

MRA e-Newsletter

Mauritius Revenue Authority

MAY 2025



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EDITORIAL NOTE

Sowing the seeds of Fiscal Citizenship

The future of our nation depends not only on sound economic policies but also on the values we instil in our youth. At the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA), we believe that taxpayer education must begin at the roots—with our students.

Over the past months, educational sessions conducted in secondary schools by MRA resource personsunder the stewardship of Dr. Rakesh Thecka-have ignited curiosity, fostered understanding, and planted the seeds of fiscal responsibility among hundreds of students. The results of a recent survey conducted during these sessions have been nothing short of inspiring.

A resounding 94% of students found the sessions well structured and organised. Clarity of content earned 93% approval, while 90% expressed an enhanced understanding of taxation and overall satisfaction. But the most revealing insight lies in the overwhelming endorsement of the videos used during the sessions—an extraordinary 97% of students praised their effectiveness in making taxation not just comprehensible, but compelling.

These videos-crafted to tell the story of taxation, its vital role in nation-building, and the journey of the MRA since its inception in 2006-have

become more than just learning tools; they are instruments of transformation. Produced in-house at the MRA's newly established audiovisual production studio, they represent our firm belief in innovation-led education.

This pioneering initiative has not gone unnoticed. Both the Commonwealth Association of Tax Administrators (CATA) and the African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF) have commended the project, which is now poised to inspire similar implementations across other revenue authorities around the world.

We are not merely teaching taxation. We are nurturing a generation of informed, engaged, and patriotic citizens who will one day become voluntary, compliant taxpayers.



Mr. Amick Teeluckdharry
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Taxpayer Education and
Communication Department,
Mauritius Revenue Authority

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OUTREACH PROGRAM EVALUATION

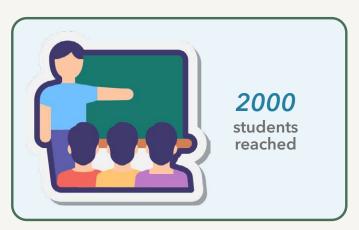
STRONG STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND STRATEGIC INSIGHTS

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA), through its Taxpayer Education and Communication Department (TECD), has reaffirmed its commitment to fostering a culture of voluntary tax compliance by engaging with students early in their academic journey.

In line with this mission, MRA undertook an extensive outreach initiative targeting secondary school students from Grades 10 to 13, which included 32 school-based sessions and three educational tours, one in Mauritius and two in Rodrigues.



Reaching over 2,000 students, this initiative was followed by a comprehensive survey to gauge its effectiveness.

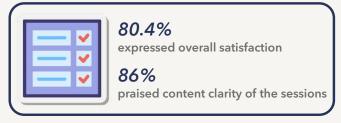


A total of 1,806 attendees participated in the survey. The feedback was analyzed across five key dimensions: session organization, content clarity, pacing and duration, effectiveness of audio-visual aids, and overall knowledge gained.

The survey findings offer a data-driven affirmation of the program's success and provide valuable insights for future strategic planning.

High Levels of Satisfaction and Impact

The results of the survey paint an encouraging picture. A substantial 80.4% of participants expressed overall satisfaction with the sessions, reflecting the thoughtful design and delivery of the program. The sessions were particularly praised for their organization (86%) and content clarity (86%), signaling that students found the information logically presented and easy to understand. Notably, 82% reported an improved understanding of taxation, a core objective of the initiative.



The use of audio-visual aids was appreciated by 76% of students, while 72% were satisfied with the pacing and duration of the sessions.



These figures affirm that the outreach program has successfully created an engaging and educational environment, while also pointing to specific areas for fine-tuning.



Educational Tours Outshine Traditional Formats

A comparative analysis across the different outreach formats reveals that educational tours, conducted inhouse, outperformed traditional school sessions performed in school premises, in almost all measured areas.

The ICCC tour conducted at the Integrated Customs Clearance Centre (ICCC) at Plaine Magnien, which reached **189 students**, received standout ratings:

Structure & Organisation: 94%

Content Clarity: 93%

Audio-Visual use: 97%

Understanding of Taxation: 90%

Overall Satisfaction: 90%

Meanwhile, the **Rodrigues tours**, involving **305 students**, yielded similarly impressive results:

Structure & Organisation: 95%

Content Clarity: 94%

Organisation: 95%

Understanding of Taxation: 94%

Overall Satisfaction: 90%

These findings affirm that immersive, site-based learning experiences resonate deeply with students. By seeing tax administration in action, participants appear to gain a more intuitive and lasting grasp of complex topics.

