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Supermarts in Phey case

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Supermarts in Phey case



These are the two supermarkets mentioned in a court case involving trade unionist Phey Yew Kok.

Phey was charged yesterday with using \$17,745 of union funds to buy shares of the Forward Supermarket Pte Ltd in September last year without the approval of the Minister.

The name of the company was changed to Savewell Supermarket Pte Ltd last December.

The Minister's approval is required under the 1977 amendments to the Trade Unions Act.

The supermarkets are located at Blk 122, 1753-1755, Ang Mo Kio Avenue 3, and Blk 38, 315-317, Telok Blangah Rise.

The company was registered as Forward Supermarket Pte Ltd on June 14, 1978, with a share capital of \$100,000. The directors were Florence Lim Swee Hin, a secretarial assistant, and Angela Lim Kaw Huang, a book-keeper.

Both had one share of \$1 each.

The company underwent several changes, in quick succession, in September last year.

On Sept 18 that year, the company's authorised share capital was increased to \$300,000. An extraordinary general meeting of shareholders, held at the company's

registered office at 301, Chinese Chamber of Commerce Building in Hill Street, passed an ordinary resolution to create an additional 200,000 shares

of \$1 each.

The meeting also resolved to give full authority to the directors to "issue shares of the company in such number and to such persons and for such consideration as they think fit."

Following this, on Sept 20, three new directors were appointed. They are Wong Say Hong, a manager, Wong Lee Cheng, an accounts officer and Aw Chiu Seng, an office administrator. Both Wongs were allotted 69,999 shares each and Aw 60,000.

Next day, Sept 21, Florence Lim and Angela Lim resigned as directors. The former was appointed the company's secretary.

The first charge against Phey for contravention of the Trade Unions Act said that on or about Sept 16, 1978, he used \$11,235 of the Singapore Industrial Labour Organisation'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."

The second charge said Phey committed a similar offence with \$6510 of the funds of the Pioneer Industries Employees' Union on or about Sept 18, 1978.

Phey tendered his resignation as the general secretary of PIEU, Silo and the Singapore Air Transport Workers's Union last week. It is being held in abeyance.

Another major change in the company came on Dec 20 when it was re-named Savewell Supermarket Pte Ltd.

An extraordinary general meeting held at the company's office passed a special resolution on it.

Savewell supermarkets'

main line of business is to "buy, sell manufacture and deal in goods ... both wholesale and retail."

The supermarkets also plan to deal in furniture and furnishing fabrics in its branches.

Finally, it will carry on business as "designers, manufacturers and sellers of all kinds of leather goods, toys, real and imitation jewellery and cosmetics."

The Trade Unions (Amendment) Act, 1977, stipulates in Section 50 (1) (b) that the funds of a registered trade union "shall not be invested in securities except in stocks or shares in such private or public companies or in such other securities as may be approved by the Minister by notification in the Gazette."

The penalty for such an offence is a fine not exceeding \$1000.

Phey has claimed trial to the two charges plus four others relating to criminal breach of trust of union funds amounting to \$82,520.

Under Section 408 of the Penal Code, Chapter 103, the penalty is up to seven years imprisonment and liability of a fine.



Ang Mo Kio Avenue 3 supermarket





Telok Blangah Rise supermarket