

## BORDER PROTECTION

# 2.36 KG OF HEROIN WORTH RS. 35.4 MILLION SEIZED AT SSR INT. AIRPORT



On Sunday 14 April, 2019, two South Africans, deplaning from South African Airways flight SA 190, were stopped and searched and a total of 2.36 kgs of a brownish powder, which is estimated at Rs. 35.4 million, was secured from the backpacks of both male passengers. The powder is suspected to be heroin.

The 29 year old driver and the 24 year old boiler maker pretended not to know each other while leaving through the Green Channel of the Airport. Upon verifying the travel documents of both South Africans, officers of the Customs Anti-Narcotics Section (CANS) of the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) found that the travel tickets were purchased on the same date from the same agency. The luggage of the passengers was scanned and the scanning images of their backpacks were suspicious.

After emptying the backpacks during examination, the bags were found to be abnormally heavy. CANS officers cut open both bags and a rectangular parcel, wrapped in sponge and carbon, was found in the linings of each bag. A brownish powder, suspected to be heroin, was secured from the parcels. MRA sniffer dog 'Cesar' reacted positively to the powder and a field test corroborated the findings.

The passengers and their belongings were handed over to the Anti-Drug and Smuggling Unit (ADSU) for further investigation.

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