School Sessions Highlight Areas for Improvement

While traditional **school-based sessions**, which reached the largest audience (1,312 students), were also positively rated, they lagged slightly behind the tours:

Structure & Organisation: 83%

Content Clarity: 82%

Audio-Visual use: 70%

Understanding of Taxation: 78%

Overall Satisfaction: 76.6%

Approximately 30% of students offered neutral or negative feedback regarding session pacing and audio-visual engagement. This suggests that while the classroom format remains viable, it requires enhancements in both delivery technique and visual engagement to maintain students' attention and interest.

Reinforcing the Educational Value

Perhaps the most important takeaway from the survey is that 82% of all respondents acknowledged a greater understanding of taxation following the sessions. This reinforces the program's value as a public education tool and highlights the professional competence of the MRA team delivering it.

Such feedback confirms that early and effective tax education is not only feasible but vital in cultivating informed, responsible future taxpayers. It also underscores the importance of continuous innovation in communication strategies.

Strategic Way Forward

In response to the insights gathered, the Taxpayer Education and Communication Department has outlined a set of strategic recommendations to further enhance its outreach:

- Expand Educational Tours: Increase the frequency and geographic reach of tours, particularly to underserved regions.
- **Boost Interactivity:** Introduce live polls, Q&A segments, and breakout group discussions.
- **Deploy Additional Trainers:** Improve consistency and deepen engagement through more facilitators.

The MRA's outreach program has demonstrated measurable success in raising tax awareness and understanding among secondary school students. With an average satisfaction rate of over 80% and clear evidence of learning gains, particularly through educational tours, the initiative represents a strong model for taxpayer education.



MRA's outreach program
Satisfaction rate of over
80%

As the MRA moves forward, refining its approach based on these findings will ensure even greater impact. By expanding immersive experiences, enhancing classroom delivery, and deepening student engagement, the MRA is well-positioned to continue building public trust and fostering a culture of voluntary tax compliance.

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES TRANSFORM REVENUE COLLECTION

MAURITIUS AS A REGIONAL LEADER

A recent working paper published by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) emphasizes that countries embracing advanced digital tools are experiencing e increases in tax collection.

The report, entitled **Leveraging Digital Technologies** in Boosting Tax Collection, reveals a strong correlation between corporate digitalization and revenue growth. Countries and firms deploying sophisticated Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) including electronic filing, data analytics, and automated detection systems report higher tax revenues. These digital tools streamline compliance, improve taxpayer identification, and bolster efforts to detect evasion, ultimately enhancing the efficiency and fairness of tax systems.

"Digital transformation continues to reshape the landscape of revenue administration across Africa, with international financial institutions recognizing the vital role of technology in boosting tax revenues."

Mauritius, a Digital Pioneer in African Revenue Administration

Among African nations leading this digital revolution, Mauritius stands out as a prime example of successful innovation. The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) has made significant strides in integrating digital solutions into its operations, positioning itself as a regional model for effective tax management.

The MRA's journey toward digital excellence began with the introduction of electronic filing and electronic payments, which revolutionized taxpayer engagement and administrative efficiency. The system's success prompted further advancements, including the rollout of e-Invoicing and a dedicated e-tax account platform.

e-Tax Account



MRA's "e-Tax Account" system, accessible via MRA website: www.mra.mu exemplifies transparency and real-time communication. Taxpayers can now receive notifications, respond to correspondence, and view their interaction history with MRA all digitally. This initiative aims to promote a more interactive and user-friendly experience, reducing administrative burdens and enhancing tax compliance.

e-Invoicing System



MRA also implemented a phased e-Invoicing system, requiring businesses to fiscalize invoices and receipts in real-time before issuing them to clients. This shift not only aligns Mauritius with global best practices but also promotes fair competition and transparency across sectors.

Businesses employ various electronic billing solutions ranging from accounting packages to point-of-sale systems to comply with the new standards. The benefits are substantial: a more level playing field, improved technological readiness, and a stronger international business reputation for Mauritius.

