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MRA reviews past performance and highlights its plan of action for FY 2018/19

On Thursday 16 August 2018, the MRA invited journalists for its Annual Press Conference. On this occasion, the Director General of the MRA, Mr Sudhamo Lal, in the presence of MRA's Management Team, made a presentation covering the following main issues:

- Performance of the MRA in terms of revenue collections and other key parameters during FY 2017/18; and
- MRA's plan of action for the FY 2017/18



During the presentation, Mr. Sudhamo Lal underlined the achievements of the MRA, namely the 15% increase in revenue collection, and he commented on selected cases of tax evasion. The Director-General also remarked the significant achievements in terms of International Taxation and the entrusting of additional responsibilities to the MRA such as the Negative Income Tax, the Special Allowance, amongst others.

Commenting on Mauritius' ranking in the Paying Taxes of the World Bank, Mr. Sudhamo Lal added that Mauritius achieved a score of 90.85 and was ranked 10th.

On the same scale, the United Kingdom was ranked 23rd and Botswana 47th.



With regards to the Budget Speech, the Director-General enumerated certain measures, the implementation of which fall under the ambit of the MRA, namely the Employee Declaration Form, the Work@Home Scheme, the Solidarity Levy on high income earners, the Presumptive Tax System for artists, inter alia.



Prior to taking questions from the journalists, Mr. Sudhamo Lal underscored some of the projects that are in the pipeline for the FY 2018/19: Automatic Refund for Corporates, Deferred VAT Payment at Customs, Implementation of the Customer Relationship Management, SME's Cooperative Compliance Project and a dedicated Anti-Money Laundering Unit.



Three videos on MRA's Taxpayer Portal, MRAEasy mobile application and MRA Customs Department were also broadcast during the Press Conference.

DG MRA elevated to the Rank of Commander of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean (CSK)

The Director-General of the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA), Mr. Sudhamo Lal, was awarded the Commander of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean (CSK) during the National Awards Ceremony 2018 at the Mahatma Gandhi Institute (MGI) on Wednesday 1st July 2018.



The names of the awardees of the National Awards were made public during the 50th Independence Anniversary in March and they were convened to receive their awards at MGI at the hands of the Acting President of the Republic of Mauritius, His Excellency Mr. P. Vyapoory.



MRA welcomes IMF Delegates

An International Monetary Fund (IMF) Team was in Mauritius from Wednesday 22 August 2018 to Tuesday 4 September 2018 to provide technical assistance to the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) in the following fields:

- Big data analytics solutions for better risk management,
- Training in trade based money laundering, and
- Improving MRA's communication strategy

The IMF team was headed by Mr. A. Masters and he was assisted by Mr. K. Head, Mrs. M. Kidd, Mr. S. Hamilton and Mr. L. Petersen-Weir.



The delegation paid a courtesy visit on the Financial Secretary, Mr. D. Manraj, in the presence of the Director-General of the MRA, Mr. Sudhamo Lal.

MRA hosts ATAF Meetings



The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) hosted the African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF) meetings on Wednesday 22 August and Thursday 23 August 2018.

Three meetings namely the ATAF Governance and Organisational Development Committee Meeting, the ATAF Finance and Audit Committee Meeting and the ATAF Capacity Building, Research & Development and Technical Assistance Committee Meeting were held at the Regional Training Centre at Custom House.

Around twenty delegates from Burundi, Ghana, Liberia, Swaziland, South Africa, Mauritius, Uganda, Ghana and Nigeria participated in the said meetings.

Study Tour of Delegates from the Zambia Revenue Authority

A delegation of three officials from the Zambia Revenue Authority paid a courtesy visit to the Director-General of the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA), Mr. Sudhamo Lal, on Monday 13 August 2018 at the MRA Head Office.

The Zambian delegation was at the MRA from Monday 13 August to Friday 17 August 2018 for a study tour regarding the gambling sector of Mauritius and taxation proceeds of gambling and betting activities.

DTA Negotiations between Mauritius and Lesotho

In the context of the negotiations of the Double Tax Agreement between Mauritius and Lesotho, the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) welcomed six Lesotho delegates from Monday 30 July to Friday 03 August 2018.



The delegation, comprising officials from the Ministry of Finance of Lesotho and of the Lesotho Revenue Authority, paid a courtesy call on the Director-General of the MRA, Mr. Sudhamo Lal, on Friday 03 August 2018.

The Mauritian delegation was led by Mr. M. Hannelas, Director, Large Taxpayer Department (LTD), and he was assisted by officials of the Attorney General's Office and of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MOFED).

On the last day, it was agreed to continue negotiations via the exchange of notes.



Post Finance Act: The MRA pursues its Education Mandate

In line with its strategic objective of promoting taxpayers' education, the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) hosted a series of sensitization sessions with its stakeholders following the promulgation of the Finance Act.

On Friday 14 August 2018, a workshop on Common Reporting Standard (CRS) was organised at Ebène whereby Mrs. Y. Rangasamy, Section Head, Large Taxpayer Department (LTD), and Mr. S. Moti, Team Leader, Information System Department (ISD), sensitized officials from Management Companies on how to use the CRS platform.



A presentation on the amendments brought by the Finance Act 2018 was made by Mr. M. Hannelas, Director, LTD, Mrs. C. Gunnoo, Director, Medium and Small Taxpayer Department (MSTD), and Mr. D. Ramdin, Director, Operational Services Department (OSD) at the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), Business Mauritius, Ebène on Thursday 23 August 2018.

A similar session was organised on Tuesday 28 August 2018 at the Mauritius Export Association (MEXA) and the following MRA resources persons presented on the changes brought by the Finance Act: Mr. D. Seetloo, Section Head, LTD, Mr. F. Oozeerally, Section Head, LTD, Mr. M. Sookoo, Section Head, OSD, and Mr. N. Tacouri, Section Head, MSTD.



To promote compliance amongst the SME stakeholders, the MRA developed the SME Partnering Programme and, in the same vein, Mr. N. Tacouri, Section Head, MSTD, made a presentation on the SME obligations and exemptions.

