

2.28 KG OF HEROIN WORTH RS 34 MILLION SEIZED ON A SEAMAN LANDING FROM A CARGO VESSEL



The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) and the Anti-Drug and Smuggling Unit (ADSU) seized 2.28 kg of a whitish substance suspected to be heroin worth approximately Rs. 34 million on a Tanzanian seaman, landing from cargo vessel MSC Ambition at New Container Terminal (NCTM) in the Port area, on Wednesday 28 March 2018.

An operation was set up by the Customs Anti-Narcotics Section (CANS) of the MRA based on profiling of vessels. Vessel MSC Ambition was then selected based on its nationality being Liberian and its last port call being a high risk Port, Colombo, Sri Lanka. CANS Officers intercepted two Tanzanian crew landing from the cargo vessel which was berth at the NCTM.

One of the crew member had a bag which was searched by the CANS Officers, and while doing so they noticed a concealment around his waist. Both crew members were taken to the Customs Lodge at the NCTM for further search. A pat down was carried down on and a strapping was noticed around the waist. The strapping was found to contain seven packets secured with brown sealing tape. The pat down of the legs revealed two packets, on each leg, under the socks. The other seaman was checked and nothing incriminating was found.

A field test on the powder revealed the presence of heroin. Narcotics sniffer dog "Otto" was deployed and reacted positively. The total gross weight of the packets was 2.28 Kg.

The seamen and the exhibits were handed to ADSU for controlled delivery.



The vessel was searched by a team of CANS, ADSU and National Coast Guard teams. Nothing incriminating was found. No one arrested during control delivery exercise.

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.