

# MRA e-Newsletter

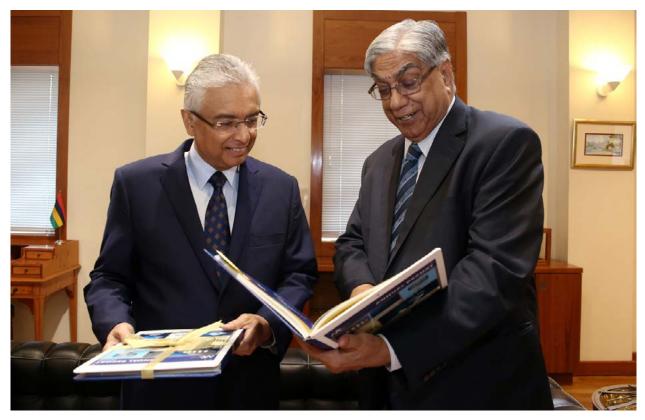
Mauritius Revenue Authority | April 2019

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## **DG MRA presents Annual Report to Prime Minister**

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) Annual Report 2017-18 was presented to Honourable Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Economic Development on Monday 29 April, 2019 by the Director-General of the MRA, Mr. Sudhamo Lal.







The MRA Annual Report is statutorily published and it underlines the achievements of the MRA for the financial year 2017-18.

Click <u>here</u> to view a copy of the Annual Report.

## In-house training on IFRS 16

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) organised an in-house training on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) 16 on Wednesday 17 April, 2019 at the MRA Head Office.

The training was dispensed by Mr. M. Hannelas, Director, Large Taxpayer Department (LTD), and the target audience was primarily fellows and ACCA members.



The aim of the training was to explain to MRA personnel the changes brought to the Standards.

#### **MRA** collaborates with IJLS

A sensitisation session regarding an update of the EU Listing Process/ OECD G20 Base Erosion Profit Shifting (BEPS) Project was organised by the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) at the seat of the Institute for Judicial and Legal Studies (IJLS) on Tuesday 16 April, 2019.

The MRA resource persons were Mr. M. Hannelas and Mrs. Y. Rangasamy, Director and Section Head, respectively, at the Large Taxpayer Department (LTD).

The presentation elaborated on the Listing Process of the European Union and on the BEPS Projects and their implications for Mauritius.



The presentation concluded with a question and answer session between the resource persons and the audience.

## **Coxswain Training**



The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA), in collaboration with the National Coast Guard (NCG), conducted a training course on Coxswain from Monday 29 April to Friday 10 May, 2019 at the MRA Custom House.

The training was dispensed by NCG resource persons and it comprised both theoretical and practical exercise at sea. Nineteen Customs Officers attended the training, which aimed at developing their knowledge and skills at operating boats and undertaking surveillance patrol in the port area.

The MRA recently acquired two additional boats in line with MRA's strategic objective of reinforcing border protection.

## WCO Integrity Diagnostic Mission in Jamaica

A five-day Integrity Diagnostic and Strategy Advisory Support mission was conducted at the Jamaica Customs Agency (JCA) from Monday 25 to Friday 29 March, 2019 to assist the latter in reviewing how far its internal controls are aligned with best practices.



Mr. A. Bachun, Team Leader, Internal Affairs Division (IAFD) at the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) and Mr. D. Aliyev of the World Customs Organisation (WCO) Secretariat conducted the assessment and they assisted twenty-three mid-level managers from the JCA to prepare an integrity action plan.



## Seizures made by the MRA

Five seizures were made during April by the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) Customs Department for a total market value of around Rs. 141 million.



On Wednesday 03 April, 2019, crystal meth, cannabis and cannabis resin were seized at the Parcel Post Office in uncollected parcels. The drugs are valued at Rs. 1.3 million.

The suspected drugs were sent in envelopes from the United Kingdom, France and Germany and they were addressed to residents of Camp de Masque, Quatre Bornes, Poste La Fayette, Beau Bassin and Trou aux Biches.

When deployed on the envelopes, the newly-acquired MRA Sniffer Dog 'Nacre' reacted positively to the content.

1,003 undeclared whisky bottles and sparkling wine bottles and 21.8 kg of hashish were seized in a container on Monday 08 April, 2019. The Customs Anti-Narcotics Section (CANS) scanned the container and the images did not appear to tally with the goods declared in the Customs Bill of Entry.



The MRA Mobile Van Scanner was used to scan two speakers and one wooden decorative column found in the container. The scanning images revealed concealments inside the casing of the said speakers and column.

The MRA sniffer dogs were deployed and they reacted positively thereon. Upon verification, the hashish and the alcoholic products worth Rs. 91 million were seized.

Two persons were arrested in the context of the seizure of heroin worth Rs. 13.5 million on Thursday 11 April, 2019 at the SSR International Airport. To the questions of the CANS officers, the Sierra Leonean passenger was inconsistent in his replies. His travel documents also revealed that he travelled to Ethiopia and Guinea Conakry before boarding the EK flight from Dubai to Mauritius.



Three days later, 2.36 kg of heroin were seized from the luggage of two South Africans. The drugs were concealed in the bags and same was revealed through a scanning exercise. MRA sniffer dog 'Cesar' reacted positively to the powder and a field test corroborated with the findings.



The MRA reiterates its appeal to the public to report suspected drug cases anonymously through the **MRA Stop Drug Platform** on <u>www.mra.mu</u> or by calling on the **Hotline 8958**.