

Company and its director fined for contravening Employment Ordinance

Brightlex International Limited and its director were prosecuted by the Labour Department (LD) for failing to pay wages and the sums awarded by the Labour Tribunal (LT) with respect to two employees, contravening the Employment Ordinance (EO). The company and its director pleaded guilty at Kwun Tong Magistrates' Courts today (October 25) and were fined \$33,500 and \$32,000 respectively, for a total of \$65,500. The company and the director were also ordered to pay an outstanding sum of about \$165,000 to the two employees concerned.

The company failed to pay wages to two employees within seven days after the expiry of the wage periods and termination of employment, as required by the EO. Also, the company failed to pay the two employees the awarded sum totalling about \$165,000 within 14 days after the date of the LT award. The director concerned was prosecuted and convicted for his consent, connivance or neglect in the above offences committed by the company.

"The ruling helps disseminate a strong message to all employers, directors and responsible officers of companies that they have to pay wages to employees within the time limit stipulated in the EO and pay the awarded sums as ordered by the LT or the Minor Employment Claims Adjudication Board," 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.