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# MRA Press Conference

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) hosted its Annual Press Conference on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2017 at the MRA Head Office. The Director-General of the MRA, Mr. Sudhamo Lal, highlighted some Key Indicators of MRA's performance for Financial Year 2016/17, the Implementation of new fiscal measures and the digitalization of MRA services. Members of the MRA Management Team were in attendance as well as reporters from several media houses.



In his presentation, the Director-General elaborated on the 8.6% growth in revenue collections, increasing from Rs. 70,022 million in Financial Year 2015/16 to Rs. 76,068 million in Financial Year 2016/17. Growth, for instance, was noted in the collection of certain taxes, namely Income Tax (Individual-14.3% and companies-13.2%), Tax Deduction at Source (13.7%), Excise Duties and Environment Taxes (10.3%), Passenger Fee on Air Tickets (19.8%) and VAT (5.1%). The Director-General attributed the revenue performance, inter alia, to tax policy measures, the economic situation and efficiency gains in tax administration. Mr. Sudhamo Lal also highlighted some cases of tax evasion in the construction, printing and gambling sectors and a few informal sectors and informed the reporters present that the Press Pack includes further information on Trade Facilitation measures, Multilateral Instruments, BEPs and salient tax measures.



A major part of the presentation was dedicated to the implementation of fiscal measures as per the Finance Bill 2017. The Negative Income Tax also known as the Reverse Income Tax, the Solidarity Levy on High Income Earners, the Statement of Assets and Liabilities by High Net Worth Individuals, Deduction for Household Employees, Deduction for 4<sup>th</sup> Dependent and other tax incentives to promote quality of life were outlined in the presentation of the Director-General.



On the same occasion, a video on '**Digital MRA**' was projected and it showed how the MRA is pursuing its endeavour to provide high quality services to all its stakeholders through an effective and efficient use of digital technology. The Taxpayer portal ,for example helps the taxpayers to e-file their returns, effect payment electronically and view the history of their transactions online. e-Objection, Business e-Registration, e-Procurement, e-Recruitment are other e-services provided by the MRA.



Click [here](#) for a video report on Digital MRA



# MRA collects 1222 Pints of Blood

## on its 11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



To mark its 11th anniversary, the Mauritius Revenue Authority organized the traditional Blood Donation at its offices on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2017. The Chief Guest to the Opening Ceremony of the Blood Donation was Dr. The Honourable Mohammad Anwar Husnoo, Minister of Health and Quality of Life. He was welcomed by the Director-General of the MRA, Mr. Sudhamo Lal at the MRA Head Office. In his speech the Honorable Minister underlined the importance of donating one's blood and he exhorted the local population to do same more often.

On his part Mr. Sudhamo Lal stated that organizing the blood donation is MRA's way of reiterating its commitment towards the Mauritian society. He furthered that the MRA, through the regular blood donations, has contributed more than 6,250 pints of blood to the Blood Bank since 2007.



The Blood Donation was organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life particularly the Blood Bank, Ministry of Local Government and Outer Islands and the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development.

It was again a resounding success, as more than 1,443 persons volunteered to donate their blood and 1,222 pints were collected.



Click [here](#) for a video report on the event

# St Esprit College bags the 1<sup>st</sup> Prize of the MRA Essay Competition



The Mauritius Revenue Authority organised an Essay Competition with the theme **“Why is it important to be a compliant taxpayer”** for students of Lower Six and Upper six of Mauritius and Rodrigues. The aim of this essay competition was to increase awareness of the younger generation with regards to its role and duties in our society.

At the deadline for submission, MRA received 127 entries and a panel consisting three directors, the Internal Affairs Department, the Internal Audit Department and the Operational Services Department was set up to determine the three best essays.

The Prize Giving Ceremony was organized at the Custom House, Mer Rouge on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2017 in the presence of Mr. Ravi Meettook, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Education & Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research.



The Winner was Yohan Cheeneegadoo of Saint Esprit College and he received an iPad Pro. The first runner-up, Soopaul Tejasvi of Forest Side SSS, was awarded an iPad 5<sup>th</sup> Generation and the third prize, an iPad Mini 4, went to Krshtee Sukhbilas of MGI Moka.



The three best essays are available for download. Click on the links below:

[Winning Essay](#) | [First runner-up](#) | [Second runner-up](#)

► Click [here](#) for a video report on the event



# Drug Seizures

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA), in collaboration with ADSU, made several drug seizures during the month of July 2017. A new trend in drug smuggling has emerged with the advent of Methamphetamine, illegally imported with other psychotropic drugs.

It is to be noted that any passenger having in his possession cheques, traveller's cheques, other bearer cheques or negotiable instruments exceeding 500,000 Mauritian rupees or its equivalent in foreign currency, shall declare same at the Customs.

## ► Seizure of 13.20kg of Cannabis and 162g of Methamphetamine at DHL Airport on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2017



The parcel arrived from Lagos-Nigeria and address of consignee stated Le port-Reunion Island and Albion Mauritius. Methamphetamine was concealed in cosmetics and the cannabis declared as local herbs.

## ► Seizure of 5.05g of brownish matter suspected to be "Hashish" at the SSR International Airport on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2017



The passenger a student had landed from Dubai and drug was concealed in "Lindt LINDOR" chocolate box.

## ► Undeclared Currency on a passenger leaving for Madagascar

On 9<sup>th</sup> July 2017, a female passenger with Mauritian nationality was intercepted with USD 17,700 equivalent to Rs 615,556 undeclared currency in her registered luggage.

