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Aug 03, 2021



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First six charged under Organised Crime Act

They face charges over illegal gambling operations under new law to fight crime syndicates



(Clockwise from top left) Seet Seo Boon, See Chye Huat, Or Poh Soon, Seah Ee Lam, Toh Hee Choye and Lim Poi Hwa are allegedly part of a group whose main activity is said to have been illegal 4D and Toto. ST PHOTOS: WONG KWAI CHOW

For several years, a group of Singaporeans allegedly ran an illegal gambling syndicate - including their own version of public lotteries - while staying one step ahead of the law.

Yesterday, they faced a new law aimed at fighting crime syndicates and became the first people to be charged under the Organised Crime Act (OCA).

The group of six, led by 53-year-old Seet Seo Boon, were among 49 people arrested last year in a crackdown on criminal syndicates. Some \$25.5 million, believed to be proceeds from crime, has been seized from this group.

Yesterday, more details of their operations emerged after the authorities invoked the OCA, which gives enforcement agencies more powers to disrupt the activities of organised crime groups and seeks to stop them from getting a foothold in Singapore.

Seet, alone, is accused of receiving more than \$17 million from illegal gaming activities.

He is said to have spent at least \$1.2 million of this on the mortgage and down payments for 11 apartments in nine different condominiums - including The Tropica in Tampines and Urbana in River Valley Close.

In all, he faces 61 charges - including 38 for offences under the OCA, 19 of converting the benefits of criminal conduct and four of illegal gambling.