

JULY 2024

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1,816 PINTS OF BLOODS**

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EDITORIAL NOTE

MRA's Green Commitment: A Model for Sustainable Governance

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) has a three-fold mandate that encompasses revenue collection, the provision of financial assistance schemes, and the adoption of environmentally friendly practices. In an era where environmental sustainability is not merely a choice but a pressing necessity, organizations worldwide are increasingly called to embody this ethos. In this context, MRA stands out as a commendable example of how an institution can intertwine effective governance with ecological responsibility. Recently recognized as the 2nd Runner-up in the Public Sector Category at the Environmental Awards 2024, MRA has demonstrated not only its commitment to transparency and integrity but also an unwavering dedication to green initiatives that align with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through these efforts, MRA illustrates the potential for organizations to contribute meaningfully to both economic and environmental sustainability.

Central to MRA's environmental efforts is its proactive reduction of paper waste. As the world rapidly transitions into a digital age, MRA has made significant strides toward becoming a paperless organization. The shift to electronic tax filing is particularly noteworthy, with nearly all taxes now filed electronically. Other recent initiatives, such as e-invoicing and e-tax filing, enhance operational efficiency while marking a significant advancement in reducing the tax authority's carbon footprint.

Equally impressive is the collaborative spirit within MRA's management and staff, which has been vital to the successful implementation of green initiatives. The establishment of the Green Productivity and Environment Club is a proactive measure aimed at promoting a culture of environmental practises among employees. This endeavour actively encourages staff to embrace eco-friendly practices, transforming individual efforts into a collective force for good. Employee engagement in energy-saving initiatives is essential to any sustainable movement, and MRA's approach exemplifies how inclusivity can drive significant change.

In addition to these internal efforts, MRA has taken prompt action to beautify Mauritius while reinforcing the importance of giving back to the community. Through its annual blood donation initiative, the authority not only provides a vital service but also engages in a meaningful practice of distributing plants to blood donors. With approximately 20,000 plants distributed, MRA has helped nurture diverse gardens across the islands, contributing to the overall greening of Mauritius.

Moreover, the shift toward sustainable energy solutions marks another significant achievement of MRA's green commitment. The installation of solar water heaters and solar panels at the Integrated Customs Clearance Centre (ICCC) demonstrates a robust dedication to minimizing the authority's environmental footprint. Such investments reflect a forward-thinking approach to energy consumption and illustrate how governmental entities can leverage renewable energy for long-term sustainability.

Wish you a Happy Reading!

Editorial team

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BLOOD DONATION 2024:

MRA COLLECTS 1,816 PINTS OF BLOOD

Since its inception in 2006, the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) organizes Blood Donation to mark its anniversary. This tradition is upheld each year. To date, the MRA Blood Donation program has remitted a cumulative amount of over 17,000 pints of blood to the National Blood Transfusion Service (NBTS) of the Ministry of Health and Wellness, underscoring MRA's commitment to supporting healthcare needs in Mauritius.

The MRA Blood Donation 2024 was officially launched by Dr. Poonam Gungadin, Director Health Services, Ministry of Health and Wellness on Wednesday, July 17th, 2024, in the presence of Mr. Dhanraj Ramdin, Acting Director-General of MRA, MRA Board members, MRA Management Team, Senior Officials from the Ministry, MRA personnel and blood donors.

This year, MRA collected a total of 1,816 pints of blood. On Wednesday, July 17, 2024, 1,140 pints were collected at three MRA locations in Port-Louis: Custom House, Mer Rouge, Ehram Court, and Belfort Tower.

Additionally, 676 pints were collected on Friday, July 19, 2024, at the Integrated Customs Clearance Centre (ICCC), Le Chaland Road, Plaine Magnien, and at the SSR International Airport, Plaisance. In 2023, a total of 1,759 pints was collected by MRA. Hence, 57 more pints were collected in 2024

Dr. Poonam Gungadin, Director Health Services, Ministry of Health and Wellness:

"Blood donations are important for supporting patients in need"

Dr. Gungadin expressed her gratitude to MRA for its consistent commitment to hosting this annual event and emphasized the importance of maintaining stable blood stock levels at the National Blood Transfusion Service (NBTS). According to Dr. Gungadin, these donations are essential for patients facing life-threatening diseases and medical emergencies in hospitals, especially those requiring transfusions during surgery.



