

## MRA hosts its 15<sup>th</sup> Integrity Advisory Committee (IAC)

The Director-General of the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA), Mr. Sudhamo Lal chaired the 15<sup>th</sup> Integrity Advisory Committee (IAC) on Wednesday, 9 November 2022 at the Integrated Customs Clearance Centre (ICCC), Le Chaland, Plaine Magnien.

The IAC is a platform where the MRA meets its stakeholders to enhance cooperation and collaboration in the fight against corruption and to promote integrity in the organization. The main themes on the agenda of the 15<sup>th</sup> committee comprised MRA Assistance to World Customs Organization (WCO), Quality Assurance Improvement Program for the Internal Audit Division and Coordinated Border Management and Customs operations at the ICCC.

At the very outset, the Chairperson, Mr. Sudhamo LAL welcomed the external committee members, Mr. Allen SANDRAZIE, *President of the Mauritius Taxpayers Association*, Mr. A. KODABUX, *Treasurer of the Mauritius Council of Social Service*, Mrs. Aruna RADHAKEESOON, *Chairperson of the National Committee on Corporate Governance*, Mr. M. U. Quayyam ANNWAR, *Secretary Board of the Mauritius Institute of Professional Accountants*, Mrs. Nafeeza MULUNG, *Learning and Advocacy Manager of the Mauritius Institute of Directors*, and Mrs. Nishta SURAJBALI, *Economist at the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry* among others.

Mr. Sudhamo Lal stated that the ICCC has marked a milestone in the facilitation of trade in Mauritius, by reducing the cost of doing business. He pointed out that the ICCC is part of a major development plan in the airport area, including the setting up of a Cargo Village and the extension of the Freeport zone. This new concept is in line with the recommendation of the World Customs Organization's (WCO) for Coordinated Border Management (CBM).

On his part, Mr. Vivekanand Ramburun, the Director of Customs at the MRA, elaborated on the operational aspect of this new building. All members have also visited the operational integrity of this new building.

Mr. Rajeev Gobin, Team Leader In Charge of Internal Affairs Division at the MRA gave an overview of the different missions carried out by the MRA on behalf of the WCO for the benefit of several Revenue and Customs administrations around the world. The MRA integrity framework is being presented as a model with all the tools and instruments in line with international best practices.

Also present were the two observers from the National Revenue Authority of Sierra Leone; Mr. Benedict TUCKER, Head of Internal Affairs Unit at the National Revenue Authority (Sierra Leone), and Mr. Hindolo Abu Suliaman, BAO Officer at the National Revenue Authority (Sierra Leone).

The representative of the National Revenue Authority thanked MRA for its unflinching support to assist NRA in developing a robust and sustainable anti- corruption framework. The members of the IAC applauded the work of the MRA and its commitment to facilitate trade through the setting up of the ICCC, which would be fully in operation shortly and would act as a one-stop shop comprising several ministries and departments involved in the clearance of goods.