

Five imprisoned in graft case involving Tamweel

judge orders former executives to pay Dh45m

- By Bassam Za'za', Senior Reporter
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Dubai: A court Sunday jailed five former executives to varying terms and ordered them to pay around Dh45 million in Tamweel's corruption case, following ten months of proceedings.

The Dubai Court of First Instance Sunday jailed Tamweel's ex-CEO, 38-year-old Emirati A.A. and 44-year-old compatriot A.N. [the ex-commercial president], to three years each.

Presiding Judge Fahmi Mounir also jailed 40-year-old Emirati S.M., [Tamweel's former executive director], and 28-year-old Jordanian, F.K. [investment department's ex-director] and Bonyan Holding's 33-year-old Jordanian ex-board chairman A.S. to one year each.

Not guilty plea

The court's three-judge jury, including Presiding Judge Mounir and his deputies Dr Ali Al Galadari and Mansour Al Awadhi, fined the suspects a total of Dh35 million and ordered them to repay Tamweel Dh10 million.

The five former executives had pleaded not guilty to charges of abusing public office, wasting [not diverting] public funds, bribery and financial irregularities. The court acquitted A.A., F.K., A.N. and S.M. of revealing confidential company secrets.

Defending the five defendants, their lawyers argued in court last month that Egyptian audit manager M.M. [of the Rulers Court's Financial Control Department] had submitted what they [lawyers] described as "worthless, inconsistent and baseless" report.

Defending A.A., F.K. and S.M., advocate Dr Habib Al Mulla asked the court to reject M.M.'s report and appoint an independent committee of financial experts to look into the case and issue a new financial report.

"We ask the jury to include in the committee a financial accountant, financial controller, financial auditor, experts specialised in pricing lands and properties and realty mediator... their duty is to revise a partnership deal signed between Tamweel and Bonyan," said Dr Al Mulla.

Prosecutors had charged A.S. with offering a bribe of Dh41.7 million worth of property to A.A. and A.N. to get the deal approved.

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