

## TV program on VAT, ATDR and e-Auction



One of the strategic objectives of the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) is the promotion of tax compliance amongst its stakeholders and, to that end, a television programme 'Mouvance' was broadcast on the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2017.

Three MRA resource persons, namely Mrs C. Gunnoo, Director Medium and Small Taxpayer Department (MSTD), Mr. M. Oozeer, Section Head Operational Services Department (OSD) and Mr. R. Ramnarain, Section Head Customs Department participated in the television programme and the following themes were debated: **Fast Track VAT Refund, Alternative Tax Dispute Resolution Panel (ATDR) and MRA Online Auction System.**

The 50-minutes 'Mouvance' programme is an initiative which aims at familiarizing MRA's stakeholders with tax issues. Through the sensitization, the MRA intends to promote taxpayers' compliance to tax laws and optimize revenue collection.

The **Fast Track VAT Refund** is an improved processing of VAT repayment claims, where the returns were filed electronically. The **Alternative Tax Dispute Resolution (ATDR) Panel**, on the other hand, is an alternative forum which has been put in place to resolve litigation by taxpayers. Set up under Section 21C of the MRA Act, the ATDR Panel consists of a Director of the MRA as Chairperson, a Senior Officer of the MRA designated by the Director-General and a Law Practitioner appointed by the Minister of Finance and Economic Development (MOFED). Last but not least, the **MRA Online Auction System** is an interface for bidders to bid online for sales by public tender at the MRA of goods which have been abandoned, unclaimed or seized. The platform enables bidders to bid for goods without being physically present at the Customs Warehouse.

The television programme is available for viewing at the Documentation Centre for MRA staff and on the MRA Channel.

### Editor's Note

#### D-Day: Budget Speech

Dear Readers,

As the fiscal year inches to an end, it is time for the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) to evaluate its performance and to set new performance indicators for 2017/18. The evaluation/forecast exercise gains even more prominence in light of the forthcoming Budget Speech which is due on Thursday 08th June 2017. The Budget Speech basically chalks out the measures which the Government intends to implement over the oncoming financial year and, more importantly for the MRA, it is from the Budget Speech that fiscal regulations will stem and crystallize in the Finance Act.

On the other hand, the end of the financial year also points towards the 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the MRA which will be celebrated on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017.

The MRA thanks taxpayers for their usual support.

### In this issue...

# MRA welcomes newly-elected MEXA Chairman



The newly-elected Chairman of the Mauritius Export Association (MEXA), Mr B. Cheekhooree, paid a courtesy call to the Director-General of the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA), Mr. Sudhamo Lal, on Friday 05<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at the MRA Head Office.

The aim of the visit was to strengthen the existing ties between the two institutions and to develop other avenues of collaboration.

## Presentation by Statistics Mauritius at the MRA

The Director-General of the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA), Mr. Sudhamo Lal, welcomed two resource persons from Statistics Mauritius, namely Mrs. Y. Cassimally, Acting Director, and Mr. M. Dawoonauth, Principal Statistician, for a presentation at the MRA Head Office on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2017. The presentation comprised of two parts: the theme of the first part was the 'Challenges faced by Statistics Mauritius' and the second part catered for salient topics which are relevant to the MRA.



The resource persons also enumerated the existing collaborations between the two institutions and outlined new avenues of co-operation. The audience, composed mostly of the MRA Management Team, interacted with the Statistics Mauritius officials at the end of the presentation and proposed that similar sessions are organised in the future

## Malagasy Delegation at the MRA

A Malagasy delegation comprising of three representatives, namely Mr Navirony Eric Rabenja of Malagasy Customs, Mr Cedric Catheline of GasyNet and Mrs Lisiniaina Razafindrakoto of GasyNet, paid a courtesy visit to the Director-General of the MRA, Mr. Sudhamo Lal on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2017, in the presence of MRA Management Team.

During the study tour, a presentation was made to the delegates on the Customs Single Window and a demo was performed by the MRA K9 Unit at the Custom House. They also visited the Mauritius Network Services at Ebène.

# Presentation on Transfer Pricing at the MRA

On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2017, Mr. H. Jindal made a presentation at the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) to the MRA Management Team on Transfer Pricing.

Mr. Jindal is a Chartered Accountant and he was at the MRA to assist with regards to a Transfer Pricing case. Mr. Jindal is also the Managing Editor of the 'Global Taxation' journal and he has authored books on Transfer Pricing.



The presentation of Mr. Jindal was axed on Taxation Principles, Transfer Mispricing, Five Steps Approach, Transfer Pricing Methods and Benchmarking Various Transactions.

After the presentation, the audience interacted with the resource person by means of questions and comments.

## MRA Customs Drug Seizures

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) Customs Department made several drug seizures during the month of May. Around 1400 psychotropic tablets were seized in the beginning of May on two passengers arriving from Mumbai. Later during May, two consignments containing heroin and synthetic drugs were intercepted at the courier services of the SSR International Airport.

Last but not least, on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2017, 7.6 kg of heroin and 6.6 kg of cannabis were seized in a consignment arriving from Madagascar. The importers and consignees were arrested and the drugs were handed over to ADSU for further inquiry.



The MRA reiterates its appeal to the public to report suspected drug cases anonymously to the MRA through the **MRA Stop Drug Platform** on [www.mra.mu](http://www.mra.mu) or by calling on the **Hotline 8958**.

## VLDS Winners collect their Cheques

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) organised the first quarter draw of the VAT Lucky Draw Scheme (VLDS) 2017 at the MRA Head Office on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2017. Following the draw, the lucky winners were contacted and they called at the MRA to collect their prizes. The winners who have not yet collected their cheque are reminded that they have up to Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June to do so.

The VLDS was launched in 2014 to encourage Mauritians to adopt the habit of asking for a receipt for every transaction/ purchase and for the VAT Registered persons to fulfill their legal obligations as per the VAT Act by issuing a proper receipt to customers.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of the VLDS campaign 2017 started on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 and runs up to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017.



In the same vein, the MRA furthered its VAT Sensitization campaign at the Coeur de Ville Shopping Mall in Flacq on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2017.

Around 800 VLDS leaflets were distributed and more than 450 persons registered their invoices for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Draw.

It is reminded to the public that they have up to Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2017 to register all the details of their invoices for the second quarter.

## MRA educates SMEs

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA), in collaboration with the SMEDA, hosted an educational session on 'Taxation for SME's' on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at the SMEDA Office at Coromandel.



Mr. C. Lochun, Technical Officer at the Taxpayer Education and Communication Department (TECD) made a presentation on the tax obligations for SMEs and self-employed persons.

The participants responded positively and requested for further sessions.

## MRA wins the 8-a-side Football Tournament

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) was invited to participate in a 8-a-side Football Tournament organised by the Air Mauritius Ltd. The latter is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year. The tournament was held on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at the MFA Football Ground, Trianon and it saw the participation of several organisations located in the vicinity of the SSR Airport, namely Holiday Inn Hotel, Mauritius Duty Free Paradise, G2 Air, Tropical Times Ltd, Plaisance Air Transport Services, Mauritius Police Force, Department of Civil Aviation and the MRA.



The MRA Team topped its group and it won the final match 1-0 against Holiday Inn Hotel. The MRA won the Champion Trophy and medals.

## FMSC Volleyball Tournament



The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) participated in the FMSC 2017 Premier League Volley Ball Championship from March to May 2017.

The MRA competed against Orange Ltd, Eclasia, Phoenix Beverages, SBM, Accenture and was ranked at the 6<sup>th</sup> place at the close of the tournament.