

Press Release

Taiwan Yunlin District Prosecutors Office

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The Yunlin District Prosecutors Office, upon concluding its investigation into alleged vote-buying by a candidate surnamed Li running for representative of the Dapi Township Farmers' Association in Yunlin County, has filed a public indictment in accordance with the law. (114th Annual Election Investigation No. 1.)

I. Background and Investigation Process:

Upon receiving intelligence from the Douliu Precinct of the Yunlin County Police Bureau, Chief Prosecutor Huang Chih-Yung of the Yunlin District Prosecutors Office deemed the information to be specific and credible. He assigned Prosecutor Peng Yen-Ju to conduct the investigation. A task force was then formed, consisting of the Dounan Precinct , Criminal Investigation Corps , Yunlin County Police Bureau , Ministry of Justice Investigation Bureau , Yunlin County Field Office.

After gathering sufficient evidence, the task force obtained a search warrant from the Taiwan Yunlin District Court and executed a search on February 11, 2025.

Candidate Mr. Li ○○ (male, born in 1967) and eight other association members were summoned for questioning. During the investigation, Mr. Li admitted to engaging in bribery. Members Lu ○○ (male, born in 1945), Su ○○ (male, born in 1980), Chen-Lian ○○ (female, born in 1950), Chen ○○ (male, born in 1973), and Chang-Hsieh ○ (female, born in 1948) also admitted to receiving bribes and returned the illegal proceeds. The prosecutor determined that Mr. Li did not need to be detained and released him on bail of NT\$100,000. The investigation was concluded, and public prosecution was initiated on February 12, 2025.

II. Summary of Criminal Conduct:

Mr. Li ○○ is a member of the Dapi Township Farmers' Association and registered as a candidate for the 20th Representative Election of the Yiran Village Agricultural Group. Lu ○○, Su ○○, Chen-Lian ○○, Chen ○○, and Chang-Hsieh ○ are also members of the association and eligible voters in this election. Five candidates contested three representative seats. In order to secure his election, Mr. Li sought to bribe eligible voters by offering or promising them money in exchange for votes. On February 7 and 8, 2025, he offered NT\$10,000 to NT\$20,000 per vote to the aforementioned five voters to vote for him in the Yiran Village election. The voters agreed to cast their votes for Mr. Li in exchange for the payments. Specifically, Lu, Chen-Lian, Chen, and Chang-Hsieh each received NT\$10,000, while Su received NT\$20,000.

III. Applicable Law:

Mr. Li's conduct constitutes a violation of Article 47-1, Paragraph 1, Subparagraph 2 of The Farmers Association Act, which prohibits offering property to individuals with voting rights in exchange for votes.

IV. Official Notice:

The Yunlin District Prosecutors Office reminds Candidates and their campaigners are urged not to engage in vote-buying practices. According to Article 47-1 of the Farmers Association Act, both bribers and recipients of bribes may face imprisonment for up to three years.

Additionally, under Point 3 of Guidelines for Encouraging the Reporting of Election Offenses , a reward of NT\$2 million is granted for reports acts of vote-buying involving candidates for directors, supervisors, chairpersons, or general managers of farmers' or fishermen's associations. For cases involving representatives or other campaign aides, a reward of NT\$500,000 per case will be awarded. To report election violations, please call the reporting hotline 0800-027-099 (press "4" after dialing). All information provided will be kept strictly confidential.

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