



## goAML APPLICATION ROLLING OUT SMOOTHLY

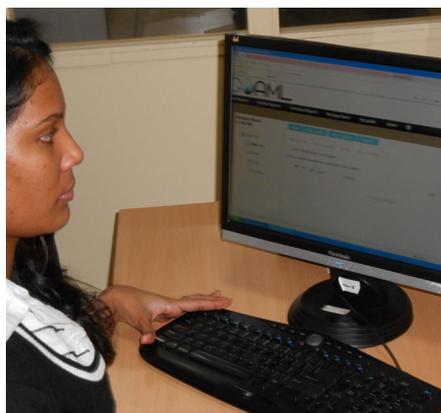
All commercial banks duly licensed by the Bank of Mauritius are now actively submitting Suspicious Transaction Reports (STRs) using the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) goAML web platform which has been deployed since 21 January 2014 by the Mauritius Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU).

The Mauritius FIU launched the goAML application on 21 January 2014 (*QIB – Issue No. 1*). In view of making full use of this software, meetings were held with commercial banks between 2 and 6 June 2014 to discuss the implementation of a secured means to exchange information through the Message Board, which is a component of the goAML software.

Banks reacted positively and electronic exchange of information between them and the FIU is being done exclusively through the Message Board. To date, more than 20 requests for information have been made via the Message Board. Replies are being provided more swiftly, and in accordance with the new section 13(4) of the Financial Intelligence and Anti-Money Laundering Act 2002.

Furthermore, the Mauritius FIU has also engaged in consultations with the Customs Department of the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) to receive secured information via the goAML software. Such information pertains to declarations made by persons making a physical cross-border transportation of currency or bearer negotiable instruments, in accordance with section 131A of the Customs Act 1989.

The ultimate objective of the Mauritius FIU is to connect the users of the goAML application with the reporting entities and stakeholders using the goAML Web Portal. The advantage of an internal communication channel like the goAML Message Board is obvious as it allows communication



between parties from within the system. Reporting entities and stakeholders are notified immediately and automatically if their reports are accepted or rejected. The FIU has received effective cooperation and comments from Money Laundering Reporting Officers (MLROs)/Compliance Officers of banks in the implementation of the goAML system.

A help desk is available at the FIU to provide any technical advice and information required by goAML users.

Contact details for the help desk:

+230 454 1423

goamlhelpdesk@fiumauritius.org

More information available at:  
<https://www.mrugoaml.fiumauritius.org>

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The first issue of the Mauritius FIU Quarterly Information Bulletin has been well received by all stakeholders, reporting institutions, university students and the public at large. We are now pleased to issue the second bulletin.

In this second bulletin, we highlight the success of the UNODC goAML software for the banking sector and indicate the latest trends concerning STRs and Disclosures made to the FIU. We also draw attention to activities of the Egmont Group, of which all FIUs must become a member as per Recommendation 29 of the Financial Action Task Force. The Egmont Group, along with the FATF, has been a driving force in the global combat against money laundering and terrorist financing since its inception in 1995. Two interesting articles are also included in the 'Cross-Border AML/CFT News' section for general information on international developments.

We hope that you will find the reading of this second issue as insightful as the first edition and we await your feedback, if any, to the following email address: [qibfeedback@fiumauritius.org](mailto:qibfeedback@fiumauritius.org)

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## ROPING DESIGNATED NON-FINANCIAL BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS (DNFBPs) IN AML/CFT COMBAT IN MAURITIUS

Prior to July 2011, the power of the Mauritius FIU to issue guidelines to reporting entities was limited to the manner in which a Suspicious Transaction Report may be made under Section 14 of the Financial Intelligence and Anti-Money Laundering Act (FIAMLA) 2002 and on the manner in which additional information may be supplied to the FIU on a suspicious transaction pursuant to a request made under Section 13(2) of Act.

Until July 2011, the only AML/CFT obligations applicable to 'members of a relevant profession or occupation' were those enacted under the FIAMLA, e.g. they have to report suspicious transactions to the FIU pursuant to Section 14(1). Moreover, the Financial Intelligence and Anti-Money Laundering Regulations 2003 do not prescribe any measures for 'members of a relevant profession or occupation'. The measures prescribed in the above Regulations are applicable only to banks, financial institutions and cash dealers.

In July 2011, the Economic and Financial Measures (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act amended the FIAMLA by inserting a new section 10(2)(ba). This section empowers the FIU to issue guidelines to 'members of a relevant profession or occupation' on

measures to combat money laundering or financing of terrorism that are in force in jurisdictions having standards comparable to Mauritius. 'Members of a relevant profession or occupation' includes professional accountants, public accountants and member firms under the Financial Reporting Act, licensed auditors, barristers, notaries, attorneys, etc., i.e. Designated Non-Financial Businesses and Professions (DNFBPs). The table below summarises DNFBPs and their corresponding AML/CFT regulatory body.

