

MRA e-Newsletter

Mauritius Revenue Authority

JUNE 2024



NATIONAL BUDGET 2024/25

FISCAL MEASURES HIGHLIGHTS



The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) bagged the 2nd Runner-up prize at the Environmental Awards 2024 in the Public Sector Category.

The prize is being remitted by Lisa Singh, United Nations Resident Coordinator for Mauritius, to Mr. Dhanraj Ramdin, Ag. Director-General, MRA.

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EDITORIAL NOTE

Dear esteemed readers,

The month of June holds great significance for both the country and the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA), particularly with the presentation of Budget 2024/2025. The National Budget serves as an estimate of government revenues and expenditures for the upcoming financial year.

On the macroeconomic front, particularly following the Covid-19 pandemic, the Mauritian economy has thrived to achieve a GDP growth rate of 7% in 2023 reaching Rs. 651.7 billion, surpassing the initial estimate of Rs. 628.4 billion.

In alignment with our commitment to transparency, MRA has prepared a special budget bulletin entitled "Fiscal Measures Highlights." This bulletin outlines the fiscal measures and Financial Assistance Schemes announced by Dr. Renganaden Padayachy, Minister of Finance, Economic Planning, and Development. These measures will take effect upon the enactment of the Finance Bill.

Another notable achievement for MRA was receiving the 2nd Runner-up for the Environmental Awards 2024 in the Public Sector Category. Environmental sustainability has always been a priority, and to support this Sustainable Development Goal (SDG), MRA has proactively reduced paper waste and improved efficiency by adopting new communication technologies, transitioning into a paperless organization. A significant accomplishment in this regard has been the successful transition to electronic tax filing, with nearly all taxes now filed electronically.

The Mauritius Revenue Authority extends its congratulations to every staff member whose contributions have resulted in this remarkable achievement.

We wish you a pleasant reading.

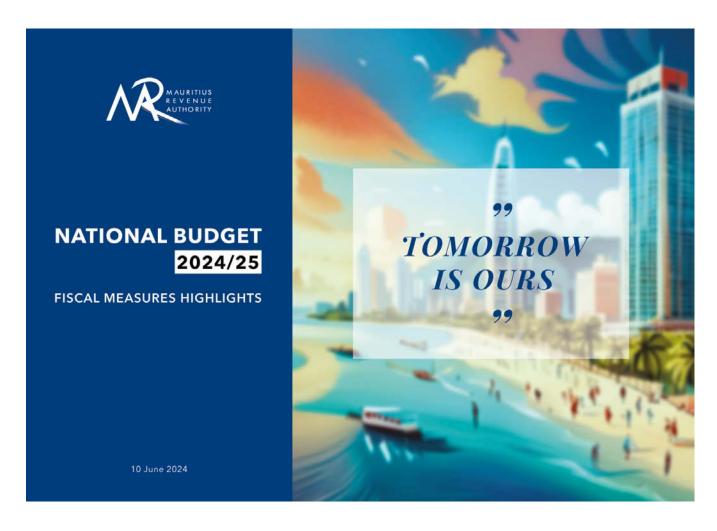
Editorial team

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Budget 2024/25

MRA PUBLISHES A SPECIAL BUDGET BULLETIN: FISCAL MEASURES HIGHLIGHTS



The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) has prepared a special Budget bulletin to summarize the fiscal and financial measures announced by Dr. Renganaden Padayachy, Minister of Finance, Economic Planning, and Development, during his Budget Speech on June 7th, 2024. The bulletin provides an overview of the budget's key highlights, covering fiscal and financial measures.

The aim of MRA's Fiscal Measures Highlights is to raise awareness about these budgetary measures to ensure that the public is informed about the latest fiscal developments. The modalities of these measures are currently being finalized.

The measures will come into effect as from July 1^{st} , 2024.



Post Budget 2024/25

A ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION WITH MR. MAHMAD OOZEER, DIRECTOR OF OSD

Mr. Mahmad Oozeer, Director, Operational Services Department (OSD) at MRA, brought his expertise to a roundtable discussion at Royal Green Wellness Resort, Réduit, on June 18, 2024, hosted by l'Association Mauricienne des Femmes Chefs d'Entreprises (AMFCE). AMFCE aims to promote the economic contribution of women business leaders and carries out advocacy work with the public and private sectors for better support and greater promotion of female entrepreneurship.

