

ERRANT LICENSED MONEYLENDER CONVICTED AND SENTENCED

1. The Registry of Moneylenders (ROM), a division of the Insolvency and Public Trustee's Office, brought charges in the Subordinate Courts on 19 December 2011 against Oh Kwan Huat, the sole-proprietor of licensed moneylending business, Super Credit. Oh held a moneylending licence from 6 October 2009 to 5 October 2010, and his licence had not been renewed in view of the investigations against him.
2. A total of 14 charges were preferred against Oh:
 - Six of the charges relate to offences under Section 24(7) of the Moneylenders Act for recklessly furnishing false information to the Registrar.
 - Four relate to breaches under Rule 19(1) of the Moneylenders Rules for granting an unsecured loan exceeding the prescribed amount of \$3,000 to a borrower with an annual income below \$20,000.
 - The remaining four charges relate to breaches under Rule 20(1)(b) of the Moneylenders Rules for granting an unsecured loan to a borrower with an annual income between \$20,000 and \$30,000, and thereby causing the outstanding loan amount to exceed the prescribed limit of two months of the borrower's income.
3. On 6 August 2012, Oh pleaded guilty and was convicted on four charges: two charges for recklessly providing false information to the Registrar; one charge for granting a loan exceeding the prescribed amount of \$3,000 to a borrower with an annual income below \$20,000; and one charge for granting an unsecured loan to a borrower with an annual income between \$20,000 and \$30,000 and thereby causing the outstanding loan amount to exceed the prescribed limit of two months of the borrower's income. The remaining 10 charges were taken into consideration by the Court.
4. On the same day, Oh was sentenced in the Subordinate Courts to a fine of \$42,000 (in default 14 weeks' 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, forfeiture of security deposits, 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.

6 AUGUST 2012

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