

In this issue...



MRA draws 23 Lucky Winners

The draws for the Taxpayer Satisfaction Survey (TSS) and the VAT Lucky Draw Scheme (VLDS) were held on Tuesday 31 October, 2017 at the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) Head Office in the presence of the Director-General of the MRA, Mr. Sudhamo Lal, members of the MRA Management Team, representatives of the Gambling Regulatory Authority (GRA) and members of the public.



The Taxpayer Satisfaction Survey was launched concurrently with the Individual Income Tax Filing Season 2017 and it helped to gather valuable feedback from taxpayers on the services offered by the MRA. The award-winning VLDS, on the other hand, encourages the local population to claim a receipt for every transaction and the VAT registered persons to issue a VAT invoice for every sales/ transaction.

In his address, the Director-General of the MRA said that the MRA is committed to continually modernise revenue administration and it intends to do so with the support of taxpayers.



The TSS is, therefore, another step in that direction whereby more than 37,000 taxpayers offered their feedback on the services offered by the MRA. Mr. Sudhamo Lal also added that an Indian newspaper reported that the Indian Government wishes to ape the TSS and it is a matter of pride for Mauritius.

The winners of the TSS 2017 are as follows:

Prizes	Name	Amount (Rs)
1 st	GOBIN BISSOONPARSAD	25,000
2 nd	MADARBACCUS JOANNE	15,000
3 rd	TAUCOORY PRITHVIRAJ DHUNDEV	10,000

With regards to the VLDS, Mr. Sudhamo Lal furthered that the MRA has recorded more than 150,000 entries since its launch in 2014. The holders of the following receipts win the respective prizes:

Prizes	Invoice No.	Invoice Date	VAT Amount	Amount (Rs)
1 st	287103	30/09/2017	402	50 000
2 nd	341630	27/07/2017	337	25 000
3 rd	222680	01/07/2017	690	15 000
4 th	433892	25/08/2017	404	10 000
5 th	262596	27/09/2017	783	10 000
6 th	PICA234403	08/07/2017	239	10 000
7 th	c00600171	26/08/2017	147	10 000
8 th	246430	11/08/2017	84	10 000
9 th	161066	03/07/2017	1617	10 000
10 th	C07012600	14/07/2017	1226	10 000
11 th	203212	23/07/2017	473	5 000
12 th	6614024518812	24/08/2017	230	5 000
13 th	2292	09/07/2017	114	5 000
14 th	249259	23/07/2017	286	5 000
15 th	217087	12/08/2017	113	5 000
16 th	230240	23/09/2017	374	5 000
17 th	106145	02/09/2017	563	5 000
18 th	452955	06/07/2017	88	5 000
19 th	C10096265	12/08/2017	900	5 000
20 th	706D-082649	25/07/2017	395	5 000

The winners are requested to call in person, along with the original VAT Invoice and National ID, at the MRA Head Office, Eham Court, Port Louis, by 1st December 2017.

Click [here](#) for a video report on the TSS and VLDS Draws held at the MRA Head Office

Negative Income Tax: MRA hosts FITA centres



The Negative Income Tax (NIT) is a system where, instead of paying taxes, employees deriving basic salary not exceeding Rs 9,900 per month, receive financial support from Government. The NIT is being implemented as from 01 July, 2017 and the payment of the appropriate allowance will be effected on a quarterly basis. The NIT is being administered by the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) and the necessary is being done to facilitate the payment of allowances for the first quarter.

The NIT allowance payable to eligible employees is as follows:

Basic Salary of Employee	Monthly Allowance
Less than or equal to Rs 5000	Rs 1000
Between Rs 5001 and Rs 7000	Rs 800
Between Rs 7001 and Rs 9000	Rs 500
Between Rs 9001 and Rs 9750	Rs 250
Between Rs 9751 and Rs 9900	Rs 100



FREE INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE

Twenty Free Income Tax Assistance (FITA) centres were operational in Mauritius during the following three consecutive weekends from 08h30 to 16h00 to register eligible employees under the NIT:

Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 October, 2017

Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 October, 2017

Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 October, 2017.

