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Income Tax e-Filing Season 2018 - Individual

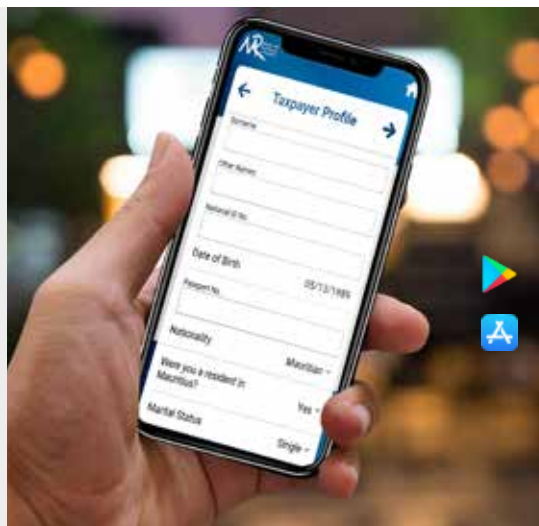
The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) received more than 138,000 individual income tax returns by the end of Monday 1 October, 2018. The e-Filing Season was live as from Friday 24 August, 2018 and individual taxpayers were able to file their income tax returns through the Taxpayer Portal on the website of the MRA on www.mra.mu.



Last year, the MRA received almost all individual income tax returns electronically (99.6%). To sustain the same trend of online submission of returns this year, the MRA made provision for an array of facilities to taxpayers.

This year, for instance, taxpayers can file their returns through the mobile application **MRAeasy** which may be downloaded from Google Play Store or App Store.

After downloading MRAeasy, the taxpayer will need her/his Tax Account Number (TAN) and Password to log in and file the respective return.



Additional facilities to retrieve TAN and Password are also made available on the MRA website to ease the process of e-filing. Furthermore information submitted by taxpayers in their previous returns (for example their address, contact, email address, dependents, etc.) are also automatically generated in the current return. The prefilled forms facilitate the filing exercise which may last just a few minutes.



Last but not least, taxpayers may also avail themselves of the facility to pay taxes electronically through Direct Debit, Credit Card or SMS (my.t Mobile Money Service).

In the event of a refund, taxpayers may submit their bank account details to the MRA for prompt service.

To assist individual taxpayers in fulfilling their fiscal obligations, the MRA offered the Free Income Tax Assistance (FITA) in 19 centres in Mauritius and Rodrigues again this year.



More than 12,000 taxpayers turned-up at the FITA centres during the weekend of 29 and 30 september, 2018.



Late filers benefit from an extension period up to 15 October to undergo the exercise, provided they file their returns electronically and effect payment, if any, electronically.

The MRA is committed to continually reform and modernise revenue administration and, to that end, the feedback of its stakeholders are vital.

As it was the case last year, a Taxpayer Satisfaction Survey (TSS) is open to allow taxpayers to provide their views/ suggestions to the MRA for the betterment of services offered.



After filing their returns online, taxpayers are automatically registered for a lucky draw which will be held on Wednesday 31 October, 2018 and they stand the chance to win the following prizes:


**1st
PRIZE**
Rs 25, 000


**2nd
PRIZE**
Rs 15, 000


**3rd
PRIZE**
Rs 10, 000

MRA celebrates Saint Matthews

On Wednesday 26 September, 2018, the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) paid tribute to Saint Matthews during the MRA Annual Mass at the Cathedral Saint Louis, Port Louis. According to Holy Scriptures, Saint Matthews was a tax collector and is remembered as the Patron Saint of Customs and Tax Officials during this yearly event.

The oecumenical mass was presided over by Père Grégoire. The Director General of the MRA, Mr. Sudhamo Lal, delivered a speech in which he emphasised that our duty as tax collectors is sacred.



After the mass, Pandit Shamjhu addressed the audience. This was followed by the donation of a cheque by the MRA to the Saint Louis Cathedral.



MRA staff from all Departments attended the Annual Mass. Some of them formed part of the choir. After the ceremony, refreshments were offered to all guests who attended the mass.



Seminar on Integrity at the MRA

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) welcomed the Acting President of the Republic, His Excellency Mr. Paramasivum Pillay Vyapoory, G.O.S.K and the Attorney General, Minister of Justice, Human Rights and Institutional Reforms, Hon. Maneesh Gobin, to the Opening Ceremony of the seminar on integrity entitled 'The Role of Leadership in Organisational Integrity' at the MRA Custom House on Monday 10 September, 2018. The workshop ran over three days. It was held with the assistance of Integrity Expert, Ms. S. Gunnlaugsdóttir, from the World Customs Organisation (WCO).



