

18 March 2023

NEW US EFFORTS TO PROSECUTE SANCTIONS EVASION AND EXPORT CONTROL VIOLATIONS MAY REQUIRE COMPLIANCE PROGRAMS TO BE UPDATED

On 16 March, an article from Skadden says that the US Government is putting new emphasis on investigating and prosecuting those who evade sanctions and export control rules — moves that may require some companies to reassess their compliance programs. It also says that companies should ensure that their compliance programs are risk-based and dynamic in response to the novel and expansive use of sanctions and export controls against Russia and new methods of evasion.

<https://www.skadden.com/insights/publications/2023/03/new-us-efforts-to-prosecute-sanctions-evasion-and-export-control-violations>

EAST AFRICA'S WAR ON ILLICIT MARITIME TRADE

On 17 March, a US Navy website carried an article about Operation *Cutlass* and its background. In the operation, the US Navy and Coast Guard conducted the exercise with several African countries, as part of an effort to help them improve their ability to combat a “laundry list” of maritime crimes affecting the continent.

<https://www.navy.mil/Press-Office/News-Stories/Article/3333189/trawling-trafficking-smuggling-and-spoilage-east-africas-war-on-illicit-maritim/>

SAUDI AUTHORITIES FOIL ATTEMPTS TO SMUGGLE OVER 1 MILLION CAPTAGON PILLS

On 17 March, Al Arabiya reported that Saudi authorities had thwarted 2 separate attempts to smuggle over 1 million captagon tablets through the Duba port. It says that the vast majority of captagon, which derives its name from a once legal drug against narcolepsy, is produced in Syria and Lebanon.

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/saudi-arabia/2023/03/17/Saudi-authorities-foil-attempts-to-smuggle-over-1-million-captagon-pills>

MALAYSIAN ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION (MACC) IS TRACING THE ASSETS AND MONEY BELIEVED TO BE OBTAINED THROUGH THE ACTIVITIES OF A BUSTED INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT SCAM SYNDICATE

On 18 March, The Edge Markets reported that MACC said these efforts are following the arrest of the 4 foreigners in February, masterminds behind the syndicate, among a number of British and

Filipino nationals arrested following raids on 24 locations in Kuala Lumpur and Penang, including 3 syndicate call centres, 2 located in Kuala Lumpur and 1 in Penang.

<https://www.theedgemarkets.com/node/659743>

JERSEY'S DEFERRED PROSECUTION AGREEMENTS LAW: THE PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION AND ATTORNEY GENERAL'S GUIDANCE

On 13 March, Ogier published an article which shares insights on the practical implementation of Deferred Prosecution Agreements in Jersey. The Attorney General's guidance was issued on 3 March, to coincide with the DPA Law coming into force.

<https://www.ogier.com/news-and-insights/insights/jerseys-deferred-prosecution-agreements-law-the-practical-implementation-and-attorney-generals-guidance/>

6 MYTHS ABOUT CHINA'S ANTI-CORRUPTION CAMPAIGN

On 18 March, Eurasia Review published an article by the Hudson Institute saying that, although most people do not view China as a kleptocracy, systemic corruption has also shaped China's domestic governance. It says that the anti-corruption campaign, launched by Xi, reshaped China's political landscape and became a hallmark policy of Xi's premiership. Yet beyond news reports on the fall of prominent individuals, few outside of academic circles in the West understand it.

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/18032023-six-myths-about-chinas-anti-corruption-campaign-analysis/>

Meanwhile –

CHINESE FOOTBALL STARS AND OFFICIALS HELD IN XI'S CORRUPTION CRACKDOWN

On 18 March, the Guardian reported that a corruption scandal threatens to derail China's beautiful game even further, just as stadiums start to reopen after the pandemic lockdowns. It started in November, when Li Tie, one of China's most famous football figures, disappeared. Li, a former Everton player, had coached the men's national team. The Chinese authorities said he was being investigated for suspected "serious violations of the law".

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/mar/18/chinese-stars-officials-held-xi-jinping-football-corruption-crackdown>

INTERVIEW WITH ANDREW MASTERSON OF US GOLF MANUFACTURERS ANTI-COUNTERFEITING WORKING GROUP

On 17 March, Golf Business News carried an interview about the golf industry's ongoing battle with counterfeiters and manufacturers of fake golf equipment and gives advice on what retailers and consumers should do when they think they've come across a counterfeit operation.

<https://golfbusinessnews.com/news/interviews/the-gbn-interview-andrew-masterson-us-golf-manufacturers-anti-counterfeiting-working-group/>

FRAUDULENT OR ILLEGALLY OBTAINED BALKANS DOCUMENTS ARE PERMITTING EASE OF TRAVEL FOR CRIMINALS WORLDWIDE

The Global Initiative Against Transnational Organised Crime reported that police investigating organised criminal groups in or from the Western Balkans repeatedly point to a common thread – the ease with which many criminals travel the world using fake passports or illegally obtained immigration documents from countries of the region. It also says that the frequency of the problem in the Western Balkans suggests that there are groups that prepare forged documents as a criminal service.

<https://riskbulletins.globalinitiative.net/see-obs-014/05-fraudulent-or-illegally-obtained-balkans-documents.html>

BAHAMAS EX-MINISTER CHARGED IN BRIBES-FOR-CONTRACTS SCHEME

On 15 March, Yahoo News reported a Reuters story that Bahamas former youth, sports and culture minister Lanisha Rolle faces a slew of charges related to bribery and a government contracts scheme during her time as minister for deals valued at over \$700,000.

<https://news.yahoo.com/bahamas-ex-minister-charged-bribes-231349904.html>

ILLICIT DEALINGS IN GOLD, DIAMOND, RUBIES AND ASSOCIATED MONEY LAUNDERING AND TERRORIST FINANCING IN THE EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICAN REGION

Published by the FATF-style regional body, the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group (ESAAMLG), this report, dated September 2022, says that the region remains one of the key producer and exporter of diamonds with Angola, Botswana, Namibia and South Africa amongst the top 4 diamond mining countries in Africa. Coloured stones including ruby, emerald, sapphire and tourmaline are mined in Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Madagascar, Namibia, Tanzania and Zambia. The region is also endowed with other minerals like gold, platinum, and uranium mined in Ethiopia, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. This makes the region a key

contributor to the global market for precious metals and stones (PMS), with the key drivers for the region's contribution being gold and diamonds. Diamonds and gold were chosen to be the study's area of attention.

https://www.esaamlg.org/reports/ILLICIT_DEALING_SEPT_2022.pdf

<https://www.buymeacoffee.com/KoIvM842y>

