

SEIZURE OF 4.2 KG OF HEROIN WORTH RS. 63 M ON BOARD VESSEL MAERSK AVON



Officers of the Customs Anti-Narcotics Section (CANS) of the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) seized 4.2 kg of heroin worth Rs 63 million on Monday 02 July 2018, on board vessel Maersk Avon at the port.

The vessel is registered in Hong Kong, and is used as feeder vessel for the transportation of containers between Mauritius and Madagascar. It was targeted for examination, based on its voyage from a high risk port namely, Toamasina. The crew comprised mainly Filipinos, Indian and Sri Lankan officers .

CANS officers, along with the MRA k9 Unit, boarded the vessel for examination and 2 black plastic parcels wrapped with black and brown cello tapes were discovered inside a fire hose box. Each parcel had a tracker attached to it. The parcels were opened and found to contain brownish powder suspected to be heroin.

Customs K9 narcotics sniffer dog "Milo" was deployed and reacted positively to the parcels. A narcotics field test confirmed the presence of heroin.

The two trackers from both parcels were removed and found to be similar to the trackers secured by Malagasy Customs from a drug seizure on 07 June 2018 in Antananarivo.

A Sri Lankan officer has been arrested in relation to this seizure and the exhibits have been handed over to ADSU for further enquiry.

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.