

二〇〇四年四月十五日

## 回應聲明

廉政公署發言人今日(星期四)回應媒界查詢，證實拘捕十一名人士，包括一名鄉事委員會(鄉委會)主席，懷疑他們涉嫌參與非法挖掘東涌河石塊。被捕的鄉委會主席並涉嫌曾收受利益，以協助進行有關勾當。

廉署昨日展開代號「漢水」的搜捕行動，並同時拘捕該鄉委會的一名副主席、一名秘書及六名委員，以及一間工程公司的兩名經營者。

廉署較早時接獲貪污投訴，指一名鄉委會主席涉嫌收受賄賂，容許有人從東涌河非法挖掘石塊，為竹篙灣一項建築工程提供材料，遂展開調查。

有關建築工程為政府與私人企業的合作計劃，由土木工程署負責監督，工程包括興建一個人工湖。

承建商較早時將興建人工湖湖邊的工程分判予另一間建築公司，而有關工程需要採用大量的石塊。

廉署調查顯示，兩名被捕的工程公司經營者涉嫌承諾，為分判商提供工程所需的石塊，並聲稱該等石塊是從東涌河合法掘取所得。

政府其後接獲投訴，指有關挖掘石塊對環境造成影響。

此外，兩名工程公司經營者涉嫌向分判商提供一封由鄉委會發出的信件，聲稱其公司獲授權因為東涌河進行防洪工程而將石塊搬移。分判商其後將有關信件交予政府作證明。

廉署調查顯示，涉案的鄉委會主席及秘書涉嫌受賄，以協助提供有關授權信件，並詐騙政府使其相信石塊是由於進行防洪工程而被移走。

被捕人士仍被廉署扣留，以待進一步調查。

April 15, 2004

### Response Statement

In response to press enquiries, an ICAC spokesman today (Thursday) confirmed that the Commission has arrested 11 persons in relation to the suspected illegal excavation of boulders from Tung Chung River, including a chairman of a rural committee alleged to have accepted advantages to facilitate the scam.

Also arrested in yesterday's operation, code-named "*Han River*", were a vice-chairman, a secretary and six members of the rural committee, as well as two operators of an engineering company.

The ICAC earlier received corruption complaints, alleging that a rural committee chairman might have accepted advantages for conniving at the illegal excavation of boulders from Tung Chung River in relation to a construction project at Penny's Bay.

The project, a joint venture by the Government and a private enterprise and supervised by the Civil Engineering Department, involves the construction of an artificial lake.

Another construction company has been subcontracted with the lake edge project, which requires large quantities of boulders.

ICAC inquiries revealed that the arrested engineering company's operators had allegedly undertaken to supply the subcontractor with boulders removed from Tung Chung River, claiming that the boulders were to be obtained legally.

The Government subsequently received a complaint alleging environmental hazards caused by the removal of boulders from the river.

It was also alleged that the operators of the engineering company had produced a letter to the subcontractor, purportedly issued by a rural committee authorizing the engineering company to remove boulders from the river as part of a flood prevention project. The letter was subsequently submitted to the Government.

ICAC investigation revealed that the chairman and secretary of the rural committee might have allegedly provided corrupt assistance in providing the letter, and deceived the Government into believing that the boulders were removed because of flood prevention.

The arrestees are still being detained by the ICAC, pending further inquiries.