

Anti-Crime Operations

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Macao woman nabbed for involvement in money laundering and smuggling famous wine



To implement the security authorities' strategy of forcefully clamping down on "parallel trading" activities, the Judiciary Police had stepped up intelligence gathering as well as analyses and studies on law-breakers who had engaged in smuggling and money laundering crimes in Macao. It was learnt that a Macao woman had smuggled famous wine and engaged in money laundering via a wine shop in the NAPE district.

Investigation found that during August to October 2022, the involved woman had exchanged HK\$140 million of suspected ill-gotten chips into cash on three separate occasions at two casinos in Macao and Taipa districts successively. The abovementioned shop had also smuggled large quantities of famous wine out of the territory at the request of its customers.

On 30th November 2022, the Judiciary Police mounted an operation, seizing evidence such as HKD84 million worth of chips, cash equivalent to over MOP20 million, 20,000 bottles of famous wine, as well as mobile phones, computers, receipts and documents from the involved woman's residence, the aforesaid wine shop, the warehouse and inside several vehicles respectively. At the same time, the involved woman and 11 relevant individuals were brought back for investigation.

The involved woman denied that she had committed the crime but was unable to give a reasonable explanation for the source of the above chips. Having consolidated the relevant investigative details, there were indications showing that the woman had been involved in money laundering and smuggling activities. Thus, the Judiciary Police transferred her to the Public Prosecutions Office for the offence of money laundering and in accordance with the relevant provisions stipulated in the "Foreign Trade Law".