

MRA TAX CLUB CONTEST 2025

Belle Rose SSS Crowned Champion

In a display of eloquence and intellect, Belle Rose SSS emerged as the winner of the Grand Final of the Mauritius Revenue Authority's (MRA) Tax Club Elocution/Debate Contest 2025, securing the title of Best School. The final, held on 25 September 2025 at the Integrated Customs Clearance Centre (ICCC) in Plaine-Magnien, brought together the top two teams, Belle Rose SSS represented by Ms. Yoshita Yojna Serwan and Ms. Nianjinee Vernousha Shunmoogum and John Kennedy State College represented by Mr. Pariksit Mudhoo and Ms. Thaiyal Appavoo, in a spirited contest of ideas.

The Grand Final comprised into four engaging segments. It began with a five-minute elocution by each candidate on the theme *"Fighting Poverty Together: How MRA Can Make a Difference in Mauritius."* This was followed by a ten-minute debate, where teams had five minutes each to argue on the motion, *"This House believes that MRA has a key role to play in eradicating poverty in Mauritius."* The third segment featured a lively tit-for-tat exchange, with rebuttals and counter-rebuttals delivered in successive slots of two minutes, two minutes and one minute, testing both clarity of thought and spontaneity. The contest concluded with a rapid-fire round of ten questions per team, designed to assess participants' knowledge of the MRA, taxation and fiscal citizenship.

Awards and Distinctions:

- Best School: Belle Rose SSS
- Most Promising School: John Kennedy State College
- Best Speaker: Ms. Yoshita Yojna Serwan (Belle Rose SSS)
- Most Promising Speaker: Ms. Thaiyal Appavoo (John Kennedy State College)
- Runners-Up: Mr. Pariksit Mudhoo (John Kennedy State College) & Ms. Nianjinee Vernousha Shunmoogum (Belle Rose SSS)
- Semi-final Runners-Up: Ms. Mitisha Devi Ayushi Seegoolam and Ms. Tejaswini Nawruttun (Droopnath Ramphul State College) and Ms. Jaanvee Kawol and Ms. Yuvena Soobramanayan (Royal College Curepipe)

Prize money awarded included Rs 25,000 for Best Speaker, Rs 20,000 for Most Promising Speaker, Rs 10,000 each for the two finalists, and Rs 5,000 each for the runners-up.

The event was honoured by the presence of Honourable Dhaneshwar Damry, Junior Minister, Ministry of Finance, who graced the event as Chief Guest. In his keynote address, Minister Damry stressed that competitions like the Tax Club Debate are not only about winning, but about preparing for the future, sharpening reasoning and building leadership potential. Paying tribute to Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam on his 125th birth anniversary, the Minister underlined the Father of the Nation's commitment to education and highlighted that the Tax Club Debate was a fitting homage to his legacy. "The grass is not always greener elsewhere, it becomes greener where you nurture and cultivate it. This is what Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam did, this is what today's leadership is doing and this is what your generation must continue," he said.

- **Video link of Keynote Address by Hon. Dhaneshwar Damry, Junior Minister of Finance:**
Click [here](#)

Mr. Rohit Ramnawaz, Director-General of the MRA, underlined the importance of trust and voluntary compliance: "At the Mauritius Revenue Authority, we firmly believe that voluntary compliance is the cornerstone of a fair and sustainable tax system. When taxpayers willingly comply, the costs of enforcement are significantly reduced, trust in public institutions is strengthened and national development is accelerated. Voluntary compliance cannot be imposed, it must be cultivated. It flourishes when citizens are well-informed, when they see that their taxes are being used wisely and when they feel part of a shared national vision," he stated

- **Video link of Address by Mr. Rohit Ramnawaz, Director-General MRA: Click [here](#)**

Delivering the welcome remarks, Mr. Amick Teeluckdharry, Assistant Director, Taxpayer Education and Communication Department (TECD) who has been behind the tax club initiation, stressed the role of youth engagement in shaping the nation's future: "At the MRA, we believe that engaging with the youth is not a choice, it is a responsibility. We are inspired by the „Three Box Solution“ of Professor Vijay Govindarajan: to manage the present effectively, forget the past selectively and prepare for the future today. These participants are not just debating the future of Mauritius, they are actively shaping it.""

- **Video link of Introductory Note by Mr. Amick Teeluckdharry, Asst Director, Taxpayer Education & Communication Dept: Click [here](#)**

The successful execution of the Tax Club Debate has been made possible under the leadership of Dr. Rakesh Thecka, Team Leader at TECD. With commitment and effective coordination, Dr. Thecka has steered the project from planning to implementation, ensuring that the contest continues to inspire students while promoting the values of compliance and civic responsibility.

The MRA Tax Club Contest 2025 thus highlighted the skills, knowledge and commitment of Mauritian youth. Congratulations to Belle Rose SSS and to all participants for their performance, reflecting their engagement with civic responsibility and the values of voluntary compliance as well as national development.