Automatic Exchange of Information

MRA has also made significant progress in international cooperation through the Automatic Exchange of Information (AEOI) under the Common Reporting Standard (CRS). Initiated five years ago, AEOI involves systematic data sharing with foreign tax jurisdictions, enabling authorities to detect offshore tax evasion and promote fairness.

Led by MRA's International Taxation Section, the AEOI project incorporates a dedicated team working seamlessly across departments to analyze incoming data, administer CRS portals, and ensure compliance. The initiative has strengthened Mauritius's reputation as a transparent and compliant financial hub.

Resilience in Challenging Times

The COVID-19 pandemic tested revenue agencies worldwide, yet MRA's digital infrastructure proved resilient. During the crisis, MRA efficiently managed social assistance disbursements and allowances through remote working capabilities, exemplifying the power of digital resilience. MRA's ability to adapt quickly not only sustained revenue collection but also enhanced its service delivery to Mauritian citizens.

Looking Ahead

As digital technologies continue to evolve, MRA remains at the forefront, leveraging innovation to improve revenue collection, foster transparency, and support economic growth. Its experience offers valuable lessons for other African nations seeking sustainable, tech-driven tax systems in an increasingly interconnected world.

STRENGTHENING BORDER SECURITY

TRAINING ON PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF RISK MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES



MRA Empowers Officers with Practical Risk Training

To translate policy into actionable enforcement, the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA), in partnership with AFRITAC South, conducted an intensive fiveday Practical Risk Management Training for frontline Customs officers from 23 to 29 April 2025. Hosted at the Integrated Customs Clearance Centre (ICCC) near the SSR International Airport, the programme bridged strategic policy frameworks with operational execution, reinforcing the MRA's drive to secure national borders through informed, tactical customs interventions.

Bridging Strategy and Reality

Modern customs enforcement requires more than theory. Customs officers are the first line of defence against illicit trade, smuggling, and criminal exploitation of international borders. While national risk management frameworks provide structure, their practical application in dynamic field situations is what ensures their success. This training was designed to cultivate the critical thinking, field-based reflexes, and legal knowledge needed to convert risk management policy into effective operational action.

Multi-Sectional Engagement

Twenty (20) officers were selected from across core MRA Customs units—including SSR Arrival, Customs Anti-Narcotics Sections (CANS), Air Cargo Operations Section (ACOS), Risk Management Section (RMS), Seaport Operations, and Surveillance and Enforcement

Section (SES). This deliberate mix of personnel ensured a rich cross-pollination of expertise and perspectives, enabling officers to develop situational adaptability across different border environments.

Curriculum Highlights

The training programme combined essential theory with operational relevance, delivering a curriculum that reinforced legal knowledge, observational precision, tactical readiness, and ethical awareness. Key topics included:

• Risk Management Principles in Practice

Participants were trained on the MRA Risk Management Framework, covering the core processes of risk identification, assessment, prioritisation, and mitigation. Emphasis was placed on aligning these procedures with operational duties, enabling officers to better recognise and respond to potential customs threats.

• Legal Foundations of Customs Enforcement

Officers reviewed major legislative instruments, including the Customs Act, the Dangerous Drugs Act, and relevant constitutional provisions. The objective was to strengthen officers' understanding of their legal authority and responsibilities during inspections, with a focus on lawful enforcement and procedural compliance.

• Communication & Observation for Risk Detection

The training sharpened officers' questioning techniques and observational skills, helping them to detect inconsistencies or unusual behaviour that may signal non-compliance. Officers learned how effective communication and heightened situational awareness contribute to more accurate risk assessments.

• Identifying Concealment Techniques

Through hands-on learning, officers were exposed to various concealment strategies used to bypass customs controls—from basic to more advanced methods such as hidden compartments. Real-life examples illustrated how to detect these concealments in both baggage and cargo inspections.

• Search Protocols & Safety Measures

Systematic search techniques were taught for individuals, luggage, air cargo, and conveyances. Officers learned to execute searches efficiently, legally, and safely, integrating health protocols when handling potentially hazardous or contaminated materials. Use of personal protective equipment (PPE), exposure response procedures, and secure evidence collection formed part of the training.

• Professional Ethics & Integrity in Enforcement

Recognising the public-facing role of customs officers, the programme reinforced the importance of ethical conduct, impartiality, and integrity. Officers were encouraged to uphold high standards of professionalism as a foundation for building public trust and ensuring fair enforcement.





