

Company and director fined for default on Labour Tribunal award

Eternal Rich (Hong Kong) Limited and its director were prosecuted by the Labour Department (LD) for failing to pay the sum awarded by the Labour Tribunal (LT) under the Employment Ordinance (EO). The company and the director pleaded guilty at Eastern Magistrates' Courts today (November 13). The company and the director were each fined a sum of \$48,000, making a total fine of \$96,000. The company and the director were also ordered to pay six employees an outstanding sum of about \$299,000.

The company failed to pay the six employees the awarded sum of about \$299,000 within 14 days after the date set by the LT. The director was convicted for his consent, connivance or neglect in the above offences.

"The ruling helps disseminate a strong message to all employers and responsible officers of companies that they have to pay the awarded sums according to the LT or Minor Employment Claims Adjudication Board within the time limit stipulated by the EO," a spokesman for the LD said.

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