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# Seychelles Revenue Commission

A delegation of high-ranking officials from the Seychelles Revenue Commission (SRC) was welcomed at the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) on Tuesday 05 March, 2019 by the Director-General, Mr. Sudhamo Lal.



The delegation was headed by the Chairman of the SRC, Mr. C. Chetty. The SRC delegation requested for the study tour on the following areas of interest: Treatment of temporary imports, International tax matters and intelligence and Investigation.



Mr. Sudhamo Lal made a presentation to the Seychelles delegates on '**Implementing a Revenue Authority: The case of the MRA**' in the presence of MRA Management Team. The study tour ended on Friday 08 March, 2019 with a debriefing session, whereby the SRC delegates expressed their satisfaction with the study tour and the professionalism of the MRA officials.





# MRA participates in the 51<sup>st</sup> Independence Day Celebrations

On the occasion of the 51<sup>st</sup> Independence Day of Mauritius and 27<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Republic, the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) participated in the National Day Celebrations at the Champs de Mars on Monday 11 March, 2019. Around 34 Customs Officers made-up the MRA parade squad which performed alongside other Disciplined Forces, namely the Mauritius Police Force, the Mauritius Fire and Rescue Services, the Mauritius Prison Services, the Fisheries Protection Services, inter alia.



After a first participation in the 50<sup>th</sup> Independence Day celebrations in 2018, the MRA parade squad was again invited to join the official parade this year. Several weeks of practice at the Special Mobile Force (SMF) Compound at Vacoas was necessary, prior to the parade on Monday 11 March, 2019 at Champs de Mars. A cultural show concluded the celebrations on that day."

## Border Protection: Drug Seizures amounted to nearly Rs. 32 million in March

Two drug seizures were made at the SSR International Airport and one drug seizure was made at the Parcel Post Office (PPO) during March by the Customs Anti-Narcotics Section (CANS) of the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA). On Tuesday 19 March, 2019, a resident of Cité Atlee was arrested when he came to collect a parcel at the premises of a courier service. The parcel contained purple, brown and orange powder suspected to be synthetic drugs and same was valued at Rs. 15 million.

On the same day, a Togolese was intercepted at the SSR International Airport after he revealed to CANS officers after interrogation that he had swallowed 64 pellets of drugs suspected to be heroin. The street value of the drugs seized was Rs. 16 million.

Finally, on Thursday 28 March, 2019, the following drugs were seized in unclaimed envelopes at the PPO:

- 70 tablets of Ecstasy valued at Rs. 225,000
- 5 grams of Crystal Meth valued at Rs. 75,000
- 9 grams of Cannabis valued at Rs 5,400
- 97.4 grams of Cannabis Resin valued at Rs 292,200
- 20.4 grams of Heroin valued at Rs. 306,000.

The Anti-Drug and Smuggling Unit (ADSU) took over in the above cases and the suspected drugs were secured by the former.

**Members of the public may report suspected drug/ illicit activities to the MRA through the Stop Drug platform or by calling on 8958.**

# DTA negotiations between Mauritius and Estonia

Ms. L. Oro headed the Estonian delegation which was in Mauritius in the context of the negotiations for the conclusion of an agreement for the elimination of double taxation with respect to taxes on income and the prevention of tax evasion and avoidance between Mauritius and Estonia.

The Estonian delegation was welcomed at the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) by Mr. M. Hannelas, Director Large Taxpayer Department (LTD), in the presence of Mr. R. Ramloll, Deputy Solicitor General at the State Law Office, Mr. M. Rawoteea and Mr. Y. Veersamy of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Mr. A. Koodoruth and Ms. B. Ramdour of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade and Ms. D. Beesoon of the Ministry of Financial Services and Good Governance, Mrs. M. Toofanee, Team Leader LTD, and Ms. V. Chiniah, Officer LTD.

Ms. Oro was accompanied by Ms. Pahapill, Ms. T. Hansson and Ms. M. Tolppa during the visit at the MRA from Monday 25 to Friday 29 March, 2019.



## SME: Tax and Compliance

To give further momentum to the National Entrepreneurship Campaign, the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) was invited by the Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Mauritius to participate in a live radio programme on Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) Kool FM. The target of the National Entrepreneur Campaign is to sensitise local entrepreneurs-to-be on the various facilities available to encourage them to launch their businesses and the MRA partnered with the SME Mauritius to enlighten stakeholders on the fiscal obligations of SMEs.

Mr. N. Tacouri and Mr. M. Sookoo, Section Heads at the Medium and Small Taxpayers Department (MSTD) and the Operational Services Department (OSD) respectively, participated in the live radio programme on Monday 01<sup>st</sup> April, 2019 from 17h00 to 18h00 at the seat of the MBC at Moka. The former shed light on the fiscal commitments to which entrepreneurs-to-be must abide and on the facilities that are available at the MRA to promote tax compliance.



The radio programme was concluded with a question and answer exchange between the MRA resource persons and the listeners who phoned.



