

Former RWS director jailed 14 months for taking bribes

Cases involved three firms and \$317k, part of which was used by girlfriend to pay for condo

Shaffiq Alkhatib

A former director at Resorts World Sentosa (RWS) was jailed for 14 months yesterday for receiving \$317,000 in bribes.

Soh Yew Meng, 38, who was in the building enhancement department, had accepted money from representatives of various companies between July 22, 2013, and Jan 15, 2014, in exchange for helping them secure business deals with the integrated resort.

He had pleaded guilty last month to three counts of corruption involving \$315,000.

Four other charges – one count of accepting \$2,000 in bribes and three counts of attempting to obtain bribes of unspecified amounts – were taken into consideration during sentencing.

Soh admitted he sought from the managing director of Shanghai Chong Kee Furniture and Construc-

tion, Mr Tan Ken Huat, 60, a corrupt payment of between 3 per cent and 5 per cent of the tender quotation if the firm won the tender for the Festive Hotel project at RWS.

In return, Soh would provide Mr Tan, whose firm specialises in interior contract work, with information on how much Shanghai Chong Kee's competitors would be bidding for the project.

The court heard that Soh had originally approached Shanghai Chong Kee's subcontractor, mechanical and electrical works company Superiortec, with the offer.

Superiortec director Teo Wee Liap, 37, then referred him to Mr Tan, who agreed to give Soh \$300,000.

On July 8, 2013, a contract for the Festive Hotel project was awarded at a sum of \$8.9 million to Shanghai Chong Kee which, in turn, awarded Superiortec with the mechanical and electrical works portion of the project for a sum of \$2.9 million.



Soh was working in the building enhancement department of RWS when he approached various firms for corrupt payments.

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Mr Teo later encashed two cheques collected from Shanghai Chong Kee for \$150,000 and passed the money to Soh's girlfriend, Ms Tan Siow Hui, 33.

The following month, Ms Tan took \$106,200 of the money, deposited it in her own bank accounts and used about \$104,600 to pay for a unit at the Chestervale condominium in Bukit Panjang under her name. Ms Tan and Soh later lived there.

Between Dec 23, 2013, and Jan 15, 2014, Mr Teo prepared another payment of \$150,000 for Soh, which was derived from Shanghai Chong Kee's payments to Superiortec for the sub-contract.

Soh also received \$15,000 in bribes from the director of glass and aluminium works company

Beyond Builders, Mr Tan Choon Hung, 43, between Nov 11 and 19 in 2013. In return, Soh helped award RWS' Asian Cafe project to Beyond Builders for a sum of \$620,000 on Nov 19, 2013.

The Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau gave Ms Tan a stern warning last month and she was given a discharge not amounting to an acquittal in court yesterday, which means she can be prosecuted if new evidence were to surface.

Investigations are still ongoing for the cases involving Mr Teo, Mr Tan Ken Huat and Mr Tan Choon Hung.

For each count of corruption, Soh could have been jailed up to five years and fined up to \$100,000.

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