A FITA centre was also operational in Rodrigues up to Tuesday 31 October, 2017. More than 17,000 applicants availed themselves of the facilities at the FITA centres during the above dates.

To further boost the registration of eligible employees, the MRA also reached out to employers whereby the monthly basic salary of employees are less than or equal to Rs. 9,900. To that end, the MRA sent a dedicated team of officers to the *Compagnie Mauricienne de Textile (CMT)* on Tuesday 25 and Wednesday 26 October, 2017 to register eligible employees. A similar exercise was performed at *Princes Tuna Ltd.* on Monday 30 and Tuesday 31 October, 2017.

Other enterprises with similar workforce are kindly requested to contact the MRA so that necessary onsite arrangement can be made for the registration of applicants.



Click [here](#) for an explanatory video on the New Eligibility Criteria to benefit from Negative Income Tax

Individual Income Tax Filing Season 2017

The Individual Income Tax Filing Season 2017 came to an end on Monday 16 October, 2017 and the number of individual income tax returns received by the deadline was 170,047. The number of returns submitted through the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA)'s website amply depict that the e-Filing is an established means of submitting individual income tax returns to the MRA and it was further reinforced by the holding of Free Income Tax Assistance (FITA) centres across the island.

When the MRA started its operations back in 2006, only 1% of individual income tax returns were submitted online. After reaching the almost 100% of e-filers milestone last year, the MRA has again received circa 100% of individual income tax returns this year through the MRA's website.

The MRA is thankful to all e-filers for helping it being a green organisation.



MRA Annual Prayer

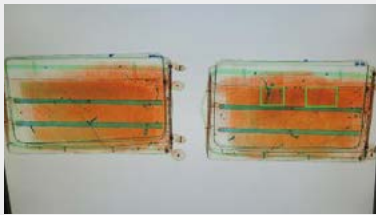
The Annual Prayer of the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) was celebrated on Thursday 05 October, 2017 at the Mariamen Kovil, Albion Dock, Port Louis. Every year MRA staff gathers for the rituals and prays in communion. MRA employees from Eham Court, Custom House, Belfort Tower, PATS and Airport were present during the ceremony which begun with bhajans and kirtans. The Pooja Vidhi was performed by the Acharya in the presence of the Director-General of the MRA, Mr. Sudhamo Lal, Mr. T. Benydin, Parliamentary Private Secretary, members of the MRA Management Team, MRA staff and members of the public.



In his address, the Director-General of the MRA said that MRA's commitment is beyond revenue collection and this is depicted by MRA's association to religious events throughout the year. Mr. V. Ramburun, Director Customs, emphasised that our work as border protector and revenue collector is sacred and that same should be accomplished religiously. The Prayer concluded with the Mahaprasaadham at around noon.

Seizures of heroin and undeclared goods during October

Heroin worth Rs 105 million at SSR airport



The MRA and ADSU seized 7.36 kg of heroin worth circa Rs. 105 million on Friday 20 October, 2017 at the SSR International Airport. The suspected drugs were concealed in the false bottom of the suitcases of a Kazakh couple who arrived to Mauritius on board flight MK 535 from Kenya. The passengers were profiled by officers of the CANS and they were intercepted while leaving through the Green Channel. Their passports were issued in Kazakhstan two weeks earlier. Their air tickets were also purchased in Nairobi on the same date and they were supposed to spend only three nights in Mauritius at a hotel at Le Morne. The suitcases of the couple were scanned and the images were suspicious. Upon opening the suitcases, personal belongings were found therein and, following further examination, false bottoms were found in each suitcase.



A total of 7.36 kg of a light brownish powder was found secured with cello tape inside the false bottoms. The suspected heroin was transferred to the ADSU Head Quarters for safe keeping, pending analysis by the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) and the passengers were handed over to ADSU for further inquiry. Four persons were arrested and the inquiry is on-going.

