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End of Year Get-Together

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) End of Year Get-Together was organised on Wednesday 12 December, 2018 at the Long Beach Hotel at Belle Mare. MRA staffs posted at different offices across the island, namely MRA Head Office, Custom House, PATS and SSR Airport, were welcomed at the Long Beach Hotel as from 11h00.



The annual event kicked-off with a Welcome Cocktail and the protocol segment followed, whereby the President of the MRA Staff Association, Mr. Jonckeer, the Director-General of the MRA, Mr. Sudhamo Lal, and the Chief Guest, Mr. V. Lutchmeeparsad, addressed the MRA staffs.



Mr. Lutchmeeparsad, Acting Senior Chief Executive at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, thanked all MRA staffs for their relentless and dedicated effort in optimising revenue collection and highlighted that the MRA is one of the high-performing parastatal organisations.

Click [here](#) to read the speech of the Chief Guest

Mr. Sudhamo Lal welcomed all MRA staffs to the End of Year gathering and underlined that revenue collection is a noble task as it helps to finance development projects in the country. The Director-General of the MRA, therefore, urged all MRA staffs to continue performing their duty to the best of their capabilities. Mr. Lal concluded by wishing all MRA staff a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2019.



In his speech, Mr. Jonckeer underlined that employees are one of the most important assets in any organisation.



Following the protocol, the Cassiya and Bhojpuri Boys groups performed live musical items and the dance floor opened at around 15h00.



Speech by MR. V. Lutchmeeparsad

Ag. Senior Chief Executive, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development

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V.Lutchmeeparsad
Ag. Senior Chief Executive
Ministry of Finance and
Economic Development

Mr. Sudamo Lal, Director, MRA
All staff of the MRA,
Ladies and Gentlemen

Let me at the very outset welcome you all to this end of year party organized in this prestigious location, the Long Beach hotel.

I think it would be fair to say that the Mauritius Revenue Authority, since its creation in 2006, has achieved a world class status as a Revenue Authority and has earned the respect of all business and financial organisations of the country and also by the population at large for its professionalism, efficiency, and integrity.

Of course not everybody likes it when their money is being taken from them but nevertheless the MRA remains the major revenue collecting institution in the country. In fact, approximately 90% of all the tax revenue is collected by the MRA. This same revenue is used to provide free education, free healthcare and old-age pension, among others, which comprise our Welfare State.

The whole country is therefore dependent on the selflessness, hard work, and industry of MRA staff to collect adequate tax revenue to meet our Development aspirations as a Nation.

The management of MRA has continuously brought reforms in various areas such as ease of paying taxes, trade facilitation and use of information technology. It is noteworthy that MRA has been ranked 6th worldwide on the 2019 World Bank Ease of Paying Taxes Index, which is an exceptional achievement for which each and every staff of the MRA should take pride.

The role of the MRA has further been stepped up and it has now taken up the collection of the NPF/NSF contributions and payment of Negative Income Tax/Special Allowance, of which special allowances have been paid to 70,000 beneficiaries to date, directly into their bank account.

All this would not have been possible without the support of the highly motivated and skilled staff of the MRA.

The MRA, as you all know, is one of the most important bodies of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development. It is our key partner in implementing our tax reforms and improving the business climate.

The Ministry has always shown its appreciation to the effort of the staff of the MRA and has granted an increase of 11% in their salary last year. Pursuant to the collective bargaining process between MRASA and MRA Management, the MOFED has agreed to the proposal for granting an additional 2% increase in salary, over and above the 11% given last year, which makes a total of 13%. I trust that all MRA staff will, in turn, appreciate this special gesture by MOFED.

I wish to put on record the dedication and commitment of the MRA staff and I can only wish the MRA *bonne continuation* and success in all its endeavours.

I seize the opportunity to wish the personnel and management of the MRA a merry Christmas and a happy New Year 2019. May all your wishes and expectations be fulfilled for the coming year!!

