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Phey now formally stripped of union posts

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THE NTUC and three of its affiliate unions yesterday stripped Phey Yew Kok of all his union posts.

He was formally sacked during emergency sessions of the central committee of the NTUC and executive councils of the Singapore Industrial Labour Organisation, Pioneer Industries Employees' Union and the Singapore Air Transport-workers' Union.

NTUC secretary-general, Mr Lim Chee Onn, said in view of Phey jumping bail and failing to appear in court to answer charges against him, he should be expelled with immediate effect from the central committee and removed from the post of NTUC chairman.

He said this in a statement soon after the NTUC central committee met at 10 a.m. yesterday.

The NTUC central committee also resolved to

ask the various NTUC cooperatives and enterprises, the Singapore Labour Foundation and all NTUC affiliates in which Phey holds office, to take similar action.

Later in the afternoon, at a press conference at Silo headquarters in Upper Bukit Timah Road, NTUC president Mr C. V. Devan Nair, obviously angry and disappointed

over what had transpired, condemned Phey's actions as a "betrayal of whatever confidence members of both unions (Silo and PIEU) had placed in him."

He said: "Both executive councils have affirmed that Phey Yew Kok's non-appearance in court on Jan 7 constitutes a flagrant attempt to escape from accountability not only to the laws of the land, but also to the two unions."

Decisions

The conference was called to tell the press of the decisions made by the executive councils of the two unions, of which Mr Nair was acting general-secretary until yesterday, to expel Phey as executive council member and general-secretary of the unions.

Phey's resignation from both unions on Dec 3 were "rejected out of hand" by the councils.

The management committees of the two unions' multi-purpose cooperative societies have also dismissed Phey from his post as chairman of both societies.

Meanwhile, Mr Nair has been confirmed as general-secretary of both unions.

He said boards of management, "consisting of suitably qualified and experienced people" would be set up for the different operations of the two cooperative societies.

'A lesson'

Phey's use of the societies' funds is the subject of some of the charges of alleged criminal breach of trust against him.

Mr Nair stressed that the functions of the members of the boards will be to supervise the management and operations of these cooperatives.

He added that a lesson the NTUC has learnt from "this whole affair" was the vital importance of sprucing up the constitutions of the multi-purpose cooperative societies run by the various unions in Singapore.

This is to provide the same standards of professional management which exists in the NTUC cooperatives.

The executive council of Satu also dismissed Phey from all posts he held in the union and decided that the union "complete-

ly dissociate itself from what appears to be a flight from the law on Phey's part."