

Company responsible officer fined for contravening Employment Ordinance

A company responsible officer was prosecuted by the Labour Department (LD) for failing to pay wages and the sums awarded by the Labour Tribunal (LT) to two employees as required by the Employment Ordinance (EO). The responsible officer pleaded guilty at West Kowloon Magistrates' Courts today (December 30). He was fined \$35,000 and sentenced to one month's imprisonment suspended for one year. He was also ordered by the court to pay one of the employees the outstanding sum of about \$40,000.

Eagle Development (Holdings) Company Limited failed to pay two employees wages within seven days after the expiry of the wage period or the termination of employment as required by the EO. The company also defaulted on the sums totalling about \$56,000 awarded by the LT within 14 days after the dates set out by the LT awards in accordance with the EO. The responsible officer concerned was involved in the operation, decision, finance and personnel management, etc, of the company. He was prosecuted and convicted for his consent, connivance or neglect in the above offences which the company committed.

"The judgment will disseminate a strong message to all employers and responsible officers of companies that they have to pay wages and termination payments to employees within the statutory time limit and ensure payment of the awarded sums according to the terms of the awards of the LT or the Minor Employment Claims Adjudication Board as 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.