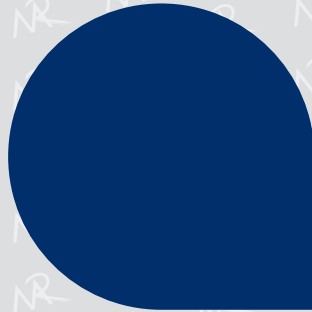


In this issue...



International Customs Day 2018
& Launching of MRA Corporate
Plan 2018-2020

International Customs Day 2018 & Launching of MRA Corporate Plan 2018-2020

Honourable Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, Prime Minister, Minister of Home Affairs, External Communications and National Development Unit, Minister of Finance and Economic Development was the Chief Guest at the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) Custom House for the International Customs Day (ICD) 2018 and the Launching of the MRA Corporate Plan on Friday 26 January, 2018. The Prime Minister was welcomed by Mr. Sudhamo Lal, Director-General of the MRA and Mr. V. Ramburun, Director, Customs, in the presence of members of the MRA Management Team.



The ICD is a yearly event which marks, on one hand, the inaugural session of the then Customs Cooperation Council (CCC) in Belgium in 1953 and recognises, on the other, the challenging role of customs officials and administrations around the world.

In its Corporate Plan, the MRA lays down its key strategic objectives alongside key projects and initiatives that it intends to implement between 2018 and 2020.

Upon arrival, the Prime Minister visited the Customs K9 Unit, met newly-appointed Customs Officers and launched the newly-acquired MRA Drone. An exhibition of Drug Detecting Equipment was also held inside the Atrium at the Custom House.



The official ceremony began at 17h00 on Level Six. In his keynote address, Honourable Pravind Kumar Jugnauth emphasised that the theme of the ICD 2018 is in harmony with the vision of the Government to become a high-income country. The Prime Minister thanked the staffs of the MRA Customs Department who work round the clock to ensure that our borders are secured and that licit trade is being conducted in a safe and fair environment.

The Prime Minister also congratulated the MRA for launching its Corporate Plan 2018-20 and assured his continuous support to achieve the set goals.



The Director-General of the MRA, Mr. Sudhamo Lal, thanked the Prime Minister for his presence in his speech and highlighted that the MRA Corporate Plan englobes 107 projects and initiatives which are allocated to MRA's 13 Directorates for a time period of 3 years.

In his speech, the Director of the Customs Department of the MRA, enumerated the various initiatives undertaken to combat drug trafficking, namely the setting up of the Customs Anti-Narcotics Section, sniffer dogs, Brigade des Marchandises, extensive use of CCTVs at the ports, inter alia.



Two videos on the new MRA Customs projects (Mobile App, Online Currency Declaration, Motor Vehicle Corridor and MRA Drone) and seizures made by the MRA Customs were broadcast, prior to a presentation by Mr. R. Oree, Ag. Assistant Director, Research, Policy & Planning on the MRA Corporate Plan 2018-20.

Thereafter, Honourable Pravind Kumar Jugnauth was invited to launch the MRA Corporate Plan 2018-2020, the **Customs@MU** and the **MRAeasy** Mobile Apps. Eight WCO Certificates were also awarded to Customs Officers and external stakeholders by the Chief Guest. The official ceremony ended at around 18h00.



MRA VAT Lucky Draw Scheme (VLDS)

The 4th Quarter of the VAT Lucky Draw Scheme (VLDS) 2017 ended on 31st December, 2017 and the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) organised the corresponding draw on Tuesday 30 January, 2018 at the MRA Head Office to draw the winners. More than twenty thousand entries were registered for the last quarter of 2017.

In his address, the Director-General of the MRA, Mr. Sudhamo Lal, underlined that the award-winning VLDS is a regular and established feature at the MRA and that the results of the draws are eagerly awaited by the participants.



