

New NLTA Office at Custom House, Mer Rouge



A new sub office of the NLTA was inaugurated on Monday 27 September, 2021 at the Custom House, Mer Rouge by the Honourable Alan Ganoo, Minister of Land Transport and Light Rail, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade in the presence of Dr Koshik Reesaul, Officer-in-Charge, National Land Transport Authority (NLTA) and Mr Sudhamo Lal, Director General of the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA).

The sub office of the NLTA will play a very important role in expediting clearance of motor vehicles at importation. Officers of NLTA based in this office at Custom House will pre-verify and confirm particulars of new and second hand imported vehicles to ensure that they are according to the Road Traffic (Construction and Use of Vehicles) Regulations 2010. The MRA has allocated an office space to accommodate officers of the NLTA who will be posted at the Custom House with a view to reduce the clearance time for motor vehicles and having a better synergy among the different governmental agencies.

This initiative is in line with the recommendation of the World Customs Organization (WCO), to implement a Coordinated Border Management programme (CBM) which provides the facility to house all agencies involved in the clearance of controlled goods under one roof. The Motor Vehicles Corridor which is a One Stop Shop for the clearance of motor vehicles at Customs was set up in September 2017 to expedite the clearance of motor vehicles by MRA Customs and the new NLTA sub-office is a step ahead to consolidate the position of the MRA in inter-agency cooperation.

Through the concept of CBM, MRA aims to bring together all the agencies under one roof. Stakeholders will also be able to conduct all transactions, such as application of permits and authorizations, payment of fees, duty and taxes and clearance of goods, in a single building. This will ultimately result in a more effective service, an optimum use of resources, better connectivity with stakeholders, wider sharing of information and intelligence and systematic application of risk management. The CBM will be highly beneficial to the trading community in terms of reduced transactions costs through expedited processing and clearance times, and reduced hassles and waiting times for moving from one agency to another. All these factors will no doubt contribute to reducing the cost of doing business.

It is to be noted that the Custom House already accommodates the Government Pharmacist, the Mauritius Standards Bureau, the National Plant Protection Office, the Food Import Unit, the Veterinary Services, the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection and the Ministry of Environment.

In same vein, the MRA is envisaging the inauguration of the Integrated Customs Clearance Centre (ICCC) which will be a one-stop-shop to provide all necessary facilities for the clearance of cargo at Plaine Magnien, next to the SSR International Airport.

For the financial year 2020/21, the MRA cleared the importation of 9670 new and 7806 second hand vehicles.