



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**17/11/2023**

Directorate of Enforcement (ED) has taken possession of 100% shares of MGM Maran and MGM Anand in four MGM group of companies in India viz. Southern Agrifurane Industries Private Limited, Anand Transport Private Limited, MGM Entertainment Private Limited, MGM Diamond Beach Resorts Pvt as well as 52,39,959 equity shares (representing 3.31%) of MGM Maran in Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Limited (TMBL) (recently listed on BSE) under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.

MGM Maran was the Chairman of Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Limited (TMBL) during the year 2007 when he along with other directors/officials of the TMBL had facilitated a deal of sale of 23.60% shares of TMB from Indian shareholders to unauthorised overseas persons. It was also found that MGM Maran acquired undisclosed foreign investments of Rs 293.91 Crore directly outside India during the same period. Such undisclosed investments were without the approval of RBI as well as from unexplained and highly dubious sources.

ED investigation revealed that MGM Maran, soon after being subjected to ED investigation, started removing his wealth to outside India with sole objective to keep the same out of the reach of Indian Law Enforcement Agencies in the garb of Overseas Direct Investments (ODI) and in pursuance of the same had got Cyprus citizenship in 2016.

Therefore, vide Provisional Attachment Order dated 23.12.2022, ED attached proceeds of crime under PMLA as equivalent value in the form of entire shareholding of both MGM Maran and MGM Anand in all prominent MGM Group of companies in India, lands and buildings in 'Southern Agrifurane Industries Pvt Ltd' as well as shareholding of Maran in TMBL being 3.31 %.

Subsequently, the order was confirmed by the Hon'ble Adjudicating Authority vide order dated 14.06.2023. ED has invoked the provisions of Section 8(4) of PMLA and taken the possession of the confirmed attached properties vide notice dated 16.11.2023.

Further investigation is under progress.