

SEMINAR ON RISK-BASED COMPLIANCE PLANNING FOR CUSTOMS***Mauritius strengthens regional cooperation and institutional capacity in customs administration***

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA), in collaboration with the International Monetary Fund's AFRITAC South (IMF AFS), is hosting a **seminar on Developing a Risk-Based Compliance Plan for Customs** from **2 to 6 February 2026** at the **Integrated Customs Clearance Centre (ICCC)**, Le Chaland Road, Plaine Magnien.



The seminar brings together customs officers from developing and emerging economies and aims to strengthen institutional capacity through the adoption of an **Integrated Risk Management (IRM)** approach. The programme focuses on reinforcing customs controls, encouraging voluntary compliance, and enhancing trade facilitation in an increasingly complex global trade environment.

Government reaffirms commitment to capacity building and effective customs administration

At the launching ceremony of the seminar, **Hon. Dhaneshwar Damry**, Junior Minister, Ministry of Finance, delivered the keynote address as **Chief Guest**, underscoring the Government's vision of **2026 as "the year of the economy"**, with **job creation and capacity building** identified as central pillars for sustainable and inclusive growth. In this context, he reaffirmed the Government's strong commitment to strengthening customs administration and enhancing risk management practices in Mauritius.



HON. DHANESHWAR DAMRY, JUNIOR MINISTER, MINISTRY OF FINANCE

The Minister emphasized that **“capacity building remains fundamental to driving inclusive economic development, both nationally and across the African continent.”** He commended the Mauritius Revenue Authority for its sustained efforts in institutional strengthening and expressed appreciation to the International Monetary Fund for its continued trust and support.



Hon. Damry further highlighted Mauritius’ active engagement with international institutions to share expertise and implement capacity-building initiatives that empower people and institutions across the continent. He noted that **Mauritius is increasingly strengthening its global capacity and international standing, positioning itself as a hub for knowledge-sharing and institutional development.**

He also drew attention to the Government’s strategic approach to resource allocation and development programmes to ensure the effective implementation of capacity-building initiatives. While reiterating that **fiscal consolidation remains a priority**, he stressed that the Government is simultaneously pursuing **transformational projects** aimed at reshaping the country’s economic and social landscape.

On regulatory and compliance matters, the Minister reaffirmed the importance of a **robust risk-based approach** and reiterated the Government’s firm commitment to enhancing effectiveness in line with the **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** review process. He made it clear that Mauritius will make **no compromise** in upholding international standards of **transparency, governance, and financial integrity**. He concluded by reaffirming the Government’s determination to pursue inclusive growth, strengthen institutions, and build resilient economic foundations that benefit all segments of society.

Risk-based compliance as a cornerstone of modern customs administration

Speaking at the event, **Mr. Rohit Ramnawaz**, Director-General of the Mauritius Revenue Authority, highlighted the critical role of **risk-based compliance planning** in improving operational efficiency and optimizing the use of enforcement resources.

He noted that in **2025**, a total of **356,645 customs declarations** were validated in Mauritius, of which **46,461** were subjected to scanning or physical examination. During the same period, Mauritius welcomed **1.4 million tourists**, each representing a potential risk profile requiring informed and proportionate intervention.



MR. ROHIT RAMNAWAZ, DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE MRA

“Through effective risk profiling and risk management techniques, officers are able to focus efforts where they matter most,” the Director-General stated. He further underlined that in **2025**, more than **one tonne of dangerous drugs**, with an estimated **street value exceeding Rs 8.4 billion**, was intercepted a testament to the effectiveness of targeted, intelligence-driven customs controls.



Strong international support for capacity development

Her Excellency Ms. Kate Chamley, High Commissioner of Australia to the Republic of Mauritius, emphasized that **strengthening domestic revenue mobilization** is essential to enhancing economic resilience. She highlighted the importance of **capacity development and peer learning** in strengthening institutions, including customs administrations, and improving their effectiveness and long-term sustainability.



Her Excellency Ms. Kate Chamley, High Commissioner of Australia to the Republic of Mauritius

For his part, **Mr. Sukhwinder Singh**, Director of the International Monetary Fund's **Africa Training Institute (ATI)** and **AFRITAC South**, highlighted Mauritius' strong and consistent support for IMF training initiatives serving **Sub-Saharan Africa**. He commended Mauritius for its active role in regional capacity development and recognized its efforts in building **practical, risk-based compliance plans for customs**, describing Mauritius as a key partner in promoting effective and sustainable reforms across the region.



The seminar is being facilitated by a panel of experienced resource persons from the International Monetary Fund, namely **Mr. Stephen Mendes** of IMF AFRITAC South, **Mr. Augusto Azael Perez Azcarraga**, and **Mr. Aldo Marco Silvano**.



Mr. Sukhwinder Singh, Director of the International Monetary Fund's Africa Training Institute (ATI) and AFRITAC South