

ERRANT LICENSED MONEYLENDER CONVICTED AND SENTENCED

1. The Registry of Moneylenders (ROM), a division of the Insolvency & Public Trustee's Office, brought charges in the Subordinate Courts on 15 August 2011 against Ng Gim Li, a director of licensed moneylending company, JXM Investment Pte Ltd. Ng held a moneylending licence from 8 September 2005 to 7 September 2010.
2. A total of 14 charges were preferred against Ng. Of the 14 charges:
 - Six of the charges preferred relate to breaches under Rule 20(1)(a) of the Moneylenders Rules for granting loans to borrowers and thereby causing the outstanding unsecured loan amounts to exceed the prescribed limit of four months' income of these borrowers.
 - Two of the charges preferred relate to breaches under Rule 20(1)(b) of the Moneylenders Rules for granting loans to a borrower and thereby causing the outstanding unsecured loan amount to exceed the prescribed limit of two months' income of the borrower.
 - One charge preferred relates to a breach under Rule 19(1) of the Moneylenders Rules for granting a loan to a borrower and thereby causing the outstanding unsecured loan amount to exceed the prescribed limit of \$3,000.
 - Another charge relates to a breach under Section 21(1) of the Moneylenders Act for failing to provide a statement of account to a borrower who has an existing loan contract.
 - The remaining four charges relate to breaches under Section 24(7) of the Moneylenders Act for recklessly furnishing false information to the Registrar of Moneylenders.
3. On 20 February 2012, Ng pleaded guilty and was convicted on three charges: two charges for granting unsecured loans to borrowers and thereby causing the outstanding unsecured loan amounts to exceed the prescribed limit of four months' income of these borrowers, and one charge for granting an unsecured loan to a borrower and thereby causing the outstanding unsecured loan amount to exceed the prescribed limit of two months' income of the borrower. A further seven charges were taken into consideration. The remaining four charges relating to Section 24(7) of the Moneylenders Act will be withdrawn at the next mention on 5 March 2012 after ROM issues a stern warning to Ng.
4. Ng was sentenced in the Subordinate Courts on 20 February 2012 to a fine of \$9,000 (in default 45 days' imprisonment).
5. ROM carries out regular inspections of licensed moneylenders. Where breaches of the moneylending laws are found, enforcement measures are taken, including the suspension or revocation of licences, warnings and prosecutions. Those convicted of breaches of the Moneylenders Act and

Rules face fines of up to \$40,000 and / or an imprisonment term of up to two years on each charge.

20 FEBRUARY 2012

**REGISTRY OF MONEYLENDERS
INSOLVENCY & PUBLIC TRUSTEE'S OFFICE
MINISTRY OF LAW**