

Ex-Tai Po DC member and two others admit theft of funds

14 March 2016

A former member of the Tai Po District Council (DC) and two office bearers of a cultural dance association today (Monday) admitted at the Fanling Magistracy an ICAC charge of conspiracy to steal government funds.

Wong Chau-pak, 61, former member of the Tai Po DC; Yau Lai-kuen, 55, chairlady of China Federation of National Dance Association (CFNDA), and Samketer Yeung Sau-fong, 55, secretary of CFNDA, pleaded guilty to a joint charge of conspiracy to steal, contrary to Section 9 of the Theft Ordinance and Section 159A of the Crimes Ordinance.

Magistrate Mr Colin Wong Sze-cheung adjourned the case until March 29 this year for sentence, pending community service order reports. The defendants were granted cash bail of \$2,000 each.

The magistrate warned that he might consider imposing custodial sentences on the defendants in view of their breaches of trust.

The case arose from a corruption complaint. Subsequent ICAC enquiries revealed the above offence of conspiracy to steal.

The court heard that at the material time, Wong was a member of the Tai Po DC.

On January 23, 2013, the defendants and other persons met in a restaurant to discuss the establishment of CFNDA, a non-profit making association organising social activities and providing a platform for cultural dancing performances in the community. Yau and Yeung became the chairlady and secretary of CFNDA respectively.

Shortly after the establishment of CFNDA, the defendants and a dancing instructor had a discussion on organising a singing and dancing show in Fu Heng Community Centre on September 29, 2013.

Between July 23, 2013 and January 13, 2014, the defendants conspired together and with the dancing instructor to steal a sum of money, which represented the difference between the sum of \$11,703 granted by the Tai Po DC to the CFNDA and the actual expenses paid or to be paid to the performers, volunteers and the master of ceremony of the show.

The court heard that the defendants were subsequently arrested by ICAC officers. When interviewed under caution, Wong admitted that he had taught Yau, Yeung and other persons to minimise the expenses of the show in order to save more money for the CFNDA for its future use.

Wong also admitted that the CFNDA should have reported the matter to the Tai Po DC since the actual expenses incurred by it were less than the amount of disbursement granted.

When interviewed under caution by ICAC officers, Yau admitted that she had submitted the claim form to the Tai Po DC Secretariat, while Yeung admitted that upon Yau's instruction, she had submitted the report to the Tai Po DC Secretariat, the court was told.

The prosecution was today represented by prosecuting counsel Steven Kwan, and assisted by ICAC officer Calvin Wong.

[Back to Index](#)

前大埔區議員及另外兩人承認盜竊 撥款候判

2016年3月14日

一名前大埔區議會議員及一個民族舞協會兩名幹事串謀盜竊政府撥款，早前被廉政公署起訴。各被告今日(星期一)在粉嶺裁判法院承認控罪。

王秋北，六十一歲，前大埔區議會議員；游麗娟，五十五歲，中國民族歌舞協進會(協進會)主席，及楊秀芳，五十五歲，協進會秘書，同承認一項串謀盜竊罪名，違反《盜竊罪條例》第9條及《刑事罪行條例》第159A條。

裁判官黃士翔將案件押後至本年三月二十九日判刑，以待被告的社會服務令報告。被告各獲准以現金二千元保釋。

裁判官明言警告，由於各被告違反誠信，他可能會考慮判處監禁。

廉署早前接獲貪污投訴，調查其後揭發上述串謀盜竊罪行。

案情透露，王秋北於案發時是大埔區議會議員。各被告及其他人士於二〇一三年一月二十三日在一間餐廳見面，商討成立協進會。該協進會為非牟利機構，在社區內舉辦社交活動和提供機會讓居民表演民族舞，而游麗娟及楊秀芳則分別出任協進會的主席及秘書。

協進會成立後不久，各被告與一名舞蹈導師討論於二〇一三年九月二十九日在富亨社區中心舉辦一場歌舞表演。

各被告於二〇一三年七月二十三日至二〇一四年一月十三日期間，與該舞蹈導師一同串謀盜竊一筆款項，即由大埔區議會向協進會支付的一萬一千七百零三元撥款與該協進會就舉辦歌舞節目所支付或將支付予表演者、義工及司儀的實際開支之間的差額。

案情透露，各被告其後被廉署人員拘捕。王秋北在警誡下接受會見時，承認曾教游麗娟、楊秀芳及其他人士儘量減低表演的開支，讓協進會儲起資金以供將來使用。

王秋北亦承認由於協進會的實際開支低於批出的發還款項，協進會理應向大埔區議會報告此事。

案情又透露，游麗娟在警誡下接受廉署人員會見時，承認曾把發還款項表格遞交予大埔區議會秘書處，而楊秀芳則承認在游麗娟的指示下曾向大埔區議會遞交報告。

控方今日由大律師關文渭代表出庭，並由廉署人員黃國強協助。

[返回目錄](#)