

BORDER PROTECTION

SEIZURE OF HEROIN WORTH RS. 60 MILLION



A joint operation by the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) Customs Anti-Narcotics Section (CANS) and the Anti-Drug and Smuggling Unit (ADSU) led to the arrest of a South Korean and a British on Sunday 16 and Monday 17 December 2018 respectively. A total of 4kg of a whitish powder, suspected to be heroin and valued at Rs. 60 million, was secured from both the South Korean and the British, who are aged 55 and 57 respectively.

The South Korean was intercepted on Sunday 16 December 2018 on the basis of risk indicators established by the CANS Intelligence Unit while he was leaving through the Green Channel of the Airport. He departed from China and travelled to Dubai, South Africa and Kenya before landing in Mauritius on Sunday 16 December 2018. Upon verification, a whitish powder was found in two rectangular parcels in the registered luggage of the South Korean. The Customs sniffer dog confirmed the presence of dangerous drugs in the parcels and the powder reacted positively to a field test. The cellular phone of the passenger was secured and the analysis of the messages on the phone was shared with the ADSU. The passenger and the suspected drugs were handed over to the ADSU for further inquiry and controlled delivery.

On the basis of the above intelligence submitted by the CANS, the ADSU arrested the British in a hotel in the north of the island. The latter was intercepted while checking out of the hotel and, upon examination, 2 kg of a whitish powder suspected to be heroin was secured from the luggage of the passenger. The British, who landed on the flight from South Africa on Sunday 16 December 2018, was not checked by any law enforcement officer. Members of the public may report suspected drug cases/ illicit activities to the MRA through the MRA Stop Drug Platform (www.mra.mu) or by calling on the Hotline on 8958.