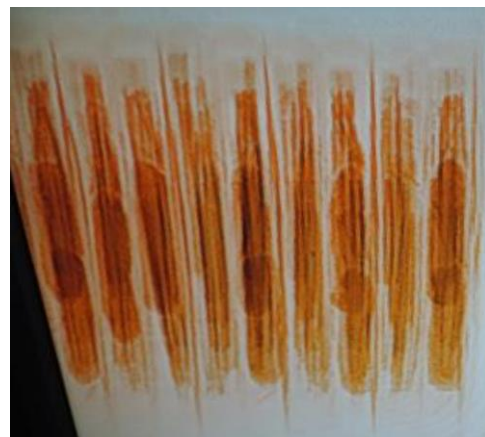




PRESS RELEASE

MRA seizes 525 grams of Heroin

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) Customs Department, in collaboration with ADSU, intercepted 10 plastic parcels containing incense sticks at Courier Services on Wednesday 01st March 2017. Upon scan, the contents of the 10 plastic parcels were found to be suspect and same were opened. Heroin was concealed therein and same were handed over to ADSU for inquiry. The consignment containing the 10 plastic parcels arrived by South African Airways Flight 190 from Johannesburg, South Africa. The gross weight of the suspected drugs is 525 gms. The parcel was profiled by Customs Officers of the Customs Anti-Narcotics Section (CANS) on the basis of confession made by Belgian national Seville Michael, who arrived in Mauritius on Tuesday 21st February 2017. He revealed that he had swallowed 23 pellets of drugs but he vomited 22 in South Africa and that he still has one in his body. Same was purged at the Rose Belle Hospital and the remaining 22 pellets would be sent by courier to Mauritius. The K9 Unit dog, Cassidy, was called to confirm the suspected drug and the result was positive. The estimated market value of the suspected drug is Rs 7.8 million.



The incense sticks intercepted and the scanned image.

The MRA reminds members of the public that they can provide information related to drugs through the MRA's website (Stop Drug Platform) or by calling on the Hotline 8958.