

Sniffer Dog OTTO reacts positively to foreign currencies equivalent to Rs. 18,776,690



The Sniffer Dog Otto of the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) was deployed on left-over luggage at the SSR International Airport on Wednesday 30 January 2019 and it reacted positively to the presence of currencies therein. The MRA detained the currencies equivalent to Rs. 18,776,690. A male passenger aged 30, of Indian origin, flying from South Africa, was intercepted. He was in transit in Mauritius. The passenger would depart on flight EK 748 to Dubai on the same day.

A scanning by Customs officers of a left-over luggage from ex-flight SA 190 of 30 January 2019, revealed the presence of suspicious concealments. Upon examination, a large amount of currencies were found wrapped in newspaper. Other suitcases registered on the passenger's name were retrieved from the airline. Upon examination of his entire luggage, a total amount equivalent to Rs. 18,776,690 (ZAR 4,799,750 & USD 199,650), was found. The passenger said that the money was handed over to him by his brother who owns an electronic shop in South Africa. The money he said, would be used for purchasing goods in Dubai.

The passenger was duly informed that he had committed an offence by failing to declare currency while having more than Rs. 500,000 or equivalent in currencies, in his possession.

The currencies were seized by MRA Customs department for investigation.

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.