Heroin worth Rs 7,200,000 at SSR airport



On Sunday 08 October, 2017, the MRA and the ADSU seized 480 grams of heroin worth more than Rs. 7 million at the SSR International Airport. The Zimbabwean passenger aged 40 years old had concealed the suspected drugs inside her bra and in her private parts. She arrived to Mauritius on the SA 192 flight and she was intercepted in the Green Channel by the CANS on the basis of profiling and suspicious body language. Her travel documents revealed that her ticket was booked two days before her travel and upon questioning she replied that she is employed as Public Relations Officer in Johannesburg. Her replies to other questions were evasive and her luggage was searched but nothing abnormal was found.



Being a passenger with suspicious demeanour, she was also subject to a consented body search by female customs officers. Four cylindrical parcels were secured from her bra and her private parts. A field test was carried out on the powders of the parcels and it reacted positively to the heroin test. The passenger and her belongings were handed over to the ADSU and the suspected powder was transferred, under police escort, to the ADSU Head Quarters

Seizures of heroin and undeclared goods during October

Undeclared goods



The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) and Anti-Drug and Smuggling Unit (ADSU) seized 47 smartphones, 8 packets of cigarettes, 2 litres of whisky and 187 ml of wine at the Speed Freight Ltd on Friday 06 October, 2017. The undeclared goods were part of Theophile Karene's consignment, from which 2,996 cartridges of cigarettes, found in flush doors, were seized in September 2017.

The Customs Anti-Narcotics Section (CANS) of the MRA continued the examination of the remaining consignment in the presence of the importer and her representative. She denied knowing about the above-mentioned goods. Ms. Theophile has been charged under Section 156 (1) (a) of the Customs Act 1988 for smuggling. She has been handed over to ADSU for further inquiry.

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 or by calling on the **Hotline 8958**.

MRA meets with the Rodrigues Chamber of Commerce



Following a request from the Rodrigues Chamber of Commerce, two resource persons from the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA), namely Mr. R. Siburuth, Team Leader at the Medium and Small Taxpayer Department (MSTD) and Mr. Y. Bholah, Customs Officer I at the Taxpayer Education and Communication Department (TECD), conducted an educational talk on Tuesday 31 October, 2017, at the American Corner at Port Mathurin.

The objective of the talk was to brief the members of the Rodrigues Chamber of Commerce on their fiscal obligations vis-à-vis the MRA. The MRA resource persons also seized the opportunity to sensitize the audience on the Negative Income Tax. The members of the Rodrigues Chamber of Commerce welcomed the talk and thanked the MRA for replying positively to their request. The talk ended with the usual Question and Answer segment at around noon.

During the stay in Rodrigues, explanatory interventions on the Negative Income Tax were also made by the MRA officers on MBC Rodrigues (television and radio), and other local media.



DTAA with Comoros

Negotiations towards a Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) between Mauritius and Comoros were held at the MRA Head Office from Wednesday 04 to Friday 06 October 2017.

The Comoros delegation comprised officials from the Ministry of Finance and the Mauritian delegation was represented by Mr M. Hannelas, Director Large Taxpayer Department (LTD) and also involved representatives of the State Law Office (SLO) and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MOFED).



Training of Trainers Workshop

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA), in collaboration with the World Customs Organisation (WCO), hosted the Eastern Southern African (ESA) Training of Trainer workshop for French-speaking countries from Monday 23 to Friday 27 October, 2017 at the WCO Multilingual Regional Training Centre, Custom House, Mer Rouge. The opening ceremony was attended by Mr. V. Ramburun, Director Customs and Mrs. H. Caux, Training and Development Expert, Capacity Building Directorate at the WCO.



The aim of the workshop was to train potential trainers of the ESA region and the workshop was facilitated by two MRA Resource Persons, namely Mr. R. Ramnarain and Mr. S. Ramburuth, Section Heads at the MRA Customs Department.

FMSC Pool Tournament



The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) participated in the FMSC Pool Tournament on Sunday 01 October, 2017 at the Break Masters Pool House, Quatre Bornes.

Mr. A. Shookye, Mr. F. Codadeen, Ms. A. Dookee, Mr. Z. Mungroo, Mr. V. Teeluck and Mr. K. Daby represented the MRA in the Pool Tournament. The MRA Team successfully completed the first round of the tournament.