

INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMS DAY 2026

- MRA launches whole-body x-ray scanner to further strengthen border security**

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) celebrated International Customs Day (ICD) 2026 on Monday, 26 January 2026, at the Regional Training Centre (RTC), Custom House, Mer Rouge, Port-Louis. Celebrated under the theme "*Customs Protecting Society through Vigilance and Commitment*," ICD 2026 highlighted the critical role of Customs in combating illicit trade, fraud, smuggling and other cross-border crimes that threaten public health, safety, the environment and national security. The event was graced by Hon. Dhaneshwar Damry, Junior Minister, Ministry of Finance as Chief Guest, in the presence of Mr. Tej Kumar Gujadhur, Chairperson of MRA, MRA Board members, Mr. Rohit Ramnawaz, Director-General, MRA and various stakeholders.



Hon. Dhaneshwar Damry launched the Whole-Body X-Ray Scanner, marking a significant enhancement to Customs' enforcement and security capabilities.



NEW FULL BODY X-RAY TRANSMISSION SCANNER AT THE CRUISE TERMINAL

In his keynote address, Hon. Damry reminded the audience that the Government had designated 2026 as the Year of the Economy. He emphasized that sustainable progress must be built on integrity, accountability and efficiency, and highlighted the importance of driving inclusive growth for Mauritius. Key goals include fighting illicit funds and drugs, improving health facilities, and strengthening the economy through indicators such as economic growth, tourism earnings and inflation control.



HON. DHANESHWAR DAMRY, JUNIOR MINISTER, MINISTRY OF FINANCE

He highlighted the role of the MRA and Customs in securing borders, facilitating trade, combating illicit finance, and ensuring effective revenue collection. Additionally, Hon. Damry stressed the importance of increasing market movements to improve connectivity with Africa, with the Port playing a vital role in boosting connectivity and doubling traffic over the next ten years to catalyze the country's economic growth.

Mr. Rohit Ramnawaz, Director-General of the MRA, reaffirmed MRA's full alignment with the Government's vision. He pointed out that *"the MRA contributes nearly 90% of national budget revenues, playing a decisive role in financing social programmes, public security, infrastructure projects, and other major socio-economic developments."*



MR. ROHIT RAMNAWAZ, DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE MRA

Beyond revenue mobilization, Mr. Ramnawaz emphasized the strategic role of Customs in supporting economic growth. Through the implementation of trade policies, facilitation of the legitimate movement of goods and people, and the securing of the trade supply chain, Customs directly contributes to Mauritius' competitiveness and attractiveness as a regional trade and investment hub. He further highlighted MRA's strong focus on service quality, transparency and trade facilitation, while upholding the highest standards of integrity and ethics. *"Significant improvements have been achieved in cargo clearance efficiency, with average clearance times of 19 minutes for green-channel sea cargo and 8.3 hours for red-channel declarations, reflecting robust risk management and facilitation measures."*

Mr. Ramnawaz affirmed that the MRA remains committed to its fight against drug trafficking, collaborating with other government agencies when necessary. He pointed out that between January and December 2025, Customs recorded 120 drug seizures, with an estimated street value of Rs 8.3 billion. This includes a historic seizure of 433.1 kg of cocaine, valued at approximately Rs 6.5 billion, which resulted from a joint operation with the National Coast Guard and the Anti-Drug and Smuggling Unit. This success highlights the effectiveness of intelligence-driven enforcement and inter-agency collaboration.



MR. RAJENDRA GUPTA RAMNARAIN, ACTING DIRECTOR OF CUSTOMS

For his part, Mr. Rajendra Gupta Ramnarain, Acting Director of Customs, reaffirmed MRA Customs' steadfast commitment to protecting society by combating illicit drug trafficking. *"Over the past year, the Customs Anti-Narcotics Section (CANS), in close coordination with the Anti-Drug and Smuggling Unit and other enforcement agencies, intercepted more than one ton of dangerous drugs. These efforts have successfully disrupted criminal networks and prevented immeasurable harm to our communities,"* he said. This achievement, he added, reflects MRA's ongoing vigilance and collaborative approach in safeguarding the nation against drug-related threats.



INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMS DAY 2026 CELEBRATION AT MRA

During the ICD 2026 celebrations, the WCO awarded 14 certificates of merit to 12 MRA officers and representatives of 2 external stakeholders.

LIST OF AWARDEES FOR 2026 WCO CERTIFICATION OF MERIT

EXTERNAL

- **MR. MOONESAWMY SADASIVEN, CHIEF INSPECTOR, ANTI DRUG AND SMUGGLING UNIT (ADSU)**
- **MR. RUHOMAUN KEVIN, DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARKS AND CONSERVATION SERVICE**

INTERNAL

1. **MR. OOZEER MAHMAD NOOR, DIRECTOR, OPERATIONAL SERVICES DEPT**
2. **MR. RAMKISSOON GEERJANAND PANDAY, DIRECTOR, OBJECTIONS, APPEALS AND DISPUTE RESOLUTIONS DEPT**
3. **MR. TEELUCKDHARRY AMICK, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, TAXPAYER EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS DEPT**
4. **MR. RAMMAYA SAM, TEAM LEADER, DEFERRAL REGIMES**
5. **MR. CONHYE RAKESH, TECHNICAL OFFICER, SURVEILLANCE AND ENFORCEMENT**
6. **MR. DOMA CHOORAMUN, TECHNICAL OFFICER, AIRPORT CARGO OPERATIONS**
7. **MR. MOONESAWMY TAMODREN, TECHNICAL OFFICER, SEAPORT OPERATIONS**
8. **MR. RAMACHUNDREN VIMEN, TECHNICAL OFFICER, EXCISE**
9. **MR. SALABEE DHIRAZ, TECHNICAL OFFICER, SSRIA PASSENGER TERMINAL OPERATIONS**
10. **MR. HALKHOREE HEMRAZ, CUSTOMS OFFICER II, SEAPORT OPERATIONS**
11. **MR. MUNGUR NIRMAL, CUSTOMS OFFICER II, CUSTOMS ANTI-NARCOTICS**
12. **MS. JUGGOO HEMNA, CUSTOMS OFFICER I, CUSTOMS ANTI-NARCOTICS**