

Man jailed for helping to forge payslips

A TELEMARKETING firm inflated his salary to qualify the service engineer for a \$10,500 Standard Chartered Bank loan two years ago.

Mark Robert Fajilan Landicho, 28, then joined in the scam by helping to recruit applicants for loans and credit cards.

Yesterday, he was jailed 1½ years for helping to forge payslips with inflated salaries for 30 applicants between August and November 2009.

A district court heard that the bank had loaned \$317,700 to these applicants and \$301,100 is still outstanding.

Deputy Public Prosecutor Magdalene Huang said Landicho, a Filipino, was then working for an IT firm. His monthly pay of \$1,800 did not qualify him for a loan as the minimum salary required was \$3,000 a month.

Telemarketing agency Touch & Tech got him a loan. Stanchart had engaged it to market credit cards and credit facilities. The agency had a team allegedly forging payslips and employment contracts to pave the way for successful applications and earn extra commissions for the firm.

Landicho advertised on Filipino website www.pinoysg.com that he could help applicants get Stanchart loans and credit cards even if they were "low wage earners". He got \$75 from Touch for each successful applicant.

Asking the court to impose a lenient sentence, defence counsel Manoj Nandwani said his client had played a minor role as he only forwarded the original payslips from the applicants to the agency.

Six accomplices have yet to be dealt with by the courts. For providing false documents to the bank, Landicho could have been jailed for up to 10 years and fined up to \$10,000.



Landicho was part of a scam to help people qualify for credit cards and loans.