BLOOD DONATION 2024:

MRA COLLECTS 1,816 PINTS OF BLOOD

Mr. Dhanraj Ramdin, Acting Director-General, MRA:

"MRA blood donation demonstrates our willingness to go beyond our traditional duties as a revenue authority"

Mr. Dhanraj Ramdin, Acting Director-General of MRA referenced the noble saying, "Service to Man is Service to God," to emphasize MRA's dedication to corporate social responsibility, highlighting its focus on community engagement. Mr. Ramdin reflected on MRA's blood donation journey that began in 2007, leading to over 17,000 pints of blood collected. "These donations have been helpful in saving countless lives, showcasing MRA's compassion and empathy for those in need", he said.

The organization of the MRA Blood Donation requires weeks of preparation and collaboration between MRA and the Ministry of Health through the National Blood Transfusion Service (NBTS). The Taxpayer Education and Communication Department (TECD) of the MRA drives the event. An information campaign is carried out through various radio and TV programmes, newspaper articles, sensitisation through social media platforms and word of mouth. A dedicated team of voluntary MRA officers carries-out a rigorous mobilisation campaign among external stakeholders and MRA staff to actively participate in this noble endeavour.

Mr. Ramdin expressed his gratitude towards the MRA team for their efforts in organizing the event, which fosters collaboration among employees and our engagement with local communities and stakeholders. This synergy reinforces MRA's partnership with the citizens of Mauritius.

Blood collected by MRA is essential. Hospitals require about 150 pints of blood each day to meet patient demands. These pints of blood are used

for a variety of medical purposes, such as surgeries, trauma care, and in the treatment of chronic diseases. Once donated, the blood is separated into its components—red blood cells, plasma, and platelets; each serving different medical needs. For example, plasma can be stored for up to one year.

Distribution of 21,000 plants

In addition to its blood donation efforts, MRA prioritizes environmental sustainability. Since 2007, the organization has distributed over 21,000 plants to encourage a greener environment. Mr. Ramdin announced that MRA was awarded the 2nd Runner-up in the Environmental Awards 2024 in the Public Sector Category, a testimony to the hard work and dedication of every member of the MRA team.

Mr. Amick Teeluckdharry, Assistant Director, TECD:

"MRA's Three-Fold Activities"

Mr. Amick Teeluckdharry, Assistant Director at the Taxpayer Education and Communication Department (TECD), explained that MRA's activities are henceforth three-fold: revenue collection, implementation of Financial Assistance Schemes, and the organising social activities like Blood Donation, aimed at intervening in the pressing needs of the Mauritian population. He concluded by highlighting MRA's unwavering commitment to making a positive impact on the lives of citizens in the Republic of Mauritius.

MRA extends its heartfelt appreciation to all volunteers, donors, and all stakeholders who played a vital role in making this annual event a success. Their dedication and support have not only saved lives but also inspired many people to join the cause as regular blood donors.



BLOOD DONATION 2024: MRA COLLECTS 1,816 PINTS OF BLOOD



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EMPLOYEE DECLARATION FORM (EDF) 2024-2025

- 363,055 individuals submitted their e-EDF last year
- As of now, 287,226 employees have already completed their e-EDF for the current year

As part of the ongoing efforts to streamline the taxation process and ensure compliance, the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) has made the Employee Declaration Form (e-EDF) for the fiscal year 2023/2024 available on their official website: www.mra.mu. It is essential for all employees, whether in the private or public sector, to complete and submit their e-EDF promptly.

The e-EDF is a critical component of the new progressive income tax system introduced by MRA. The information provided in the e-EDF is used by employers to calculate the appropriate amount of Pay As You Earn (PAYE) tax that should be withheld from an employee's salary. This progressive taxation system is designed to ensure that tax rates are aligned with income levels, promoting fairness and equity within the tax framework.

It is important to note that failure to submit the e-EDF will result in a flat tax rate of 15% being applied to an employee's income, rather than the potentially lower progressive rate that could be calculated based on the submitted form.

