

PRESS RELEASE

ERRANT LICENSED MONEYLENDER LEE KONG MENG FINED \$114,000

1. The Registry of Moneylenders, a division of the Insolvency and Public Trustee's Office, brought charges in the Subordinate Courts on 4 March 2013 against Lee Kong Meng, the sole proprietor of moneylending business Primacy Management Services.
2. Primacy Management Services held a moneylending licence from 2 May 2008 to 1 May 2012, which was not renewed after it expired as investigations revealed that the licensee had committed offences which warranted prosecution.
3. On 15 July 2013, Lee pleaded guilty in the Subordinate Courts and was convicted on 23 out of 78 charges for these offences:
 - One charge relates to a breach under Section 10(13) of the Moneylenders Act for carrying on the business of moneylending at a place of business without the approval of the Registrar.
 - Nine charges relate to breaches under Section 17(1)(a) of the Moneylenders Act for granting loans without the borrowers having first applied to the licensee in writing for the loans.
 - Two charges relate to breaches under Section 21(1) of the Moneylenders Act for failure to supply statement of accounts to borrowers.
 - One charge relates to a breach under Section 24(1)(c) of the Moneylenders Act for failure to keep loan documents as prescribed.
 - Four charges relate to breaches under Section 24(7) of the Moneylenders Act for recklessly furnishing false information to the Registrar.
 - Three charges relate to breaches under Rule 19(1) of the Moneylenders Rules for granting unsecured loans exceeding the prescribed limit of \$3,000 to Singapore borrowers with annual income below \$20,000.
 - One charge relates to a breach under Rule 20(1)(a) of the Moneylenders Rules for granting an unsecured loan to a Singapore borrower with an annual income of at least \$30,000 but less than \$120,000, and thereby causing the outstanding loan amount to exceed the prescribed limit of four months of the borrower's income.
 - Two charges relate to breaches under Rule 20(1)(b) of the Moneylenders Rules for granting unsecured loans to a Singapore borrower with an annual income of at least \$20,000 but less than \$30,000, and thereby causing the outstanding loan amount to exceed the prescribed limit of two months of the borrower's income.

The remaining 55 charges were taken into consideration by the Court for the purposes of sentencing.

4. Tan was sentenced in the Subordinate Courts to a fine of \$114,000 (in default 37 weeks and eight days' imprisonment). Thirteen licensed moneylenders have been convicted and fined since 2011 (see **Annex A**).
5. The Registry carries out regular inspections of licensed moneylenders. Where breaches of moneylending laws are found, enforcement measures will be 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 a fine of up to \$40,000 and/or an imprisonment term of up to two years on each charge.

15 JULY 2013

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

About the Insolvency & Public Trustee's Office

The Insolvency & Public Trustee's Office (IPTO) in Singapore is a department under the Ministry of Law. IPTO oversees the administration of individual and corporate insolvencies, the administration of small intestate estates and un-nominated Central Provident Fund (CPF) monies, as well as the licensing and regulation of moneylenders and pawnbrokers.

List of past convictions since 2011

No	Name of Moneylender	Sentence Date	Fine amount (\$)
1	Car City Leasing (Liew Yoon Kwai)	05/09/2011	31,000
2	Capital Alliance Credit (Phua Chye Hee George)	18/10/2011	214,000
3	Bez One Credit (Goh Siong Kiat)	26/09/2011	6,000
4	Swift De Credit (Tan Wee Teck)	06/02/2012	22,000
5	JXM Investment (Ng Gim Li)	20/02/2012	9,000
6	Super Credit (Oh Kwan Huat)	06/08/2012	42,000
7	GTR Moneylender & Credit (Lim Chee Wei)	17/09/2012	5,000
8	Gary Credit (Chua Kwang Yong)	15/10/2012	101,000
9	Credit HT (Tan Chun Hua)	25/03/2013	124,000
10	Focus Credit Connections (Rebecca Yeo Saw Yan)	29/04/2013	7,500
11	EH Credit Pte Ltd (Tan Joon Heng)	27/05/2013	40,000
12	James Lee Credit (Lee Pit Chin)	05/06/2013	314,000
13	Cho Hong Chye Alvin a.k.a. Zhu Hongcai Alvin, and Money Plant Pte Ltd	10/06/2013	17,000