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US DEA trains local enforcement
officers.



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US DEA trains local enforcement officers

A 10-day training on 'Narcotics Investigations' was held from Wednesday 14 to Saturday 24 February, 2018 at the World Customs Organisation (WCO) Regional Training Centre, Custom House, Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA). The training stems from a close collaboration between the MRA, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the European Union, the US Embassy in Mauritius and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) of the USA.



Thirty-two law enforcement officers from the MRA, the Mauritius Police Force (Anti-Drug and Smuggling Unit, National Coast Guard, Counter Terrorism Unit) and the Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping were selected to undergo the course which aim at improving their investigative skills with respect to narcotics trafficking and associated offences. Funded under the Trade Related Facility Programme between the European Union (EU) and the SADC, the course was dispensed by resources persons from the DEA.



In her inaugural speech, the Chief Guest to the Opening Ceremony, Mrs. U. Canabady-Dwarka, emphasised that the training was the result of synergy between several actors on the regional and international fronts and that the participants would be called upon to deploy the taught techniques in the fight against drug trafficking.





The Director-General of the MRA, Mr. Sudhamo Lal, thanked the DEA resource persons for accepting to share their expertise with their Mauritian counterparts and underlined that the MRA would leave no stone unturned in its fight against illicit trade.



The participants were awarded certificates at the end of the training on Saturday 24 February and they were encouraged by the DEA resource persons to pursue the relentless fight against drug trafficking.



Click [here](#) for a video report on the Narcotics Investigations Course held at the WCO Regional Training Centre, Custom House, Mer Rouge.

Inclusive Framework Induction Programme:

A joint collaboration between MRA and OECD

An Inclusive Framework Induction Programme was organised in tandem by the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) on Thursday 08 February, 2018, at the InterContinental Resort in Balaclava.

Two OECD representatives, namely Ms. M. Dejong and Mr. M. De Los Santos, were present during the full-day workshop to make presentations on Harmful Tax Practices related to the Base Erosion Profit Shifting (BEPS Action 5) and on the implementation of the Country by Country reporting (BEPS Action 13).



During the Opening Ceremony on the same day, Mr. M. Hannelas, Director, Large Taxpayer Department (LTD), underlined the importance of such workshops in the wake of the implementation of the BEPS. The workshop saw the participation of staff from the MRA, the Financial Services Commission, the Bank of Mauritius and the Global Finance.



On the previous day, the OECD representatives paid a courtesy call to the Director-General of the MRA, Mr. Sudhamo Lal, in the presence of members of the MRA Management Team.



The Integrity Advisory Committee Meets

The first Integrity Advisory Committee of 2018 was held on Wednesday 21 February, 2018, at the Head Office of the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA), under the chairmanship of the Ag. Director-General of the MRA, Mr. M. Hannelas.



The very first meeting of the Integrity Advisory Committee was held in August 2011 and its aim was to discuss issues relating to integrity management at the MRA. Members of the MRA Management Team and external stakeholders participated in this meeting and the latter were invited to share their views on MRA's integrity Management.

MRA renews its collaboration with IJLS

Following a working session on Fiscal Changes at the Institute of Judicial and Legal Studies (IJLS) in January, the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) renewed its collaboration with the IJLS by jointly organising a workshop on Income Tax. The theme of the session was the 'Rules Governing Deductibility of Expenses for Income Tax Purposes'. The MRA resource persons were Mrs. D. Athaw, Section Head, Medium and Small Taxpayer Department (MSTD) and Mr. F. Oozeerally, Section Head, Large Taxpayer Department (LTD). After the presentations, the participants actively engaged in the 'Question and Answer' session and they thanked the MRA resource persons for sharing their knowledge on fiscal matters.



World Bank's Technical Assistance to the MRA Customs



In view of improving the Single Window Facility, a representative of the World Bank was present in Mauritius from Monday 26 February to Friday 02 March 2018. The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) Customs Department sought financial and technical assistance from the World Bank, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, for the implementation of projects falling under the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement.

During the mission, Mr. Ian Thomas met with several actors of the Single Window Facility in Mauritius, namely the MRA Customs Department, the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life, the Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping, the Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security, the Mauritius Standards Bureau (MSB), the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection, the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Customs House Brokers Association and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development.

After evaluating the Single Window Mechanism in place, Mr. Thomas made recommendations on how to integrate other actors on the facility and on improving the Single Window service to stakeholders.

