

MRA Integrity Advisory Committee:

Stakeholders commend the work of MRA

The 17th Integrity Advisory Committee (IAC) of the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) met on Wednesday, 6th of March 2024 under the Chairmanship of Mr. Sudhamo Lal. The external stakeholders forming part of the committee are: Dr. Drishtysingh Ramdenee, Secretary General, Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), Mr. Mohammad Sallah-Ud-Din Surfraz (Den), the Chairperson, Mauritius Institute of Professional Accountants (MIPA), Mr. Raffeeek Sufurhally, President, Mauritius Taxpayers Association (MTPA), Mr. Ameene. Kodabux, MSK, Treasurer of Mauritius Council of Social Service (MACOSS), and Mrs. Nishta Surajbali, Economist, Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI). They all commended MRA for the strategies put in place to promote efficient tax administration fostering a business-friendly environment based on integrity.

The Integrity Advisory Committee: A bridge

In its quest to become a world-class revenue authority, MRA has continuously adopted the best international integrity practices. It remains committed to delivering high-quality services, embracing innovation, and values, such as responsiveness, accountability, and transparency, and sustaining high standards of professionalism.



The Chairperson, Mr. Lal emphasized that the Integrity Advisory Committee consolidates MRA's commitment to maintaining the highest ethical standards in all its operations. *"At the MRA, we believe that integrity is the foundation of trust and credibility in our organization. It serves as a valuable resource in promoting ethical behavior, preventing misconduct, and ensuring that integrity remains at the forefront of our operations,"* Mr. Lal said. By proactively promoting a culture of integrity, MRA aims to further enhance trust among stakeholders and the public.

Mr. Lal underlined that since its inception, MRA has valued the importance of promoting a culture of integrity among both its internal and external stakeholders. Two dedicated divisions, the Internal Audit Division and the Internal Affairs Division, have been set up under the MRA Act to ensure that integrity becomes a common denominator in all operations. The Internal Affairs Division is mandated to deal with alleged malpractices against employees. The Internal Audit Division oversees processes by systematically evaluating them and providing an independent and objective assurance to Management. These two divisions report directly to the Board of the MRA.

Declaration of Assets

MRA has implemented a Declaration of Assets policy, as a control measure to ensure that accretion of its staff's wealth is not attributable to any illicit enrichment. Employees are required to submit asset declarations every three years with a view to upholding transparency, accountability, and integrity within the organization.

International collaboration



For Mr. Rajeev Gobin, Officer-in-Charge, Internal Affairs Division, the Integrity Advisory Committee guarantees MRA's ongoing ethical conduct. He highlighted the mentorship given by MRA in the provision of guidance and recommendations to countries in the African, South American, and Asian regions under the World Customs Organisation (WCO) Anti-Corruption and Integrity Promotion (A-CIP) Programme. Four Integrity Experts at MRA, recognised by the World Customs Organisation,

namely Mr. Rajeev Gobin, Mrs. Najah Maghooa, Mr. Ahmed Bachun, and Mr. Didier Chateau, teamed up with other entities, both local and international, to share their knowledge and expertise in integrity management with countries in those regions.



[Statement by Mr. Rajeev Gobin](#)

The collaboration between the WCO and the MRA helps to build trust among trading partners and enhance compliance with customs regulations. Ultimately, such collaboration benefits both customs administrations and the broader international trade community by promoting a secure and efficient trading environment. In his presentation, Mr. Gobin also apprised the attendees that Mauritius has been elected to chair the Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) Virtual Working Group (VWG) leadership programme for the development of a Regional Code of Conduct on Integrity.

5th Organisational Integrity Perception Survey

In its relentless pursuit of excellence, MRA has embarked on its 5th Organisational Integrity Perception Survey. This pivotal survey is designed to solicit valuable feedback from a wide array of stakeholders, and the public in general, serving as a robust measure to evaluate the degree of integrity prevailing within MRA. The results pinpoint specific areas where enhancements are recommended, especially in the wake of MRA's revamped roles.

To ensure an impartial and in-depth assessment, MRA retained the services of Economic and Management (E&M) Consultants Ltd, an independent research firm. This comprehensive survey started on the 06th of February 2024 and participation is entirely voluntary. The information collected in each survey helps MRA to further improve the organisation's integrity framework and the quality of its operations.

Mentoring programme: A Leap towards Excellence

Mr. Dhoojanaden Maunikum, the Director of Human Resources and Training (HRTD) at MRA, delivered a compelling address on the significance of fostering an integrity culture within the organization. MRA, he said, upholds the highest standards of integrity and accountability in its recruitment process. For example, as part of its rigorous selection criteria, all staff members at MRA undergo a comprehensive examination, interview, and integrity check before being recruited.



[Statement by Mr. Dhoojanaden Maunikum](#)

In his presentation, Mr. Maunikum underscored the critical role that integrity plays in the operations at MRA. MRA's mentoring programme, launched in 2023, provides staff with guidance and support from experienced senior officers. *"Through mentorship, we not only empower individuals to reach their full potential but also create a supportive network that propels the MRA towards greater achievements. Our mentors and mentees are the architects of our future success."*

External stakeholders applaud MRA for transparency and efficiency

Dr. Drishtysingh Ramdenee, Secretary General of the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), commended MRA for its proactive approach in promoting integrity and transparency through the Integrity Advisory Committee.



[Statement by Dr. Drishtysingh Ramdenee](#)



Dr. Ramdenee highlighted the importance of the Integrity Advisory Committee as a platform for fostering transparency, enhancing efficiency, and improving accountability in MRA's operations. Furthermore, he lauded MRA for acknowledging the significance of investing in human capital growth by instituting a Mentoring Program. The Secretary General of MCCI highlighted the positive impact of mentorship in improving employee abilities, expertise, and prospects for career development, with a holistic approach.



Mr. Raffeeq Sufurhally, President of the Mauritius Taxpayers Association (MTPA), highlighted MRA's unwavering commitment to integrity and transparency in tax administration. He praised MRA for its efforts in upholding high ethical standards and promoting accountability in tax collection processes. The President of MTPA emphasized that promoting good governance and integrity is essential for building a culture of transparency and accountability in public administration. He stressed the importance of upholding ethical values and principles in decision-making processes to maintain public trust and credibility.

MRA values the support and recognition from its stakeholders in promoting integrity.