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Company director in court for alleged breach of POBO over false statements

16 April 2013

A director of an investment company appeared at the Eastern Magistracy today (Tuesday) after being charged by the ICAC for allegedly breaching the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance (POBO) by making false statements in answer to a notice served on her under the POBO.

Agnes Tai Wai-kuen, 58, a director cum shareholder of E-Sincere Holdings Limited (E-Sincere), who was charged yesterday (Monday), faced three counts of making false statement in answer to a notice under Section 14(1)(d) of the POBO, contrary to Section 14(5) of the POBO.

No plea was taken. Principal Magistrate Ms Bina Chainrai adjourned the case to April 30 this year for plea.

At all material times, the defendant was a director cum shareholder of E-Sincere. The defendant, on behalf of E-Sincere, purchased a flat at The Leighton Hill, Happy Valley in January 2001, and sold it in October 2002.

Two of the charges alleged that respectively on October 31 and November 16, 2011, the defendant wilfully made false statements in answer to a statutory notice under Section 14(1)(d) of the POBO that the funds for eight instalment payments totalling \$7,617,280 for the purchase of the flat at The Leighton Hill were all from her.

The remaining charge alleged that on December 1, 2011, the defendant wilfully made another false statement in answer to the same notice that her employer had nothing to do with the sale and purchase of the flat at The Leighton Hill.

The defendant was granted cash bail of \$20,000. She was also ordered not to interfere with prosecution witnesses and inform the ICAC 24 hours prior to any change of residential address.

The prosecution was today represented by Public Prosecutor Betty Fu, assisted by ICAC officer Ringo Yung.

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