

## Signature of MoU between MRA and Mauritius Post Ltd.



To enhance cooperation between the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) and the Mauritius Post Limited (MPL), a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the two institutions on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2017. The Director-General of the MRA, Mr. Sudhamo Lal, welcomed the Chief Executive Officer of the MPL, Mr. G. Moteea, at the MRA Head Office for the signing protocol, in the presence of MRA Management Team and MPL Officials.

The avenues of partnership between the MRA and the MPL include the postal services whereby both actors work in close collaboration. This working relationship between the two organisations, however, is not new. In fact since the beginning of colonial times, the Customs Department and the Postal Services have existed and they have evolved into the MRA Customs Department and the MPL respectively.

It was therefore high time to formalise the working alliance into a defined and structured agreement which is the Memorandum of Understanding. The latter stipulates, inter alia, the respective roles and responsibilities of both parties in relation to their mutual cooperation in respect with the importation and exportation of goods consigned through the post.

Mr. Sudhamo Lal thanked the Chief Executive Officer of the MPL and his team for helping to make this Memorandum a reality and hoped that it paves the way for further partnership. Mr. Moteea in turn thanked the Director-General of the MRA for the warm welcome and reassured that the MPL will provide unflinching support to the MRA.

### Editor's Note

#### MRA 2.0

Dear Readers,

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) is not only one of the leading public institutions in terms of efficiency and transparency, but it is also looked up to in the region as a model in terms of revenue administration. Willing to be a 'world class revenue authority', the MRA registers 99% of individual tax return electronically (2016), collects more than 70% of its total revenue thru e-payment and has a paperless Customs Department.

The usage of the e-Procurement at the MRA is yet another example which depicts that the MRA is on the forefront in terms of use of technologies. The MRA therefore invites taxpayers and the public at large to participate in the 2.0 experience by registering for the MRA YouTube Channel and MRA Twitter Account.

The MRA thanks taxpayers for their usual support.

### In this issue...

# MRA draws the Winners of the VLDS

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) organised the first quarter draw of the VAT Lucky Draw Scheme (VLDS) 2017 at the MRA Head Office on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2017. The VLDS was launched in 2014 to encourage Mauritians to adopt the habit of asking for a receipt for every transaction/purchase and for the VAT Registered persons to fulfil their legal obligations as per the VAT Act by issuing a proper receipt to customers.



In his address, the Director-General of the MRA, Mr. Sudhamo Lal, said that the VLDS is part of the initiative which aims at instilling a tax culture in the local population. He added that the VAT is the single most important revenue generator for the State and it is therefore crucial to collect it properly.

The Director-General also announced the implementation of the Electronic Fiscal Devices (EFDs) in the near future which would further help to optimise revenue collection. Mr. Sudhamo Lal also encouraged students to participate in the MRA Essay contest, which aims at sensitizing the taxpayers of tomorrow at grass root level. Further details regarding the essay competition is available on our website ([www.mra.mu](http://www.mra.mu)).

The invoice number of the winners of the draw and their respective prizes are shown hereunder:

SN	Prizes	Invoice Number	Date	VAT Amount
1.	Rs 50 000	490121	04-03-2017	94
2.	Rs 25 000	240583	05-02-2017	671
3.	Rs 15 000	INV14845	10-02-2017	2594
4.	Rs 10 000	301963	28-03-2017	166
5.	Rs 10 000	PLA00096543CS	20-03-2017	1956
6.	Rs 10 000	232129	02-02-2017	1043
7.	Rs 10 000	23930	25-02-2017	150
8.	Rs 10 000	FSJB00009133	05-03-2017	265
9.	Rs 10 000	1312	26-02-2017	170
10.	Rs 10 000	270787	05-03-2017	91
11.	Rs 5 000	18314	10-02-2017	94
12.	Rs 5 000	WTC/928/170318/000000033	18-03-2017	241
13.	Rs 5 000	170000823	28-02-2017	1340
14.	Rs 5 000	00025635	09-02-2017	91
15.	Rs 5 000	612D-084806	25-01-2017	395
16.	Rs 5 000	CH03943906QN	20-03-2017	210
17.	Rs 5 000	435665	11-02-2017	203
18.	Rs 5 000	B427252	27-01-2017	1291
19.	Rs 5 000	14100046-6	19-03-2017	915
20.	Rs 5 000	1796-5-3	05-03-2017	437

The receipt number **490121**, bearing a VAT amount of Rs 94 won the first prize of **Rs 50,000**.

The winners should call at the MRA Head office with their original receipt to claim their prizes

# Seminar on Integrity at Afritac

Senior customs officials from twelve AFRITAC South countries participated in a regional 5-day seminar on Integrity in Customs from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at Ebène. During the opening ceremony on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2017, the Director-General of the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA), Mr. Sudhamo Lal, made the introductory remarks and declared the Seminar open. The aim of the seminar is to explore the challenges to integrity in customs administrations.