During this event, Mr. Oozeer presented budget insights specifically tailored for entrepreneurs. He highlighted the importance of proper bookkeeping for entrepreneurs to ensure the success and sustainability of their businesses. Mr. Oozeer emphasized the need for entrepreneurs to accurately estimate their expenses, manage cash flow effectively, and regularly review and adjust their budgets to address changing circumstances.

He also spoke about the Prime à l'Emploi Scheme, a budgetary measure aimed at supporting unemployed women and disabled individuals. The Prime à L'Emploi Scheme will be continued for the next financial year. A monthly amount of Rs. 7,500 will be contributed for 20-hours of work in a week for women and disabled individuals willing to work on a part-time basis, this new measure will be applicable as from 1st July 2024.

As from 17 November 2023, the minimum unemployment period for a person to qualify under the Prime à L'Emploi Scheme has been reduced from one year to 3 months. Employers joining the scheme are required to safeguard employment of an employee for a period of at least three years, whereas, an employer who lays off an employee must wait at least 3 months prior to making an application under the Scheme.



From Left: Mr. Eric Ng Ping Cheun, Economist, Mr. Anthony Leung Shing, Country Senior Partner at PwC and Mr. Mahmad Oozeer, Director, Operational Services Department at MRA

Corporate Climate Responsibility

To a question on the Corporate Climate Responsibility (CCR) levy, Mr. Oozeer explained that the levy is equivalent to 2% of a company's profits, and companies with a turnover of less than Rs 50 million will be exempted. CCR levy will be used to support national initiatives to protect, manage, invest and restore the country's natural ecosystem and combat the effects of climate change.

Also intervening during this roundtable discussion, Mr. Eric Ng Ping Cheun, an economist, emphasized the crucial role of entrepreneurial insight in capitalizing on market imbalances. He stressed that successful entrepreneurs must possess the ability to identify opportunities, assemble the necessary financial and human resources, and demonstrate creativity and empathy in their endeavors.

Mr. Ng however, observed that the current market is characterized by a persistent imbalance where demand consistently outpaces supply. He encouraged entrepreneurs to exploit these disparities as a means to differentiate themselves and achieve success.

Mr. Anthony Leung Shing, Country Senior Partner at PwC, highlighted the importance of tax revenue in funding the various projects announced in the Budget. He explained how tax revenue plays a crucial role in financing infrastructure development, social welfare programs, and other essential services that benefit society as a whole.



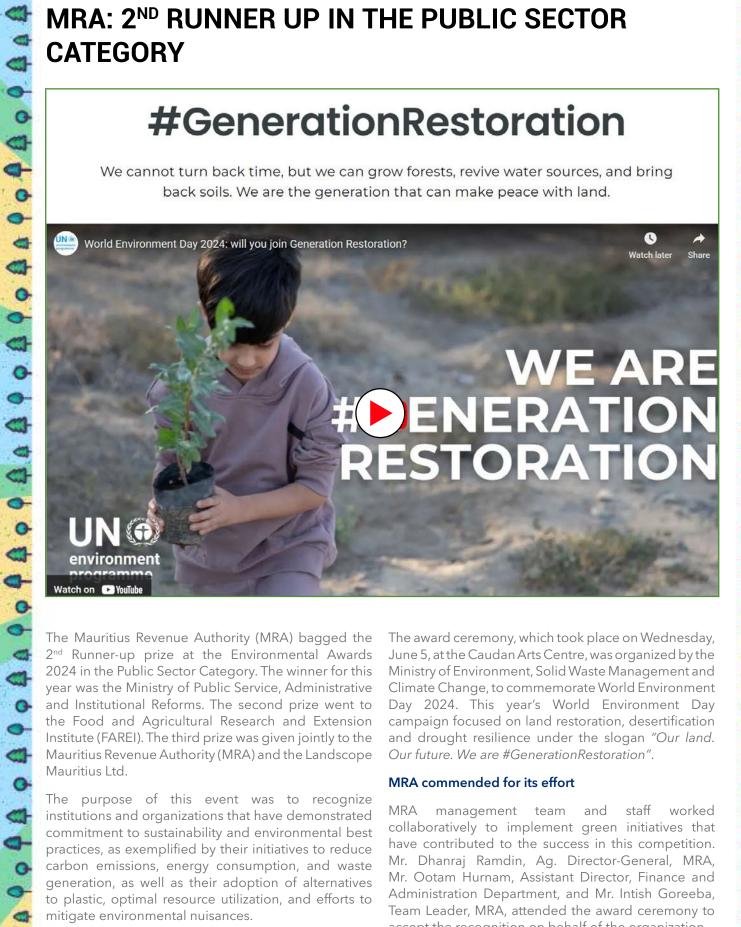


Environmental Awards 2024

MRA: 2ND RUNNER UP IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR **CATEGORY**

#GenerationRestoration

We cannot turn back time, but we can grow forests, revive water sources, and bring back soils. We are the generation that can make peace with land.