In 2023, a total of 363,055 individuals submitted their e-EDF, reflecting a proactive approach to compliance within the workforce. As of now, 287,226 employees have already completed their e-EDF for the current year. Those who have not yet submitted their EDF can still do so.

Employees

Kindly find below the steps to follow for the e-Filing of the EDF

In order to access the EDF electronic form, an employee should go to the MRA website: www.mra.mu

- Click on thumbnail or on the link e-EDF 2023/24: e-EDF
- Insert your: National Identity Card Number and Mobile phone Number
- The employee will receive a 'One-Time Password (OTP)' on his mobile phone via SMS or on the mail address provided.

- After inserting the OTP, the employee will have the option to insert either the Employer Registration Number (ERN) of his Employer or the Name of his Employer, and thereafter access to his e-EDF. On accessing the e-EDF, the employee will have the option to select/insert his deductions, reliefs and allowances to which he is eligible. Before submitting the e-EDF, the employee will have to confirm the correctness of the information provided therein. The employee may also choose to have a copy of his e-EDF via e-mail.

For the purpose of applying PAYE for month of August 2024, where an employee has not yet submitted his EDF, the employer is required take into consideration the reliefs, deductions and allowances claimed by the employees in their EDFs for the previous income year.

Tax Rates for FY 2024/2025

The tax rates for individuals for the income year starting on July 1, 2024, is indicated in Table 1 below.

CALCULATION OF PAYE UNDER THE NEW PROGRESSIVE INCOME TAX SYSTEM

Table 1	
Chargeable Income (Rs)	Rate of Income Tax
First Rs 390,000	0%
Next Rs 40,000	2%
Next Rs 40,000	4%
Next Rs 60,000	6 %
Next Rs 60,000	8%
Next Rs 300,000	10%
Next Rs 300,000	12%
Next Rs 300,000	14%
Next Rs 400,000	16%
Next Rs 500,000	18%
On the remainder	20%

EMPLOYEE DECLARATION FORM (EDF) 2024-2025

The monthly chargeable income brackets on which the different tax rates are applicable are as shown in Table 2 below –

Table 2	
Chargeable Income (Rs)	Rate of Income Tax
First Rs 30,000	0%
Next Rs 3,077	2%
Next Rs 3,077	4%
Next Rs 4,615	6 %
Next Rs 4,615	8%
Next Rs 23,077	10%
Next Rs 23,077	12%
Next Rs 23,077	14%
Next Rs 30,769	16%
Next Rs 38,462	18%
On the remainder	20%

Employers

For the purpose of calculating the Pay As You Earn system (PAYE), employers are required to login to the MRA e-services platform using their Employer Registration Number (ERN) and Password on MRA website to download the excel file showing the deductions claimed by their employees in their e-EDF.

New deductions for FY 2024/2025

Deduction for fee paying private schools

Where a dependent in respect of whom a deduction is claimed is attending a fee-paying private primary or secondary school registered under the Education Act, the person shall, in addition to the deduction he is entitled to, be eligible to an additional deduction of the amount of the fees paid or Rs 60,000, whichever is the lower.

Donation to approved charitable institutions

The maximum deduction to which an individual is entitled has been increased from Rs 50,000 to Rs 100,000. The donation is required to be made through electronic means.

Deduction for the adoption of animals

If someone adopts an animal from the Mauritius Society for Animal Welfare or an approved NGO, they can deduct Rs 10,000 from their net income for each animal adopted, up to a maximum of Rs 30,000 per year.

All other reliefs, deductions and allowances have remained unchanged.

Pay As You Earn (PAYE)

Pay As You Earn (PAYE) is a system whereby employers are required to withhold tax from the emoluments of employees chargeable to tax at the time the emoluments are received by or made available to the employees. The tax withheld is then remitted to the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) every month. To assist employers, the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) has issued a 'circular letter' to all employers about the PAYE (*Pay As You Earn*) income tax rules for the period from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025.

For the purposes of applying Pay As You Earn on a cumulative basis, the different monthly chargeable income brackets shall be calculated on a cumulative basis by reference to the month for which PAYE is calculated.

