

16th Integrity Advisory Committee

Stakeholders commend the work of MRA

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) hosted its 16th Integrity Advisory Committee (IAC), under the Chairmanship of Mr. Sudhamo Lal, on Wednesday 26 July 2023, at Custom House, Mer Rouge, Port-Louis. MRA has received commendation from stakeholders for its exceptional work, in promoting efficient tax administration, enhancing compliance, and fostering a business-friendly environment in Mauritius.



During the 16th Integrity Advisory Committee, stakeholders appreciated MRA's collaborative approach.

At the very outset, the Chairperson, Mr. Lal welcomed the external committee members, namely Mr. Mohammad Sallah-Ud-Din Surfraz (Den) Chairperson, Mauritius Institute of Professional Accountants (MIPA), Mr. Allen Sandrazie, President, Mauritius Taxpayers' Association, Mr. Suraj Ray, FCG, Chairperson, Mauritius Council of Social Service (MACOSS) among others.

In his speech, Mr. Lal spoke on the main objectives of the Integrity Advisory Committee. According to the Director-General of the MRA, the Committee acts as a bridge between MRA and the business as well as the trading community.



“IAC provides a platform where the resolution mechanisms of grievances of people from the business and trading community and the public at large can be discussed freely, especially with regards to the integrity of services provided by MRA. Moreover, IAC examines best practices in the fight against corruption and makes various recommendations on how to improve integrity at MRA”, he pointed out.

In its quest to become a world-class revenue authority, MRA has continuously adopted the best international practices for the promotion of integrity and remains committed to delivering high-quality services, embracing innovation, and upholding the highest standards of professionalism and integrity, Mr. Lal added.

The Committee was apprised of MRA Social Media Policy. Launched in April 2023, the Social Media Policy outlines a ‘*modus operandi*’ for using social media and provides guidance for employees during their personal use of social media or making public comments online. Consistent with MRA's core values, namely: integrity, responsiveness, fairness, transparency and accountability, this policy is synchronized with the practices of the Code of Conduct and Ethics.

Mr. Rajeev Gobin, Officer-in-Charge, Internal Affairs Division, MRA affirmed that *“since social media platforms, such as Facebook, Instagram, TikTok and WhatsApp are very popular and regularly used, there is a risk of security breaches, specifically if confidential materials are posted.”*

On her part, Mrs. Sumita Moorooogen, the Director of Internal Audit Division at the MRA, emphasized the importance of good governance. According to her, good governance promotes transparency, integrity, ethical behaviour, and reduces the chances of corruption and misuse of resources. *“Digitalization has become a major component of governance in today's rapidly evolving world, hence MRA has put emphasis on IT Security Audits. Robust cyber security measures and data protection laws are crucial to provide assurance/comfort to stakeholders in their dealings with MRA’s officers”*, she observed.

Mr. Krishna Rambaksh, Section Head, Large Taxpayers Department, MRA shared his insights on the budgetary measures. *“The proposals for the Budget 2023-2024 are based on trade facilitation and*

reinforcement of borders and enhancing quality of service and meeting the increasing demands of stakeholders”, he said. Speaking about the progressive tax system, he cited several tax brackets introduced with tax rates ranging from 0% to 20%.

For Mrs. Nissa Gaya, Section Head, Fiscal Investigations Department, MRA, *“tax evasion requires a multi-faceted approach that includes the vigorous application of tax laws and tax assessments.”* Strengthening legislation, enhancing compliance measures, leveraging technology, and raising public awareness, are all vital strategies in the fight against tax evasion. On this score, she underlined that *“MRA is empowered under the Revenue Law, including the MRA Act, Income Tax Act and VAT Act, to investigate into suspected cases of tax evasion”*.

MRA acknowledges and appreciates the support and recognition from its stakeholders, and intends to welcome members the Integrity Advisory Committee, for another meeting, in the near future.