

# Businessman, former BP manager get 4½ years' jail each for graft

Both have appealed against their convictions and sentences, and are out on bail

David Sun

A former manager at oil giant BP and a businessman were each sentenced to 4½ years' jail yesterday for their roles in a graft case involving close to US\$4 million (S\$5.3 million).

Clarence Chang Peng Hong, 56, director, had accepted bribes from businessman Koh Seng Lee, 59, on 19 occasions between July 2006 and July 2010 in exchange for advancing the business interests of Koh's company with BP. Koh had also corruptly agreed to pay \$500,000 to a pre-school – Mindchamps Preschool @ City Square – where Chang's wife was a

They were found guilty of 20 corruption charges each last year after a trial spanning more than two years. The duo were handed jail terms of 54 months yesterday, and Chang was additionally ordered to pay a penalty of more than \$6 million or 28 months' jail in default. During the trial, the court heard that Koh had set up a marine fuel

trading company, Pacific Prime Trading (PPT), based on Chang's suggestion. The prosecution said the two men had argued that the funds for joint investments in property and in Mindchamps, and were wholly unrelated to PPT's business with BP Singapore. But District Judge Ong Chin Rhu

“make or break” PPT, and felt compelled to accede to Chang's requests for payments. The defence counsel for the two men had argued that the funds transferred between the two were for joint investments in property and in Mindchamps, and were wholly unrelated to PPT's business with BP Singapore. But District Judge Ong Chin Rhu

said the accounts of joint investments were an afterthought. For each charge of corruption Koh and Chang could have been jailed for up to five years and fined up to \$100,000. Both of them have filed appeal against their convictions and sentences, and are out on bail.

Clarence Chang Peng Hong, a former manager at oil giant BP, arriving at the State Courts yesterday. Besides the 4½ year jail term, he was also ordered to pay a penalty of more than \$6 million or serve 28 months' jail in default. ST PHOTO: KELVIN CHNG

Ong Jiajie, 32, received \$129,422 as his share of the profits from the corrupt arrangement, the court heard. ST PHOTO: KELVIN CHNG


## Car dealership's manager jailed, fined for role in corruption conspiracy

The manager of a car dealership has been jailed and fined for giving kickbacks to a purchasing manager of Lion City Rentals to advance his business interests. Ong Jiajie, 32, who was the manager of dealership D&M Capital, had earlier pleaded guilty to two corruption charges. Another five similar charges were taken into consideration during sentencing.

Yesterday, he was jailed for six months and fined \$129,422. If he fails to pay the fine, he faces another 10 weeks in jail. Also accused in the case are Jeremy Yu Jin Han, 41; Darren Zeng Shao Rong and Isaac Lai Zhi Yao, both 40. All four were charged last year with allegedly taking part in a corruption conspiracy involving

more than \$388,000. The cases of the other three are still before the courts. Zeng was a manager and partner at Aiden Solutions LLP, which was also a car dealership. Lai oversaw the financial matters of both Aiden and D&M. Yu was a purchasing manager at Lion City Rentals when he allegedly approached the others in 2015. His job involved procuring vehicles from suppliers for the car rental company, which was owned by ride-hailing firm Uber till it was sold in 2019. In September 2015, Yu met Ong, Zeng and Lai and they agreed to a corrupt arrangement whereby he would use his position to have both D&M and Aiden appointed as vehi-

cle suppliers to the company, in return for cash kickbacks of half of their total profits from the arrangement, the court was told. Despite knowing the arrangement was corrupt, Ong agreed to as he wanted to improve his standard of living. In 2016, Yu received kickbacks from the trio on two occasions, totalling \$171,000, the court heard. The sum related to the supply of 200 vehicles supplied by Aiden and D&M to Lion City Rentals. Ong received \$129,422 as his share of the profits from the corrupt arrangement. On each corruption charge, he could have been jailed for up to five years or fined up to \$100,000, the court heard. David Sun



**THE STRAITS TIMES**  
**MASTERCASS AUTHENTIC COMMUNICATION & LEADERSHIP**

Being an authentic communicator is an essential aspect of effective leadership and a cornerstone for a trusted and relatable work environment

Who should attend  
Leaders who believe in authenticity and want to leverage the power and art of storytelling in their communication journey.

Participants will learn

- The foundation of being a good communicator
- What it takes to be an authentic communicator
- How to marry your values as a leader with communication skills
- How to leverage the power of storytelling in your message as a leader and to build trust and be relatable
- How to apply storytelling in presentations and speeches to inspire your team to action

Date: July 6, 2021  
Time: 10am to 6pm (including lunch and tea breaks)  
Venue: Royal Plaza on Scotts Singapore, 25 Scotts Road  
Fee: \$590 a participant

✉ STmasterclass@sph.com.sg  
Sign up now at [stskills.sg](http://stskills.sg)

The coach  
Eunice Olsen is the founder of Eunice Olsen Media, creator of the Emmy-nominated video and podcast series, WomenTalk, and author of the award-winning children's book, I'm A Girl. See What I Can Be!. She is a communications and media specialist; former two-term Nominated Member of Parliament in Singapore; Miss Singapore Universe 2000; and host, actress and pianist.

**STskills**  
**ST+**  
news with benefits

**THE STRAITS TIMES**

**THE STRAITS TIMES**  
**ONLINE MASTERCASS**  
English Writing class for PSLE

**Situational & Creative Writing Classes for P5 and P6**

Pick up essential skills and techniques to tackle the situational and creative writing segments of the PSLEs English Paper 1 in these workshops.

**Situational writing**

- Six essential steps to ace your situational writing
- Informal letters/e-mails
- Formal letters/e-mails

**Creative writing**

- Varied sentence structure
- Foreshadowing
- How to plan a mature and well-developed composition for PSLE

**Fee: \$130**

- All Lessons will be done via interactive Zoom sessions.
- Worksheets and notes will be provided for your download.

Dates: April 13 or May 18 (Tuesday)  
Time: 4 to 6pm

Ryan Cheong  
Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, University at Buffalo

Ryan Cheong is a teacher who teaches Primary 1 to Secondary 4 students. He is also part of the Primary Curriculum Team at White Edge.

An avid reader with a passion for the English language since his childhood, he hopes to cultivate a love of language and learning among his students that goes beyond sitting through the examinations.

Dates: June 21 or July 12 (Monday)  
Time: 4 to 6pm

Syd qah  
Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering with Honours (Merit), Nanyang Technological University

Syd qah is a senior teacher at White Edge. Besides having years of teaching experience under her belt, she completed a stint at the Ministry of Education and was an examination-readiness campaign tutor under Mendaki Sense. A passionate and dedicated teacher, she strives to optimise her students' learning journeys through delightful, educational experiences with creative ideas.

✉ STmasterclass@sph.com.sg  
Sign up at [stskills.sg](http://stskills.sg)

**ST+** **STskills**  
news with benefits