

MRA HOSTS THE REGIONAL TRAINING WORKSHOP ON CYBERCRIME, VIRTUAL ASSETS AND DIGITAL EVIDENCE

- **Enhancing investigative and prosecutorial expertise to combat cybercrime and financial crimes**

Mauritius is consolidating its role as a Centre of Excellence, an International Financial, and Regional Training hub for Africa. This ambition is supported by a stable and well-regulated financial ecosystem, strong governance and institutional frameworks, and a unique geopolitical location that enhances its role as a gateway between Africa and the rest of the world. Consistent with this ambition, the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) hosted a Regional Training Workshop on Cybercrime, Virtual Assets, and Digital Evidence from 19 to 23 January 2026.

The launching ceremony took place on Monday, 19 January 2026, at the Integrated Customs Clearance Centre (ICCC), Le Chaland Road, Plaine Magnien. The event was graced by Hon. Dhaneshwar Damry, Junior Minister, Ministry of Finance, Chief Guest, along with Mr. Tej Kumar Gujadhur, Chairperson, MRA Board, MRA Board members, Mr. Rohit Ramnawaz, Director-General, MRA, Mr. Craig Halbmauer, Chargé d’Affaires, US Embassy, Mr. Rampersad Sooroojbally, Commissioner of Police, Mr. Titrudeo Dawoodarry, Acting Director-General, Financial Crimes Commission, amongst other personalities.

High-calibre workshop

Virtual assets offer transformative opportunities for the financial sector, but they also introduce complex challenges that demand specialized expertise, advanced tools, and coordinated inter-agency responses. Strengthening the capacity of enforcement authorities is essential to effectively detect, seize, and confiscate illicit funds, disrupt criminal networks, and safeguard the integrity of the financial system. In line with this vision, the Regional Training Workshop on Cybercrime, Virtual Assets, and Digital Evidence strengthens the financial center’s effectiveness by providing a dynamic platform for building expertise, fostering collaboration, and equipping authorities with the knowledge and practical tools needed to confront emerging threats in the rapidly evolving digital financial landscape.

The workshop was facilitated by experts from the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), bringing valuable international expertise and practical insights into cybercrime and virtual asset-related threats. A total of 44 participants attended, including 10 from Seychelles and 34 from Mauritius, representing various institutions such as the Attorney General’s Office,

Bank of Mauritius, Financial Crime Commission, Financial Intelligence Unit, Financial Services Commission, Judiciary, Mauritius Police Force, Office of the Director of Public Prosecution, and the Mauritius Revenue Authority.

Mauritius as a digital bridge between Asia and Africa

In his keynote address, Hon. Dhaneshwar Damry, Junior Minister, Ministry of Finance, highlighted the Government's commitment to strengthening Mauritius as a leading International Financial Centre. He emphasised the need for a dedicated cybersecurity centre to strengthen the prevention and detection of financial crimes amid evolving global threats.



"We are building a digital bridge between Asia and Africa", Hon. Dhaneshwar Damry

Hon. Damry further emphasized the importance of preparedness for the 2027 Financial Action Task Force (FATF) review, noting that effective financial crime risk management is central to maintaining the sustained effectiveness of the national AML/CFT framework and its enforcement. He stressed that Mauritius takes its international obligations seriously and remains fully committed to strengthening its regulatory and institutional frameworks through ongoing engagement with relevant stakeholders.



On the economic outlook, he stated that 2026 will be a year of transformation, performance, job creation, and inclusion, reflecting the Government's focus on sustainable growth. He noted stabilised inflation, a strong tourism rebound, improved economic growth, and higher exports as key indicators of progress.

For his part, Mr. Rohit Ramnawaz, Director-General of MRA, stated that *"as Mauritius positions itself as a transparent, credible, and well-regulated financial centre, the country's reputation depends not only on a strong legislative framework but also on its ability to detect wrongdoing, conduct effective investigations, and support successful prosecutions"*. He added that credibility is earned through consistent, professional, and lawful action, and that the MRA aligns with the government's mission to promote the financial centre.



Mr. Ramnawaz emphasized that traditional investigative methods must be complemented by digital forensics, advanced data analytics, and close coordination with law enforcement and prosecutorial authorities. He pointed out that maintaining chain of custody, evidential integrity, admissibility, and clear presentation in court is essential to achieving justice.



["Virtual assets present unprecedented challenges", Rohit Ramnawaz, Director-General, MRA](#)

Highlighting the borderless nature of cybercrime, Mr. Ramnawaz stressed the need for regional cooperation, citing Mauritius' engagement with colleagues from Seychelles as a reflection of their shared responsibility to align operational approaches and build trusted professional networks. He reaffirmed Mauritius' commitment to strengthening its institutional response to cyber-enabled threats, while underscoring the need for a continuous review of the legal framework to keep pace with evolving risks.

Mr. Jeffrey D. Rees, Program Manager at the FBI, and Mrs. Kristina Cervi, Attorney Advisor at OPDAT, spoke about the importance of tailor-made training for the prevention of financial crime in both Mauritius and Seychelles, with particular emphasis on the Cybercrime, Virtual Assets, and Digital Evidence workshop.

Mr. Craig Halbmaier, Chargé d'Affaires at the U.S. Embassy, highlighted the ongoing collaboration between the U.S. Government, Mauritius, and Seychelles, aimed at the shared goal of combating financial crime and boosting economic growth.



The successful organisation of this regional workshop reaffirms Mauritius's commitment to strengthening regional cooperation, enhancing institutional capacity, and positioning itself as a trusted hub for specialised training in combating cybercrime and financial crimes in Africa and beyond.