The FIU has already issued draft guidelines to all DNFBPs last year. Besides, financial resources have been released to the FIU last year and actions have been initiated to set up a Compliance Unit to accelerate FIU's AML/CFT regulatory functions for certain DNFBPs as indicated in the table below. The FIU has

also been seeking an appropriate Head of Compliance. Currently, the FIU is consolidating the Guidelines for all DNFBPs as per Section 10(2)(ba) and is examining other issues that may arise in enforcement.

MEMBER OF A RELEVANT PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION	REGULATORY BODY
1. Professional accountant, public accountant and member firm under the Financial Reporting Act	Mauritius Institute of Professional Accountants established under the Financial Reporting Act
2. Licensed auditor under the Financial Reporting Act	Financial Reporting Council established under the Financial Reporting Act
3. Law firm, foreign law firm, joint law venture, foreign lawyer, under the Law Practitioners Act	Attorney-General
4. Barrister	Bar Council established under the Mauritius Bar Association Act
5. Attorney	Mauritius Law Society Council referred to in the Mauritius Law Society Act
6. Notary	Chamber of Notaries established under the Notaries Act
7. Person licensed to operate a casino, gaming house, gaming machine, totalisator, bookmaker and interactive gambling under the Gambling Regulatory Authority Act	Gambling Regulatory Authority established under the Gambling Regulatory Authority Act
8. Dealer under the Jewellery Act	FIU
9. Agent in Land and/or Building or Estate Agency under the Local Government Act	FIU
10. Land Promoter and Property Developer under the Local Government Act	FIU

## MAURITIUS FIU CONTINUES AS AFRICA REPRESENTATIVE IN EGMONT COMMITTEE

The Egmont Plenary, Working Group and Committee Meetings took place in Lima, Peru between 1 and 6 June 2014 to discuss the challenges faced by FIUs in combating money laundering, associated predicate offences and terrorist financing, especially in the areas of international cooperation, information sharing and the improved development of financial intelligence.

The Mauritius FIU will continue as the regional representative of the African continent on the Egmont Committee, a function it has been handling since July 2003. It is also important to note that the Heads of FIUs have approved, with effect from January 2015, that Africa will be represented in the Egmont Committee by three FIUs, one for Eastern and Southern Africa, one for Central and West Africa and one for Middle East and Northern Africa.

The 22<sup>nd</sup> Egmont Group Plenary was opened by the Prime Minister of Peru, Mr Rene Cornejo. He stressed the importance

of, and highlighted his country's efforts in combating money laundering, associated predicated offences and terrorist financing. The Peru Plenary was attended by almost 320 participants representing 115 FIUs from various jurisdictions and 15 international organisations. Raymond Baker from Global Financial Integrity made a keynote address on the impact of illicit financial flows. His address provided food for thought for all participants.

With regard to Africa, a major development was the recent admission of five FIUs from the continent at the

