

Company and director fined \$330,000 for contravening Employment Ordinance

Kingstar Shipping Limited and its director were prosecuted by the Labour Department (LD) for failing to pay wages and end-of-year payments in accordance with the requirements of the Employment Ordinance (EO). The company and the director pleaded guilty at Kwun Tong Magistrates' Courts today (December 11) and were fined \$175,000 and \$155,000 respectively, making a total fine of \$330,000.

The company failed to pay four employees' wages and end-of-year payments totalling about \$1,099,000 within seven days after the expiry of the wage periods and the day specified in the employment contract for paying end-of-year payment as required by the EO. The director was convicted for his consent, connivance or neglect in the above wage offences.

"The ruling helps disseminate a strong message to all employers, directors and responsible officers of companies that they have to pay wages and end-of-year payments to employees within the statutory time limit stipulated in the EO," a spokesman for the LD said.

"The LD will not tolerate these offences and will spare no effort in enforcing the law and safeguarding employees' statutory rights," the spokesman added.