The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) bagged the 2nd Runner-up prize at the Environmental Awards 2024 in the Public Sector Category. The winner for this year was the Ministry of Public Service, Administrative and Institutional Reforms. The second prize went to the Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (FAREI). The third prize was given jointly to the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) and the Landscope Mauritius Ltd.

The purpose of this event was to recognize institutions and organizations that have demonstrated commitment to sustainability and environmental best practices, as exemplified by their initiatives to reduce carbon emissions, energy consumption, and waste generation, as well as their adoption of alternatives to plastic, optimal resource utilization, and efforts to mitigate environmental nuisances.

The award ceremony, which took place on Wednesday, June 5, at the Caudan Arts Centre, was organized by the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change, to commemorate World Environment Day 2024. This year's World Environment Day campaign focused on land restoration, desertification and drought resilience under the slogan "Our land. Our future. We are #GenerationRestoration".

MRA commended for its effort

MRA management team and staff worked collaboratively to implement green initiatives that have contributed to the success in this competition. Mr. Dhanraj Ramdin, Ag. Director-General, MRA, Mr. Ootam Hurnam, Assistant Director, Finance and Administration Department, and Mr. Intish Goreeba, Team Leader, MRA, attended the award ceremony to accept the recognition on behalf of the organization.

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Green Initiatives

Over the years, MRA has implemented various initiatives to reduce its reliance on fossil fuel-generated electricity. One notable example is the Green Productivity Project, which was launched in 2011 as part of its commitment to sustainable development, environmental protection, and good governance. The project, conducted by the National Productivity and Competitiveness Council (NPCC), aimed to create a more sustainable workspace by optimizing the effective use of resources such as electricity, water, paper, fuel consumption, and waste management.

To further advance its journey towards a greener and more sustainable future, MRA has taken the following steps:

Energy Sustainability

To promote employee engagement in energy-saving efforts, MRA established the Green Productivity and Environment Club, an awareness program aimed at encouraging employees to adopt environmentally friendly practices.

Every year, MRA Blood Donation is an opportunity to further contribute in the concept of Green Mauritius by distributing plants to blood donors. By now, MRA has embellished various corners of the island by offering some 20,000 plants to blood donors.



Energy Efficient measures implemented:

• The integration of LED lights and timers to our electrical structure has been instrumental in improving energy efficiency. At Ehram Court (MRA Headquarters) for instance at 16:30, the timers switch on a certain quantity of Led lights necessary for patrol at specific areas of the building to reduce energy consumption while dedicated staff will switch off all unnecessary electrical equipment e.g. lighting, air conditioners and water dispensers.

- The Air Handling Unit (AHU) at Custom House has been retrofitted with a variable speed drive and connected to carbon dioxide sensors. The volume of conditioned fresh air being drawn inside the building can be varied according to the occupancy of the building. This will prevent the AHU being operated at full load throughout the day thereby optimising energy efficiency.
- The waterproofing at Custom House has been replaced with one which has a higher solar reflectance index. By reflecting sunlight away from the roof surface, the cooling load of the building can be reduced.



• Window films have been installed in certain areas of the building so as to reduce the amount of heat entering the building thereby reducing the cooling load.

MRA has also initiated its transition to sustainable energy by installing solar water heaters and solar panels on the roof of the covered parking space at the Integrated Customs Clearance Centre (ICCC). This initiative is part of its commitment to reducing its environmental footprint.



For a visual representation of MRA's sustainability efforts, watch the video below, produced in-house, entitled: Sustainability practices at MRA - An environmental commitment:



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Interview

"The Environmental Awards 2024 is dedicated to our staff"

Mr. Ootam Hurnam Assistant Director, Finance and Administration Department, Mauritius Revenue Authority



The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) bagged the 2nd Runner-up Environmental Awards 2024 in the Public Sector Category. How do you feel about this achievement, and what does it mean for MRA?