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MRA Hosts 2nd Integrity Advisory Committee

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) hosted the second Integrity Advisory Committee on Wednesday 05 December, 2018 at the MRA Head Office. Mr. Rungasawmi, President of Mauritius Taxpayer Association, Mr. Ramkaloan, CEO of Business Mauritius, Mr. Newaj, CEO of Mauritius Institute of Professional Accountants (MIPA), Mr. Jolicoeur, Executive Director of Mauritius Institute of Directors (MIoD), and Mr. Chengan of Mauritius Council of Social Service (MACOSS) participated interactively in the meeting.



Mr. Sudhamo Lal, Director-General of the MRA, highlighted the demarche of the MRA to achieve excellence in the improvement of procedures and the minimization of time taken by having recourse to technology. Some examples of digitalisation of processes at the MRA are the electronic submission of declaration of assets by MRA employees, the installation of electronic fiscal devices, the application of risk management procedures to promote intelligent border control, a better control of cross border transportation of currency, the expeditious settlement of tax disputes and the introduction of the MRA E-Auction.

Mr. S. Narrainen, Director, Internal Affairs Division (IAFD) at the MRA, made a presentation on New Budgetary measures relating to Integrity announced in the Finance Acts 2016/ 2017/ 2018, whilst Mr. S. Sunassy, Team Leader at the MRA Customs Department, apprised the committee of the effectiveness of the MRA Online Auction System. Mr. Sunassy underlined that E-Auction is now done on a weekly basis, contrary to previous years when auction sales was done four times every year. He also added that members of the public can bid for goods through the MRA website and that several sales are done simultaneously.



The stakeholders present expressed their appreciation at the progress made in terms of integrity at the MRA and in terms of service delivery. It is to be noted that Mauritius progressed from the 10th to the 6th position in the Ease of Paying Taxes Report prepared by the World Bank.

MRA participates in the WCO Global Integrity Experts Meeting



The first Global Integrity Experts Meeting was held from Tuesday 23 to Friday 26 October, 2018 at the seat of the World Customs Organisation (WCO) in Brussels. The aim of the meeting was to assist Member administrations in implementing the Revised Arusha Declaration on Integrity and participants were familiarised with the latest WCO Integrity tools and activities.

Mr. A. Bachun, Team Leader at the Internal Affairs Division, was present during the Global Integrity Experts meeting and he made a presentation on the integrity methodology employed at the MRA.

One of the outcomes of the meeting was the development of a forum, whereby updates with regards to WCO Integrity related missions can be shared.

Renegotiation of DTAA between Mauritius and Uganda

A delegation from Uganda was at the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) to renegotiate the DTAA between Mauritius and Uganda.



The negotiations were held on Wednesday 05 and Thursday 06 December, 2018 at the MRA Head Office and it was agreed to pursue the negotiations.

COPES Workshop

A workshop on Customs Practices for Enforcement & Seizures (COPES) was held from Monday 10 to Friday 14 December, 2018 at the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) Custom House.



The training aims at enhancing the skills of officers in terms of evidence gathering, seizures and prosecution.



Officers from the Customs Department, the Mauritius Police Force, the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) and the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) were shortlisted to undergo the training which was dispensed by officials from the World Customs Organisation (WCO).



Auction Sale of Gold and Silver Jewellery

A sale of abandoned/ unclaimed gold and silver jewellery was held on the Online Auction System of the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) from Friday 14 to Friday 21 December, 2018. The jewellery was either abandoned or unclaimed and a public viewing of same was made on Sunday 16 December, 2018 at the MRA Custom House.



Members of the public could bid for the jewellery on the Online Auction System through the MRA website on www.mra.mu. In addition to coverage in several local publications, this sale also appeared as a news item in the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) news bulletin of Sunday 16 December, 2018.

Click [here](#) to view the video on MRA YouTube Channel.

CSR: MRA helps needy children

As part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) organised lunch for needy children at La Ruche at Bambous.



Around 50 children were present and Christmas gifts were offered to the latter after lunch. MRA staff assisted in the noble cause.