

In this issue...



Corruption Risk Mapping Workshop at the MRA

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) hosted a four-day workshop on Corruption Risk Mapping at the WCO Multilingual Regional Training Centre, MRA Custom House, Mer Rouge. The workshop was organised by the African Union Commission (AUC) and the World Customs Organization, East & Southern Africa, Regional Office for Capacity Building (WCO/ ESA/ ROCB), and was facilitated by Mr S. Narrainen, Director, Internal Affairs Division, MRA, and co-facilitated by Mr L. Liza, Director, ROCB. The opening ceremony was held on Tuesday 22 May 2018 and the Chief Guest was Dr. Navin Beekarry, Director-General of the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC).

Mr. Beekarry was full of praise for hosting such a workshop on the Mauritian soil, and added that he is looking forward for the conclusion report of the workshop. He also stated that the conclusions will certainly be fed into the National Risk Assessment on Corruption and Anti-Money-Laundering. The latter forms part of the Financial Crime Commission Project.



On his part, Mr. Sudhamo Lal, Director-General of the MRA, outlined that corruption risk mapping at the MRA helps to develop targeted and preventive measures against corruption to ensure that the MRA enjoys an image of trust and confidence among its staff and stakeholders at large.



The Corruption Risk Mapping Workshop is in line with the African Union Theme of the year for 2018: Combating Corruption - A sustainable Path to Africa's Transformation. 44 participants from 21 African Union Member States pondered over ways and means to bring down corruption, which involved the sharing of best practices on various issues regarding the implementation of effective Integrity Programmes.



At the close of the ceremony held on Friday 25 May 2018, the Director, Customs, Mr. V. Ramburun, offered a token to Mr. L. Liza, Director of the WCO/ESA ROCB.

Each participant was also awarded a certificate for their participation in the workshop.



The MRA hosts the Single Window Experts' Workshop

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) hosted the Accreditation Workshop for Single Window Experts for East and Southern Africa (ESA) Region from Monday 28 May to Friday 01 June 2018 at the WCO/ESA Multilingual Regional Training Centre (RTC) situated at the MRA Custom House, Mer Rouge. This workshop was sponsored by the Government of Finland under the WCO ESA Finnish Project II.

The aim of the workshop was to establish a pool of new Expert Trainers capable of providing technical support on behalf of the World Customs Organisation (WCO).

After successful completion of the workshop, the potential candidates would be invited to deliver field mission and thereafter, they would be fully accredited.



12 Customs Officers from the ESA region, namely: **Madagascar, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe**, including two from **Mauritius**, were selected by WCO for the workshop.

The Accreditation Workshop was facilitated by four WCO Accredited Experts. Ms A. Permalloo, Technical Officer posted in the MRA Customs Department, was one of the resource persons who assisted in the delivery of the workshop, which was conducted in English with simultaneous interpretation in French.

Tax Compliance: MRA hosts SME Workshop

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) welcomed more than 20 representatives of the Small and Medium Entrepreneurs (SMEs) community on Tuesday 8 May 2018 at the MRA Custom House in the context of a SME Partnering Programme as enunciated in the MRA Corporate Plan 2018-2020. The aim of the workshop was to renew ties with the representatives of SME Associations and to listen to their proposals on the way forward to consolidate the partnership with SMEs.

During the workshop, the Director, Medium and Small Taxpayer Department (MSTD), Mrs. C. Gunnoo, underlined that the MRA values the SME community as its long-term stakeholder and that the workshop is a platform for opinion-sharing and positive discussions. It was also announced that a Co-operative Compliance Unit would be set-up under the MSTD with seasoned MRA Officers to assist SMEs in the tax compliance process.



The SME representatives voiced out their appreciation to the hosting of this workshop and they made several suggestions so as to improve the MRA-SMEs working relationship. Mrs. Gunnoo thanked the representatives who made it to the meeting and concluded that the MRA will reach out to the SMEs by organising tax sensitisation sessions, upon request, at their premises.



e-Auction Sale: Unclaimed gold bars, gold and silver jewellery sold by public tender


The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) held a sale of gold bars, and gold and silver jewellery by Public Tender on its Online Auction System (e-Auction) from Thursday 17 May to Wednesday 23 May 2018.





The gold bars and jewellery were tested by the Assay Office and a Test Report certifying their purity and quantity was issued for each item.

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| APPLICANT'S NAME | : MAURITIUS REVENUE AUTHORITY |
| APPLICANT'S ADDRESS | : CUSTOMS HOUSE, MER ROUGE |
| APPLICATION FORM No. | : 2940 |
| DATE RECEIVED | : 20/03/2015 |
| TEST REPORT No. | : R/0032 |
| DATE TEST PERFORMED | : 24/03/2015 |
| DESCRIPTION | : M194 - ALLOY 16A |
| QUANTITY | : 1 |
| MASS (GRAMS) | : 552.95 |
| ALLOY TYPE | : GOLD |
| DECLARED FINENESS | : UNKNOWN |
| RESULT(S), PPT (%) | : 963 |
| REMARKS | : Test was performed around marking as shown in picture. |

Marking



Assayed by: 
(Signature & Name) P. D. Dabysing

Supervised by: 
(Signature & Name) Y.K.P. Lucknauth

Designation: Technical Officer/
Senior Technical Officer

Designation : Assistant Director
for Director

Date Test Report Issued: 24/03/2015

Prospective bidders had to log in the MRA Online Auction System for bidding purposes through MRA's website www.mra.mu. A public viewing was also organised on Sunday 20 May 2018 from 10h00 to 15h00 at the Custom House, Mer Rouge. Armed police service was organized and Security Guards were reinforced on that day. A one-day insurance cover was secured for a value of Rs 6 Million. 130 prospective bidders turned up and 530 bids were registered for a total of 455 items on sale.

