

Sanitary Lockdown

GWAS AND SEAS FOR MARCH 2021

MRA ONLINE PLATFORM IS OPERATIONAL

Following the decision of the Government of the Republic of Mauritius to extend the Government Wage Assistance Scheme (GWAS) and the Self-Employed Assistance Scheme (SEAS) for the month of March 2021, the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) wishes to inform employers and self-employed individuals that the **ONLINE** platform is operational on MRA website: www.mra.mu.

The conditions applicable and the measures taken by the MRA for the payment of the allowances as follows:

A. Tourism Sector

The financial assistance under GWAS and SEAS will continue to be provided to operators in the tourism sector in Mauritius for the month of March 2021, in full. The same financial assistance is available to operators in the tourism sector in Rodrigues.

The monthly allowance payable under GWAS is equivalent to one month's basic wage of all employees drawing a monthly basic wage of up to Rs 50,375, capped at Rs 25,375 of assistance per employee.

The monthly allowance under SEAS is Rs 5,287.

B. Sectors other than the Tourism Sector

With the lockdown in the island of Mauritius for the period 10 March 2021 to 25 March 2021, the financial assistance under GWAS and SEAS is extended to all other sectors, and the allowance is payable on the basis of half of a month.

Government Wage Assistance Scheme (GWAS)

Under GWAS, employers in the private sector, approved or registered charitable institutions as well as charitable trusts and charitable foundations are eligible, for the month of March 2021, to a financial assistance equivalent to a half month basic wage of all employees drawing a monthly basic wage of up to Rs 50,375, capped at Rs 12,688 in respect of Mauritian and expatriate employees, in full-time or part-time employment in Mauritius.

Pre-requisite to join the GWAS scheme

1. This scheme is applicable to businesses in the private sector affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and with respect to their employees drawing a monthly basic wage of up to Rs 50,375. The scheme covers both Mauritians and expatriate employees working in Mauritius.
2. A self-employed, for example a hairdresser, will be entitled to GWAS only in respect of employees for whom he has been paying monthly CSG contributions.
3. This scheme is NOT applicable to Ministries, Government Departments, Local Authorities, Statutory Bodies and Government Owned Companies.

Self Employed Assistance Scheme (SEAS)

Under SEAS, eligible self-employed individuals in the Island of Mauritius are entitled, for the month of March 2021, to a financial assistance of Rs 2,550, topped up by an amount of Rs 94, to bring the total amount payable to Rs 2,644.

Pre-requisite to join the SEAS scheme

A self-employed individual who is in business as a sole trader, or a tradesperson operating in the informal sector, e.g. a mason, a cabinet maker, a plumber, a hairdresser or an artist is entitled to the assistance provided he is a Mauritian national above 18 years of age and who has been in business for the last 3 months preceding 10 March, 2021.

C. Application for GWAS and SEAS to the MRA

Employers are required to apply for GWAS electronically using the facilities which are available on the MRA website: www.mra.mu.

Self-employed individuals who have already made an application for SEAS for any of the months of March 2020 to February 2021 are **NOT** required to make a fresh application for SEAS for the month of March 2021. **Only eligible self-employed individuals, who did not previously apply for SEAS, are required to make an application for March 2021. The necessary facilities are available on the MRA website: www.mra.mu.**

Self-employed individuals who have previously made an application for SEAS and who wish to amend their application for March 2021 may do so using the facility available on the MRA website: www.mra.mu.

Payments under GWAS and SEAS will be credited by the MRA directly to the bank account of eligible employers and self-employed individuals, respectively.

For further information all those concerned may kindly visit the MRA website: www.mra.mu, or phone the MRA helpdesk on 207 6000 during working hours.