

DATUK, WIFE CLAIM TRIAL

EX-CEO, WIFE CHARGED WITH RM145M CBT

Couple slapped with multiple counts of using fake invoices for non-existent steel supplies

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A MARRIED couple was hauled to the Sessions Court here yesterday over multiple counts of using fake invoices for the payment of non-existent prefabricated structural steel supplies, criminal breach of trust (CBT) and abetment involving over RM145 million.

Datuk Lee Son Hong, who was slapped with 11 counts of using fake invoices and CBT, and his wife, Too Sooi Keng, who faced seven counts of abetting her husband in the CBT offences, pleaded not guilty to the charges before judge Rozilah Salleh.

According to the first three counts, Lee, 63, had in his capacity as an agent, which was WRP Asia Pacific Sdn Bhd chief executive officer, used three invoices under the name of Tower Success Group Ltd dated March 27, Aug 18 and Dec 22, 2015, totalling RM8.4 million, which contained false details intended to deceive the principal.

The purported details were for the payment of supplies of "Pre-Fabricated Structural Steel For Surgical Packing Plant Size: 280' x 400' x 40' (H)" which were never



Datuk Lee Son Hong (front row, centre) and his wife, Too Sooi Keng (back row, centre), being led to the Shah Alam Sessions Court yesterday. PIC BY FAIZ ANUAR

carried out.

Lee committed the offences at WRP Asia Pacific Bhd, Lot 1, Jalan 3, Kawasan Perusahaan Bandar Baru Salak Tinggi, Sepang, Selangor between March 27 and Dec 12, 2015.

The offences, under Section 24 (2) of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) Act 2009, carry a maximum jail term of 20 years and a fine of five times the value of the offence committed, or RM10,000, whichever is higher, if convicted.

On the fourth to 11th counts, Lee was accused of having in the same capacity committed CBT of RM137 million, which was entrusted to him by the company.

He allegedly committed the offences at the same place between Dec 12, 2013, and Dec 27, 2016.

The offences, under Section 409 of the Penal Code, carry an imprisonment for a term of not less than two years and not more

than 20 years, with whipping and a fine upon conviction.

Too, 63, was charged with seven counts of abetting him in the CBT offences involving RM108 million. The offences were allegedly committed at the same place between Dec 12, 2013, and Jan 18, 2018. The charges against her under Section 109 of the Penal Code read with Section 409 carry the same punishment.

The prosecution did not offer bail to both accused, saying that the offences were non-bailable.

However, deputy public prosecutor Ahmad Akram Gharib said if the court were to allow bail, he proposed the amount of RM2 million with an additional condition of surrendering their passports to the court as Lee was a flight risk.

Deputy public prosecutor Mohd Mokhzany Fariz Mokhtar proposed a RM1.5 million bail for Too and the same additional con-

ditions proposed by Akram.

In pleading for lower bail, Lee's counsel P.G. Cyril said his client was no longer WRP Asia Pacific CEO and that his business was underperforming due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"He came voluntarily to court today on police bail. He had never failed to show up whenever he was called to give his statement," he said.

Too's lawyer Nur Aminahtul Mardiah Md Nor also pleaded for a lower bail, saying her client, who was a florist, was a first time offender.

She said Too was no longer working, but her name was still listed as one of WRP Asia Pacific's directors.

The court allowed RM1.5 million bail in one surety for each accused and ordered them to surrender their passports.

Their case will be up for mention on Jan 4.