

CN FR/L28/2025

**IN THE INTERMEDIATE COURT OF MAURITIUS**  
**(FINANCIAL CRIMES DIVISION)**

In the matter of:

**THE FINANCIAL CRIMES COMMISSION**

v/s

**Preeti AUBEELUCK**

**SENTENCE**

1. Accused was prosecuted for the offences of Money Laundering (23 counts) in breach of sections 3(1) (a) & (b), 6 and 8 of the **Financial Intelligence and Anti-Money Laundering Act (the "FIAMLA")**.
2. Accused pleaded guilty under all counts and was represented by counsel, Mr. S. Ghoorah.
3. After a hearing was conducted, accused was found guilty and convicted under **Counts 1 to 23**.
4. Investigator Sahye (witness no.1) produced three statements he recorded from accused on (i) 08<sup>th</sup> November 2021, (ii) 05<sup>th</sup> May 2023 and (iii) 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024 respectively – **Doc A, A1 and A2**. He explained that the money, in the present case, is derived from the sale of illegal drugs, namely 'psychotrope' effected by accused at Pharmacy Baramia, Rose Belle. He also produced the Bank Statements of accused at the (i) MCB for the period 01<sup>st</sup> May 2015 to 06<sup>th</sup> June 2022 for account number 000282882707 (**Doc C**) and (ii) Maubank for the period 17<sup>th</sup> May 2015 to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021 for account number 011000210700 (**Doc D**). Investigator Sahye (witness no.1) further explained that he conducted a financial analysis of those Bank Statements which revealed suspicious deposits for which accused could not provide a plausible explanation. He also stated that accused did cooperate with the then ICAC during the investigation.
5. Accused, from the dock, begged for excuse and leniency. She also stated that she had 2 children under her care.

6. Accused is only on record for a misdemeanor offence of failing to wear a protective mask – **Doc X**. Accused was neither arrested nor spent any day in custody for the present case.
7. Learned counsel for accused submitted and invited the Court to show leniency given that accused cooperated with the then ICAC, has pleaded guilty at an early stage and the amount of money involved.
8. Prior to 29<sup>th</sup> May 2019, the maximum sentence applicable for the offences of Money Laundering was a fine not exceeding Rs2 million and to penal servitude not exceeding 10 years (**counts 1 to 18**). As at 29<sup>th</sup> May 2019, the legislator increased the fine to Rs.10 million and the penal servitude to 20 years (**counts 19 to 23**) – See **Act 9** of 2019 and **section 8** of FIAMLA.
9. The Court is alive to the overriding principle that the sentence to be inflicted must be commensurate with the gravity of the offence – see **Khojraty v The State (2018) SCJ 382**.
10. In relation to the discount to be given to an accused party who pleads guilty, Section 69B of the District and Intermediate Courts (Criminal Jurisdiction) Act provides that:

*“The District and Intermediate Court may mitigate the sentence of an accused party who appears before it and makes, in the opinion of the Court, a timely plea of guilty to the offence with which he stands charged.”*

11. In **The State v Mootien and Ors [2009] SCJ 28**, it was held that:

*“In relation to the discount to be given to an accused party who pleads guilty, I bear in mind the SGC Revised Guideline “Reduction in Sentence for Guilty plea (July 2007) referred to in Blackstone’s Criminal Practice (2008)” at page 2070 to which I was referred by Counsel for accused No. 1. I also agree that the Criminal Division of the Supreme Court seems to have applied the recommendation contained in that guideline that one third deduction be given where the plea is indicated at the first reasonable opportunity. However, I am of the view that the actual discount to be given for a plea of guilty still remains a matter of discretion for the Court having regard to the circumstances of each particular case.” (Underlying is mine)*

12. The Court has taken into account the timely guilty plea of accused for which she should be awarded 1/3<sup>rd</sup> deduction, her family situation with two children under her care, her remorse and request for leniency, her cooperation with then ICAC and her not being on record for any

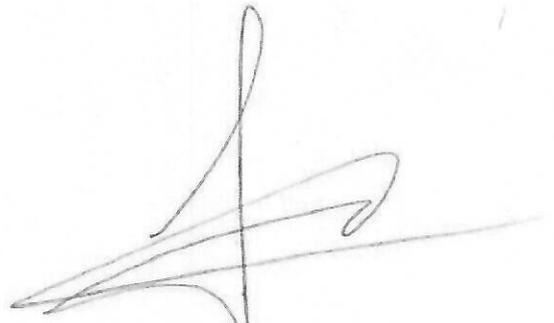
similar offence. However, on the other hand, the Court cannot lose sight of the gravity of the offences she committed being money derived from the sales of 'psychotrope'.

13. Taking into account all those factors, the Court is of the view that a custodial sentence will be manifestly harsh and excessive in the present case and that a fine, under each count, will meet the ends of justice. Accordingly, accused is sentenced to a fine of:

- (i) Rs. 2,000/- under **Count 1**;
- (ii) Rs. 3,000/- under **Count 2**;
- (iii) Rs. 3,000/- under **Count 3**;
- (iv) Rs. 2,500/- under **Count 4**;
- (v) Rs. 7,000/- under **Count 5**;
- (vi) Rs. 7,000/- under **Count 6**;
- (vii) Rs. 7,000/- under **Count 7**;
- (viii) Rs. 3,000/- under **Count 8**;
- (ix) Rs. 2,000/- under **Count 9**;
- (x) Rs. 2,000/- under **Count 10**;
- (xi) Rs. 3,000/- under **Count 11**;
- (xii) Rs. 3,000/- under **Count 12**;
- (xiii) Rs. 1,800/- under **Count 13**;
- (xiv) Rs. 3,000/- under **Count 14**;
- (xv) Rs. 3,000/- under **Count 15**;
- (xvi) Rs. 5,000/- under **Count 16**;
- (xvii) Rs. 5,000/- under **Count 17**;
- (xviii) Rs. 10,000/- under **Count 18**;
- (xix) Rs. 7,000/- under **Count 19**;
- (xx) Rs. 30,000/- under **Count 20**;
- (xxi) Rs. 3,000/- under **Count 21**;
- (xxii) Rs. 7,000/- under **Count 22**; and
- (xxiii) Rs. 40,000/- under **Count 23**.

14. Accused is further ordered to pay Rs.500 as costs.

159,300



**A.R. TAJOODEEN**  
Magistrate of the Intermediate Court (Financial Crimes Division)  
23.02.2026

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