A Guide on Pay As You Earn (PAYE) has been published and may be downloaded through the following link: <https://www.mra.mu/download/PAYEGuide.pdf>

Exempt employee

No PAYE is required to be deducted from the monthly emoluments of an employee where such emoluments do not exceed Rs 30,000 except where the emoluments constitute of fees payable to a company Director or a member of a Board, Council, Commission, Committee of a statutory body. In such case, PAYE is applicable at the rate of 15% unless the director or board member makes a request to the person responsible for the payment of the emoluments for PAYE to be withheld at the rate of 20%.

TRAINEE OFFICERS COHORT 2024:

MRA WELCOMES 44 NEW TRAINEES

Human capital is an important asset for MRA. It helps MRA serve taxpayers and fulfil its mandate. To achieve its goals, MRA invests in recruiting high-calibre individuals and facilitating their professional growth.

As highlighted in MRA's latest Annual Report 2022 / 2023, our staff strength stands at 1,491, men and women combined, representing 86% of the critical requirements of the 1,736 staff. With a view to meeting the requirements of a diverse work environment and workforce, around 40 new employees joined MRA this month. Upon successful completion of their training and examination, they will be posted in Compliance Departments.

Comprehensive training of one year

The Launching Ceremony for the 2024 Trainee Officers was held on July 1, 2024, at Custom House, Mer Rouge, with 44 participants enrolled in a one-year Course on Taxation. The training programme began with a one-week induction course, which provided an overview of MRA's operations. The Course on Taxation consists of five distinct segments designed to equip trainees with the knowledge, skills, and competencies required to excel in taxation and revenue laws.

The training programme also encompasses both comprehensive in-class and full-time training, addressing the theoretical foundations of taxation and related topics. Additionally, it incorporates on-the-job training, enabling trainees to acquire practical experience and effectively apply their theoretical knowledge in real-world scenarios. During this training, self-study and research are also encouraged to deepen understanding and promote critical thinking among the trainees.

In his keynote address, Mr. Dhanraj Ramdin, Acting Director-General of MRA, emphasized the importance of the authority's core values, including integrity, responsiveness, fairness, transparency, and accountability. He highlighted that MRA is committed to becoming a world-class revenue authority respected for its professionalism, efficiency, fairness, integrity, and contribution to economic and social development.

The Acting Director-General stressed the significance of these values in daily work and appealed to the trainees to be loyal, dedicated, honest, and committed to continuous learning.

Mr. Ramdin concluded by emphasising the importance of upholding the MRA Oath of Confidentiality and keeping up with new business models, such as e-commerce, to ensure accurate and fair tax assessments.



Oath of Confidentiality

An Oath of Confidentiality is a formal declaration made by individuals, particularly in positions where they have access to sensitive or confidential information. This oath commits the individual to protect and not disclose any private or confidential information they encounter in the course of their work. All staff of the Mauritius Revenue Authority are required to sign the Oath of Confidentiality. This prerequisite is vital as it upholds the integrity and trust necessary in dealing sensitive information, ensuring that taxpayer data remains secure and confidential, and fostering public confidence in the authority's operations.

TRAINEE OFFICERS COHORT 2024: MRA WELCOMES 44 NEW TRAINEES



TRAINEE OFFICERS COHORT 2024: MRA WELCOMES 44 NEW TRAINEES

In his welcome address, Mr. D. Magen Maunikum, Director, Human Resources and Training Department (HRTD), MRA, encouraged the trainees to be innovative in their approach to work and emphasized that learning is a continuous process. He noted that out of a total of 2,610 applications received, 756 candidates were selected for written assessments and 146 top performers were invited for interviews.



After a comprehensive assessment and interview process, 44 exceptional candidates were chosen to participate in the one-year extensive course. Notably, 29 of these selected trainees are women, showcasing MRA's commitment to diversity and inclusion.

MRA extends its congratulations to the Trainee Officers Cohort 2024!

Equal opportunities

Since its inception in July 2006, a number of initiatives have been put in place to give equal opportunities to both male and female employees. In terms of staffing, in the year 2006, female employees across MRA consisted of only 23% of the workforce, as compared to 47% presently.

