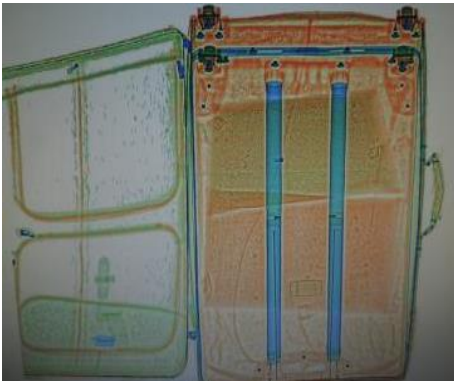


2.79 KG OF HEROIN WORTH RS 42 MILLION SEIZED AT THE SSR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT



The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) and the Anti Drug and Smuggling Unit (ADSU) intercepted 2.79 kg of an off white powder suspected to be heroin in the registered luggage of a South African couple at the SSR International Airport on Monday 30 April 2018. The market value of the suspected drugs is Rs. 42 million.

The couple arrived on board the Air Mauritius Flight MK 852 from Johannesburg and they were supposed to stay in a resort in Tamarin. The male passenger, aged 56 years old, transport contractor by profession, and the female passenger aged 49 and unemployed, travelled first class, which they recently purchased and paid in cash. Both passengers were stopped by officers of the Customs Anti-Narcotics Section (CANS) of the MRA while leaving through the Green Channel on the basis of their strange demeanour. The luggage, registered in the name of the female passenger, was examined and found to contain only men's clothes. When emptied of its contents, the suitcase remained abnormally heavy. Upon scanning, concealment was found in the false bottom of the suitcase and same was opened in the presence of the passengers.

Two parcels, wrapped in carbon paper and suspected to contain dangerous drugs were found. Customs Sniffer dog, Milan, was deployed and reacted positively to the powder. The passengers were questioned on the parcels, but they both remained mute. The passengers and the suspected drugs were handed over to the ADSU for a controlled delivery operation.

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