

Uganda vs Kamyva Valentino & three Others

In 2015, the Financial Intelligence Authority received information indicating that an accountant with the Embassy of Sweden in Uganda was being investigated for suspected embezzlement of UGX 8.4 billion from his employer. It was indicated that this accountant would transfer the proceeds of crime into bank accounts belonging to his associates, including his wife.

Subsequent investigations revealed that he had used some of the money to acquire properties mainly real estate and high-end motor vehicles, but disguised ownership of these properties by registering them in the names of a fake company in which his father in-law was a shareholder. Other properties were registered in the names of his wife.

The Financial Intelligence Authority aided the investigations by tracing and halting transactions on the bank accounts into which some of the proceeds of crime had been deposited. This was done to prevent flight of funds, and to ensure a successful asset recovery process after conviction.

The accused was convicted on 28th July, 2020 of seven counts of money laundering under a plea bargain. He was sentenced to three years' imprisonment and agreed to compensate the Swedish Embassy the full sum of UGX8.4 billion after selling all the properties he had acquired using the stolen funds. In addition, his wife and father in-law were convicted of money laundering for their roles in concealing the illicitly acquired property.

Source: The Uganda Anti-Corruption Court