

PRESS STATEMENT

For Immediate Release

Tuesday, 21 August 2018

INTRODUCTION OF DATA MATCHING BASED COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMME

1. The general public will recall that from 24 April to 31 December, 2017, the Zambia Revenue Authority ran a tax amnesty on interest and penalties arising from late or non-submission of returns and late or non-payment of tax liabilities on all domestic tax liabilities. The Tax Amnesty exercise was intended to give an opportunity to taxpayers to declare all transactions that had not been reported and to resolve their tax indebtedness arising from interest and penalties. The Amnesty also offered taxpayers longer time-to-pay agreements until 30th June 2018.
2. Following the expiry of the last time-to-pay agreements under the amnesty on 30th June, 2018, the Zambia Revenue Authority has started undertaking comprehensive compliance reviews of all tax returns and customs declarations submitted in 2015, 2016 and 2017. The objective of this exercise is to ensure that taxpayers' declarations on the ZRA database are consistent across all tax types. This is being done by means of cross-matching Domestic Tax data on TaxOnline and customs data on ASYCUDAWorld using a revolutionary approach.
3. Results so far indicate that many taxpayers continue to be evasive when reporting to Customs and to Domestic Tax on comparable transactions. We wish to inform taxpayers whose declarations will be flagged by the data matching system that they will receive a notification requesting them to provide an explanation for the identified variations within 14 days of the notification. Taxpayers are reminded that they are required by law to comply with this request and to provide any requested information and records.
4. Should a taxpayer fail to oblige with this request for information and records, ZRA shall proceed to amend the taxpayer's tax assessments by making adjustments that may be deemed fit in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Income Tax Act, the Value Added Tax Act and the Customs and Excise Act. Furthermore, failure to provide the information and records so requested may result in incurring of fines or penalties in accordance with the aforementioned legislations.
5. The Authority wishes to take this opportunity to encourage taxpayers to comply voluntarily on their tax obligations. However, taxpayers who choose to evade taxes will be identified and brought to account. Tax compliance is everyone's responsibility.



**ZAMBIA
REVENUE
AUTHORITY** | Working
To Serve You
Efficiently

I thank you!

Kingsley Chanda

COMMISSIONER GENERAL

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