

Manager and operators fined for illegal club operations

Three women were fined from \$1,000 to \$6,000 at the Kowloon City Magistrates' Courts today (June 26) for contravening the Clubs (Safety of Premises) Ordinance.

The courts heard that in November last year, officers from the Office of the Licensing Authority (OLA) of the Home Affairs Department conducted inspections at two clubs on Argyle Street in Mong Kok and Dundas Street in Yau Ma Tei, which had been operating with certificates of compliance (CoCs).

During the investigation in the club on Argyle Street, the OLA officers posed as customers and patronised the club for food and drinks without being asked to show their membership status or being invited to join the club as members. Also, the number of people at the club exceeded the maximum allowable capacity as stipulated in the CoC. Conditions 6 and 19 of the CoC were breached. The woman, being the CoC holder of the club, was charged with contravening section 21(2) of the Ordinance.

OLA officers found that the club on Dundas Street had been operating under a name other than the one indicated on the CoC on the day of inspection. The women, being the manager of the club and the CoC holder of the club, were charged with contravening section 21(c) of the Ordinance.

A spokesman for the department reminded all CoC holders to comply with the conditions as stipulated therein. Enforcement action will continue to be taken against illegal club operations.