

First Payments of Independence Allowance and CSG Child Allowance

- The Prime Minister launched the First Payments of Independence Allowance and CSG Child Allowance on Monday 31st July 2023.
- The Minister of Finance commended the MRA for the prompt implementation of these two schemes.
- The Director-General of the MRA announced that MRA has exceeded the 20% growth benchmark in revenue collections for the year ending 30 June 2023. MRA collected a total of Rs 137 billion.



The launching of the First Payments of **Independence Allowance** and **CSG Child Allowance** was made by the Honourable Prime Minister, Pravind Kumar Jugnauth at Sir Harilal Vaghjee Hall, Port-Louis, on Monday 31st July 2023, in the presence of Dr. the Honourable Renganaden Padayachy, Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Development, and Mr. Sudhamo Lal, Director-General of the MRA.

In his keynote address, Hon. Pravind Kumar Jugnauth applauded MRA for the prompt implementation of Independence Allowance and CSG Child Allowance; these two measures were announced by the Government in the Budget Speech 2023-2024.

The Prime Minister recalled that MRA was created when he served as Finance Minister and even today, MRA has garnered praise from various stakeholders, both within Mauritius and across the African region.

The Prime Minister expressed his gratitude to the dedicated MRA team for their unwavering commitment to serving the public and sustaining the economic growth of the country. He also emphasized the importance of



proactivity and adaptability of MRA in implementing financial assistance schemes that cater to the diverse needs of businesses and individuals. *“The Government is committed to assist all age groups of people, from the elderly through the increase in the Basic Pension Scheme, to the youths and babies as well”*, added the Prime Minister.

According to Dr. the Honourable Renganaden Padayachy, *“the Independence Allowance of Rs 20,000 for youths and the CSG Child Allowance of Rs 2,000 per month are landmark decisions and shapes a defining moment in the history of our Welfare State.”* The Finance Minister expressed his gratitude to the Mauritius Revenue Authority for providing the online payment modalities of these two momentous measures in an effective and promptly manner.



“MRA is proving to be extremely instrumental in implementing the Government’s wide-range social measures from the Wage Assistance Schemes to the CSG Allowances”, he added. The Finance Minister concluded that *“the Government wants to simultaneously create national wealth and implement measures that are inclusive so that everyone can benefit from the economy and build a prosperous and inclusive Mauritian Republic”*.

For Mr. Sudhamo Lal, Director-General of the MRA, *“the CSG Child Allowance introduced in the recent Budget is a safety net for children whose parents don’t work or are temporarily out of work. It complements the existing Negative Income Tax Allowance and CSG Income Allowance Schemes which aim at supporting working households.”* It is estimated that some Rs 400 million will be disbursed by the MRA as payment under both schemes.

Mr. Lal pointed out that the number of beneficiaries of MRA’s financial assistance schemes will continue to increase. On this score, he underlined that *“the Child Allowance will add some 48,000 beneficiaries to this list, whilst with the Independence Allowance, we expect some 15,000 one-off payments to be effected. With*

the forthcoming Housing Loan Relief Scheme, we anticipate some further 70,000 beneficiaries being paid on a monthly basis”.



Mr. Lal rejoiced that MRA has created a whole synergy to implement these schemes promptly. He underlined that these two schemes have been brought to fruition by the Information Services Department, the Finance and the Administration Department, the Operational Services Department and the Taxpayer Education and Communication Department so that the eligible youths and children may benefit from this financial assistance on time. By consistently delivering on its promises and

providing timely support, MRA has positioned itself as a dynamic and forward-thinking revenue authority, observed Mr. Lal.

Surge in revenue collection

One of the major announcements made by Mr. Lal was on revenue collection. MRA has exceeded the 20% growth benchmark in revenue collections. MRA collected a total of Rs 137 billion for the financial year ending 30 June 2023, compared to Rs 112.6 billion for the financial year ending 30 June 2022.

For more details on the Independence Allowance and CSG Child Allowance, kindly visit the MRA website: www.mra.mu or phone MRA Helpdesk on 207 6000 during working hours.