

MRA concludes a second Agreement with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan



Mr. Sudhamo Lal, the Director-General of the MRA (Right) and H.E. Mr. Muhammad Arshad Jan Pathan, High Commissioner of Pakistan (Left), during the exchanging of copies of the Agreement.

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) has concluded a second Agreement with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The Signing Ceremony of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Mauritius and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan was held on Monday 19 December 2022 at the seat of the MRA, Ehram Court, Port-Louis. The objective of the Agreement is to further consolidate the working relationship between “Customs Administrations” in both countries.

Mr. Sudhamo Lal, the Director-General of the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) stated that the first Customs Mutual Administrative Assistance Agreement (CMAAA) was signed in 2007 between the Republic of Mauritius and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in a spirit of mutual assistance and cooperation in customs matters. It was based on the old Nairobi Convention of 1977.

Since then, both countries have been under “preferential tariff treatment”. Nevertheless, with the advent of the Johannesburg Convention, there is an imperative need for adapting the Agreement to the new template. This revised version of CMAAA identifies the need for international co-operation related to the application and enforcement of customs legislations.



It also highlights the importance of accurate assessment of customs duties, taxes and other charges collected from importation and exportation and ensures proper enforcement measures by the respective customs administration”.



Mr. Sudhamo Lal pointed out that “*the total imports from Pakistan for 2018 till now amounts to approximately Rs 4 billion (3,843,663,618), but goods of only Rs 96 million (96,043,529) were imported under the Mauritius/Pakistan Preferential Trade Agreement (PMPTA)*”.

The total exports to Pakistan for the corresponding period, amounts to some Rs 144 million (144,383,583), whereas goods for merely Rs 12 million (11,681,933) were exported under the Mauritius/Pakistan Preferential Trade Agreement (PMPTA). Based on these statistics, it is evident that importers and exporters of both countries are not availing themselves of the full benefits of the Preferential Trade Agreement, he said.



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Trade data between the two countries are shown below.

Year	Import from Pakistan (Rs)	Import from Pakistan under PMPTA (Rs)	Export to Pakistan (Rs)	Export to Pakistan under PMPTA (Rs)
2018	677,367,671	19,681,330	15,684,069	11,289,825
2019	590,494,988	24,575,433	5,550,520	392,108
2020	640,532,929	34,103,066	71,204,473	-
2021	780,543,616	17,683,700	24,391,221	-
2022 (till October)	1,058,680,885		15,871,367	-

According to H.E. Mr. Muhammad Arshad Jan Pathan, High Commissioner of Pakistan, *“this agreement provides administrative assistance for the proper application of customs legislations and for prevention, investigation and combating of Customs offences as well as ensuring the security in the international trade supply chain”*.

He concluded that *“the signing of the Agreement will undoubtedly boost the imports and exports between the Republic of Mauritius and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan”*.



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