

## MRA Strengthens Its Team:

### 68 Trainee Customs Officers Appointed Customs Officers I

*Plaine Magnien, October 10, 2023* - The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) has bolstered its team of Customs Officers with the appointment of 68 Trainee Customs Officers as Customs Officer I. The Passing out Ceremony took place on Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at the Integrated Customs Clearance Centre (ICCC) in Plaine Magnien. Distinguished guests, including the Honourable Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, Mr. Nayen Koomar Ballah, GOSK (Chairperson of the MRA Board), and Mr. Sudhamo Lal (Director-General of MRA), graced the event alongside members of the MRA Board, Management Team, and the trainees' parents.



In his keynote address, Prime Minister Hon. Pravind Kumar Jugnauth reaffirmed the government's unwavering commitment to combat drug trafficking and commended the significant efforts made by MRA, resulting in the seizure of drugs worth MUR 6 Billion since 2015.

He emphasized the crucial role of Customs, Police, and other authorities in preventing the entry of illicit drugs and narcotics into Mauritius and pledged government support in terms of tools, equipment, and resources.

## Relentless fight against drug trafficking

The Prime Minister unveiled several projects aimed at strengthening the fight against drug trafficking, including the use of drones for surveillance, mobile scan vans for cargo and passenger luggage screening, a Port Surveillance Command Centre, and the implementation of a whole-body scanner for enhanced detection. *“Investment in sophisticated resources shows our commitment to equip the MRA with right enforcement tools to prevent the entry of illicit drugs and narcotics into the country”*, said the Prime Minister.



### [Hon. Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, Prime Minister of Republic of Mauritius](#)

He underlined the importance of investing in advanced resources and human capital, with a total of 169 new customs officers recruited over the past three years. He also expressed his confidence in the newly appointed Customs Officers and urged them to work with integrity and professionalism to uphold the integrity of the trade supply chain and streamline transparent procedures.



The Prime Minister highlighted that the MRA has disbursed payments under various Direct Support Schemes. For FY 2022-2023, more than MUR 5 Billion was paid to 581,589 beneficiaries under schemes namely CSG Income Allowance, Prime à l'Emploi, Negative Income Tax Allowance, Special Allowance, Subsidy for bakeries, and Salary Compensation to Export-Oriented Enterprises, SMEs and Bus Operators, he added.

## Customs Officers play a vital role in protecting national security

Speaking during the Passing out Ceremony, Mr. Sudhamo Lal, Director-General of the MRA, stressed the vital role of Customs Officers in various areas, including trade facilitation, drug trafficking prevention, anti-smuggling efforts, intellectual property protection, border security, and safeguarding consumer interests.

He acknowledged the challenges posed by technological advancements, increased trade volume, complex supply chains, counterfeit goods, data management, and environmental regulations and emphasized the importance of continuous training to address these challenges effectively.

Mr. Lal highlighted the significance of gender diversity in the workplace, noting that 37 out of the 68 trainees are female. *“When MRA started in 2006, there were only 11% of female staff in Customs. Today we are at 30%. This significant achievement is highly commendable”*. He emphasized the invaluable contributions of women in customs operations and called for upholding core values, including honesty, integrity, fairness, commitment, and loyalty.



[Mr. Sudhamo Lal, the Director-General of MRA](#)

## MRA's commitment to retaining top talent

Mr. D. Magen Maunikum, Director of the Human Resources & Training Department at MRA, acknowledged the government's support in funding and expertise-sharing. He emphasized MRA's commitment to retaining top talent and highlighted the rigorous selection process and comprehensive one-year training program that equipped the trainees with the necessary skills and knowledge, covering customs procedures, laws, physical training, risk management, and enforcement techniques.



**[Mr. D. Magen Maunikum, Director HRTD](#)**

## Testimonial by representative of the newly appointed Customs Officers

Ms. Namratta Devi Sahadew, representative of the newly appointed Customs Officers, expressed gratitude for MRA's support and guidance throughout their journey, acknowledging the organization's role in nurturing their growth and providing essential training.



**[Ms. Namratta Devi Sahadew, representative of Newly Appointed Customs Officers](#)**



## Unity in Passing Out Parade



During the passing out ceremony, MRA Customs Officers showcased their discipline, professionalism, and unity through a parade. Led by a commanding officer, the Customs Officers walked synchronously, displaying their impeccable drill and precise movements. Their crisp uniforms, polished boots,

and smart appearance added to the overall splendor of the parade. No doubt, the parade served as a visual representation of the Customs Officers' commitment to upholding the values of their profession and serving their country with honor.



## The Customs Officers received their Letters Of Appointment

During the ceremony, an award of Certificate of Merit and Remittance of Customs Straps was presented to the Best Trainee Customs Officers: Ms. Ramjutton Treeloshini, Ms. Namratta Devi Sahadew, Ms. Shaik Mohedeen Bibi Newsheen, Mr. Boodhun Muhammad Yasin, Mr. Kamur Appadu Ravish, and Mr. Tranquille Mario Daniel Denis.

The issuance of Letters of Appointment to the Trainee Customs Officers, on the eve of the passing out ceremony, marked a significant milestone in their careers, signifying their transition from trainees to full-fledged members of the customs department. Additionally, the newly appointed Customs Officers I took an oath of confidentiality and commitment.



Mr. Sudhamo Lal, Director-General of the MRA, Mr. Vivekanand Ramburun, Director of Customs, and Mr. D. Magen Maunikum, Director of the Human Resources and Training Department, graced the ceremony.

In his inspiring keynote address, Mr. Lal emphasized the importance of working with passion and dedication, highlighting that passion-driven employees are more likely to excel and innovate.

Mrs. Vashuda Degnarain, Team Leader at the HR and Training Department, recognized and appreciated the hard work and dedication of the trainee customs officers throughout their training period. She commended their commitment and the leadership of the Director of Customs and Director-General, Mr. Sudhamo Lal.

As these customs officers embark on their roles, they bear the critical responsibility of safeguarding borders, facilitating trade, and enforcing regulations. Their commitment, professionalism, and integrity will play a pivotal role in ensuring the security and economic well-being of the nation.