I have mixed feelings. Well, in any case, for a first participation, it is good to have something rather than nothing.

This achievement also underscores the importance of integrating environmental considerations into our daily operations and decision-making processes. It emphasizes the need for us to continue innovating and exploring new ways to reduce waste, conserve energy, and promote sustainable development.

MRA will continue to prioritize environmental sustainability in all aspects of our operations, and we look forward to continuing to make a positive impact on the environment and our community.

In line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), environmental sustainability is one of the priorities for MRA. Can you explain how MRA has achieved significant milestones in this area?

All MRA departments have in a way or the other contributed significantly towards achieving such goals. Our actions speak for themselves in terms of energy efficient initiatives undertaken to reduce the carbon footprint, such as, digital transformation, for instance, the provision of online services, electronic services (E-Services), Energy Efficient measures, e-invoicing, e-TAX Account, implementation of Chatbot- to cite a few.

Our Work From Home policy, flexitime, shift system and Relocation of Units have all contributed towards sustainable mobility. The Revenue House will be located in the 'Côte d'Or Technopole' which is part of the 'Côte d'Or Smart City'. This will allow MRA to comply with high ecological standards by optimizing energy efficiency, water use and waste recycling. With its commitment to sustainability, the park is intended to become a model of economic and sustainable development.

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In view of the metro network being extended in such a way as to connect the 'Côte d'Or Technopole' with all towns and the City of Port Louis, we believe that this will provide efficient and sustainable mobility options for our staff and stakeholders.

Staff will also be encouraged to move towards more environmentally friendly modes of transport, such as walking and cycling, which are green commuting choices, helping in reducing the carbon footprint and benefiting the environment. The use of public transport will also become an alternate viable option rather than driving personal cars. In short, staff and stakeholders will be encouraged to choose sustainable mobility. The primary focus is to cater for daily travel needs in a more sustainable manner.

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Our actions speak for themselves in terms of energy efficient initiatives

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In terms of MRA's commitment to the other Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), organization finds particular relevance in the goal of reducing inequality among the 17 established SDGs. MRA expediently implements government initiatives aimed at decreasing inequality, such as the progressive tax system, introducing a minimum wage, and facilitating the payment of negative income tax, special allowance, CSG Income Allowance, financial compensation amongst others. Through these actions, MRA actively contributes to addressing and mitigating inequality within the broader framework of sustainable development, thus contributing towards the achievement of the objectives of the SDG's.

MRA has also conducted a series of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities - e.g. at the APEIM, Association of Disability Service Providers (ADSP), Meenatchee Home, Shelter for Women and Children in Distress Trust Fund (Forest Side), Lois Lagesse Trust Fund and La Ruche Bambous, amongst others.

In early 2020, MRA carried out a comprehensive Level 2 Energy Audit to identify current energy usage patterns, inefficiencies, and opportunities to move to renewable energy. Could you please share some of the salient outcomes of this audit?

The prime objective of the Level 2 Energy Audit at MRA Custom House was to identify "eminent" energy savings potentials, optimize the use of energy in all its ways to make our buildings efficient power consumers and, ultimately, to make long-term cost savings. I am thankful to our Engineers for having initiated the Energy Audit.

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The recommendations of the report in terms of the identified energy conservation measures (ECMs) that involved inter alia the retrofitting of MEP infrastructure, replacement of lighting lamps to more energy efficient LED equivalent lamps, addition of light occupancy sensors and implementation of a photovoltaic system as a renewable energy source have all been instrumental in not only for cost savings but also in terms of sustainability.



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Environmental sustainability is not a choice, but a necessity

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You have mentioned that environmental sustainability is not a choice but a necessity. What are some of the forthcoming projects that MRA is planning to undertake to further this cause?

Yes, indeed, we do believe that environmental sustainability is not a choice but a necessity. We have been devising means and ways to integrate green technology into our operations, including procurement. MRA has started its transition to sustainable energy by installing solar water heaters as well as solar panels on the roof of covered parking at the ICCC.

ICCC has given us very good knowledge of the green concept. As such, we would have our new building, the 'Revenue House', to be LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified, focusing on aspects such as energy efficiency, water conservation, indoor environmental quality and material selection. Sustainable practices will be across various aspects of the building's design and construction, aligning with LEED's stringent standards.

