



## **Press Release of Changhua Branch, Administrative Enforcement Agency, Ministry of Justice**

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Spokesperson: Chief Enforcement Officer Chiang Chia-Jung

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Contact Person: Director Chen Liang-Tsai

Contact No.: 04-7269435 (211)

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### **Changhua Branch Delivers Care and Warmth to the Needy and the Elderly at Mid-Autumn Festival**

A man surnamed Lee, who resides in Hwamei Township, Changhua County, was transferred to the Changhua Branch, Administrative Enforcement Agency, Ministry of Justice, for administrative enforcement against his property due to non-payment of motor fuel usage fees, highway tolls, and fines totaling approximately NT\$80,000, which had been overdue for payment. In the process, the enforcement officers discovered that Mr. Lee was 71 years old, suffering from a disease that rendered him implanted with a nasogastric tube for a long period of time, and had lost his ability to earn a living, resulting in a very difficult living condition. Upon learning of his situation, the Changhua Branch immediately referred him to government agencies and social welfare organizations for assistance. On September 6, the Changhua Branch went to his residence to present him with a consolation gift donated by the Changhua Branch's Caring Society in the hope of helping him tide over his difficulties.

After receiving this case, the Changhua Branch carried out administrative enforcement on Mr. Lee's property in accordance with the law, having previously seized and auctioned off two of his vehicles

in 2022. Recently, during the seizure of Mr. Lee's savings, after he came to the branch office in person to explain his plight, the enforcement officers learned that he was a 71-year-old man living alone, and that he was currently renting a tin shack for NT\$5,000 per month. After his divorce many years ago, his sons and daughters left with his ex-wife, and he has not heard from them for more than 20 years. He had difficulty swallowing due to oral cancer, and after undergoing surgery, he could only use a nasogastric tube to feed himself. Originally, he drove an illegal white-plate taxi (operating without a business registration certificate) to make a living, but after he fell ill and could no longer drive, he was no longer able to make a living.

After learning of his situation, the Changhua Branch's enforcement officers referred the case to the Social Affairs Department of the Changhua County Government, the Changhua Branch of the Buddhist Tzu Chi Charitable Foundation, the Changhua Branch of the Huashan Foundation, and the Wuji Longhua Cihui Temple of Hemei Township in the hope of combining more charitable organizations to provide greater assistance. In addition, on September 6, in time before the Mid-Autumn Festival, Changhua Branch's Director Kuo Ching-Ming, on behalf of the Branch's staff, went to Mr. Lee's residence to express their love and care. When they arrived at the scene, they saw that Mr. Lee was living in a rented room, which was made of tin and was very stuffy inside, with no air-conditioning. As he was still intubated with a nasogastric tube, he was unable to express himself clearly, and could only write to convey to Branch Director Kuo the plight he was experiencing. Lee wrote that he was operated on for oral cancer at the end of May and has lost more than 20 kilograms since then. Although the chemotherapy has been completed, he has to visit the clinic for

follow-up appointments every two weeks. He used to live by driving, but because of his illness he could no longer do so and has almost lost his livelihood, relying only on his meager income from odd jobs and subsidies for low- and middle-income households to make ends meet, and his life has fallen into a predicament.

According to the Changhua Branch, the enforcement agency will definitely use severe means to urge the serious tax defaulters to fulfill their obligations under public law. However, for those obligors who are not financially capable, they will give them a grace period and help refer them to the relevant social welfare organizations or notify the relevant units of the county (municipal) government to assist them in improving their living conditions, thus striking a balance between compassion, rationality and the law. In particular, the Changhua Branch would like to remind the public that they should not ignore the notification of the subpoena by the Branch by assuming that it is the work of a fraudulent group. In case of doubt, please check the telephone number of the Branch Office on the Internet and contact the staff by phone. Pay your taxes honestly, do not leave things to chance, and work together to eliminate fraud!