More than Rs. 70 million of drugs seized in February 2018

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) and the Anti-Drug Smuggling Unit (ADSU) seized 2 kg of synthetic drugs and 259 grams of heroin at the SSR International Airport during the month of February. The market value of the seizures are Rs. 30 million and Rs. 3.8 million respectively. The synthetic drugs were sent from China and the seizure was made at the premises of a courier service. The Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) confirmed the presence of synthetic cannabinoid in the parcel.

The second seizure was made on Monday, 26 February, 2018 and the 259g of heroin were concealed in the private parts of a Malagasy passenger.

Similarly, on Sunday 25 and Monday 26 February, 2.55 kg of a yellowish powder suspected to be synthetic drugs were seized in two consignments at the premises of a courier service at SSR Airport. The market value of the suspected drug is Rs. 38 million. In each consignment, the suspected drugs were concealed in a plastic container of Protein Supplement. In this particular case, it also appears that either some additives were added to discourage examination/ sniffing by sniffer dogs or the yellowish powder is of very high purity. The suspected drugs were transferred to ADSU for further inquiry and an employee of a courier services currently posted at Ebène was arrested.

One of the goals of the MRA is to reinforce the Mauritian border protection and, to that end, the MRA Customs Department made four major seizures of synthetic drugs amounting to Rs. 43 million since November 2017.



Seizure of 2kg of synthetic drugs



259g of heroin concealed in the private parts of a female Malagasy passenger



Seizure of 2.55kg of synthetic drugs concealed in a plastic container of Protein Supplement

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



VAT Lucky Draw Scheme (VLDS) 2018:

MRA sensitizes the public on VAT

Value Added Tax (VAT) is one of the most significant taxes collected by the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA), as it accounts for more than 40% of all revenue collected.

To raise awareness of taxpayers on the importance of paying taxes, in particular VAT, the MRA organised a sensitization campaign on Saturday, 24 and Sunday 25 February 2018 at the Jumbo Phoenix Shopping Mall.

Circa 500 entries were recorded during the sensitization campaign and more than 600 leaflets were distributed to members on the public.



Who can participate?

Every individual consumer of more than 18 years old and a holder of a VAT Invoice pertaining to purchases for a minimum VAT amount of **Rs 75.***

* Every multiple of Rs 75 of VAT amount, the participant will obtain one chance of the VAT Lucky Draw, up to a maximum of 10 chances.

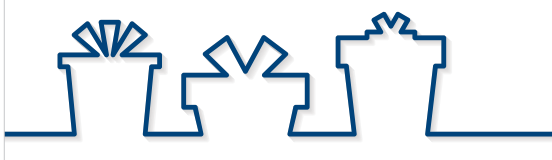
Draw

Participants will have up to the 15th of the month following the end of each quarter to send the details of their VAT invoices for the VAT Lucky Draw Scheme.

The draws will be effected under the supervision of the Gambling Regulatory Authority (GRA) during the last week of the month following the end of every quarter.

Prizes

1st Prize	Rs 50,000
2nd Prize	Rs 25,000
3rd Prize	Rs 15,000
4th to 10th Prize	Rs 10,000
11th to 20th Prize	Rs 5,000



Option for Participation

Individual consumers wishing to participate in the scheme will have to send details of their VAT Invoices through the following means:

1. Website

Go to MRA's Website: <http://www.mra.mu>
Click on 'VAT Lucky Draw Scheme 2016'
Under 'Participants Details' kindly fill in the following:

- Full Name
- Telephone / Mobile Number
- Email Address (if any)

Under 'VAT Receipts Details' kindly fill in the following as per your VAT Invoice :

- VAT No. of Supplier
- VAT Paid
- Date of VAT Invoice
- VAT Invoice Number

Click on 'Submit' after completing the fields.

Upon submission, if the above details have been correctly entered you will obtain an acknowledgement message and an Email notification on your email address.

2. SMS

SMS should be sent on **52 52 82 82**.
SMS cost is at normal rate.

Message Format:

Vat rxxxxxxxx ixxxxxx axxxxxx dxx-xx-xx
rxxxxxxxx, is the VAT Registration Number;
ixxxxxx is the VAT Invoice Number;
axxxxxx is the VAT amount paid and;
dxx-xx-xx is the Date of the VAT Invoice (dd-mm-yy).

In case of wrong format, you will receive an error message on your mobile.