

## Man convicted of aiding and abetting other people to operate money service without licence

A male licensed money service operator was fined \$12,000 today (January 2) and disqualified from holding a Money Service Operator licence for two months at Kowloon City Magistrates' Courts for aiding and abetting other people to operate a money service without a valid licence.

Acting on information, officers of the Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) earlier discovered a grocery shop in Tai Kok Tsui suspected of operating a money service without a licence with the assistance of the licensee.

A male proprietor and a female staff member operating the grocery shop were fined \$10,000 and \$5,000 respectively and disqualified from holding a Money Service Operator licence for six months by the court earlier for operating a money service without a valid licence.

Under the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing Ordinance, a person who wishes to operate a remittance and/or money changing service is required to apply for a licence from the C&ED. Any person who operates a money service without a valid licence commits an offence. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$100,000 and imprisonment for six months.

Members of the public may report any suspected unlicensed money service operations to Customs' 24-hour hotline 2545 6182 or its dedicated crime-reporting email account ([crimereport@customs.gov.hk](mailto:crimereport@customs.gov.hk)).