

BORDER PROTECTION

RS. 13.5 MILLION OF HEROIN PURGED



The odd demeanour of a Sierra Leonean in the Green Channel of the SSR Airport, on Thursday 11 April, 2019, led officers of the Customs Anti-Narcotics Section (CANS) of the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) to question him on the purpose of his visit to Mauritius. The 34 year-old male passenger declared that he was a journalist employed by a media company in Sierra Leone and that he came to Mauritius to give coverage to the visit of Mr. U. Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya. His luggage was scanned and examined and nothing incriminating was found therein. To the questions of the CANS officers, the Sierra Leonean said he could not recall the name of the President of Kenya and he was inconsistent in his replies. His travel documents also revealed that he travelled to Ethiopia and Guinea Conakry before boarding the EK flight from Dubai to Mauritius.

Based on the above risk indicators, it was suspected that the passenger had swallowed drugs and he was referred to the Anti-Drug and Smuggling Unit (ADSU) for a medical check. At the hospital, the Sierra Leonean purged 50 pellets suspected to be heroin, worth around Rs. 13.5 million. A lady, in her seventies, who had come to meet the passenger at the airport was also arrested.

Members of the public may report suspected drug/ illicit activities to the MRA through the Stop Drug platform or by calling on 8958.