Learning in Action

A key highlight of the programme was the experiential learning component, which immersed officers in simulated inspections at real border points. These live interface sessions gave participants the opportunity to apply classroom learning in unpredictable, real-time situations—closely replicating the intensity and complexity of actual operations.

Expert Facilitation & Outcome

The training was led by Mr. S. Mendes, AFRITAC South's Resident Customs Administration Advisor, alongside two senior MRA officers with specialist experience in customs risk analysis and enforcement. Their instruction blended international best practices with localized enforcement realities, ensuring relevance and credibility.



Mr. S. Mendes, AFRITAC South's Resident Customs Administration Advisor

The programme concluded with a debriefing session where officers presented key takeaways, proposed improvements to internal protocols, and shared insights on how to refine risk management strategy through field intelligence. Each participant was awarded a Certificate of Participation, formally recognizing their enhanced competencies.



UNDERSTANDING THE ADVANCE PAYMENT SYSTEM (APS)

WHAT IS APS?

The Advance Payment System (APS) is a tax mechanism administered by the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA). It requires eligible entities to submit quarterly APS statements and settle their tax obligations in advance of the annual tax return. APS ensures a steady flow of tax revenue and fosters a proactive approach to tax compliance.

WHO IS CONCERNED?

APS applies to a wide range of taxpayers including:

- · Companies
- · Unit trust schemes
- · Collective investment schemes
- · Cells of protected cell companies
- Trusts (excluding those declared non-resident)
- · Non-resident societies
- · Sociétés holding a Global Business Licence under the Financial Services Act 2007 that opt to be taxed in Mauritius.

More specifically, it targets those whose gross income exceeded Rs 10 million in the previous accounting year and who had chargeable income.

WHEN IS APS FILED?

APS is filed **quarterly**. This advance system facilitates a timely collection of taxes throughout the year, rather than waiting for annual returns.



ADVANCE PAYMENT SYSTEM (APS)



WHERE IS APS SUBMITTED?

All APS statements must be submitted to the Director-General of the MRA.

This can be done electronically through the MRA's online platform

WHY IS APS IMPORTANT?

The system ensures regular tax inflows, supports economic stability, and reduces the burden of lump-sum tax payments at year-end.

APS also encourages businesses to maintain updated financial records throughout the year

HOW IS THE PUBLIC BEING INFORMED?

As part of its educational and communication mandate,
MRA, in collaboration with the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation (MBC), has integrated a campaign around APS in its 'one-minute radio programmes' during the month of May 2025. These daily broadcasts touch on various tax-related themes. Its outreach extends to both Mauritius and Rodrigues, aiming to enhance understanding and promote voluntary compliance.

CATA TECHNICAL CONFERENCE 2025

CATA MEMBERS MEET IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA



The 45th Technical Conference of the Commonwealth Association of Tax Administrators (CATA) is scheduled to take place from July 7 to 11, 2025, at the Hilton Hotel in Port Moresby in Papua New Guinea. This event aims to bring together tax officials, policymakers, and industry experts from across the Commonwealth to address the evolving landscape of global taxation in the digital era.

Under the theme "Aligning Global Standards with Local Solutions: Evolving Tax Systems in the Digital Age," the conference will serve as a platform for highlevel discussions on how tax administrations can adapt to technological advancements while maintaining effective governance and compliance.

The previous CATA Technical Conference, held in Mauritius from October 21 to 25, 2024, marked a milestone, drawing over 100 delegates including Commissioners-General, tax officials, and industry experts. Hosted by the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) at the InterContinental Mauritius Resort, participants engaged in rich discussions on the future of tax administration.

Building on the success of past conferences, the 2025 event aspires to be equally impactful; enhancing collaboration, innovation, and practical solutions tailored to the unique needs of member countries.

Key Focus Areas and High-Level Insights

The agenda will feature strategic discussions on modernizing tax systems amid digital transformation. Commissioners-General and senior tax officials will share insights on emerging tax trends, the adoption of international standards and national strategies to enhance revenue collection and compliance. Interactive sessions will delve into the implementation of global standards in tax governance, emphasizing the importance of adaptable frameworks that serve both local needs and international commitments.

Cybersecurity and Data Protection at the Forefront

In an era where digital platforms dominate tax administration, cybersecurity will be a central theme. Panel discussions will explore best practices for safeguarding taxpayer data, combating cyber threats, and ensuring the integrity of digital tax systems. As countries increasingly rely on electronic filing and digital record-keeping, ensuring data security remains paramount.