Do you have any final thoughts or messages that you would like to share with our readers regarding MRA's commitment to environmental sustainability and future initiatives?

I will seize this golden opportunity to invite all MRA staff to join our Green Productivity and Environment Club. Let us put our minds and hands together as a family and make changes in our sustainable behaviours in order to make Mauritius a cleaner, greener and environmentally-sustainable circular economy.

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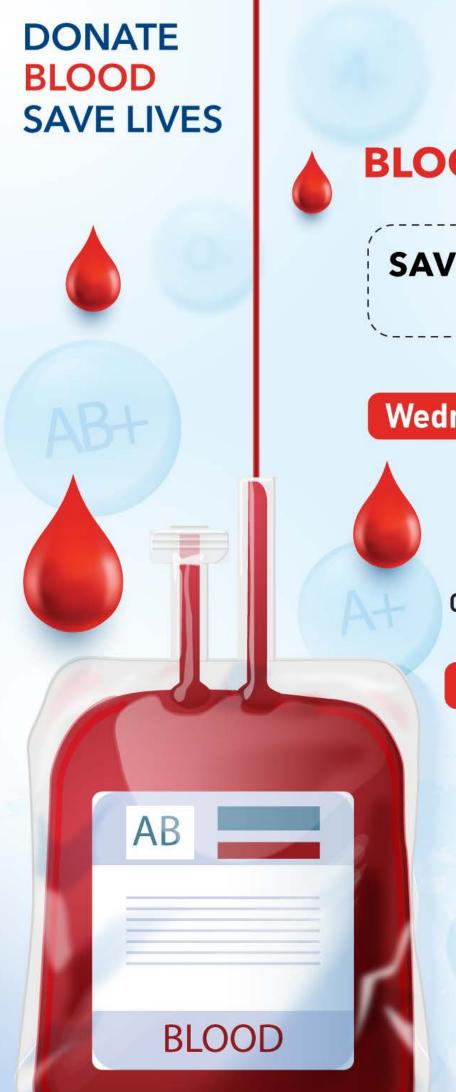
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SAVE THE DATES &

Wednesday 17 July 2024

07h30 - 17h00

Ehram Court, Port Louis Belfort Tower, Port Louis Custom House, Mer Rouge

Friday 19 July 2024

08h00 - 16h00

Integrated Customs
Clearance Centre (ICCC),
Le Chaland Rd, Plaine Magnien
SSR Int'l. Airport,
Arrival, Gate 08

www.mra.mu









PIVOTAL ROLE OF THE SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES IN THE MAURITIAN ECONOMY

The Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) are not just the engines of economic growth in Mauritius; they also play a crucial role in contributing to the nation's tax revenue. The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) recognizes the vital contribution of SMEs and, in a bid to support them, has put in place a dedicated SME corner on its website. The SME corner aims to keep SMEs informed about the latest fiscal measures and tax-related developments.

MRA's <u>SME Corner</u> serves as a valuable resource for businesses seeking to understand and comply with tax regulations. It offers a wealth of information, including:

Latest Fiscal Measures: This corner provides updates on latest tax policies, changes in legislation, and announcements from MRA, ensuring SMEs are informed of relevant developments.

Tax Compliance Guidelines: Detailed guides and FAQs explain the various tax obligations, filing procedures, and deadlines, assisting SMEs in navigating the tax system with confidence.

Tax Incentives and Support Schemes: MRA highlights various incentives and support schemes available to SMEs, such as tax holidays, rebates, and financing options, encouraging growth and investment.

Tax Education Resources: The corner offers informative articles, webinars, and training materials to enhance the understanding of tax principles and practices, equipping SMEs with the necessary knowledge to manage their tax obligations effectively.

SME Videos

- 1. Aides financières aux petites et moyennes entreprises (PMEs)
- 2. Aides financières aux Entreprises orientées vers l'exportation
- 3. Soutien financier aux PMEs pour payer la compensation salariale de Rs. 1000
- Financial Support to: Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) / E. Enterprises (EOEs)
- 5. SME Videos (Playlist)

MRA's publication

Information pack for newly registered taxpayers

To ensure entrepreneurs stay informed about current fiscal updates, MRA has prepared an information pack for newly registered taxpayers. These individuals are required to pay contributions such as the National Pensions Fund (NPF), the Contribution Sociale Généralisée (CSG), the National Savings Fund (NSF) and the Training Levy.