The Customs Department which used to be a male driven domain, has seen the proportion of its female employees increasing significantly from 10% in 2006 to 30% in 2024. Presently, in Support Departments and Compliance Departments, women's representation stands at 48% and 65% respectively. In terms of Grade distribution, the largest proportion of women is found at Grades 1, 2, 3 and 4 levels, with the highest share of 31% at Grade 3 level.

MRA is committed to providing an equal opportunity workplace for all employees, and this remains a core value of the organization. As part of its rigorous selection criteria, all recruits at MRA undergo a comprehensive examination, interview, and integrity check before being taken on board.



BENCHMARK STUDY TOUR:

THE NAMIBIAN TRAINING AUTHORITY MEETS THE MAURITIUS REVENUE AUTHORITY

On July 24, 2024, a five-member delegation from the Namibian Training Authority, led by Ms. Eva Thomas, visited the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) for a one-day benchmarking tour. Key discussion topics included Training Levy Administration and Collection, covering the legislative framework, collection processes and procedures, challenges in implementation, debt management, and compliance enforcement. Efficient Management Systems, such as IT platforms for levy administration, remittance processes to the HRDC, and reporting challenges and solutions, were also deliberated.

During their visit, they paid a courtesy call to Mr. M. Sudhamo Lal, G.O.S.K., C.S.K., Director-General of MRA, on the morning of Wednesday, July 24, 2024.

In an interview with our editorial team, Ms. Thomas praised MRA's use of advanced software such as SAP to enhance transparency and tax compliance. She underlined that the Namibian Training Authority (NTA) is seeking an effective computerized system for managing their training levy. A tailored work programme was prepared by MRA to meet their needs. MRA officials shared their expertise and experience with them. Ms. Thomas expressed satisfaction that the delegation was able to learn best practices in managing the Vocational Education and Training (VET) Levy.

Collection of the Training Levy by MRA

The Training Levy is a scheme established to develop human skills. In Mauritius, the Human Resource Development Council (HRDC) is responsible for managing the National Training Fund (NTF).

While the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) is responsible for the collection of the Training Levy, it works with synergy across its departments. The Director of the Operational Services Department (OSD) and his team concentrate on the administration and collection of the levy, ensuring smooth and efficient processes. Concurrently, the Information Systems Department (ISD) focuses on developing and maintaining systems that enhance the efficient management of the Training Levy, ensuring that all technological aspects are optimized for accuracy and effectiveness. Together, these departments collaborate to ensure the successful implementation and management of the Training Levy.

Every employer is required to pay a training levy at a rate of 1.5% of their employees' total basic wage or salary. This fee is payable to all workers who are insured persons under the NPS and aged between 18 and 65. Employees of charitable institutions and private secondary schools are exempted, as are workers in domestic services.

Following amendments brought under the Business Facilitation Act 2017, MRA has been entrusted with the function of collecting various contributions/payments, including the Training Levy. As from 1st January 2018, employers are required to submit all returns and effect payments to MRA by the 20th of each subsequent month.



BENCHMARK STUDY TOUR:

MRA LEADS THE IMPLEMENTATION AEOI IN THE AFRICAN REGION

The Automatic Exchange of Information (AEOI), under the Common Reporting Standard (CRS), involves the systematic and periodic transmission of “bulk” taxpayer information by the source country to the residence country concerning various categories of income (e.g., account balance or value, dividends, interest, royalties, salaries, pensions, etc.)

MRA implemented Automatic Exchange of Information (AEOI) five years ago, thanks to a dedicated team of in-house IT professionals, a robust tax system, and a proven legal framework. Today, financial information is shared seamlessly with tax authorities in other jurisdictions. AEOI provides multiple benefits, including deterring non-compliance, enhancing voluntary adherence, and promoting full disclosure. It improves tax revenues and fosters fairness in tax payments. Furthermore, it helps detect tax evasion, enhances tax transparency, and ensures that taxpayers accurately report their income and assets.

Benchmarking between the Mauritius Revenue Authority and the Directorate General of Taxation, Cameroon

From July 31 to August 2, 2024, a delegation led by Mr. Faycal Abdoulaye from Cameroon visited the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) to conduct a benchmarking study on the Automatic Exchange of Information (AEOI) standard. This initiative aimed to learn from Mauritius’s extensive experience in successfully implementing AEOI practices.