Fostering Collaboration and Sharing Best Practices

The conference aims to enhance collaboration among member countries, encouraging the exchange of innovative ideas, successful strategies, and lessons learned in aligning global standards with local contexts. Such cooperation is vital to building resilient and efficient tax systems capable of meeting future challenges.

With digital transformation reshaping tax landscapes worldwide, the CATA 2025 conference promises to be a critical forum for shaping the future of tax administration in the Commonwealth. By aligning international standards with local solutions, participating countries aim to create tax systems that are not only compliant and efficient but also resilient against the challenges of the digital era.



The History of CATA

Founded in 1978 by Commonwealth Finance Ministers, the Commonwealth Association of Tax Administrators (CATA) is a crucial player in global tax administration. With 47-member countries, CATA fosters international cooperation and knowledge exchange, while supporting developing nations in overcoming tax challenges.

Through conferences, training, and publications, CATA provides resources that encourage learning and innovation, aiming for a future of equity, sustainability, and prosperity for all.

BORDER PROTECTION

DRUG SMUGGLING THWARTED

MRA seizes Cannabis worth Rs. 259M in major May operations

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA), through its Customs Anti-Narcotics Section (CANS), in collaboration with the Anti-Drug and Smuggling Unit (ADSU), executed three high-impact operations at SSR International Airport in May 2025. These operations led to the seizure of over 216 kilograms of cannabis, with an estimated street value exceeding Rs. 259 million, and the arrest of nine suspects, both Mauritian and foreign nationals.

The operations, spanning just a few days, highlight the critical role Customs plays in preventing the infiltration of narcotics through Mauritius's borders and underscore the growing importance of intelligence-led enforcement strategies in the region.

210 Kilograms intercepted in coordinated operation

On 29 May 2025, a high-alert operation led to the interception of 210.74 kilograms of cannabis at SSR International Airport. The drugs were discovered in luggage belonging to eight foreign nationals travelling from Dubai via Emirates flight EK703.

Initial detection was made through suspicious luggage scan imagery, prompting manual inspections and the deployment of a narcotics sniffer dog, which indicated the presence of controlled substances. Inside the bags, officers found numerous translucent rectangular parcels filled with a leafy material. A field test confirmed it was cannabis.

Subsequent investigation by ADSU led to the arrest of a ninth suspect believed to be linked to the case. The operation is regarded as one of the largest single seizures in Mauritian customs history, with a street value of Rs. 252.9 million.



British Nationals caught smuggling Rs. 6.9M worth of cannabis

On 24 May 2025, MRA officers flagged a British male arriving at SSR International Airport after scan results revealed anomalies in his checked baggage. Upon physical examination, officers uncovered 5.75 kilograms of cannabis, tightly packed in transparent plastic parcels.

The suspect was immediately detained. A joint controlled delivery operation was initiated by CANS and ADSU, culminating in the arrest of two other British nationals believed to be recipients of the illicit consignment. The estimated value of the drugs was Rs 6.9 million.

Cannabis found in tea bags

In another intelligence-led interception on 26 May 2025, MRA officers flagged a suspicious consignment arriving via air cargo. Closer inspection revealed 74 tea bags infused with cannabis, concealed in an attempt to mimic a legitimate shipment.

Field testing confirmed the contents, which had a total value of Rs. 288,000. Once again, a controlled delivery operation was executed, leading to the arrest of two suspects.



An Intelligence-Led approach

These operations demonstrate MRA's growing reliance on risk profiling, targeted scanning, and real-time collaboration with law enforcement agencies. By combining technology with strategic enforcement, Customs is becoming increasingly effective in identifying and intercepting non-compliant passengers and cargo before drugs reach the local market.

The Customs Anti-Narcotics Section, established specifically to combat trafficking at the country's points of entry, continues to play a frontline role in protecting Mauritius from the infiltration of harmful substances.





More than a game: The Football Journey of a Lifetime

Miven Vadivel Ramasawmy

Forged by Discipline, Fueled by Football

Mr. Niven Vadivel Ramasawmy joined the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) in 2004 as a Customs Officer and is currently posted at the Taxpayer Education and Communication Department (TECD). But beyond his public service, it is football that truly fuels his spirit.