# International Taxation explained

After the 'Movance' television programme on the 'Ease of Paying Taxes' in January this year, the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) and the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) renewed their collaboration in March by producing another programme on 'International Taxation'.



The 'Mouvance' programme explored the nitty-gritty of International Taxation and on the mechanism in place at the MRA to administer taxes related to it. Mr. M. Hannelas, Director, Large Taxpayer Department (LTD), Mr. D. Seetloo and Mrs. Yamini Rangasamy, Section Heads at the LTD, were the MRA resource persons who were present on the set of 'Mouvance' at the MBC.

The interview of Mr. Sudhamo Lal, Director-General of the MRA, was also included in the television programme.

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

## WCO Anti-Corruption and Integrity Scoping Mission

The Anti-Corruption and Integrity Promotion (A-CIP) Programme is an initiative of the World Customs Organisation (WCO) which was launched in January 2019 to respond to recognised high costs of corruption in Customs Administrations. The targeted WCO member countries for the A-CIP Programme are Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Ghana, Lebanon, Liberia, Mali, Mozambique, Nepal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania and Tunisia and the dedicated page on the WCO website bears further details on this initiative.

In this vein, Mr. R. Gobin, Team Leader, Internal Affairs Division (IAF), and Ms. Andrea Hampton, A-CIP Programme Manager, led an Anti-Corruption and Integrity Scoping Mission at the National Revenue Authority (NRA) of Sierra Leone from Monday 11 to Friday 15 March, 2019. The focus of the scoping mission was to identify a roadmap to better implement the Revised Arusha Declaration and to inform the establishment of a new Internal Affairs Unit at the NRA.

During the mission, Mr. Gobin also shared the MRA Integrity Management Framework as a model, to the NRA officials, which contains the ten integrity elements of the Revised Arusha Declaration.

The A-CIP aims at producing a five-year plan for each participating country with measurable outcomes.



# Capacity Building:

Training on TeamMate Audit Management Software;  
Judge's Rule, Evidence and Exhibits; and  
Machine Learning

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) organised a training on TeamMate Audit Management Software at its head office for selected MRA officers from the Medium and Small Taxpayer Department (MSTD) and the Large Taxpayer Department (LTD). Mrs. Sreekeessoon, of PricewaterhouseCoopers Ltd, delivered the training from Friday 08 to Wednesday 20 March, 2019.

The TeamMate Audit Management Software is defined as a user-friendly application and the trainees are expected to conduct audit assignments more effectively and efficiently.

A design thinking workshop was held at the head office of the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) from Monday 18 to Friday 22 March, 2019 by four consultants in respect of the forthcoming implementation of machine learning (ML) at the MRA.

Initially, ML is expected to be used in the realm of debt management and the service provider explained that ML has the potential of being extended to the full life cycle of tax administration.



The workshop was held in the presence of the Director-General of the MRA, Mr. Sudhamo Lal, and members of the MRA Management Team.

Similarly, a workshop was organised by the MRA in collaboration with the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) at the Belfort Tower on Friday 29 March, 2019. The half-day workshop was titled 'Judge's rule, Evidence and Exhibits' and the sixty-five MRA staff selected for the training are expected to employ the skills gathered in their day-to-day work.





# Media Engagement and Training in Rwanda

The second Media Engagement and Training, hosted by the African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF) in Rwanda from Wednesday 06 to Friday 08, March 2019, saw the participation of 70 delegates from the African Continent. The theme of the workshop was 'Journeying with ATAF on the Next 10 Years: The Journey Towards Increased Domestic Resource Revolution in Africa' and it was the second workshop organised by the ATAF to bring together journalists and communication personnel under one roof.

Mr. Y. Bholah, Customs Officer at the Taxpayer Education and Communication Department (TECD), and Mr. A. Bissoondoyal, Journalist at the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation (MBC), participated in the above workshop and they had the opportunity to sit as panellists during the sessions. On Thursday 07 March, 2019, Mr. Bissoondoyal participated in Session 3 on 'Emerging Tax Issues: What is the role of policy makers?' and Mr. Bholah engaged in the discussion on 'Contractual Ties and their impact on Tax' during Session 4 on the same day.



One of the key outcomes of the second Media Engagement and Training was the consensus among participants to create an Africa Tax Media Network (ATMN) as a platform to champion the Africa tax conversation. The platform, according to the participants, will be the link between revenue administrations and media houses and will enhance information sharing. Further details on the Media Engagement and Training are available on the ATAF website.

## CSR: MRA gives hot meals to students

As part of its corporate social responsibility, the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) collaborated with the Sathya Sai School of La Caverne, Vacoas to provide hot meals to around 100 students of the school for the duration of one month. Mr. D. Ramdin, Director, Operational Services Department (OSD) of the MRA, was invited as Chief Guest of the school to read the message of the Prime Minister for the 51<sup>st</sup> Independence Day celebrations.



The Sathya Sai school teaches value education as well as academic curriculum, whereby students are taught from a young age about the importance of unity, sharing, helpfulness, love and respect for all.