The discussions centered on essential elements for safeguarding data integrity and confidentiality in AEOI processes. Key topics included:

- **Server and Storage Infrastructure:** Evaluating both physical and cloud-based solutions for securing sensitive data.
- **Network Architecture and Security:** Assessing the strength of systems against unauthorized access.
- **Application Software and Hardware:** Reviewing technological tools that facilitate AEOI operations.

To ensure effective data governance, the following practices were highlighted:

- **Data Classification:** Categorizing information for proper handling.
- **Data Segregation:** Strategies to mitigate risks of data co-mingling.
- **Prevention of Data Co-mingling:** Techniques to maintain clear separation of data sets.

The delegation paid a courtesy to the Director-General of MRA, Mr. M. Sudhamo Lal, on August 1, 2024, where they discussed the importance of collaborative international efforts in tax information exchange.

The benchmarking study in Mauritius illustrated the commitment to sharing best practices in the implementation of the AEOI standard, paving the way for enhanced global cooperation in tax transparency and data protection.



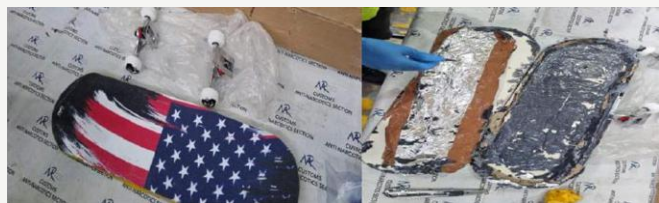
BORDER PROTECTION:

DRUG SEIZURE MADE BY MRA

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA), in collaboration with the Anti-Drug and Smuggling Unit (ADSU), made several drug seizures this month.

Methamphetamine Crystals worth Rs 15 million seized

A consignment that arrived on May 16, 2024, was seized at a Courier Service, containing 1kg of methamphetamine crystals worth approximately Rs 15 million. A field test for crystal meth was conducted, and the result was positive. The exhibits were secured and transferred to the ADSU for further investigation.



30 Amphetamine tablets seized at a Courier Service

On July 13, 2024, 30 Amphetamine tablets worth Rs 60,000 were seized at a courier service. The consignment, which originated from London, was initially flagged by MRA Customs Anti-Narcotics Section (CANS) based on established risk indicators. Upon scanning, suspicious images were revealed, and the consignment was further examined. It was found to contain one orange plastic container containing 30 pink tablets. A field test for amphetamine was performed on a sample of the tablet, and the result was positive. The exhibits were handed over to ADSU.



Seizure of Liquid Synthetic Drugs worth Rs. 17.7 million

On July 19, 2024, MRA seized 1,180 grams of liquid synthetic drugs valued at approximately Rs. 17.7 million from a courier service. A field test for synthetic

cannabinoids was conducted, which returned a positive result. The drugs were secured and transferred to the Anti-Drug and Smuggling Unit (ADSU) for safekeeping. The consignee and one other individual have been arrested.



Seizure of liquid synthetic drugs worth Rs. 60 million

On 28 July 2024, a joint operation by the Customs Anti-Narcotics Section (CANS) and Special Striking Team (SST) officers identified and examined a consignment. The examination revealed four bottles of synthetic drugs valued at Rs. 60 million. A field test confirmed the presence of synthetic cannabinoids. The exhibits were then secured and transferred to SST HQ for safekeeping.



Any passenger who illegally imports, exports, or dispatches in transit any dangerous drugs shall commit an offence and shall, upon conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding one million Rupees and to penal servitude (imprisonment) as provided in the Dangerous Drugs Act of 2000. For more information regarding drugs offences, please visit MRA website.

MRA in the Media

EXPLANATORY VIDEOS ON FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SCHEMES

► Financial Assistance Schemes



As announced in the 2024/25 Budget, the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) has implemented various measures to support different categories of citizens. To facilitate understanding, MRA produced four explanatory videos that provide insight into its Financial Assistance Schemes.

