

MRA Seizes Rs 31 Million of Drugs at the Seaport



Officers of the Customs Anti-Narcotics Section (CANS) of the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) seized 39kg of cannabis, including 2kg of cannabis resin and 1kg of cannabis paste, the whole worth around Rs. 31 Million. The seizure took place at the seaport in Port Louis this morning.

The drugs, concealed in seven packages, reached Port Louis on vessel LSS Success, departing from Port of East London, South Africa. The vessel was transporting 626 units of live cattle. The crew members of the vessel were of Indian and Tanzanian nationality. Four of them have been arrested.

The vessel was targeted by MRA officers, based on intelligence. It left Port East London, South Africa on 31 May 2020 for Mauritius. On reaching Mauritian territorial waters, it was escorted by a team of the National Coast Guard, based at the Harbour, and the MRA Customs Anti-Narcotics Officers, until it berthed at Quay D wharf in Port Louis.

MRA Customs Anti-Narcotics Officers, assisted by Customs K9 Dogs 'Nacré' and 'Cesar' rummaged the ship and secured seven (7) packages containing the drugs from the cabin of a supernumerary, a person who is not part of the crew but who is employed as a superintendent to supervise operations and security of the cargo.

Four of the crew members have been arrested by ADSU Harbour for enquiry.

The cargo has been allowed to disembark and the vessel has been put on hold by the MRA pending enquiry by ADSU.