## ► Seizure of 150 tablets of psychotropic substance at the SSR International Airport on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2017



A French passenger, born Mauritian, aged 51, arrived to Mauritius on board the Air Seychelles HM055 flight from Paris via Mahé and he was intercepted while leaving through the Green Channel. The male passenger was questioned and, upon examination, the tablets were found among his personal belongings in his luggage. The Tramadol tablets are listed in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Schedule of the Dangerous Drugs Act and are available only on prescription and within a quota.

## ► Seizure of ecstasy tablets at Parcel Post Office



10 ecstasy tablets were seized in an unclaimed letter from Netherlands on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2017. The suspected drugs were concealed in an aluminum packaging inside an envelope, and were destined to an inhabitant of St Pierre. The market value of the suspected drugs is around Rs 15 000. The unclaimed letter was opened by the MRA Customs Anti-Narcotics Section (CANS) and ADSU in the presence of the Postal Authorities for examination at the Parcel Post Office of Port Louis. The 10 ecstasy tablets found bear the logo "Tesla" and the Customs Narcotics dogs Max reacted positively to the suspected drugs. The suspected drugs were handed over to ADSU for further enquiry.

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

## In-House Training on HS Code 2017

A half-day training course on "Harmonisation System Classification of Goods Version 2017" was held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2017 at the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) Customs House, Mer Rouge. The aim of the course was to update participants on the version 2017 of the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding Systems.

The resource persons were Mr. Sookhye, Team Leader and Mr. Mahamoodally, Technical Officer, Customs Department. Twenty-three Customs Officers of different grades successfully attended the training course. They expressed their appreciation for benefitting from the training. Similar sessions will be organised in the future to empower MRA staff to discharge their duties professionally. The MRA is committed to ensuring continuous capacity building and training needs of its staff, in line with MRA's strategic objectives.

## Training on Integrity and Ethics

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) organised three half-day training sessions from Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> to Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2017 on integrity and ethics. The aim of the training was to strengthen the culture of Integrity amongst MRA staff. Integrity is one of the core values of the MRA, alongside responsiveness, fairness, transparency and accountability.

The in-house training was conducted by the MRA resource persons and thirty-two staff members of various grades from across the MRA participated in the training course. Participants expressed their appreciation for being given the opportunity to follow the interactive training course, which dealt, inter alia, with the following subjects: Integrity Management at MRA, Code of Conduct & Ethics, Declaration of Assets, Disciplinary Proceedings, Declaration of Conflict of Interests, Integrity Checks and Anti-Corruption.

## VAT Lucky Draw Scheme (VLDS) 2017

### MRA draws the Winners of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter

[Click here to watch video](#)

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Draw of the VLDS 2017 was held at the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) Head Office on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2017 in the presence of the Director-General of the MRA, Mr. Sudhamo Lal, members of the Management Team, representatives of the Gambling Regulatory Authority, members of the local media and the public. The winning receipts were drawn and the prizes to the winning receipts amount to Rs 210,000. The receipt number **BAR20048525** wins **Rs 50 000** and the winner is kindly requested to call at the MRA Head Office to collect his/her prize. The complete list of winning receipts is available on MRA's Website [www.mra.mu](http://www.mra.mu).



[Click here](#) for a video report on the event

## VLDS Sensitization Campaign

In the same vein, VAT sensitization sessions were organised at Grand Bay Coeur de Ville on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2017. Members of the public were encouraged to claim a receipt for every transaction and for the VAT registered persons to issue a VAT invoice for every sales/ transaction. More than 1175 persons were sensitized and around 475 VLDS entries were recorded. The public is informed that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of the VLDS is on and the details of the invoices dated 1<sup>st</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017 are eligible for participation until Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2017.



# MRA wins FMSC medals

Five Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) staff participated in the Fédération Mauricienne de Sports Corporatifs Cross Country on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2017 at Candos. The MRA staff participated in races of different categories and the awards won were as follows:

Category	Name of Participants	Rank	Awards
Men 3km	Mr. Harris Khelawon	1 <sup>st</sup> place	Gold Medal + Trophy
Men 3km	Mr. Noordin Qoraishi	3 <sup>rd</sup> place	Bronze Medal + Trophy
Women 3km	Miss Keshika Gupta Quedou	3 <sup>rd</sup> place	Bronze Medal + Trophy



One week later, that is on Saturday 08<sup>th</sup> July 2017 & Sunday 09<sup>th</sup> July 2017, 20 MRA staff participated in the FMSC Badminton Tournament at the National Badminton Centre at Rose Hill. The MRA excelled in the tournament by winning 12 medals and trophies and a break-down of same follows:



Category	Name of Participants	Awards
MIXED DOUBLE	PACHEE, Mr. Khesaven	Silver Medals
	MOOTIEN, Mrs. Pamela Gladys	
WOMEN'S DOUBLE	MOOTIEN, Mrs. Pamela Gladys	Silver Medals
	PATHEL Miss Kareemah	
MEN'S SINGLES VET 1	MOOTHIEN, Mr. Vijay	Gold Medal
MEN'S SINGLES VET 1	BUNDHUN, Mr. Devanand	Silver Medal
MEN'S DOUBLES VET 1	MOOTHIEN, Mr. Vijay	Silver Medals
	BUNDHUN, Mr. Devanand	
MEN'S DOUBLES VET 1	SOOKHYE, Mr. Indranath Parsad	Bronze Medals
	MUNGROO, Mr. Zunib Ud-Din	
MEN'S SINGLES VET 2	SOOKDEB, Mr. Ramanand	Bronze Medal
WOMEN'S SINGLES VET 2	MOOTIEN, Mrs. Pamela Gladys	Gold Medal