Our readers can view the videos at the following links :



Maternity Allowance: Bénéficiaire d'une allocation de Rs. 2,000 mensuellement



CSG School Allowance de Rs. 2,000



Tout savoir sur le CSG Child Allowance de Rs. 2,500



Pregnancy Care Allowance

Financial Assistance Schemes: <https://www.mra.mu/eservices1/financial-assistance-2>

MRA in the Media

RADIO PROGRAMMES ON THE NEW FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SCHEMES



For the month of July, the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) produced twenty "One-Minute Radio Programmes" along with four additional radio programmes aimed at raising public awareness about important tax-related issues and financial assistance schemes. For example, Mr. Mahmad Oozeer, Director of Operational Services Department (OSD) at MRA, and Mrs. Mokshada Gungaram, Team Leader of the OSD, were invited to discuss the new financial assistance schemes on Explik Ou Ka, Radio Plus. During the live programme, they explained the eligibility criteria for these schemes and addressed questions from listeners. This two-way communication promotes trust, transparency, and a sense of partnership between MRA and the public.

MRA values public awareness in Rodrigues

In a collaborative effort to promote effective communication, the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) and the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation of Rodrigues (MBC Rodrigues) produced a 26-minute television programme on Financial Assistance Schemes. The programme, which aired on July 23, 2024, aimed to educate the people of Rodrigues about various aspects of financial allowances.

Additionally, MRA has produced twenty "One-Minute Radio Programmes." These brief radio segments are designed to convey essential information pertaining to tax subjects and financial assistance schemes in a concise format, making them accessible to a broader audience across the island. The Radio/TV Programmes in Rodrigues have not only served as a valuable educational resource but have also encouraged collective awareness among the residents.

EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS: A PRIORITY FOR MRA

In alignment with its commitment to tax education, the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) places emphasis on delivering educational sessions to equip students, businesses, and the public at large with an understanding of tax laws and regulations. Through these initiatives, MRA seeks to promote tax compliance, enhance transparency, and promote a culture of tax awareness, thereby contributing to the development of the country.

Mrs. Bavinta Lingiah-Sunassee, Team Leader, Operational Services Department (OSD), and Mr. Chandraduth Lochun, Team Leader, Taxpayer Education and Communication Department (TECD), along with Ms. Anista Goyaram, officer from the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA), took part in a workshop organized by Beacon of Hope (BOH), a non-profit organization aiming to empower community leaders with financial knowledge. The event, held on

Sunday, 14 July at the St. Francois d'Assise Church in Pamplemousses, gathered 75 community leaders.

During the workshop, detailed explanations were provided by MRA officials, and explanatory videos were also displayed to provide insights into various financial assistance schemes, such as, the CSG School Allowance, Maternity Allowance, and Pregnancy Care Allowance, among others.

Attendees were briefed on the different schemes and latest budgetary measures for 2024/25. Participants expressed their gratitude for the valuable information shared during the workshop, highlighting the importance of understanding and accessing financial assistance for the betterment of their communities. The collaboration between MRA and BOH exemplifies the commitment to educating and empowering individuals.





DID YOU KNOW?

INTERESTING FACT

e-EDF v/s e-Filing

The Employee Declaration Form (e-EDF), and the filing of the Individual Income Tax Returns differ.

The Employee Declaration Form (e-EDF) contains information provided by the employees allowing respective employers to calculate, during the current financial year, the amount of Pay As You Earn (PAYE) to be withheld under the income tax system for each employee. The e-EDF contains information regarding

reliefs, deductions and allowances for which the employee may be eligible. The facility to submit the Employee Declaration Form (EDF), electronically, is available on MRA website: www.mra.mu

The e-Filing exercise, on the other hand, comprises the filing of Income Tax Returns by Individual Taxpayers, based on income derived. The e-Filing of Individual Income Tax Returns concerns employees in the public and private sectors, as well as, self-employed individuals and expatriates.

▶ **e-Employee Declaration Form (e-EDF)**

▶ **CSG School Allowance**
(Rs. 2,000 monthly to children aged 3 years up to 10 years)

▶ **Maternity Allowance**
(Rs. 2,000 monthly for 9 consecutive months)



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