

**THE CASE OF  
'SOLICITOR' DAVID RULE PYOTT v. ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL COUNCIL:  
GOD'S WILL BE DONE !**

St John's Cathedral Council has been taken to task by a former solicitor of the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC) – who is claiming \$HK44,5000 in '*legal consultant*' services in spite of the fact that he is not a solicitor of record.

The former solicitor is Mr David Rule Pyott, who is married to a Filipina and is living at Unit One, Fourth Floor, Hang Fai Building, Number 67-83, Belcher's Street, Kennedy Town.

According to Ms Viola Ip, the Administer of St. John's Cathedral, '*solicitor*' Pyott '*was a friend of St. John's a long time ago.*'

Ms Ip said that everybody knew that '*solicitor*' Pyott was not a solicitor, but he continued to give a lot of his time, offering, what he claimed, legal advice.

She said: '*I know he has no licence to be a solicitor (in the HKSAR), but he claimed to be giving legal advices, anyway. He was giving legal advices to Helpers for Domestic Helpers Ltd.*

*'Mr James Collins is looking after the case. He is a barrister.'*

TARGET has confirmed that Mr Collins is a barrister of record, unlike '*solicitor*' Pyott, who is not a solicitor of record, and that he, that is Mr Collins, had been called as a witness in the legal Action, brought by '*solicitor*' Pyott against St John's.

Mr Collins went to the Small Claims Tribunal for a full day on January 15 and another full day on January 16, and half a day on January 17.

Ms Ip said that she thought that St. John's had agreed to pay '*solicitor*' Pyott \$HK8,000 per month for December 2000 and January 2001, but '*solicitor*' Pyott said that he wanted much more money for his legal services.

But that was after January 2001, it appears.

St. John's paid '*solicitor*' Pyott \$HK16,000, being 2 months' wages for his legal services, Ms Ip said, and, then, when he was not satisfied, he said that he would not return to St. John's any more.

According to Small Claims Tribunal records, reconfirmed by various parties, who were present at the Adjourned Hearing of January, the case has been held over until April 11, tomorrow, at which time, Mr Martin Matsui, representing St. John's Cathedral Council, will be present, in addition to Mr Collins.

'*Solicitor*' Pyott is alleging, in his Form of Claim, attached to his General Form:

*'In the period from 1 December 2000 to 31 January 2001 the Claimant, at the request of the 1<sup>st</sup> Defendant (St. John's Cathedral Council), confirmed by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Defendant (Helpers for Domestic Helpers Ltd), attended at the office of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Defendant and provided services as legal consultant; despite reminders no payment has been made by either Defendant other than HK\$16,000 paid by the 1<sup>st</sup> Defendant on 13 February 2001.'*

According to TOLFIN (TARGET's Computerised Online Financial Service), Helpers for Domestic Helpers Ltd had (or has), as at December 31, 1999, the following Directors:

Mr James Francis David Collins  
Mr Anthony Nigel Clifton Griffiths  
Mr David John Lawrence  
Mr Simon Gordon Howell  
Mr David MacKenzie-Ross

In a conversation with Mr Collins, TARGET was told that Helpers for Domestic Helpers Ltd is no longer active.

Mr Collins said that he could offer no further information because the matter of the case of Pyott v. St. John's Cathedral Council et al 'was pending', having not been concluded at the first Hearing.

*'And in any event, I was only a witness, you understand.'*

Mr Collins said that he had been a good friend of 'solicitor' Pyott for some years and that their friendship 'had been interrupted' due to this matter.

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