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## Judge exercises judicial mercy on HIV-positive man

A JUDGE exercised judicial mercy on a HIV-positive man by jailing him for two months for having proceeds arising from the criminal activity of his brother.

Quah Lai Huat, 41, a supply officer, had pleaded guilty to two charges of possessing S\$219,000 (RM532,763) and S\$30,000 (RM72,981) in 2008.

In November 2007, Lai Meng, 36, was involved in a scam where he relied on a flaw in DBS' Cashline processes to dishonestly obtain numerous payments from DBS with the help of fraudulent cheques.

He was nabbed in early 2008 and is currently behind bars for 10 years for cheating DBS Bank of about

S\$2.2mil (RM5.35mil).

Commercial Affairs Department traced the money obtained by Lai Huat on five occasions.

The total amounts involved were S\$277,288 (RM674,560).

His lawyer S.S. Dhillon said that his client, who had admitted receiving the ill-gotten money from his brother at the outset, was diagnosed with a chronic HIV infection.

District Judge Low Wee Ping told Lai Huat that if not for his medical condition and also the fact that he was the first person to give information to the police, he would have given him five months' jail. — The Straits Times / Asia News Network