

EXTENSION OF THE GOVERNMENT WAGE ASSISTANCE SCHEME AND THE SELF-EMPLOYED ASSISTANCE SCHEME

The Government of the Republic of Mauritius has decided to extend the following:

- a. the **Government Wage Assistance Scheme (GWAS)** to cover the period **1st of April 2020 to 30th of April 2020**, and
- b. the **Self-Employed Assistance Scheme (SEAS)** to cover the period **16th of April 2020 to 30th of April 2020**.

GOVERNMENT WAGE ASSISTANCE SCHEME (GWAS)

The aim of the **Government Wage Assistance Scheme** is to provide financial support to employees of the private sector who became technically unemployed during the COVID-19 lockdown/curfew period.

Since the COVID-19 lockdown period has been extended up to 04 May 2020, the Government has decided to extend the Scheme for the month of April 2020. A business will thus be eligible to receive an additional funding equivalent to one month's basic wage bill for its employees drawing a monthly basic wage of up to Rs 50,000 subject to a cap of Rs 25,000 of assistance per employee.

An employer would be debarred from the Scheme if he has benefitted from funds under the Scheme and has not paid his employees for the months of March and April 2020 or he has laid off even one employee during the lockdown/curfew period. The Scheme is applicable in respect of Mauritians in full-time or part-time employment, and expatriate employees working in Mauritius.

For the Government Wage Assistance Scheme, employers will have to apply again because there could be changes in the number of employees/wage bill. A new online application form will be made available on MRA website: www.mra.mu soon.

SELF-EMPLOYED ASSISTANCE SCHEME (SEAS)

The Self-Employed Assistance Scheme gives financial support to the informal sector. Under the Scheme, eligible self-employed individuals were entitled to receive an amount of Rs 5,100 for the one month period, 16th March 2020 to 15th April 2020.

For the fortnight 16th of April 2020 to 30th of April 2020, an additional amount of Rs 2,550 will be paid to the self-employed individuals.

For the Self-Employed Assistance Scheme, there is no need for a fresh application.

.....
Payment regarding the extension of both GWAS and SEAS will be effected as from Thursday 23 April 2020.

For further information, applicants are kindly requested to visit the website of the MRA: **www.mra.mu** or by calling on **207 6000**.

