

SEIZURE OF SYNTHETIC DRUGS WORTH RS. 38 MILLION



On Sunday 25 and Monday 26 February, 2018, the Customs Anti-Narcotics Section (CANS) of the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) and the Anti-Drug and Smuggling Unit (ADSU) seized a total of 2.55 kg of a yellowish powder suspected to be synthetic drugs in two consignments at the premises of a courier service at SSR Airport. The market value of the suspected drug is Rs. 38 million. In each consignment, the suspected drugs were concealed in a plastic container of Protein Supplement. The first consignment arrived on board British Airways Flight BA 2063 and the second parcel was shipped on board the Air Mauritius Flight MK 045. Both consignments bore the name of an employee of a local bank operating at Ebène.

The risk indicators which cued the CANS and ADSU Officers to examine the parcel were that the two consignments were addressed to the same consignee and that the scanning images were suspicious. The parcels were therefore opened and a plastic container bearing a lid and an aluminium cover was found inside each. A yellowish powder weighing 1.3 kg was found inside the plastic container of the first parcel and the second parcel contained 1.25 kg of a similar powder. The Customs narcotics sniffer dog 'Milan' was deployed and it reacted positively to both consignments. A synthetic cannabinoid field test was also done and the result was conclusive. It also appears that either some additives were added to discourage examination/ sniffing by sniffer dogs or the yellowish powder is of very high purity. The suspected drugs were transferred to ADSU for further inquiry and an employee of a courier services currently posted at Ebène was arrested.

One of the goals of the MRA is to reinforce the Mauritian borders and, to that end, the MRA Customs Department made four major seizures of synthetic drugs amounting to Rs. 43 million since November 2017.

Members of the public are reminded that they may report suspected drug cases/ illicit activities to the MRA through the MRA Stop Drug Platform (www.mra.mu) or by calling on the Hotline 8958.