The fraud ring thus managed to rake in at least NT 3 billion over the past two years. To keep and hide their proceeds of crime, the defendants had purchased famous cars, luxury handbags, jewelry, stocks and real estate. They had also taken out a large amount of life insurance policies. Besides, some parts of their proceeds had been remitted overseas, while some parts including NT 40 million cash and jewelry were hidden in Chen Dan-Yu's brother's house.

On September 10th, 18th, 25th and October 22th 2014, prosecutors led the agents of MJIB and police to launch searching at various locations in New Taipei City. The

investigators seized NT 384,157,235 in cash, US 154,385 in cash, gold bars, jewelry, luxury handbags and famous cars. Prosecutors also blocked relevant bank accounts, insurance policies, creditors' rights, real estate as well as stocks. So far in cash alone, NTDPO had seized NT 519,460,233.

By cracking down the large-scale fraud ring, NTDPO hopes to maintain financial stability, economic and social order. NTDPO will keep track of the money flow to compensate the victims' loss and avoid the criminal defendants benefiting from the crime.