Starting Business Guide



MRA published the "Starting Business Guide (Individuals)" to provide insight into tax obligations and record-keeping requirements. An entrepreneur should keep records as follows:

- in computerised or manual form;
- in English or French language;
- in chronological order; and
- for a period of 5 years.

Tax basics for Newly Incorporated Companies



MRA published a leaflet on Tax basics for newly incorporated companies, where detailed information on Pay As You Earn (PAYE), Tax Deduction at Source (TDS), and the Advance Payment System (APS), are provided.

Submission of annual return and payment of tax

Every company, whether or not it derives any income, is required to file a return of income and effect payment of tax, if any, electronically within the due date, unless the company has submitted a declaration of not in operation within 3 months from the end of the accounting year.

Electronic filing

All companies should submit electronically the following returns and pay tax (if any):

- i. Corporate Tax Return
- ii. Monthly PAYE/CSG/NSF Returns
- iii. VAT Returns
- iv. Monthly PRGF Return
- v. Annual return of employees
- vi. APS statement
- vii. Monthly TDS return
- viii. Return of dividends paid

For further information, please visit MRA website: www.mra.mu

Counterfeit Goods

MRA PURSUES ITS RELENTLESS FIGHT AGAINST THESE ILLICIT PRACTICES



Counterfeiting and piracy have become a rampant issue in today's global marketplace, posing significant threats to economies, businesses, and consumers. From fake designer handbags to counterfeit pharmaceuticals, these illicit practices not only harm legitimate businesses but also endanger public health and safety. In this battle against fake, pirated, and counterfeit goods, MRA Customs plays a vital role in protecting society and upholding Intellectual Property Rights (IPR).

Below are some latest statistics on counterfeit seizures effected by Customs for the period January to May 2024:

IPR UNIT [by application of Section 66A-E of the Customs Act]				
Period	No. of seizures	Qty (Units)	Duty paid Value (Rs)	
January	5	677	41,612	
February	8	23,050	923,072	
March	15	2,869	480,758	
April	3	57	312,364	
May	6	169	24,660	
Total	37	26,822	1,782,466	

Every year, the range of products being counterfeited is growing exponentially. Fake and counterfeit goods are not limited to t-shirts, watches and perfume only. They also include:

- Pharmaceutical products and prescription drugs that are being manufactured and distributed with little or no active ingredients;
- Sub-standard car parts and aircraft spares; and
- Computer parts with operating speeds artificially increased.

MRA Customs cannot combat this challenge single-handedly. It is crucial for Rights Holders to:

- i. Apply to Mauritius Customs for assistance in protecting their rights.
- ii. Provide all the information requested by MRA Customs Department.
- iii. Furnish security in the form of a bank guarantee of Rs. 20, 000 at time of initial registration.
- iv. Provide MRA Customs Department, within ten working days, with a copy of a Court Injunction that it has initiated legal proceedings against the importer.

IPR Application Form

Customs will determine the amount of additional bank guarantee that must be subscribed, if any, to protect the Director-General of the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) against any loss or damage that may result from the suspension of the clearance of any consignment of goods suspected to be infringing and to cover any reasonable expenses likely to be incurred as a result of such suspension.

Once MRA Customs has a court injunction, it will be able to seize the counterfeit goods.

If the Rights Holders fail to identify whether the suspected goods are infringing and provide an injunction within the prescribed time frames, MRA Customs Department will have no alternative than to release the goods.

Destruction of goods

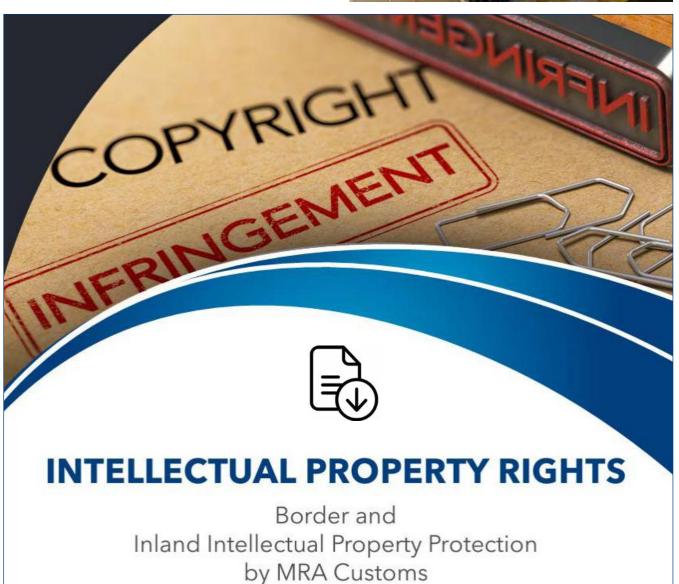
Once authorisation is granted to destroy the goods, MRA Customs and the Rights Holders will need to decide on the most effective and cost-efficient way to do so.

