

Independent Commission Against Corruption

(Now Financial Crimes Commission)

V

1. Lakshmi Yashna Benika SUBDHAN

2. Zafiirah Bibi GOULAMGHOSS

The Accused parties, both employees of the State Bank of Mauritius (SBM) at the time of the offence in 2010, were prosecuted for the offence of money laundering in breach of section 3(1)(a) and (b), 6(3) and 8 of the then Financial Intelligence and Anti-Money Laundering Act (FIAMLA) 2002.

It was reported back in 2010 by the Sugar Beach Hotel that on two different occasions funds (local and foreign currencies) belonging to the hotel were sent through Brinks, to be deposited into the hotel's bank account at the SBM branch of Quatre Bornes. Though the foreign currencies were credited into the hotel's account, the local currencies (amounting to Rs 103,127 and Rs 116,357 respectively) were never deposited into the hotel's account. Bank supervisors acquiesced having received the funds from Brinks on both occasions and thereafter remitted the local currencies to Ms. Subdhan for her to credit into the customer's account. Ms. Subdhan, a teller at the material time, processed the local currency deposits; though after working hours and into the account of Ms. Goulamghoss. On both instances, she credited Rs.100,000 into the account of Ms. Goulamghoss.

The Court found that Ms. Subdhan was guilty under 2 counts of money laundering for having deposited embezzled funds into the account of Ms. Goulamghoss. She was sentenced to pay a total fine of Rs. 150,000 for both counts. As for Ms. Goulamghoss, who was pregnant at the material time, she transferred the two sums of Rs. 100,000 from her SBM to her MCB accounts as she was told by Ms. Subdhan that the money came from the father of her child and from other individuals who owed her money. Ms. Subdhan constantly transferred money to Ms. Goulamghoss as financial aid to her. Since it was not proven that Ms. Goulamghoss knew or suspected that the money received emanated from proceeds of crime, she was found not guilty.

Financial Crimes Commission

6 January 2025