

Brazil's Former Finance Minister Admits to Undeclared Bank Account in Swiss Bank



Rio de Janeiro, May 30 (RHC-Xinhua) -- Brazil's former Finance Minister Guido Mantega has admitted that he owned an undeclared bank account in a Swiss bank with 600,000 U.S. dollars.

Mantega served as finance minister from 2006 to 2015, during most of the term of former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and of the first presidential term of Lula's successor Dilma Rousseff. He also served as minister of planning and budget from 2003 to 2004 in Lula's first term.

The former minister said the account was opened before he became a minister. He denied that the money deposited in the account was from bribes, saying that the money was from the sale of a family property.

Mantega has authorized Brazilian authorities to have full access to his bank and fiscal information. He said he would present the documents that would show the transactions and prove the source of the money was clean, once he gets them from the bank.

Mantega released a statement in which he acknowledged his mistake on not having declared the money

and said he did not expect any sort of lenience on the matter. But he denied asking for favors or bribes in exchange for anything while in public service.

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