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PHEY FACES SIX CHARGES

[Go back to article view](#)

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CBT of union funds alleged

TRADE union leader Phey Yew Kok stood stiffly and stared into the distance as six charges against him were read to him in a magistrate's court yesterday.

The 45-year-old chairman of the National Trades Union Congress faces four charges of criminal breach of trust of a total of \$82,520 and two charges under the Trade Unions Act.

He pleaded not guilty to all the charges.

Phey arrived in the packed court at 9.55 a.m. dressed in a light blue short-sleeved shirt and dark grey pants. He slipped quietly into a seat in the public gallery.

Called to the dock

At that time, a few noticed his appearance. Ten minutes later, the court was adjourned and some members of the public present in the court pointed him out to friends.

Some of his supporters and friends were already in court before his arrival. A number of them arrived as early as 8.30 a.m. and were milling around outside Court 26 where Phey was charged.

When the court resumed about 15 minutes later, Phey was called to the dock and the charges were read to him by an interpreter in English.

When the charges were read to him, Phey stood erect in the dock, took off his spectacles and held them in both hands and gazed into the distance.

The charges

THAT on or about Feb 24, 1975 at Silo headquarters in Rutland Road, being general secretary of Silo and in such capacity entrusted with funds of the trade union committed criminal breach of trust in

... criminal breach of trust in respect of \$40,000 from the funds and thereby committing an offence punishable under Section 408 of the Penal Code, Chapter 103.

THAT on or about Feb 24, 1975 at Silo headquarters in Rutland Road, being general secretary of Silo and in such capacity entrusted with funds of the trade union committed criminal breach of trust in respect of \$25,000 from the funds and thereby committing an offence punishable under Section 408 of the Penal Code, Chapter 103.

THAT on or about Jan 21, 1976 at Silo headquarters in Rutland Road, being general secretary of Silo and Pleu entrusted with staff funds of the two unions committed criminal breach of trust in respect of \$15,000 from the funds thereby committing an offence punishable under Section 408 of the Penal Code, Chapter 103.

THAT between May 3, 1976 and July 6, 1976 at the Silo headquarters in Rutland Road, being general secretary of Silo and Pleu and in such capacity entrusted with the executive council allowance fund of the unions, committed criminal breach of trust in respect of \$2,520 from the funds thereby committing an offence punishable under Section 408 of the Penal Code, Chapter 103.

THAT on or about Sept 16, 1978 at Silo headquarters in Rutland Road, being general secretary of Silo did use in contravention of the provisions of Section 50 (1) (b) of the Trade Unions Act, Chapter 129, \$11,235 of the union's fund to finance the purchase of shares of Forward Supermarket Pte Ltd which has not been approved by the Minister as a company in whose shares the funds of a registered trade union may be invested, and

thereby committed an offence punishable under Section 60 (1) of the said Act.

THAT on or about Sept 18, 1978 at Sports House, Rutland Road, as general secretary of Pleu, did use in contravention of the provisions of Section 50 (1) (b) of the Trade Unions Act, Chapter 129, \$6,510 of the union's funds, to finance the purchase of shares of Forward

Supermarket Pte Ltd which has not been approved by the Minister as a company in whose shares the funds of a registered trade union may be invested and thereby committed an offence punishable under Section 60 (1) of the said Act.

His counsel, Mr David Hew, asked for an adjournment as he was only briefed over the weekend.

The magistrate, Mr Khoo Oon Soo, fixed the case for mention on Jan 7 next year.

Two sureties

Phey was granted bail of \$50,000 in two sureties. Within an hour, he was bailed out by two friends, Mr Kam Weng Nam and Mr Phang Tai Mun, alias Phang Tye Man, who each deposited \$50,000 cash as surety.

As Phey came out from the court, some 150 supporters gathered around him and later guided him down to the basement car park to a waiting car.

Press photographers rushed up to the blue Galant as it emerged from the car park,

which is not open to members of the public.

Phey's appearance in court yesterday followed the announcement last Monday that he had resigned from the top posts he held in three unions — the Singapore Industrial Labour Organisation, the Pioneer Industries Employees Union and the Singapore Air Transport Workers Union.

The resignations are held in abeyance. Phey is also MP for Boon Teck.





Phey and his counsel, Mr David Hew, leaving the court yesterday