The aim of the workshop was to further enhance integrity among MRA staff and its stakeholders. In his keynote address, the Ag President of the Republic emphasised valued the MRA as a model in Mauritius and in the region. Prior to declaring the workshop open, His Excellency Mr. Vyapoory reiterated his support to the MRA in its endeavour.

The Attorney General, Honourable Maneesh Gobin, highlighted integrity as a sine qua non value in an organisation and that it was essential to further promote it.

In his address, the Director-General of the MRA, Mr. Sudhamo Lal, welcomed the Ag. President of the Republic and the Attorney General at the MRA and thanked them for their continued support. Mr. Lal stressed upon the determination of the MRA to reform revenue administration and promote integrity.

The Director-General of the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC), Dr. N. Beekarry, and the Executive Director of Transparency Mauritius, Mr. R. Bablee were amongst the speakers during the workshop



Recruitment of Trainee Customs Officers

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) welcomed Trainee Customs Officers and their parents during a ceremony on Monday 03 September, 2018 at the MRA Custom House.

The Ag. Director-General, Mr. M. Hannelas, addressed the Trainee Customs Officers during the ceremony and congratulated them for joining the MRA family.



The Trainee Customs Officers will undergo extensive training on the roles and duties of Customs Officers.



Regional Cooperation between MRA Customs and French Customs

A training programme entitled '*Vessel Search*' was prepared and dispensed by two resource persons from French Customs, Mr. J. Puech and Mr. V. Nowak.

The training ran from Monday 24 to Friday 28 September, 2018 at the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) Custom House.



The training was the fruit of close regional collaboration between Island States, namely Mauritius and Reunion Island, and it aimed at building capacity to combat drug trafficking and smuggling. It comprised theoretical discussions at the MRA Training Academy and practical sessions on board shipping vessels.

Thirty participants from MRA Customs (Customs Anti-Narcotics Section and Port Surveillance and Enforcement Unit) and the National Coast Guard (NCG) were selected to undergo the training.



Promoting Taxpayer Education

In line with the strategic objectives set out in its Corporate Plan 2018-19 and in view of the ongoing e-Filing Season, the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) augmented the sensitization sessions dispensed to its stakeholders. Thirty-eight sessions were organised at the seat of various Ministries and parastatal bodies during September to sensitize individual taxpayers on their fiscal obligations as per the Income Tax Act. Staff from the Taxpayer Education and Communication Department (TECD) facilitated the sessions and made live demos on how to file income tax returns online.



The Ministries and Parastatal organisations included the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, the Ministry of Housing and Land, the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the Attorney General's Office, the Ministry of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives, the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare, the Ministry of Financial Services, Good Governance and Institutional Reforms, the Information and Communication Technologies Authority (ICTA), the Mauritius Council of Registered Librarians, the Mauritius Institute of Education (MIE).



Likewise, a session was hosted at Rogers House following a request from Rogers Capital to make a presentation on PAYE, MSS Contributions, Passage and Fringe Benefits.

The MRA resource person, Mr. M. Oozeer, Section Head, Operational Services Department (OSD), presented on the above-cited topics before answering questions from the audience.



MRA wins 11 medals in FMSC's Swimming Competition 2018

The *Fédération Mauricienne de Sports Corporatifs (FMSC)* organised its Annual Swimming Competition on Sunday 30 September, 2018 at SPARC Swimming Pool, Cascavelle.

Ten staff members represented the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) in the event and the MRA team won eleven medals.



Other companies such as Barclays Bank, Medine Ltd, Harel Mallac Group, Air Mauritius, Accenture, Eclosia, amongst others, were also represented in the competition. The medals won by the MRA staff are as follows:

Category	Name of participants	Medals won	No. of medals received
100M Nage Libre Dames D2	MAMOOJEE, Amira Bibi	Bronze	1
50M Nage Libre Dames D3	MOOTIEN, Pamela Gladys	Gold	1
50M Nage Libre Hommes H3	MUNGROOSING, Devkumar	Silver	1
50M brasse Dames D3	MOOTIEN, Pamela Gladys	Gold	1
50M Brasse Hommes H3	ARNEL, Jean Stellio Eliel	Gold	1
50M Brasse Hommes H3	MUNGROOSING, Devkumar	Bronze	1
50M Dos Dames D3	MOOTIEN, Pamela Gladys	Gold	1
50M Dos Hommes H3	MUNGROOSING, Devkumar	Silver	1
50M Dos Hommes H3	BHEECHOOK, Premraj	Bronze	1
50M Dos Dames D2	RAJCOOMAR, Yougeeta	Bronze	1
4 X 50M Nage Libre Hommes (Relais Open)	NOORDIN/ ARNEL/CHUMMUN/ MUNGROOSING	Bronze	1