

Company and directors fined for wage offences and default of Labour Tribunal awarded payment

Evergrow Hospitality Limited and its two directors were prosecuted by the Labour Department (LD) for failing to pay employees' wages, annual leave pay and defaulting on a sum awarded by the Labour Tribunal (LT) under the Employment Ordinance (EO). The company and its two directors pleaded guilty at West Kowloon Magistrates' Courts and were fined a total sum of \$84,000 today (October 11). They were also ordered to pay a sum of about \$57,000 via the Courts to the employees.

The company failed to pay four employees' wages and annual leave pay totaling about \$58,000 within seven days after the expiry of wage periods and termination of employment. The two directors concerned were convicted for their consent, connivance or neglect in the above offence.

Also, the company failed to pay awarded sums of about \$29,000 to two employees within 14 days after the specified payment dates of the LT awards. One of the directors concerned was convicted for his consent, connivance or neglect in the above offence.

â€œThe ruling helps disseminate a strong message to all employers and responsible officers of companies that they have to pay employees wages and annual leave pay within the time limit in accordance with the EO and awarded sums according to the terms of awards issued by the LT or the Minor Employment Claims Adjudication Board. The LD will not tolerate these offences and will spare no effort in enforcing the law and safeguarding employees' statutory rights," a spokesman for the LD said.