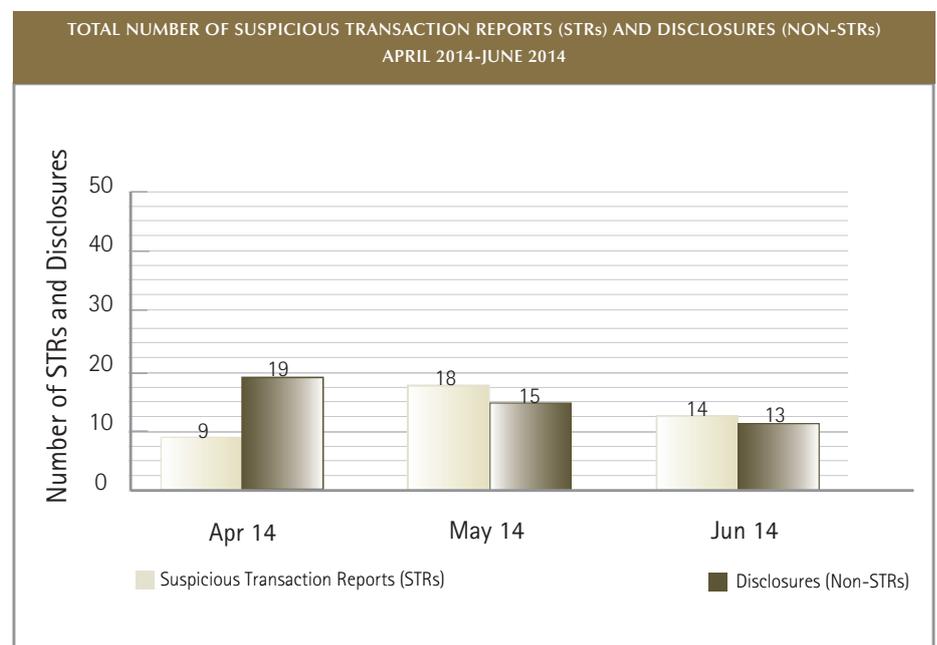


Peru Plenary Meeting, namely Angola, Namibia, Tanzania, Chad and Ghana. The Mauritius FIU was the lead sponsor for Namibia's admission and provided training in Mauritius to the management of the Ghana Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC).

Currently, the membership of the Egmont Group includes FIUs of 147 countries, of which 21 are from Africa.

## TRENDS IN STRS AND DISCLOSURES TO THE FIU

In the second quarter of 2014, the number of Suspicious Transactions Reports (STRs) and Disclosures submitted to the Mauritius FIU amounted to figures of 88, of which the numbers received in April, May and June 2014 were 28, 33 and 27, respectively. The input of an FIU is made up of paper STRs and goAML STRs (currently for banks only) as well as other disclosures including those from other domestic AML/CFT stakeholders and foreign FIUs.





### • MAURITIUS FIU COMMITMENT TO AFRICA

The Mauritius FIU organised a week-long training session for eight senior officers from the Kenya Financial Reporting Centre (FRC) from Monday 14 April to Friday 18 April 2014. The Kenyan delegates are from the Legal, Corporate Affairs, Financial Intelligence Analysis and IT Departments of the FRC. A Certificate of Attendance was issued to the participants following their successful training.

The Kenya FRC has also officially requested the Mauritius FIU to be their lead sponsor for admission in the Egmont Group, possibly in 2015.

### • PRODUCTIVITY ENHANCEMENT EVENT

Staff of the Mauritius FIU participated actively in an event held on Tuesday 22 April 2014 in the premises of the National Productivity and Competitiveness Council (NPCC), Ebène. Presentations were made by the Director of the FIU on Organisational Objectives and Mrs Shalini Mathaven from the NPCC on 'Productivity'. The FIU's external part-time Communication Consultant spoke

on Effective Internal Communication as a tool to improve performance. These presentation sessions and the ensuing discussions provided an opportunity to clearly understand the FIU's current goals and to better grasp the importance of productivity and internal communication within an organisation.



### • NEW RECRUITS

The FIU Mauritius has recruited five new analysts in the first quarter of 2014. They are on a probationary period of about six months and are working directly under the supervision of senior technical staff. They have adapted quickly to the FIU's work culture and ethics.

### • CRIME GANGS LAUNDER \$140 BILLION THROUGH SPORTS BETTING

Criminals are using betting on sports events to launder \$140 billion each year, exposing a lack of effective regulation that allows match-fixing to spread. Soccer and cricket were identified as the sports most threatened by criminals seeking to rig the gambling market but tennis, basket-ball, motor racing and badminton were also affected, according to the report.

The rapid evolution of the global sports betting market has seen an increased risk of infiltration by organised crime and money laundering," said Chris Eaton of the Qatar-based International Centre for Sport Security (ICSS).

Among solutions, a sports betting tax is recommended to finance investigations into match-fixing and closer co-operation between betting companies and sporting bodies.

*(Extract from Thomson Reuters – Keith Weir – 15 May 2014 as reproduced in GPML Global Press Review Vol. 12 No. 8, 04 July 2014)*

## CROSS-BORDER AML/CFT NEWS

### • MONEY LAUNDERING, BRIBERY AND TAX EVASION: HOW TO FREEZE ILLICIT FLOWS

Developing countries lose \$1tn a year due to poor governance and lax regulations. A new report released by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) suggests how governments can collaborate to clamp down on illicit finance.

Any discussion on illicit financial flows – money that leaves countries through illicit activities like money laundering and bribery – seems to prompt the question: how much money are we talking about?

A lot of effort currently goes into estimating it, but perhaps the crucial question to ask is what countries are doing to address it. A new report from the

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) measures responses to illicit financial flows from developing countries and analyses how OECD countries are tackling issues of money laundering, bribery, tax evasion, and asset recovery.

*(Extract from Guardian Professional – Lena Diesing – 25 March 2014 as reproduced in GPML Global Press Review Vol. 12 No. 5, 11 April 2014)*