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# PRESS RELEASE

## SEIZURE OF 1.68 KG OF HEROIN WORTH RS 25 MILLION



On Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2017, the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) and the Anti Drug and Smuggling Unit (ADSU), confiscated 1.68 kg of Heroin at the Courier services at SSR International Airport. The market value of the heroin is estimated to be Rs 25 million and the seizure was made following examination of overlying goods at the premises of a courier service.



The parcel containing the drugs was identified on the basis that it had similarities with a previous parcel containing 1.6 kg of heroin intercepted in May 2017. In fact the parcel seized in May 2017 contained mascara cosmetics and a similar parcel was found overlying at the Courier service. The parcel was therefore sent for scan by the Customs Officers of the Customs Anti Narcotics Section (CANS) and the image revealed suspicious contents in the caps of the mascara tubes. The Customs Narcotics Sniffer dog Milan was deployed and it reacted positively to the packets. Upon verification, 298 mascara tubes containing a brownish powder were found and a field test confirmed the powder as being heroin.

The parcel was signaled on the basis of it being consigned from a relatively high-risk country, i.e. Kenya, and on the risk profile issued by the CANS on cosmetics. The parcel arrived into Mauritius on a South African Flight. The parcel was addressed to a fictitious name in Mauritius.

Members of the public are reminded that they may report suspected drug cases to the MRA through the **MRA Stop Drug Platform ([www.mra.mu](http://www.mra.mu))** or by calling on the **Hotline 8958**.

MAURITIUS REVENUE AUTHORITY

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