

MRA HOSTS WORKSHOP ON FIGHT AGAINST MONEY LAUNDERING



The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA), in collaboration with the French Customs, hosted a workshop entitled **“the Fight against Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism”**, at the Regional Training Centre, Custom House, Mer Rouge from Monday 24 to Friday 28 June 2019.

Participants from enforcement agencies namely the Bank of Mauritius, the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC), the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), the Mauritius Police Force, the Financial Intelligence Unit, the Financial Services Commission and the Ministry of Financial Services and Good Governance along with officers from the MRA availed themselves of the technical expertise of the resource persons from the French Customs. The experts were Mr. Erwan Chauveau and Mr. Thomas Fevre from France, and Mr. Thierry Atchamah- Souramah from Reunion Island.

The objective of this workshop was to enhance knowledge and skills on money laundering investigations and the financing of terrorism. It included the techniques of gathering information and evidence for prosecution.

His Excellency, M.r Emmanuel Cohet, French Ambassador to Mauritius graced the launching ceremony of the workshop on Monday 24 June 2019, by his presence. He underlined the importance of regional cooperation in different fields through the exchange of ideas and information regarding the tracking of drug dealers and the setting up of joint interaction groups. H.E, Mr. Cohet, also explained how Mauritius is a key partner to the European Union. He equally highlighted the close collaboration between the Customs Anti-Narcotics Section (CANS) of the MRA and the customs administrations in Reunion Island and Madagascar in the fight against drug trafficking.

For his part, Mr. Sudhamo Lal, the Director General of the MRA, laid emphasis on the harm money laundering is causing to the integrity and stability of the financial sector and thus discouraging foreign investments. This seriously impacts on the economic and social development of a country, Mr. Lal affirmed. He also underlined the importance of the cooperation and assistance among law enforcement agencies, financial institutions and financial regulatory bodies in fighting against money laundering and the financing of terrorism.

This was the second workshop on Money Laundering in Mauritius and this time, it focused particularly on the investigation and the means to implement effective repression. According to Mr. Thierry Atchamah- Souramah, Head of the Regional Customs Directorate of Reunion Island, there can be no real security and no effective fight against the multiple threats without repressing those who conceal, transform or transfer illegal products. He underlined the importance of teamwork at both national and international levels since Customs alone cannot combat money laundering. He expressed his gratitude for the trust that the MRA have in regional cooperation for the implementation of major changes in the Customs administration and added that this seminar was a joint collaborative endeavour of the Director-General of the International Relations of the French Customs, the Regional Customs and the Prefecture of the Reunion Island, and of course, the MRA.