All costs associated with "debranding" or destruction must be borne by the Rights Holders.

The fight against counterfeiting requires Rights Holders to register their trademarks and protect their rights according to the law.







Counterfeit Pharmaceuticals

2024 AFRICAN REGIONAL WORKSHOP



To be a world-class Revenue Authority respected for its fairness and integrity, MRA invests in capacity building and resources. From this perspective, the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) hosted a workshop entitled "2024 African Regional Workshop on Counterfeit Pharmaceuticals", from Tuesday 04 to Friday 07 June 2024, at the Integrated Customs Clearance Centre (ICCC), Le Chaland, Plaine Magnien.

The workshop focused on enhancing intellectual property enforcement through interactive sessions, case studies, and practical exercises, aimed at addressing complex challenges and exploring innovative approaches to combat infringement. The training featured an applied trade enforcement exercise at DHL Courier Services. It also highlighted the importance of pooling resources and expertise to develop robust strategies against evolving threats.

42 participants from various African countries, including Mauritius, Seychelles, Kenya, Tanzania, and South Africa availed themselves of this four-day workshop, which has been organized by the Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) in partnership with the National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Centre (IPR Centre) and the United States Department of Justice.



Strengthening Regional Cooperation



Mr. Satrajit Sardar, Deputy Chief of Mission to the U.S. Embassy in Mauritius

Mr. Satrajit Sardar, the Chargé d'Affairs/ Deputy Chief of Mission underscored the significance of regional cooperation in fostering a safe and prosperous environment. He lauded Mauritius as a significant leader in the region and emphasized the critical need for close collaboration among nations. The workshop, he noted, provided a valuable platform for exchanging ideas and strategies to address pressing challenges, particularly the scourge of illicit trade and counterfeit goods which not only support criminal enterprises in both the USA and Mauritius but also undermine intellectual property rights and jeopardize public health.

Mr. Sardar warned against the grave risks posed to citizens who unknowingly consume counterfeit pharmaceuticals and stressed the need for concerted efforts to hold malign actors accountable.

Expressing gratitude for the participation and support of MRA, Mr. Sardar highlighted the workshop's role in fostering regional solidarity and advancing international cooperation. He urged attendees to share best practices and committed to supporting future collaboration initiatives with the Mauritian government.

Reinforcing security and combating counterfeits

In his address, Mr. Vivekanand Ramburun, Director of Customs, expressed gratitude to his colleagues from the region for their collaborative efforts. He underscored the critical role of Customs officers as agents not only of revenue collection but also the protection of citizens; particularly against threats like money laundering, counterfeit goods, and illegal drugs.



Mr. Vivekanand Ramburun, Director, MRA Customs

Emphasizing Mauritius' membership in the World Trade Organization, Mr. Ramburun underlined the evolving nature of the responsibilities of Mauritian Customs officers, with a growing focus on ensuring the importation of permitted pharmaceuticals and combating the influx of counterfeit products. He concluded on the importance of leveraging technology and forging partnerships to enhance Customs operations and tackle emerging challenges.











Educational Sessions

A PRIORITY FOR MRA

As a member of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Mauritius adheres to its guidelines. According to OECD recommendations, one effective method to promote tax awareness is through educational sessions, which is indeed a priority for the Mauritius Revenue Authority.

Educating students about taxation is crucial as they represent the future taxpayers of the country. Encouraging voluntary compliance from an early stage holds the potential for significant long-term benefits. With this objective in mind, MRA regularly organizes tax-related educational sessions for secondary institutions. Additionally, to engage more closely with students, MRA arranges "Educational tours," inviting students to visit MRA premises to gain first-hand insights into how taxes contribute to economic projects as well as Customs-related information. This direct interaction between students and MRA officers has proven highly beneficial, as depicted in the video below:



More than 10,000 students sensitised on taxation

In its ongoing commitment to enhancing tax compliance and financial literacy among the youth, the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) has recourse to educational sessions. Over the past five years, MRA has conducted approximately two hundred sessions across various secondary institutions, reaching more than 10,000 students. This educational initiative seeks to instill a sense of moral responsibility towards voluntary tax payment, ultimately cultivating a culture of compliance that benefits Mauritius in the long term.

