## DIGITEL GROUP LTD: WHAT ARE YOUR LINKS, HERE, MR CHAIRMAN?

Exactly, what is/was the connection between Linkmax International Ltd and publicly listed <u>DigiTel Group Ltd</u> (Code: 8030, The Growth Enterprise Market [The GEM] of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd), **TARGET** is not quite certain, but it would be safe to state that Linkmax International Ltd is closely linked with the Current Chairman of DigiTel Group, Mr Lee Chuen Bit, and the former Vice Chairman of DigiTel Group, Mr Hung Hin Cheong.

Linkmax International figures prominently in a recent legal Action, filed in the High Court of the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), an Action between a Mr Chan Sio Veng and Mr Hung Hin Cheong.

The whereabouts of Mr Hung Hin Cheong is unknown to **TARGET** – and, also, it appears to the Plaintiff of High Court Action Number 1453, with Mr Chan Sio Veng, stating, plainly, that the address of Mr Hung Hin Cheong 'is unknown to the Plaintiff.'

This case, simply put, is for the return of about \$HK12.55 million, that amount of money, having, allegedly, been lost during a bout of gambling in the Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR) of the PRC, back in 1998.

It is alleged that Mr Hung Hin Cheong, then, the Vice Chairman of DigiTel Group, 'on or about 18<sup>th</sup> June 1998' was on, what was described as being, 'the Taipa Junket ("the Casino") at the Hyatt Hotel, Macau ...'.

Mr Hung Hin Cheong must have dropped a bundle, by all accounts, because Mr Chan Sio Veng was asked, and, presumably, agreed to be Mr Hung Hin Cheong's guarantor for loans, extended by the casino to Mr Hung Hin Cheong in the amount of \$HK12.55, in total.

The loans were said to have been advanced in 2 separate tranches. (Paragraphs One and 2 of the Statement of Claim, attached to Writ of Summons, Number 1453)

It is alleged, at Paragraph 3 of the Statement of Claim, that Mr Hung Hin Cheong agreed to repay to the Plaintiff all that he, Mr Hung Hin Cheong, owed to the casino, thus retiring his, Mr Chan Sio Veng's, legal obligations to the casino.

After Mr Chan Sio Veng repaid the casino all of Mr Hung Hin Cheong's gambling losses, he was given 2 cheques in the aggregate amount of \$HK4.55 million by Mr Hung Hin Cheong, it is further alleged.

Those cheques were said to have been dated June 23, 1998, and July 23, 1998, and drawn on Hang Seng Bank Ltd.

They were both dishonoured on presentation, it is alleged.

And this is where Linkmax International comes into the picture.

At Paragraph 7 of the Statement of Claim, it is alleged:

'At the direction of the Defendant (Mr Hung Hin Cheong), Linkmax International Limited drew a cheque of number 099292 upon Union Bank of Hong Kong Ltd. ("the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bank") in favour of the Plaintiff (Mr Chan Sio Veng) for the sum of HK\$8,000,000 in purported repayment of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Debt, which cheque was duly presented for payment on 24<sup>th</sup> September 1998 but was dishonoured and returned by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bank, marked "PAYMENT STOPPED".

Mr Chan Sio Veng is alleging that, since October 27, 1998, he has been trying to get back his money, but all to no avail.

Mr Hung Hin Cheong resigned as Vice Chairman and Executive Director of DigiTel Group Ltd on November 29, 2001, according to **TOLFIN** (The Computerised Online Financial Intelligence Service and Web-Based, Credit-Checking Provider).

That appears to have been established, but the connection between the Chairman of DigiTel Group and Mr Hung Hin Cheong appears to have continued, over the years, despite the alleged disappearance of this high-flying gambler.

**TOLFIN**'s records indicate that Linkmax International Ltd was struck off the Register of companies, incorporated in the HKSAR, as at January 18, 2002, and 'is dissolved as from that date ...', according to an official notice of the HKSAR Government.

Up to the date of its enforced dissolution, Linkmax was ... CLICK TO ORDER FULL ARTICLE

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