The seminar discussed: (i) concerns relating to integrity including vulnerabilities; (ii) key elements and international good practice in developing effective integrity strategies; (iii) member country experiences including a review of the status and effective implementation of Codes of Conduct and integrity strategies; (iv) WCO and regional initiatives; and (v) methods of reducing or removing opportunities for corruption.



## Green MRA: e-Procurement System

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) is currently using the e-Procurement System Application as from Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2017. The e-Procurement was acceded on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at the MRA Head Office in the presence of the Director-General of the MRA, Mr. Sudhamo Lal.



The e-Procurement is a web based application hosted by the Government Online Centre that enables public bodies and suppliers to electronically conduct procurement proceedings from invitation to bid up to contract award.

The e-Procurement is in line with the paperless strategy of the MRA which aims at eliminating the usage of paper. The e-PS will shorten procurement cycle by compressing bid preparation time, minimize errors in bids, improve bid quality and responsiveness through timelier information on all aspects of the procurement and reduce risks of challenge and application for review.

# Drug Seizures effected by the MRA

The main roles and functions of the MRA Customs are not only geared towards providing hassle-free clearance of merchandise and protecting Government's revenue but also ensuring an effective border surveillance of our seaport and airport. The objective is to prevent the illicit entry of narcotics, dangerous drugs and other prohibited substances.

The narcotics seizures made by MRA Customs effected mainly at Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam International Airport and Courier Services for the month of April 2017 are shown in the following table:

Drug Type	Weight/Quantity	Street Value (Rs.)
Cigarette filter tubes with labels mentioning of cannabinoids	11 pieces	N/A
Cannabis Seeds	50 pieces	5,000
Ecstasy	32 tablets	48,000
Psychotropic Substances	937 tablets	132,000



Synthetic drugs and psychotropic tablets are the main illicit products that were seized by officers of the Customs Anti-Narcotics Section (CANS).

The MRA reiterates its appeal to the public to report suspected drug cases anonymously to the MRA through the **MRA Stop Drug Platform** on [www.mra.mu](http://www.mra.mu) or by calling on the **Hotline 8958**.

# Training on Taxation of Insurance Sector

Mr. Martin Roche, International Monetary Fund (IMF) Consultant, is presently at the MRA to look into the taxation of insurance companies in Mauritius. In this context, he conducted training sessions for MRA officers on Taxation of Insurance Sector.

Mr. Roche also paid a courtesy visit to the Director-General of the MRA, Mr. Sudhamo Lal and members of the Management Team on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at the MRA Head Office.



The training was held on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> April 2017 from 13h30 to 16hrs on 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Conference Room, Efram Court, for MRA staff from Compliance, Legal Services, Information Systems Departments and Internal Audit Division.

During the training session, the following topics were dealt with:

1. Overview of the financial sector,
2. Overview of the controls (internal and external) applicable to the financial sector,
3. Specific overview of the insurance industry and its issues,
4. Tax risks specific to the insurance industry and
5. Tax risks applicable to the financial sector and other industry.

More than 60 MRA officers benefitted from the training.

## MRA at MITD



As part of its strategy to educate and sensitize the local population on the role of the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA), education sessions are organized on a regular basis in schools by the Taxpayer Education and Communication Department (TECD). The sessions are also expected to raise, in the medium and long term, taxpayers' compliance level with tax laws administered by the MRA.



In this context, the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA), in collaboration with the Mauritius Institute of Training and Development (MITD), a body corporate which operates under the aegis of the Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Resources, organised a training session for trainees enrolled at the MITD on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2017. In this context, Mr. C. Lochun, Technical Officer of the TECD of the MRA made a presentation on "An overview of Mauritian Income Tax System".

# Education Sessions by MRA Officers

Officers of the Taxpayer Education & Communication Department of the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) hosted a series of educational sessions with employees of the following organizations:

- Agricultural Marketing Board
- Central Water Authority
- Employee Welfare Fund
- Enterprise Mauritius
- Mauritius Institute of Education
- Mauritius Post Ltd.



The sessions were organised from Monday 24<sup>th</sup> to Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2017. The main topic presented during the sessions is VAT Lucky Draw Scheme in order to further sensitize Mauritians about the necessity of claiming a receipt and the response was excellent.

## VLDS at Bagatelle Mall of Mauritius



A sensitization campaign with regards to VAT Lucky Draw Scheme (VLDS) was organised at Bagatelle Mall of Mauritius on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2017. During the campaign, the MRA officers sensitized the public on the good habit of claiming a receipt for each purchase and to participate in the VLDS.

As the Bagatelle Mall of Mauritius attracts shoppers from all over the island, the response of the public to MRA's sensitization campaign was very positive. Some 1100 members of the public were sensitized and 400 entries were recorded.

It is reminded to the public that they have up to Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2017 to register all the details of their invoices for the second quarter starting from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017.