

Vaccination of MRA Staff against Influenza

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) organised a vaccination programme for its staff on Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st June 2017 at the MRA Head Office and Custom House respectively.



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The vaccination programme aimed at immunizing MRA staff against ailments which are common in winter and MRA staff responded positively to the programme by turning up in huge numbers for the vaccination, which was organised in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life (MoHQL).

The vaccination also provided immunity against the prevailing viral influenza. It is to be noted that during this exercise, nearly 500 employees were vaccinated (MRA Head Office: 285 and Custom House: 209).

The vaccination programme was made possible thanks to the close collaboration between the MRA and the MoHQL.



Training on Surveillance, Intervention and Controlled Delivery

Under the aegis of Regional Cooperation among Island States, the French Customs represented by Mr. T. Atchamah, Head of Intelligence, & Guidance Control Unit, Centre des Recherches et d'Orientation des Contrôles (CROC) and Mr. David Saarbach from La Direction Nationale du Renseignement et des Enquêtes Douanières (DNRED) conducted a two week training on Surveillance, Intervention and Controlled Delivery Level 2 from Monday 12th to Friday 23rd June 2017 at the MRA Regional Training Centre. The training is an extension of the level one training conducted in 2016.

20 Customs Officers were selected to attend the training which consisted mainly of field exercises for intelligence gathering followed by intervention on drug trafficking/money laundering scenarios. A two-day training on self-defense and techniques for arrest of armed and dangerous persons/drug traffickers was also conducted by Mr. Jean Pierre Castellani, an ex-military and professional French trainer at the Grande Riviere Dojo Club.



At the request of the French Customs, Mr. Jean Pierre Castellani traveled to Mauritius with a view to conduct the training on self-defense and security issues similar to those dispensed to Customs Officers in Reunion Island.



MRA Integrity Advisory Committee

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) Integrity Advisory Committee is a platform whereby MRA stakeholders from the businesses, trade community and Civil Society meet to discuss on integrity of the services provided by MRA. On Wednesday 21st June 2017, the 7th Integrity Advisory Committee meeting, chaired by the Director-General of the MRA, Mr. Sudhamo Lal, was held at the MRA Head Office and the following joined as new members:

1. Mr Juan Carlos Fernandez Zara, Executive Director, Mauritius Institute of Directors (MIOD)
2. Mr Priyaved Jhugroo, Chairman, Mauritius Institute of Professional Accountants (MIPA)
3. Mr Paramasiva Chengan, President, Mauritius Council of Social Service (MACOSS)



Mr. S. Narrainen, Director of Internal Affairs Division and Mrs. S. Moorooogen, Director of Internal Audit Division made a joint presentation on MRA's Integrity Framework.

Members present shared their experiences and made valuable suggestions for promoting integrity at all level of services provided by MRA. It was also positively noted by members that MRA has improved a lot in terms of integrity and transparency of its people, systems and procedures.

WCO ESA Project II Diagnosis Mission

In response to the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA)'s capacity building needs submitted to WCOESA ROCB under the WCO-ESA Project II, Mrs. Ritta Passi, Project Manager at WCO-ESA Project II and Mrs. Fridah W. Kimani, Regional Expert at WCO ESA Project II, conducted a diagnosis mission in Mauritius from Monday 5th to Friday 9th June 2017.

The objective of the diagnosis mission was to assess the Capacity Building Needs on Valuation and Tariff and other areas as identified and submitted by the MRA Customs under the WCO ESA II Project. The assistance in these areas aimed at reinforcing capacities at MRA's Regional Training Centre with a view to ensuring that a pool of highly qualified trainers are readily available to dispense training to MRA's officers, stakeholders and other customs administrations in the region. During the mission, the consultants evaluated the current valuation and tariff procedures in place and assessed the future needs of the MRA Customs Department.



Diplomacy: MRA welcomes Australian Consultant



The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) welcomed Ms. Matilda Emberson, on Monday 19th June 2017 at the MRA Head Office. The consultant is currently providing technical assistance to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade for the Economic Diplomatic strategy.



International Day against Drug Abuse & Illicit Trafficking

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) participated in a march organized by the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life on Thursday 29th June 2017 in the context of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. The march was headed by the Honorable Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, Prime Minister, Minister of Home Affairs, External Communications and National Development Unit, Minister of Finance and Economic Development. The United Nation observes the 26th June as the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking as an expression of its determination to strengthen action and cooperation to achieve the goal of an international society free of drug abuse. The participation of the MRA in the march testifies MRA's determination, as border control agency, to fight drug trafficking and smuggling. The MRA was represented by Mr. V. Ramburrun, Director, Customs Department and around 30 officers.



Seizure of 1.68 kg of Heroin worth Rs 25 Million



On Tuesday 20th June 2017, the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) and the Anti-Drug and Smuggling Unit (ADSU), confiscated 1.68 kg of Heroin at the Courier services at SSR International Airport. The market value of the heroin is estimated to be Rs 25 million and the seizure was made following examination of overlying goods at the premises of a courier service. The parcel containing the drugs was identified on the basis that it had similarities with a previous parcel containing 1.6 kg of heroin intercepted in May 2017.

In fact the parcel seized in May 2017 contained mascara cosmetics and a similar parcel was found overlying at the Courier service. The parcel was therefore sent for scan by the Customs Officers of the Customs Anti-Narcotics Section (CANS) and the image revealed suspicious contents in the caps of the mascara tubes. The Customs Narcotics Sniffer dog Milan was deployed and it reacted positively to the packets. Upon verification, 298 mascara tubes containing a brownish powder were found and a field test confirmed the powder as being heroin.

MRA and ADSU seize Foreign Currencies



The Customs Anti-Narcotics Section (CANS) of the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) and ADSU arrested three persons at the SSR International Airport on Thursday 1st and Wednesday 21st June 2017. Both the CANS and ADSU conducted the joint operations and they intercepted currency which was being illegally transported across border. Three persons, one Mauritian and two Malagasy nationals were arrested and charged with money laundering.

International Yoga Day at the MRA

On the occasion of the International Day of Yoga celebrated on Wednesday 21st June 2017, the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) organized a talk on Yoga. The aim of organizing the talk was to help MRA staff achieve sustainable development and develop a lifestyle which is in harmony with nature. Mr. N. Tacouri, Section Head, Medium and Small Taxpayer Department, made the presentation on Yoga. The objectives of the talk were:

1. To have the right definition of yoga
2. To be aware of the benefits of practicing yoga
3. To know what are the eight steps to practice yoga.



Public Relation Campaign at Phoenix Mall



The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) augmented its sensitization campaign about VAT Lucky Draw Scheme (VLDS) during the month of June. Officers of the MRA were at Phoenix Mall on Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th June 2017 with the aim of sensitizing the Mauritian public on the importance of claiming a receipt for every purchase.

Around 1175 persons were sensitized about VLDS and 675 members of the public recorded details of their invoice for the next draw which will be held on Friday 28th July 2017.