

At MRA the Future is today!

Initiating Students to Taxation

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) organized an educational tour at the Integrated Customs Clearance Centre (ICCC) on Friday, 1st of March 2024. Some 200 students from different colleges, namely Loreto Convent and Hamilton College, in Mahebourg, Sookdeo Bissoondoyal SSS in Rose Belle and France Boyer de La Giroday SSS in Plaine Magnien interacted with the MRA team. They enjoyed enlightening presentations and educational videos on diverse tax subjects, and explored real-life case studies on taxation.



With an objective to instilling a tax culture based on voluntary compliance, MRA has since its inception set up a dedicated department, the Taxpayer Education and Communication Department (TECD) within its organisational structure. MRA's mandate is to enhance tax adherence through educational initiatives. Its educational approach is diverse, encompassing sessions for major taxpayers, SMEs, the general public, and high school students, potential taxpayers of tomorrow.

The ultimate objective of MRA's education strategy is to gradually shift attitudes from viewing tax payment as an obligation to seeing it as a voluntary contribution in nation building,

Over 10,000 students sensitised on taxation

For the past 5 years, MRA has conducted some two hundred sessions in secondary institutions, reaching more than 10,000 students. MRA is confident that this initiative will further reinforce the moral duty to voluntarily pay taxes, leading to a positive shift towards a greater willingness to fulfil tax obligations in the long term.

Taxes are the lifeblood of our society

During his keynote address at the event, Mr. Sudhamo Lal, Director-General of MRA, emphasized that voluntary compliance is essential for a successful tax system. This entails taxpayer's meeting their tax responsibilities without the necessity of enforcement actions, thus fostering trust and mutual respect between taxpayers and the tax authority.

Voluntary compliance cultivates a culture of transparency and integrity

Voluntary compliance conveys a strong message that each individual is responsible for their actions and is committed to upholding principles of fairness and honesty. By willingly disclosing their income and paying the correct amount of tax, taxpayers save themselves from potential penalties and audits, while also enabling the Government to allocate resources more efficiently towards public services, Mr. Lal underlined in his keynote address to the students.



For the Director-General, *"taxes go beyond being a mandatory financial responsibility enforced by the government; they serve as the vital foundation of our society. They provide the necessary funding for crucial public services like education, healthcare, infrastructure, and social welfare initiatives."*

Breakthrough innovation as a mantra for success

Breakthrough innovation is a mantra at MRA, positioning the Organisation to be ahead of time, by constantly seeking new ways of administrating taxation. During his speech, Mr. Amick Teeluckdharry, Assistant Director, at TECD, emphasized the need for organizations to embrace a culture of creativity and innovation in



view of staying ahead of the curve. By embracing innovation, MRA has been able to adapt to changing environments, and ultimately achieve greater efficiency and effectiveness in revenue collection.



Dr. Rakesh Thecka, Team Leader at TECD, made a presentation on the role of MRA in the Mauritian economic landscape, highlighting the myriads of taxation administered by the organisation. He stressed the importance of the different types of taxes and the revenue that they generate. On another score, Dr. Thecka dwelt on practical examples and discussed the implications of taxation on individuals and businesses. The students gained a deeper understanding taxation, and its important role in the implementation of socio-economic projects.



Feedback was gathered from the students on the education tour, bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and the practical application of taxation in our daily lives.

“I never realized how taxation impacts our daily lives until this educational tour. It was eye-opening to see how taxes are utilized to fund essential services and contribute to the functioning of society as a whole”, highlighted Seedam Keona, one of the students’ representatives.

At the end of the interactive session, the students were taken to a guided tour of the newly constructed state-of-the-art ICCC building. They also had the exciting opportunity to witness the incredible skills of sniffer dogs during the visit. They were able to observe and interact with the dogs in action, showcasing their remarkable abilities to detect hidden items. This unique experience not only entertained the students but also educated them on the important role that sniffer dogs play in various fields such as law enforcement, search, and border security.

The educational tour followed the highly successful one which was held in 09 May 2023, with students from Loreto Convent, Rose-Hill.

MRA plans to organize many more educational tours in the days to come. For instance, two sessions at Mon Plaisir Cultural Centre in Rodrigues will take place on 02 April 2024. These sessions will offer participants a unique opportunity to engage with MRA team.