In Mauritius, where football has long united communities and kindled dreams, Niven stands outnot just as a player or coach, but as a living example of what passion, perseverance, and purpose can achieve. Over the past two decades, he has shaped a legacy that reaches far beyond trophies and titles. His influence stretches from national leagues to dusty training fields, where young players learn not only to play—but to believe.

Niven's football journey began like many others—on local pitches, fueled by love for the game. But it quickly transformed into a career marked by discipline, grit, and unmatched consistency. From 2003 to 2016, he competed in the National First Division, Mauritius' premier football league, earning respect for his technical skill, vision, and sportsmanship.

His long-standing commitment to the MRA Football Team—where he's played since 2006—has made him one of its defining figures. Multiple Best Player and Top Scorer awards reflect his talent, but the deeper story lies in his leadership: setting standards, mentoring teammates, and inspiring through action.

From Player to Mentor: A New Chapter in Coaching

While many athletes quietly step away after their peak years, Niven took a different path—one that multiplied his impact. Transitioning into coaching, he turned his focus to nurturing the next generation. Today, he serves as Coach of the U17 National Team, preparing young athletes for the Jeux du Nord 2024/2025, one of the region's most competitive youth tournaments.

Coaching, for Niven, is far more than tactics and drills. It's about building character. "These kids come from all walks of life. Some need football as a way out, others need it to find themselves. I try to give them both a structure and a sense of hope."

He coaches not just with a clipboard, but with a culture of respect, punctuality, discipline, and belief. His

sessions are rigorous, his standards high, and players thrive under his steady guidance. Many now view him not just as a coach, but as a mentor who genuinely invests in their futures.

Balancing Passion and Purpose

While his days are still spent working at MRA, where he serves in the Taxpayer Education and Communication Department, it's football that defines his identity. Evenings are dedicated to training, weekends to tournaments. It's a demanding schedule—but one he embraces fully.

"I've sacrificed personal time. But I've gained something deeper—the chance to shape lives through something I love."

His dual career may seem unconventional, but to Niven, the two roles mirror each other: both serve the community—one by educating citizens, the other by empowering youth.

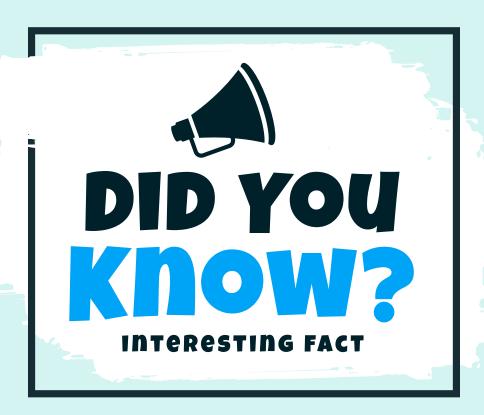
A Lasting Impact Beyond the Pitch

Some of Niven's proudest moments don't involve personal accolades, but the successes of others. Former players who've gone on to professional careers or become coaches themselves are the true testament to his influence. These stories are his legacy–living proof that football, when guided with care and integrity, can transform lives.

To young athletes and professionals alike, his message is clear: "Never abandon your passion. With discipline, balance, and belief, you can turn it into something that outlives you."

Career Highlights

- National First Division Footballer (2003-2016)
- MRA Best Player/Top Scorer (2013, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2022-2024)
- MRA Football Team Member (2006-2025)
- U17 National Team Coach Jeux du Nord 2024/2025



Weekend and Public Holiday Deadlines

In the event, where the submission date of any return and payment of tax coincides with a Saturday, Sunday, or public holiday, taxpayers will have until the next working day to complete their returns and tax payments.

End-of-June and December Deadlines Businesses and individuals with tax return or payment obligations due at the end of June and December must ensure that all filing and payment processes are completed with the MRA, no later than two days before the end of these months. This excludes weekends and public holidays.

Provision for Companies with June Year-End (No Liability/ Loss)

Companies whose financial year concludes in June and are declaring no tax liability or a loss benefit from an extended deadline. Their returns must be submitted by January 15th of the following year.

Unforeseen Circumstances:

The MRA wishes to assure taxpayers that in the event of unforeseen circumstances, such as cyclones or torrential rains, a communiqué will be issued to inform the public of any changes to these deadlines.

Stay Informed

Taxpayers are strongly encouraged to remain informed about these guidelines to ensure timely compliance and avoid potential penalties.



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