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MRA Annual Press
Conference 2019

MRA Annual Press Conference

Revenue Collection 2018 – 2019

The Mauritius Revenue Authority reached almost one hundred billion rupees (Rs100B) revenue collection.

The MRA organised its annual press conference on 11 September 2019 at the MRA Head Office in Port Louis. The Director-General, Mr. Lal highlighted the main achievements for the financial year 2018/19.



Highlights:

For the fiscal year 2018/2019, the MRA made a total collection of Rs 98.4 billion. This amount includes Rs 8.9 billion relating to special funds which comprise, among others, NPF, NSF, Lotto Fund, Responsible Gambling and Capacity Building Fund and National CSR Fund.

Rs 89.5 billion is the amount that has been remitted to the consolidated fund, representing an increase of 7.7% as compared to the last financial year.

During the previous year, the MRA paid a total of Rs 561 million for Negative Income Tax and Special Fund. 138,722 low income earners benefited from the two schemes.

The debt reducing schemes, namely the Alternative Tax Dispute Resolution and the Expeditious Dispute Resolution of Tax Cases, brought an amount of Rs 431.4 million. The tracking of non-filers added Rs 21.5m to the consolidated fund. Selected fiscal investigation in the fields of Real Estate Sector, seller of grilled food with liquor licence, restaurants and security services brought Rs 346 m.



Through CRS data on financial accounts owned by Mauritians overseas, the MRA has gathered information about Mauritian individuals having foreign financial accounts worth Rs 104 billion and Corporates having assets worth Rs 980 billion. Progress on BEPS has been achieved in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Financial services and Private Sector Stakeholders, such as, Global Finance Mauritius and Association of Trust and Management Companies.



The individual e-filing of income tax returns reached almost 100%. E-payments have reached 93%. 53245 out of 57407 individuals had a quick refund and the rest were examined. 90% of individual refunds were made within 10 days. VAT refunds of Rs 35 million were made to persons constructing residential buildings or purchasing apartments. Rs 3.6 m were refunded to other sectors namely, planters, fishermen and breeders.

An online taxpayer satisfaction survey (TSS) was conducted through 25357 taxpayers and 85% rated the overall service delivery of the MRA over the last 5 years either as very good or good.



Time release study reveals that sea cargo dwell time improved from 4.6 days in 2016 to 4.2 days in 2018. For air cargo, it improved from 1.9 days to 1.7 days. Border control measures such as CCTV in warehouse and mobile scan van have been introduced. Counterfeit goods seized by customs have been destroyed. MRA K9 dogs have made 63 seizures. An estimated amount of Rs 727 m of drugs were seized by customs during the last financial year.

The Tax Arrears Settlement Scheme (TASS), the Presumptive tax for small enterprises, the Voluntary disclosure of income scheme – foreign assets and voluntary disclosure scheme for SME were introduced in the Finance Act 2019.

For the financial year 2019/20, the MRA is forecasting to collect an additional of 6.4% on top of the current year. New projects are in the pipeline such as full body x-ray scanner at SSRIA and wireless body worn camera.



The MRA launched a re-engineered version of its website: [**www.mra.mu**](http://www.mra.mu)

This new version is more user friendly, trendy, modern and responsive to both android and iOS devices. It equally has a powerful smart search engine.

Integrity Advisory Committee Meeting

On Thursday 12 September 2019, the 10th Integrity Advisory Committee meeting, chaired by the Director-General of the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) was held at its head office, Eham Court, Port Louis. The Integrity Advisory Committee is a platform where MRA and representatives from the business and trade community and Civil Society meet to discuss on integrity of the services provided by MRA.



The Director of the Internal Affairs Division (IAFD), Mr. S. Narrainen, apprised members of the launching of the 4th Organisational Integrity Perception Survey. The representative from the Objections, Appeals and Dispute Resolutions (OADR) department made a presentation on 'Transparency, Fairness and Independence in handling of Objections & Appeals.

Members present shared on their experiences and made valuable suggestions for promoting integrity at all level of services provided by the MRA. It was also positively noted by committee members that MRA has improved a lot in terms of integrity and transparency of its people, systems and procedures.

St Matthews Day

The Annual Mass for Saint Matthew's Day was celebrated on Friday 20 September 2019 at the Cathedral St Louis. The theme this year was 'With Saint Matthew, let us be the missionaries and artisans of peace'. The mass was officiated by Father Piat in the presence of the Management Team and staff of the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) and Pandit Mohabeer amongst others.

