

Presentation by the Governor of the Bank of Mauritius at the MRA

On Friday 17th February 2017, the Director-General of the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA), Mr. Sudhamo Lal, welcomed the Governor of the Bank of Mauritius (BoM), Mr. Rameswurlall Basant Roi, G.C.S.K, at the MRA Head Office for a talk entitled 'Challenges to be encountered by Mauritius and its tax administration in this turbulent world economy'.



In his opening remarks, the Director of Human Resources and Training Department, Mr. Ramnundun, explained that the initiative of the MRA aims at inviting eminent personalities to share their experiences with MRA Management Team on topics of common interest.

Following his one-and-a-half-hour presentation, Mr. Roi initiated a dialogue session with his audience by elaborating on how both the MRA and the BoM can further help each other in matters relating to the financial sector. The Director-General of the MRA thanked the Governor for the insightful exchange and concluded that the MRA is determined to continually reform and modernise revenue administration in Mauritius.



Editor's Note

Dear Readers,

Education is a sine qua non factor and a never-ending process in the life of any organisation.

Likewise, the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) hosted several sessions during February with its stakeholders, whereby it both imparted and received knowledge relating to tax administration.

For instance, the MRA conducted briefing sessions at Mauritius Export Association (MEXA), Espitalier-Noël Limited (ENL) and Mauritius Institute of Training and Development (MITD) with their personnel/ interns. On the other hand, the MRA also benefitted from the thoughtful presentation made by the Governor of the Bank of Mauritius (BoM).

The MRA wishes all Mauritians a Happy National Day and thanks taxpayers for their usual support.

In this issue...

MRA hosts Technical Working Group Meeting

A Technical Working Group (TWG) was set up by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MOFED) as part of a consultation process with the industry on challenges with respect to the BEPS project and the review of the tax regime of Mauritius by the EU.

The second meeting of the TWG was held on Friday 17th February 2017 at the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) Head Office and it was chaired by Mr. Rajesh Ramlooll S.C, Deputy Solicitor-General. The discussions were centered on the Multilateral Instrument and its challenges for Mauritius.

Visit of Regional Director French Customs at MRA Customs

Customs Administrations of Mauritius, Madagascar, Seychelles, Comoros and Reunion Islands have set up a mechanism within the region to enhance capacity building for Customs. Under the aegis of Regional Cooperation among Island States, the Reunion Customs Department represented by Mr. P. Vernet, Regional Director French Customs and Mr T. Atchamah, Head of Intelligence & Guidance Control Unit, Centre des Recherches et d'Orientation des Contrôles (CROC) visited the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) Customs Department from Thursday 16th to Monday 20th February 2017.



During their visit, discussions were centered on enforcement actions with regards to smuggling of illicit drug trafficking and how to combat the upsurge of drug trafficking in the region. Emphasis was laid on the cooperation and the sharing of intelligence among Island States.

MRA Customs also provided an update on the training conducted by French Customs on "renseignement - intervention" conducted in 2016 and requested the French Customs for the next stage of the training to be conducted by the end of this year.

Further discussions were held with respect to capacity building needs of MRA Customs and it was agreed that the French Customs will provide training in the following fields:

1. Training on Money Laundering by French Customs
2. Evaluation of our K9 unit by French K9 trainer
3. Train the trainer course on Money Laundering under Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB) for French speaking countries of ESA.

MRA Customs welcomes SMEs of the Indian Ocean

A workshop was organized by the Australian Government in partnership with the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce & Industry (MCCI) for small & medium enterprises in the Indian Ocean Region. The workshop was held at the MCCI Business School in Ebène from Tuesday 14th to Thursday 23rd February 2017.

Upon a request from the Australian Government, a delegation comprising of 20 SME's from Mauritius, Rodrigues, Madagascar, Seychelles and Mozambique visited the MRA Customs Department on Tuesday 21st February 2017. The delegation was led by Mr Jim Redden on behalf of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.



The aim of the training program was to showcase the customs procedures in place at the MRA Customs Department and it included:

- A PowerPoint presentation was made to the delegation on import & export procedures, valuation, tariff and trade facilitation measures put in place at MRA Customs; and
- A visit was effected in the port area at the scanning unit, examining unit, a freight forwarder station and the Freeport.



MRA trains Customs Clerks

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) trained Customs Clerks of the Export Manufacturing Sector during a workshop organised by the Mauritius Export Association (MEXA) at Gold Crest Hotel, Quatre Bornes. The training was held following MEXA's request to the MRA to conduct training for a batch of new recruits.

The MRA collaborated with MEXA in 2008, 2009 and 2014 by training its recruits on Customs Regulations and procedures in place.



This year the training ran from Tuesday 14th February to Tuesday 21st March 2017 and covered the following topics: Import procedures, Tariff, Origin, Export procedures, Valuation, CMS, Freeport, Airport, Objection & Dispute, COR, amongst others.

MEXA aims at professionalising the job of customs clerks through the training and to promote their development and capacity building skills.



MRA sensitizes ENL Corporate Services' Staff

The ENL Corporate Services Ltd solicited the assistance of the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) to hold educational sessions at their premises on tax issues. The request pertained mainly to tax issues such as Corporate Income Tax, VAT Refund, PAYE/ APS/ TDS/ Income Tax, CSR Implications, Investment Tax Credit, Interpretation of Law and Doubt, Unexplained Wealth, Amended Return and Penalties and Electronic Submission of Returns.

To that end, the MRA hosted two meetings at Vivea Business Park, St Pierre. On Tuesday 14th February 2017, Mr. N. Tacoori, Section Head of Medium and Small Taxpayer Department (MSTD), made presentations on VAT- changes in VAT laws and Mr M. Oozeer of Operational Services Department (OSD) presented on PAYE/TDS and Electronic Submissions of Returns.



On Wednesday 15th February 2017, Mr. D. Seetloo, Section Head of Large Taxpayer Department (LTD) and Mr M. Hannelas, Director LTD, presented on Corporate Tax, Investment Tax Credit, Interpretation of Law and Doubt, Unexplained Wealth, Amended Return and Penalties.



Workshop with MITD Trainees

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA), in collaboration with the Mauritius Institute of Training and Development (MITD), a body corporate which operates under the aegis of the Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Resources, organised two training sessions for trainees enrolled at the MITD on Friday 17th February 2017 and Monday 28th February 2017.

In this context, Mr. C. Lochun, Technical Officer of the Taxpayer Education and Communication Department (TECD) of the MRA made a presentation on "An overview of Mauritian Income Tax System". The response was positive and the interns called for similar sessions at the other branches of MITD around the island.

The collaboration between the MRA and the MITD is in line with MRA's educational strategy which aims at inculcating a tax culture in all stratum of the population.



Remittance of VLDS Prizes

10
MRA
2006-2016
ANNIVERSARY
Revenue in Progress and Prosperity

VAT LUCKY DRAW SCHEME

You can win up to
Rs 50,000
by claiming a receipt

Send details of your receipt on
52 52 82 82 or www.mra.mu

Following the 4th Quarter Draw of the Vat Lucky Draw Scheme 2016 (VLDS) held on Tuesday 31st January 2017 at the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) Head Office, the winners were invited to collect their prizes.

The receipt number '36714' won the first prize of the VLDS and a cheque of Rs 50,000 was remitted to the winner. Concurrently, the prizes for the other winners were handed over to the respective receipt holders.

The VLDS will be pursued during 2017 and taxpayers are invited to submit details of their receipts through the MRA Website, SMS or the VAT App. The first quarter of VLDS ends on 31st March 2017 and details of invoices can be submitted until 15th April 2017.