

Fourteen months' jail for pocketing \$630,000 from Tso Tong

7 July 2015

A former treasurer of a Tso Tong, charged by the ICAC, was today (Tuesday) sentenced to 14 months' imprisonment at the District Court for theft and using false instruments to misappropriate over \$630,000 from the Tso Tong.

Fu Siu-ping, 59, former manager cum treasurer of Fu Ng Yi Tong (FNYT), earlier pleaded guilty to two charges – one of theft and one of using a false instrument. Eight other charges of using a false instrument were ordered to be left on court file.

In sentencing, Judge Mr Kwok Wai-kin said the offences committed by the defendant were serious in nature, lasted a long period of time and constituted a breach of trust.

The judge added that the starting point of 30 months in jail was reduced to 14 months after taking into account the defendant's guilty plea and various mitigating factors.

The case arose from a corruption complaint. Subsequent ICAC enquiries revealed the above offences.

The court heard that at the material time, the defendant was the manager cum treasurer of FNYT, a Tso Tong in Tsuen Wan.

The sole source of income of FNYT was the monthly rentals from its three properties. The tenants paid their respective rentals by depositing the monies into an account jointly held in the names of four managers, including the defendant, on behalf of FNYT with the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited (HSBC).

Any withdrawal of monies from the account required signatures of any two of the managers of FNYT.

The court heard that between January 2009 and October 2012, the defendant submitted cash withdrawal slips bearing his signature and that of another manager to a branch of HSBC in Tsuen Wan in order to withdraw various sums of monies from the account.

The said manager, however, confirmed that he had never appended his signatures on those slips nor had he been informed of the withdrawals by the defendant.

As a result of the withdrawal slips, the defendant withdrew a total of over \$630,000 from the account.

After his arrest by ICAC officers, the defendant admitted under caution that he had misappropriated the funds because of his own financial difficulties, the court was told.

The prosecution was today represented by prosecuting counsel Alex Ng, assisted by ICAC officer Sandy Leung.

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前司庫盜竊祖堂六十三萬元判囚十四個月

2015年7月7日

一名祖堂前司庫，使用虛假文書從該祖堂盜竊共逾六十三萬元，被廉政公署拘控。被告今日(星期二)在區域法院被判入獄十四個月。

傅紹平，五十九歲，傅伍怡堂前司理兼司庫，早前承認兩項罪名，即一項盜竊及一項使用虛假文書。至於被告另外八項使用虛假文書罪名，則被紀錄在案。

法官郭偉健判刑時指出，被告所犯的罪行性質嚴重，持續一段長時間及違反誠信。法官續稱，量刑起點為三十個月監禁，但考慮到被告認罪及多項求情理由，將刑期減至十四個月。

廉署早前接獲貪污投訴，調查其後揭發上述罪行。

案情透露，被告於案發時是荃灣祖堂傅伍怡堂的司理兼司庫。

傅伍怡堂的唯一收入是來自出租其三項物業的每月租金收入。租戶自行將租金存入一個香港上海滙豐銀行有限公司(滙豐銀行)的戶口，而該銀行戶口由被告及另外三名司理聯名持有。

從該戶口提取款項，則必須有傅伍怡堂其中兩名司理的簽署。

案情透露，被告於二〇〇九年一月至二〇一二年十月期間，向滙豐銀行的荃灣分行提交多張具有其簽名及另一名司理簽名的現金提款單，以從該戶口提取款項。

該名司理確認從未在有關提款單上簽署，而被告亦從未就提款事先通知他。被告以有關提款單提取共逾六十三萬元。

被告被廉署人員拘捕後，於警誡下承認因個人財政問題而挪用該祖堂的款項。

控方今日由大律師吳政煌代表出庭，並由廉署人員梁素霞協助。

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