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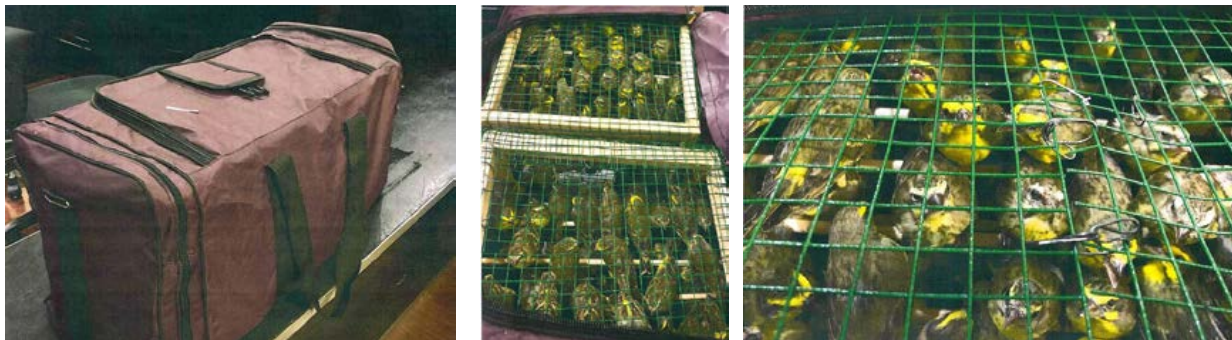
Border Protection: MRA seizes drugs worth circa Rs. 623 million in June

As part of its strategic objective of 'Border Protection', the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) Customs Department seized cannabis, heroin, hashish, synthetic drugs, cannabis seeds and cannabis-derived products at the SSR Airport, the Port and the Parcel Post Office. The drugs seized amounted to more than Rs. 600 million.

The seizure made on Thursday 07 June 2018 was the highest in terms of street value. Thanks to intelligence by the MRA Customs Department and French Customs (Reunion Island), Malagasy Customs intercepted three Mauritians in Tamatave and 80 kilograms of cannabis, 35 kilograms of hashish and 25 kilograms of heroin worth Rs. 519 million were secured.



On another note, the illegal export of 250 live birds was intercepted on Sunday 10 June 2018. The birds were concealed in the hand baggage of the passenger who was expected to board the flight to Reunion Island.



The birds were handed over to Airport police for further inquiry.

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 or by calling on the **Hotline 8958**.



March Against Drug Abuse and Trafficking

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) participated in a march organised by the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life (MoHQL) on Thursday 28 June 2018 at Flacq.



Officers of the Customs Anti-Narcotics Section (CANS) of the MRA and Customs K9 Narcotics dogs participated in the march organised in the context of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Trafficking 2018.

As per its strategic objectives, the MRA is committed to protecting the Mauritian borders and, in the same vein, the CANS was setup in August 2016.

Till date, drugs amounting to more than Rs. 3 billion were seized by the CANS at the Port, Airport, Post Office and Courier services.

Eco-Bins: MRA goes green



The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA), in collaboration with Mission Verte, installed eco-bins at the MRA Custom House in June 2018.

Waste such as plastics, aluminium cans, papers and cartons, can be disposed in the eco-bins at Custom House.



Recycling is one of the best ways to leave a positive footprint on the environment. The aim of installing eco-bin at the MRA Custom House is in line with the Maurice Ile Durable concept and, till date, the MRA has implemented the following green initiatives:

1. Procurement of Energy Star Equipment,
2. Weeding of documents,
3. Collection of used oil,
4. Regeneration of used batteries for transport fleet,
5. Use of LED tube lights in its buildings,
6. Planting of trees and creation of a "green space" around the Custom House, and
7. Installation of a Building Management System at Custom House.

To brief MRA staff on the importance of waste sorting, the NGO Mission Verte also conducted a sensitization session on Friday 08 June 2018 at Custom House.

MRA wins Best Blood Donation Organiser Award

The Association of Blood Donation Organisers (ABDO) awarded a Trophy and a Certificate of Appreciation to the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) on Saturday 09 June 2018, in recognition of the latter's *'invaluable and outstanding contribution for the promotion of voluntary blood donation'*.



The Director-General of the MRA, Mr. Sudhamo Lal, attended the ceremony at the Municipal Council of Quatre Bornes. A Trophy, a Souvenir Magazine and a Certificate were remitted to him by the Acting President of the Republic of Mauritius, His Excellency Mr. B. Vyapoory and Private Parliamentary Secretary, Mr. T. Benydin.

The MRA celebrates its anniversary every year by organising a Blood Donation across its offices and, till date, the MRA has collected more than 7,475 pints of blood, which have been remitted to the Blood Bank.



Last year, a record of 1,222 pints was collected. This year again, the MRA is celebrating its 12th Anniversary in similar fashion by encouraging donors to give their blood at the MRA Head Office, Custom House, PATS and SSR Airport.

Taxpayer Education: MRA sensitizes its stakeholders

In line with the Mauritius Revenue Authority's strategic objective of promoting tax compliance, three sensitization sessions were organised at the premises of its stakeholders. On Tuesday 12 June 2018, Mr. C. Lochun, Ag. Team Leader at the Taxpayer Education and Communication Department (TECD), made a presentation to the staff of Brink's on how to file returns electronically.



A sensitization session was also hosted at the Ministry of Youth and Sports on Saturday 23 June 2018 and Mr. N. Tacouri, Section Head at the Medium and Small Taxpayer Department (MSTD), briefed the audience on the tax obligations of individuals and businesses.

World Yoga Day at the MRA

On 21 June 2018, the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) celebrated the World Yoga Day for the fourth consecutive year. Two sessions were held, one at Belfort Tower and the second at Custom House, Mer Rouge. A team of MRA staff practices yoga at Efram Court once a week with the help of Mr. N. Tacouri, Section Head at the MRA.



Yoga is an ancient science having its origin in India. It is all about the holistic well-being of human being. This is perhaps the only science which has not known any alteration or change since it has been revealed. The yoga practitioner, even today, observes the same disciplines and performs the same exercises which have been recommended thousands of years ago.

According to the science of Yoga, there are two types of human beings, the yogis and the bhogis. A Yogi, is a person who, through yogic practices, has full control over his/her mind, has transcended the body, mind and intellect, and enjoys happiness, joy, bliss and ecstasy within. Whereas as bhogi is inclined towards sense gratification, craving for pleasure and comfort from external sources.

History bears testimony that whenever the science of yoga has been in the decline, there has been the advent of great yogis to uphold this divine science. Divine science because the practitioner of yoga realises that he/she is essentially a divine being.

The practice of yoga helps with the following scientifically proven benefits:

- It boosts up health and vitality,
- It reduces stress,
- It promotes mental clarity and emotional balance,
- It helps to relieve chronic diseases,
- It enhances focus, concentration and memory,
- It increases ability to handle stressful situation,
- It raises productivity and efficiency,
- It improves communication and inter-human relationships,
- It establishes a positive & open approach towards life, and
- It generates inner peace and fulfilment



Any human being who decides to experience a holistic wellbeing has to adopt a yogic way of life, and impose self-discipline as follows:

- Observe Moral Conduct:
 - Non-violence, truthfulness, non-stealing, self-control non-greed
- Practice Social conduct:
 - Cleanliness, contentment, austerity, study of scriptures
- Perform physical exercises/ yoga postures daily
- Practice Breath Regulating exercises

A word of caution: Yoga has emerged as a huge industry and some yoga gurus are minting billions of dollars. One has to be very careful in selecting a yoga guru.