From January to June 2024, MRA has sensitized 1200 students from 28 colleges across Mauritius.

This initiative, spearheaded by MRA's Taxpayer Education and Communication Department (TECD), aims to enhance a deeper understanding among students about their roles and responsibilities in contributing to the nation's development through tax compliance.

On March 1, 2024, MRA organized an educational tour for 200 students from Loreto Convent, Hamilton College, Sookdeo Bissoondoyal SSS, and France Boyer de La Giroday SSS.

On April 2, 2024, MRA organized two educational tours at the Mon Plaisir Cultural Centre, specifically designed for 309 students from the eight educational institutions across Rodrigues. The students benefited from sessions that elucidated the significance of taxation, fiscal policies, and MRA's contributions to the economic development.

Colleges interested in participating in these educational sessions are encouraged to contact the Taxpayer Education and Communication Department (TECD).





MRA in the Media

RADIO/TV PROGRAMMES



In a bid to maintain a close proximity with its stakeholders, tax officials participated in Radio/TV interventions providing explanations on the Fiscal Measures for the Budget 2024/2025, 'Prime à l'Emploi,' and the submission of annual income tax return by companies for year of assessment 2022/23. This two-way communication promotes trust, transparency, and a sense of partnership between MRA and taxpayers.

Moreover, MRA has recourse to a vast communication campaign, namely attending queries via mail and telephone, Taxpayer Mailing List and, Word-of-mouth marketing (WOM).

Undoubtedly, by leveraging these communication mediums, MRA has successfully promoted a culture of tax compliance and discouraged tax evasion.

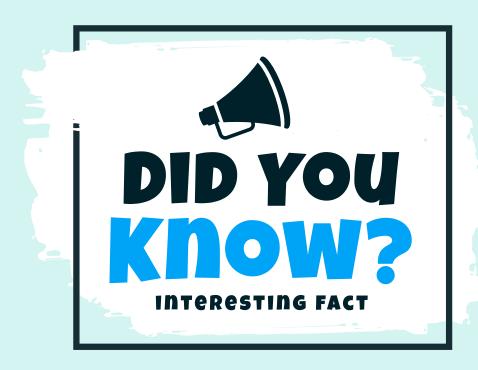
Mauritius

- **57** Radio interventions
- 18 "One minute radio Programmes" broadcast on Kool FM and MBC Radio.
- 1 TV Intervention

Rodrigues

- 18 "One minute radio Programmes" on Rodrigues FM
- **2** TV Interventions





Sniffer dogs at work

Beyond its primary role of tax collection, the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) undertakes efforts to combat drug trafficking and the illicit movement of cash and monetary instruments across borders.

To address these concerns, Customs established a K9 Unit in 2004, initially comprising four highly specialized sniffer dogs.

Since its inception, this unit has experienced a growth boasting of 16 expertly trained sniffer dogs, each partnered with a dedicated handler.

As of June 18, 2024, the 16 sniffer dogs made a total of 8,853 interventions. Strategically deployed at key transit points including the Port, Airport, courier services, and Parcel Post office, these canine teams serve as frontline defenders, tirelessly scrutinising signs of illicit substances or prohibited items.

By harnessing the keen senses of these Sniffer dogs, MRA ensures the most effective means of safeguarding Mauritius's borders and upholding its commitment to security.

Interventions carried out by the K-9 unit				
Description	No. of Cases	Market value (Rs)		
Cannabis	6	26, 615, 760		
Heroin	1	35, 850, 000		
Khat Leaves	1	366, 696		
Hashish	2	20, 015, 000		
Cocaine	1	99, 300, 000		



AMLU Cases				
No. of COR's for failure to declare currency	5			
Amount of undeclared /falsely declared currency	Rs. 2,623,216			
Penalty Imposed	Rs. 114,904			
Total number of currency declarations by passengers	96			
Total Amount of Currency (Rs) declared voluntarily and requested (compliant)	Rs. 51,574,992			
Total number of currency declarations by banks	9			
Total amount of currency declared by banks	Rs. 500,208,195			



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