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MRA celebrates the International Customs Day 2019

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) celebrated the International Customs Day at the Custom House on 25 February, 2019. The Chief Guest to the event availed to be Honourable Ashit Kumar Gungah, Minister of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection.

This year is dedicated by the World Customs Organisation (WCO) to Smart Border Protection, under the slogan 'Smart Borders for seamless Trade, Travel and Transport'.



On his arrival, Honourable Ashit Kumar Gungah was welcomed by the Director-General of the MRA, Mr. Sudhamo Lal, in the presence of members of the MRA Management Team.

To mark the event, the Minister inaugurated a newly acquired Scan Van. The Scan Van was donated by the European Union, in view of combating illicit trade. It will actually help to conduct scanning of luggage, irrespective of locations. Hon. Gungah was then briefly introduced to the K9 Unit.



After meeting the newly recruited Customs Officers, the Hon. Minister proceeded with the launching of Coordinated Border Management (CBM) Office. This one-stop-shop houses the following agencies: the Government Pharmacist, the Mauritius Standards Bureau (MSB), the National Plant Protection Office (NPPO) and the Food Import Unit (FIU). Thanks to the CBM, stakeholders may now obtain necessary approvals from the said agencies before clearance from MRA Customs, all under one roof.





During the official ceremony, the Honourable Minister underlined the milestones set by the MRA since its inception in 2006. He stressed that a modern Customs administration is one of the preconditions for any country to benefit from globalisation of trade.

He concluded by reiterating his support to the MRA in achieving its corporate goals.



On his part, Mr. Sudhamo Lal thanked the Minister for gracing the ICD 2019 celebrations as Chief Guest and he expressed his gratitude to the European Union for donating the Scan Van.

Mr. V. Ramburun, Director, Customs Dept., highlighted the importance of coordinated management at frontiers and he said that the setting-up of the CBM is a step in that direction.

As per tradition, the Minister remitted WCO certificates to the following awardees, in recognition of their work and commitment:

- **Mr. F. Bundhun**, Section Head at the Customs Anti-Narcotics Section
- **Mr. J.C. Pandoo**, Team Leader at the Customs Capacity Building Team
- **Mr. R. K. Bhunjun**, Team Leader at the Customs Assessment Unit
- **Mr. R. Motah**, Technical Officer at the Customs Anti-Narcotics Section
- **Mrs. Y. Rajcoomar**, Technical Officer at the Customs Assessment Unit and
- **Mr. S. Ramphul**, Director of the Pharmaceutical Services of the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life.



The Minister also received a token of appreciation at the hands of the Director-General of the MRA.



Click [here](#) for more pictures of the event

VLDS: Receipt Number '0205' wins Rs. 50,000

The ultimate draw of the VAT Lucky Draw Scheme (VLDS) 2018 was held on Thursday 31 January 2019, at the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) Head Office and the holder of the receipt number '0205' wins the first prize of Rs. 50,000.



In his welcome address, Mr. M. Hannelas, Acting Director-General of the MRA, recalled that the VLDS was launched in 2014 and more than 223,000 VLDS entries were received over the last 4 years.

The VLDS, he added, has met its primary objectives of raising awareness of the public on the importance of claiming a receipt for every purchase made and it has helped to detect considerable number of tax evasion with respect to VAT.

As conclusion, the Acting Director-General said that a new VAT campaign will be rolled out in the near future and that it will help to continue sensitize taxpayers on the VAT, which accounts for more than 40% of revenue collected by the MRA.

The holders of the receipt number 'G21111616' and '3804' wins Rs. 25,000 and Rs. 15,000 respectively. The complete list of winning receipt numbers can be viewed on the MRA website. The MRA will contact the winners shortly and they will have to present their winning receipts as well as their National Identity Cards to claim their respective prizes.

The invoice number of the winners of the draw and their respective prizes are shown hereunder:

SN	Prizes (Rs)	Invoice Number	Date	VAT Amount
1.	Rs 50000	0205	20-11-2018	1456
2.	Rs 25000	G2111616	19-12-2018	1499
3.	Rs 15000	3804	17-12-2018	235
4.	Rs 10000	8035	05-12-2018	499
5.	Rs 10000	13609	14-12-2018	183
6.	Rs 10000	CH05109411CK	05-12-2018	108
7.	Rs 10000	433302	23-10-2018	172
8.	Rs 10000	rb_6828	22-12-2018	81
9.	Rs 10000	c06019769	19-12-2018	170
10.	Rs 10000	78640	15-12-2018	104
11.	Rs 5000	3107102	15-11-2018	390
12.	Rs 5000	MFD01039823	15-12-2018	328
13.	Rs 5000	CP-8-R-1285	15-12-2018	413
14.	Rs 5000	110449	24-12-2018	111
15.	Rs 5000	9955	20-12-2018	289
16.	Rs 5000	46676	30-11-2018	179
17.	Rs 5000	118253	19-12-2018	1030
18.	Rs 5000	85917	28-10-2018	918
19.	Rs 5000	QBCAPI0061317	10-10-2018	1102
20.	Rs 5000	5BA-R-60779	27-11-2018	309

ATAF Council Orientation Meeting



The Director-General of the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) and Vice-Chairperson of African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF), Mr. Sudhamo Lal, attended the ATAF Council Orientation Meeting, which was held on Thursday 31 January and Friday 01 February, 2019, in Cape Town, South Africa. As the name suggests, the Council Orientation Meeting reflected on ATAF's 10 years of existence and discussed the calendar of activities for 2019.

Presentations were made by resource persons on the 'Global and International Tax Landscape', on ATAF's institutions, on the Role of the ATAF Council and its Governance Committees and on the 2019 Work Plan.

IMF Article IV Consultation Mission



An International Monetary Fund (IMF) delegation, headed by Ms. M. Qureshi, was at the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) Head Office on Friday 18 January, 2019 to discuss mid-term revenue projections, planned tax policy, tax administration reform measures and impact of the Base Erosion Profit Shifting (BEPS). The Director-General of the MRA, Mr. Sudhamo Lal, welcomed the IMF delegation in the presence of MRA Management Team and officials from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MOFED). A presentation was made by the MRA on the above-mentioned topics and this was followed by discussions among the participants.

Regional Seminar on Advance Rulings

The Regional Seminar on Advance Rulings was held on Monday 28 January, 2019 at the head office of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) AFRITAC South and East in Ebène.

The seminar was jointly organised by the AFRITAC East and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA). In his address as Chief Guest at the Opening Ceremony, the Director-General of the MRA, Mr. Sudhamo Lal, emphasised that the MRA was on the forefronts in terms of adopting innovative technologies and the forthcoming web-based application for advance ruling is another example in that sense.

The workshop ran over five days and it aimed at building capacity of senior officials within the customs community.

Photo Gallery: International Customs Day 2019

