

SEIZURE OF SYNTHETIC CATHINONE/BATH SALT WORTH RS 30 MILLION



The Customs Anti-Narcotics Section (CANS) of the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) and the Anti Drug and Smuggling Unit (ADSU) seized 1.01 Kg of suspected Mephedrone (synthetic cathinone/Bath salt) at FedEx Courier Service on 30 March, 2017. The consignment, packed in an aluminium packet and placed inside a carton box, arrived on board flight MK045 from Paris, and was destined to a company operating in the Finance sector in Ebene.

Scanning images of the carton box revealed the presence of a powder. Customs Narcotics Sniffer dog Cassidy reacted positively on the parcel, and upon examination, a positive result was obtained for synthetic cathinones, a substance which might be Methylenedioxypropylone (MDPV-Bath Salt), which is a powerful stimulant and is part of a category of drugs which are closely related to Amphetamines, like speed and ecstasy.

The following day, on the 31 March 2017, a similar consignment was secured, which arrived from the same flight and addressed to the same consignee in Ebene. The parcel bore similar indicators to the one seized the day before. Customs Narcotics sniffer dog Zeus reacted positively on the parcel. Upon examination, 1.01 Kg of a whitish powder was found. A field test was carried out, and the powder suspected to be mephedrone (Bath Salt).

On the 02nd February, 2018, the FSL confirmed the presence of synthetic cannabinoid (ADB Fubinaca, a new type of synthetic drug from China). The total seizure of 2.02 kg is estimated to be worth around Rs 30 Million.

The exhibits were secured and transferred to ADSU HQ under armed Police escort. Inquiry is ongoing.

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.