The winning receipts of the 4th Quarter draw are as follows:

Prizes	Invoice No.	Invoice Date	VAT Amount	Amount (Rs)
1 st	CPCAIN0063496	17-11-2017	1174	50 000
2 nd	41853	09-11-2017	1171	25 000
3 rd	100167615	29-12-2017	540	15 000
4 th	51718040	05-12-2017	370	10 000
5 th	0050	16-12-2017	285	10 000
6 th	bg0001972	27-11-2017	1929	10 000
7 th	c07060946	24-10-2017	82	10 000
8 th	0745	17-12-2017	389	10 000
9 th	TRN-1-37-73	28-10-2017	196	10 000
10 th	8169	11-12-2017	1383	10 000
11 th	7149	17-12-2017	742	5 000
12 th	CH04474785	16-12-2017	3156	5 000
13 th	794	06-10-2017	224	5 000
14 th	P2020000002604	24-12-2017	1042	5 000
15 th	371957	10-10-2017	304	5 000
16 th	520037	07-10-2017	406	5 000
17 th	95416	27-12-2017	246	5 000
18 th	2201	16-12-2017	575	5 000
19 th	005010	01-11-2017	200	5 000
20 th	B108000000341	10-12-2017	2255	5 000

The holders of the winning receipts are kindly requested to call at the MRA Head Office with their original receipts and National Identity Card to collect their respective prizes.

'Mouvance' Programme on NSF/ NPF

Click here to watch video
YouTube

To further sensitize employers, employees and the public in general on contributions (National Pension Fund (NPF) and National Savings Funds (NSF)) payable to the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) as from 1st January, 2018, a television programme 'Mouvance' was hosted by the Mauritius Broadcasting Authority (MBC) in collaboration with the MRA.

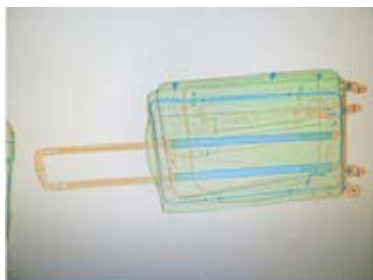


Mr. D. Ramdin, Director Operational Services Department (OSD), Mr. S. Jalim, Principal Social Security Officer at the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Environment and Sustainable Development and Mr. H. Joan, Director at the Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations, Employment and Training participated in the talk show and it was broadcast on Monday 15 January, 2018 on MBC 1.

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

Drug Seizure effected by MRA Customs

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) and the Anti-Drug and Smuggling Unit (ADSU) seized 300g of heroine worth Rs. 4.5 million at the SSR International Airport on Sunday 28 January, 2018. The suspected drugs were concealed in the handles of a suitcase which belonged to a Malagasy passenger.



Officers of the Customs Anti-Narcotics Section (CANS) profiled the 36 year-old male passenger who arrived on board flight MK 289 from Madagascar and his suitcase was scanned. The scanning images showed suspicious matter inside the handles of the suitcase. The handles were dismantled and a brownish powder suspected to be heroine was found stuffed in black plastic inside each handle.

A field test for heroine was carried out and the result was positive. Sniffer Dig Milan reacted positively to the brownish powder. The drugs and the passenger were handed over to ADSU for further investigation. A controlled delivery led to the arrest of two Mauritian citizens.

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**.



MRA receives South Korean delegates

The Director-General of the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA), Mr. Sudhamo Lal, welcomed three delegates from South Korea Customs Service in the presence of Mr. V. Ramburun, Director, Customs on Monday 29 January, 2018 at the MRA Head Office.



The delegation was made up of Mr. C. Nam, Mr. K. Park and Mr. J. Park, Director and Assistant Directors respectively at the Information Planning Division of the South Korea Customs Service. The mission in Mauritius lasted for three days and the delegation left on Wednesday 31st January, 2018.



MRA collaborates with IJLS

In line with its strategic objective of 'Promoting Tax Compliance', the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) organises regular working sessions with its stakeholder from the private sector. Following changes brought to the Finance Act, the MRA organised a workshop in collaboration with the Institute for Judicial & Legal Studies at the Happy World House on Monday 29 January, 2018.



The aim of the session was to sensitize MRA stakeholders on the implications of the fiscal changes to promote compliance and the MRA resource persons were Mr. D. Seetloo, Section Head, Large Taxpayer Department (LTD), Mr. J. Kelly, Section Head, Operational Services Department (OSD) and Mr. N. Tacouri, Section Head Medium and Small Taxpayer Department (MSTD).

Sensitization at Harel Mallac Group

To sensitize its employees on the Negative Income Tax and its implications, Harel Mallac requested the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) to conduct a sensitization session at the seat of the organisation. On Tuesday 16 January 2018, Mr. J. Kelly, Section Head, Operational Services Department (OSD) conducted the session and around 20 staff attended same.



The session was interactive and the participants thanked the MRA Resource person for the presentation.