

Company director sentenced to suspended imprisonment for contravening Employment Ordinance

A director of United City Group Limited and FOM Supplies Limited was prosecuted by the Labour Department (LD) for violation of requirements under the Employment Ordinance (EO). The director had pleaded guilty earlier at the Eastern Magistrates' Courts and was sentenced today (April 5) to six weeks' imprisonment suspended for two years.

The two companies failed to pay six employees, willfully and without reasonable excuse, wages totalling about \$225,000 within seven days after the expiry of the wage periods and termination of their employment contracts, in accordance with the requirement of the EO, as well as the awarded sums totalling about \$161,000 within 14 days after the date set by the Labour Tribunal (LT). The director concerned was prosecuted and convicted for his consent, connivance or neglect in the above offences.

"The judgment will disseminate a strong message to all employers, directors and responsible officers of companies that they have to pay wages to employees within a statutory time limit stipulated in the EO, as well as the sums awarded 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.