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## Crackdown Operation:

### MRA seizes alcoholic products in a retail shop

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) made a crackdown operation on 21 February, 2019, at a retail outlet at Pointe aux Sables. Alcoholic drinks comprising beer, local rum, wine and other spirits, worth more than Rs 200,000, were seized.



According to gathered intelligence, the retailer was operating without a proper liquor licence. An operation was mounted, with the assistance of the Mauritius Police Force, to intercept the illicit trade of alcoholic products.



All the alcoholic drinks found at the said premises were seized and secured by the MRA for prosecution purposes.



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





Mr. I. Scott, an International Monetary Fund (IMF) consultant, conducted a mission on the Excise and Bond Unit of the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) from Monday 25 February to Friday 08 March, 2019.

The aim of the mission was to review the implementation of the Excise action plan from the first visit of the IMF consultant in March 2018 and to evaluate the necessity to develop a formal intelligence & Risk Management System for Excise.

## Study Tour of Tanzanian Delegation

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) welcomed four delegates from the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) from Monday 04 to Friday 08 February, 2019 at the MRA Head Office in the context of a study tour. The purpose of the visit was to learn from the Mauritian model of tax administration, namely on Sales Tax, VAT Audit Framework, Corporate Income Tax System, MRA's Information Framework, Goods and Service Tax and on the International Taxation Framework in place at the MRA.



Presentations were made by Mr. M. Hannelas, Director, Large Taxpayer Department (LTD), Mrs. C. Gunnoo, Director, Medium and Small Taxpayer Department (MSTD), Mr. S. Sonah, Director, Information Services Department (ISD), Mrs. Y. Rungasamy, Section Head, LTD and Mr. M. Oozeer, Section Head, Operational Services Department (OSD) on the above topics.

The delegates also paid a courtesy call on the Director-General of the MRA on Wednesday 06 February, 2019.



# Sensitization session at the Bank of Mauritius

A sensitization session was scheduled on Friday 08 February, 2019 at the Bank of Mauritius (BoM) and resource persons from the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) presented on the Global Business Sector.



Mr. M. Hannelas, Director Large Taxpayer Department (LTD), Mrs. Y. Rangasamy and Mr. F. Oozeerally, Section Heads LTD, attended to the request from the BoM and the topics on the agenda were the banking sector, international taxation and tax reforms.



A question and answer session followed the presentation, whereby the resource persons and participants interacted.





# SOCO builds capacity of MRA Officers

Around 30 Mauritius Revenue Authority officers attended the 'Basic Photography Course' dispensed by the Scene of Crime Office (SOCO) of the Mauritius Police Force (MPF) at the MRA Custom House, Mer Rouge. The training was held from Monday 25 February to Friday 01 March, 2019 and it included theoretical and practical sessions on technical aspects of digital camera, field photography, care and safe custody of digital images and their admissibility in court.



The focus of the training was to inculcate basic photographic skills in the MRA officers, who are regularly called upon to produce photographs of exhibits in court. As border protectors, MRA officers enforce the Customs and Excise Act, as well as the Dangerous Drug Act.



The participants, comprising twenty-five Customs officers, two officers from the Fiscal Investigation Department (FID), one officer from the Taxpayer Education and Communication Department (TECD) and one officer from the Human Resources and Training Department (HRTD), completed a written evaluation conducted by the SOCO.



## Drug Seizures

Drugs worth Rs. 15.5 million were seized by the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) during February, 2019. A Venezuelan who had swallowed 100 pellets of drugs was intercepted by officers of the Customs Anti-Narcotics Section (CANS) on Thursday 14 February, 2019 at the SSR Airport while he was leaving through the Green Channel. The 35 year-old passenger later purged the 100 pellets at the hospital.



An assistant photographer working on AidaBlu cruise vessel was intercepted with 261 cannabis seeds, 105.45 grams of hashish and 143.78 grams of cannabis on Tuesday 19 February, 2019 at the Christian Decotter Cruise Terminal.

The suspected drugs and passengers were handed over to the Anti-Drug and Smuggling Unit (ADSU) for further investigation.

Members of the public are reminded that they may report suspected drug cases/ illicit activities to the MRA through the MRA Stop Drug Platform ([www.mra.mu](http://www.mra.mu)) or by calling on the Hotline 8958.

## MRA e-Auction

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) organised two major sales by public tender during the month of February and several goods were put on sale on the Online Auction System. The latter is a user-friendly platform whereby members of the public can bid online for goods which were previously unclaimed, abandoned or seized.

Bidders may view the goods online on the platform and they can bid for same by simply using their ID and Password. Click [here](#) to access MRA's Online Auction System



Toyota, Honda, Nissan cars, amongst others, were put on sale from Wednesday 13 to Wednesday 20 February, 2019, while bids were open for garments, kitchen utensils, shoes, car accessories, inter alia, from Wednesday 20 to Wednesday 27 February, 2019.