

# HEINBRO GROUP

15 Mar 2023

## **SFC Circular - Five more arrested in SFC and ICAC joint operation against sophisticated ramp-and-dump syndicate**

Five key members of an active ramp-and-dump syndicate were arrested in a follow-up joint operation of the Securities and Futures Commission (SFC) and the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) mounted in the past two days (14 and 15 March). The sophisticated syndicate is suspected of operating ramp-and-dump market manipulation involving illicit gains of \$191 million through a complex shareholding network of Hong Kong-listed companies by corrupt means. Eight other members of the syndicate were earlier arrested in another joint operation of the SFC and the ICAC.

The five arrestees are key members of the syndicate, including qualified accountants and senior executives of a number of Hong Kong-listed companies. The joint operation of the SFC and the ICAC involved searches of various premises, including the offices and the residences of the arrestees.

Another eight people – including a suspected ringleader and other key members of the syndicate – were arrested on suspicion of corruption in an earlier joint operation mounted in November last year.

Intensive investigations by the SFC and the ICAC also revealed other criminal offences, including perverting the course of public justice and obstructing the SFC's investigations.

The SFC's Executive Director of Enforcement, Mr Christopher Wilson, said: "The joint operation demonstrated our determination to tackle any form of corruption-facilitated market misconduct and zero tolerance of wrongdoers attempting to obstruct our investigations and pervert the course of justice. We are committed to work with the ICAC to root out misconduct and uphold Hong Kong's reputation as an international financial market."

Deputy Commissioner and Head of Operations of the ICAC, Mr Ricky Yau

## HEINBRO GROUP

Level 18A, Heng Shan  
Centre, 145 Queen's  
Road East, Wan Chai,  
Hong Kong |  
heinbroconsulting.com

heinbro@heinbro.com  
| +852 2811 1708

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Shu-chun, said: “The ICAC would not tolerate corruption or any illegal acts frustrating investigations by the Commission. We will continue to collaborate with the SFC to track down the corrupt so as to sustain Hong Kong’s status as a clean international financial centre. Perverting the course of public justice is a serious offence. The ICAC would follow up on breaches of such offence in a serious manner.”

No further comment will be made at this stage as investigations are ongoing.

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heinbroconsulting.co  
m |  
heinbro@heinbro.co  
m | +852 2811 1708

中文版本

### 證監會與廉署採取聯合行動拘捕多五名“唱高散貨”集團成員

證券及期貨事務監察委員會（證監會）與廉政公署（廉署）昨日及今日（3月14及15日）採取聯合行動，打擊一個活躍於市場的“唱高散貨”集團，拘捕五名集團骨幹成員。該集團極有組織，涉嫌以貪污手法透過多間香港上市公司組成複雜的持股網絡進行“唱高散貨”市場操縱活動，涉及非法收益1.91億元。集團另外八人早前已在證監會及廉署另一項聯合行動中逮捕。

五名被捕人為集團骨幹成員，部分有會計師資格及分別於多間香港上市公司擔任高層人員。證監會及廉署在是次聯合行動中搜查了多個處所，包括被捕人的辦公室及住所。

集團懷疑主腦及其他骨幹成員共八人，於去年11月的聯合行動中因為涉嫌貪污被捕。

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證監會與廉署經過深入調查後，懷疑集團亦涉及其他違法行為，包括妨礙司法公正及妨礙證監會調查等。

證監會法規執行部執行董事魏弘福先生（Mr Christopher Wilson）表示：“是次聯合行動展現我們決心打擊一切涉及貪污的市場失當行為，及對於企圖妨礙本會調查及司法公正的違法者，採取零容忍的態度。證監會致力與廉署合作，杜絕任何失當行為，以維護香港作為國際金融市場的聲譽。”

副廉政專員兼執行處首長丘樹春先生表示：“廉署絕不姑息任何貪污或妨礙廉署調查的違法行為，將繼續與證監會通力合作，鏗而不捨追擊貪污分子，以維護香港的廉潔國際金融中心地位。妨礙司法公正是一項嚴重罪行，廉署定必嚴肅跟進。”

由於調查仍在進行當中，現階段不會作出進一步評論。

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