The tender summary indicates that 452 items out of the 455 offered for sale were awarded to the highest bidders. Only 3 items did not fetch any bid and will be re-offered for sale in forthcoming auction sales.



MAURITIUS REVENUE AUTHORITY
E-AUCTION SALES

Sale of Abandoned/Unclaimed Goods
by Public Tender

The MRA Online Auction Sale system is a dynamic platform **accessible on a 24/7 basis** to all members of the public over the age of 18 years old including traders, dealers and foreign citizens who are registered to the Online Auction System.

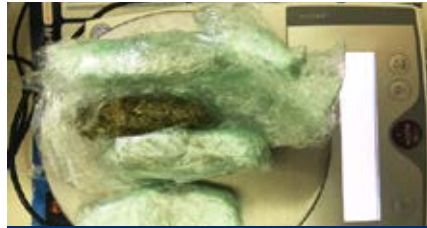
To register oneself, the prospective bidder should fill-in the registration form available on the MRA website: www.mra.mu under the e-Auction Sales link.

Drugs and Undeclared Goods seized by the MRA

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) made drug seizures of circa Rs. 48 million at SSR Airport and at the premises of courier services during the month of May.



2.79 Kg of heroin worth Rs. 42 million seized at the SSR Airport



Seizure of 22.53 g of cannabis at DPD Laser Courier Service Airport



Seizure of cannabis worth Rs 2.7M at SSR Airport



Undeclared goods comprising mobile phones, laptops and cartridges of cigarette worth Rs 2.4 million were also seized at the SSR International Airport. Heroin and cannabis were among the drugs which have been seized more frequently.

Taxpayers' Education: MRA collaborates with its stakeholders

One of the Mauritius Revenue Authority's (MRA) strategic objectives is to promote taxpayers' education. The MRA participated in four tax education sessions at the premises of its stakeholders during the month of May. The sessions were organised following requests made by the Mauritius Institute of Training and Development (MITD) and the Association of Trust & Management Companies (ATMC).

On Tuesday 8 May 2018, resource persons from the International Taxation Section (ITS) which falls under the aegis of the Large Taxpayer Department (LTD) of the MRA, presented on *Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA)*, *Common Reporting Standard (CRS)* and *Tax Deduction at Source (TDS)* at Flying Dodo, Bagatelle, to the members of the Association of Trust & Management Companies. The aim of the workshop was to provide a brief overview of the CRS and to clarify issues faced by stakeholders in respect of its implementation. The session saw the participation of 75 persons.



Three sessions on *The Importance of Paying Taxes* were organized for future entrepreneurs at the Mauritius Institute of Training and Development (MITD) on Friday 18, Monday 21 and Wednesday 23 May 2018 by MRA resource persons.



International Internal Audit Awareness Month



The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) commemorated the International Internal Audit Awareness Month during the month of May. It was the perfect opportunity for the Internal Audit Division to promote the profession and the significant role in corporate governance, internal control, and risk management.

Articles on Artificial Intelligence and Crisis Resiliency from the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) newsletter "Tone at the Top" was shared with MRA Senior Management and MRA Audit Committee members. To further advocate the importance of internal auditing among MRA staff, an article on Internal Auditing together with a link to the existing Internal Audit Charter was uploaded on the MRA and Customs Intranets. Building awareness on the value of Internal Auditing is a key component of the IIA's advocacy efforts.

50th Independence Anniversary Celebrations: Recognition Ceremony

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) organized a recognition ceremony on Friday 11 May 2018 to thank all the MRA officers who participated in the Parade conceived in the context of the 50th Independence Anniversary of Mauritius at the Custom House and at Champ de Mars, on Friday 09 March 2018 and Monday 12 March 2018 respectively.

The event was graced by the Director-General of the MRA, Mr. Sudhamo Lal. In his speech, Mr. Lal expressed his appreciation for the professionalism of all those MRA officers who participated in both events.



All the participants to the parade were awarded a special personalized token. In the same vein, the MRA Band was also awarded a special token for its contribution to the success of the event organised at Customs House on the Friday 09 March 2018.



VAT Lucky Draw Scheme (VLDS):

MRA sensitizes the public on VAT

Value Added Tax (VAT) accounts for more than 40% of all revenue collected. To raise awareness of taxpayers on the importance of paying taxes, in particular VAT, the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) organised two sensitization campaigns on Saturday 05 and Sunday 06 May 2018, and Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 May 2018, at Flacq Coeur de Ville and Phoenix Mall respectively.

Circa 1000 VLDS entries were recorded during the sensitization campaigns and more than 1200 leaflets were distributed to members of the public.



CSR: MRA caters for the disabled



The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) is committed to the socio-economic development of Mauritius. On behalf of the MRA and as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Mr. M. Hannelas, Director, Large Taxpayer Department (LTD), remitted a cheque of Rs 25,000 to the representatives of the Lois Lagesse Trust Fund.

It is worth noting that the main objectives of the Lois Lagesse Trust Fund are to train, educate and empower visually impaired persons to integrate mainstream society and live with dignity and respect.

One of the services provided by the Trust Fund is a school for the blind, where they train blind people in mobility and orientation, and provides facilities as white canes, large prints, talking library and IT facilities. The Trust Fund also runs a workshop where artisans with visual impairments perform rattan works and other artisanal products, which are then sold on the local market.