Mr. Sudhamo Lal, Director-General of the MRA, stated in his address that the job of a tax collector is subject to hardships. This was true at the times of St Matthew and is equally true today.



Traditionally, it was the Customs Department of the MRA which organised the St Matthew's Mass. However, since the inception of the MRA in 2006, the mass is organised by the MRA and now all MRA staff participate as one family.

At the end of the Mass a donation was made to the Brothers of Charity, Surinam.

Free Income Tax Assistance (FITA) 2019

To facilitate individual taxpayers to file their income tax returns, the MRA organises a Free Income Tax Assistance on an annual basis. The FITA 2019 was organised on Saturday 28 & Sunday 29 September 2019 from 08.30 to 16.00 hours in the following 18 locations.

FREE INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE (FITA) Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 September 2019 (08h30 - 16h00)

Region	Centre	Region	Centre	Region	Centre
Port Louis	MRA Head Office	Beau Bassin	Philippe Rivalland RCA	St Pierre	St Pierre RCA
Quatre Bornes	(i) Louis Nellan Govt. School (ii) Baichoo Madhoo Govt. School	Rose Hill	Notre Dame des Victoires RCA	Flacq	R. Gujadhur Govt. School
Curepipe	Imperial College Curepipe	Bambous	Bambous 'A' Govt. School	Q. Militaire	R. Edward Walter Govt. School
Phoenix	Mesnil Govt. School	Triplet	Maheshwarnath Govt. School	Mahebourg	Willoughby Govt. School
Vacoas	Aryan Vedic Hindu Aided School	Goodlands	D.Hurry Govt. School	Savanne	Riviere des Anguilles Govt. School
		Riv Du Rempart	Bheewa Mahadoo Government School	Rose-Belle	Seegoolam Torul Govt. School



Around 200 officers were mobilised during the last week-end of September and were posted in the different locations.



A total of 11599 taxpayers visited the FITA centres and were assisted by MRA officers.

Renegotiation of DTAA between Mauritius and Kenya

A delegation from Mauritius, headed by Mr. Mario Hannelas, Director, Large Taxpayers Dept. at the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA), went to Nairobi, Kenya to renegotiate the DTAA between Mauritius and Kenya



The negotiations were held from 10 to 13 September 2019 at the Ministry of Finance, Nairobi, Kenya and at the close of negotiations, consensus was reached on all the amendments proposed to the DTAA.

Changes in Finance Act explained

On 04 September 2019, a full day educational session was organised, by the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) in collaboration with the Mauritius Export Association (MEXA) at the Gold Crest Hotel, Quatre Bornes.



Members of MEXA attended the session. MRA resource persons, Mr. M. Oozeer, Section Head, Operational Services Dept. and Mr. J. Nundoo, Team Leader, Customs Dept. covered changes brought by the Finance Act 2019 in income tax, VAT and Customs legislations.

FMSC Competition

Sixteen MRA staff participated in the FMSC Badminton Tournament held on Saturday 14 & Sunday 15 September 2019 at the Centre Nationale de Badminton, Rose-Hill.

The overall performance of MRA was excellent in this event. Several Medals & Trophies have been won by the MRA Team as follows:

Category	Name	Rank	Awards
Veteran I Women Single	Mrs Pamela Gladys Mootien	1 st Place	Gold Medal + Trophy
Veteran II MenSingle	Mr Ramanand Sookdeb	2 nd Place	Silver Medal + Trophy
Ladies Double	Mrs Pamela Gladys Mootien	2 nd Place	Silver Medals + Trophies
	Miss Kareemah Pathel		
Veteran II Men Single	Mr Jaychand Ramneorah	3 rd Place	Bronze Medal + Trophy
Veteran I Men Double	Mr Vijay Moothien	3 rd Place	Bronze Medals + Trophies
	Mr Devanand Bundhun		
Mixed Double	Mrs Pamela Gladys Mootien	3 rd Place	Bronze Medals + Trophies
	Mr Khesaven Pachee		



Table Tennis Tournament

Six MRA staff participated in the FMSC Table Tennis Competition, held on Sunday 22 September 2019 at the Centre Nationale de Table Tennis, Beau Bassin. Mrs Pamela Gladys Mootien won one Gold Medal. Overall, the MRA was classified at the third place in this competition and won a Bronze Medal & one Trophy.