

# REVENUE WATCH

Revenue Watch is a monthly publication of the Communication, Media & Public Affairs Section of the Liberia Revenue Authority

## TAX DUE DATES

### PERSONAL INCOME TAX

Withholdings on wages and salaries; Due on or before the 10th day of the following month. Covers: Employers

### CONTRACT SERVICES

Withholding on Services Rendered - Due on or before the 10th day of the following month. Covers: Contractors

### GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

(7%-15%) - Due on or before the 21st day of the following month. Covers: Restaurants, Hotels, Car Rentals, Telecommunications communication companies and Manufacturers

**EXCISE TAX:** Due on or before the 21st day of the following month. Covers: Producers and sellers of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages.

**PRESUMPTIVE TAX (4%)** Due on or before 15 days after each quarter ( i.e., 1st quarter payment is due April 15th) Covers: Small business whose gross annual sales are \$L\$ 200,000 - L\$3,000,000

### BUSINESS INCOME TAX

(2%). Covers: All medium and large taxpayers with gross sales above L\$3,000,000

**Advance Payment on BUSINESS INCOME TAX (2%)** Covers: All medium and large taxpayers with gross sales above L\$3,000,000

**REAL ESTATE TAX** Due between January 1st and July 1st. Covers: All land and Real Property owners

**INCOME TAX RETURN** (Filing and Payment) Due on or before March 31st of each calendar year



## LRA Seeks Modern Customs Operation To Boost Revenue Collection

In observance of this year's International Customs Day (ICD), the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) has reaffirmed its commitment to modernize customs related activities to ease revenue payment. On January 26, 2019, LRA joined 181 countries around the world to celebrate the ICD in Ganta, Nimba County.

The celebration, held under the global theme "Smart Borders for Seamless Trade, Travel and Transport", was in commemoration of the 67th Anniversary of International Customs Day.

The 'SMART' as used in this year's theme represents Customs ensuring Secured, Measurable, Automated, Risk Management-based and Technology-driven processes in compliance, enforcement and facilitation efforts.

During the program, LRA Commissioner General Thomas Doe Nah lauded customs officers for their level of performance in helping to collect the needed revenue for Liberia.

CG Nah encouraged customs officers to work with diligence in ensuring a proactive standard to collect lawful revenue. He cautioned LRA Customs officers to desist from unlawful acts in the discharge of their duties, noting that such behavior will not be tolerated during his regime.

"We all have a responsibility to be ethical not only with our mouths, but with our actions. So let the message be made clear today that we do not practice corruption in any form or shape, and if anyone thinks that LRA or Customs is a place to enrich themselves during my tenure, then, you are not my friend," he stated.

CG Nah further called for collaboration with other agencies of government including partners for smooth customs operations, revenue collection and border security.

The LRA commissioner General warned against acts of smuggling and trafficking of harmful

products and items in the country. The LRA Boss encouraged staff to learn new skills in a bid to fully prepare themselves to adjust to the new trend of customs transformation. For his part, the keynote speaker at this year's celebration of ICD, Ivan Tumbay, President of the National Customs Brokers Association of Liberia, called for a collaborative effort of stakeholders for the advancement of customs operations in Liberia.

He challenged customs brokers to be more transparent and accountable in their dealings in helping the government increase its revenue collection.

He said the role of customs brokers in enhancing trade facilitation is vital and, as such must be done in line with their requisite responsibilities in accordance with the Revenue Code of Liberia. Mr. Tumbay called on government to create a more vigorous customs environment for timely and smooth coordination.

Meanwhile, LRA Customs Commissioner Saa Saamoi disclosed that the Authority is well on course with its modernization plans with the aim to ensure a holistic transformation of customs operations and effective measures to promote trade facilitation and border security.

He announced that the LRA has embarked on programs leading to ensuring a full scale automation and integration of all land and sea borders including rural ports to the paperless platform and at the same time interfacing with all commercial banks in Liberia for the single payment of fees and taxes.

Commissioner Saamoi also indicated that there are plans underway to introduce simplified electronic declaration procedures for international passengers and small-scales informal traders in Liberia to boost trade activities.

He said the LRA in collaboration with the ministries of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP), and Commerce and Industry are formulating plans to transition from pre shipment inspection (PSI) to designation inspection (DI), using state-of-the-art cargo inspection facilities including non-intrusive technology.

Over the year, the LRA has worked towards simplifying and modernizing customs procedures including the establishment of a Centralized Assessment Unit which has provided a platform for a paperless environment.

Mr. Tumbay warned customs brokers to desist from acts that have the propensity to undermine government's revenue collection efforts "If you are a good broker, continue to be, but if you are a bad one you must change now or leave the system because we are prepared to join the LRA to weed you out," he indicated.

This year's celebration brought together the customs officers of the LRA, officers of the Liberia Immigration Service, the Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency, the Liberia National Police, as well as a team from the Guinean customs agency.



The Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) applauded and honored an outgoing IMF consultant Joseph Christopher Musumba Mwogeza for his professional services rendered Liberia through the Authority to impact the collection of lawful revenue in the country.

Mr. Mwogeza, seconded by the IMF, worked with the LRA for over three years, particularly with the Large Tax Division in the Domestic Tax Department, building the capacity of staff in strengthening compliance.

At a farewell and gowning ceremony on January 15 at the headquarters of the LRA, Deputy LRA Commissioner General for Technical Affairs Decontee T. King-Sackie thanked Mr. Mwogeza especially for building the capacity of staff of the Authority during his three-year period at the LRA.

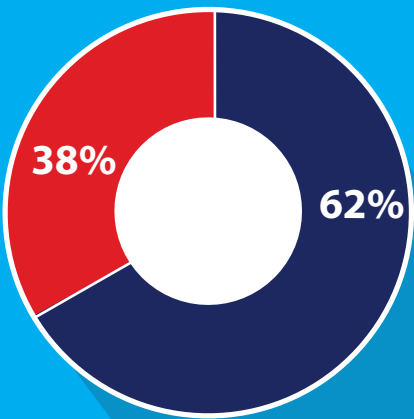
## LRA Honors Departing IMF Consultant

R E V E N U E

# PERFORMANCE

MONTHLY UPDATE

## JANUARY REVENUE OUTTURN



■ Domestic Tax Department  
■ Customs Department

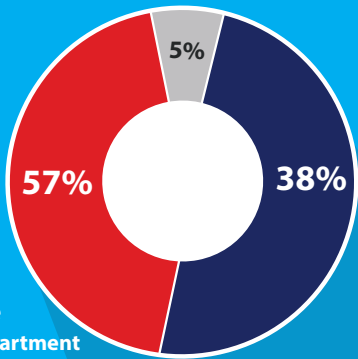
The gross total revenue collection for January, 2019 was US\$ 26.137 million and LRD 1.834 billion. The consolidated value at the average exchange rate of 158.46 LRD/1USD was US\$ 37.729 million. Against a target of US\$ 36.770 million collection slightly exceeded by US\$0.959 million, an equivalent of three percent. When collection is assessed on year on year basis, collection declined by nine percent, (i.e. from US\$ 40.353 million to US\$ 37.729 million). However, the collection for the month increased by US\$6.738 million or an equivalent of

22 percent above December 2018 collection.

The currency composition showed that 69 percent of the total revenue was collected in United States Dollars whilst the remaining 31 percent was collected in Liberia Dollars for the month.

There was no external resource intake for the period under review.

## YTD-DOMESTIC REVENUE PERFORMANCE



■ External Resource  
■ Domestic Tax Department  
■ Customs Department

### YTD Total Revenue

Year To-Date as January 31, 2018 total gross revenue collection consolidated at the average exchange rate of LRD 155.47 to 1USD is US\$271.269 million. When total revenue collection is compared on a year-on year basis, FY18/19 actuals increased by US\$22.753 million, representing nine percent above FY 17/18. Year to date collection in total revenue collection shows that approximately 48 percent of the approved revenue target of 570.148 million actualized while domestically 51 percent of the approved target of US\$506.195 has been achieved. When collection is assessed on month- on month basis for the first half of the fiscal year, the month of October was the lead contributor.

The DCGTA used the moment to express gratitude to the IMF Family for the continuous contributions towards the growth and development of the LRA and Liberia.

Commissioner King-Sackie urged staff of the LRA, specifically those of the Large Tax Division of the Domestic Tax Department, to utilize the knowledge gained from Mr. Mwogezza over the years. "It is my hope and prayer that the knowledge we all gained from Joseph, will not die with his departure," the DCGTA said.

Assistant Commissioner for Large Tax Andrew Pope, in remarks, said Mr. Mwogezza work directly impacted the Large Tax Division and it is against the backdrop the division decided to gown the consultant as a means of showing gratitude.

"According to our own tradition, it's mandatory for us to show some sign of appreciation to a stranger whenever he's leaving, based on his contribution to our society", he added.

In response, the honoree thanked the entire staff and employees of the LRA for the cordial working relationship and best exchanges during his stay.

He admonished staff to push further and improve their skills, noting that as there are more talented and professional people working within the LRA, there is also a need to create more avenues for them to develop their potentials.

"I want to see more Joseph from this group that will even do better than I can," adding, "keep pushing and thanks for your full cooperation during the time I worked with you."

# REVENUE WATCH



## LRA Seeks Smooth Media Relations To Enhance Tax Compliance

The Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) in late January urged the Liberian media community to support its efforts in enhancing tax education to boost revenue collection to fund development initiatives of the country.

Addressing media executives on Wednesday January 30, 2019 during a media engagement organized by the Authority, Commissioner General Thomas Doe Nah called on the media to collaborate with the Authority in disseminating tax information to encourage compliance.

"Your role is very pivotal and that's why we want to strengthen our relationship and partnership with you so as to work together to make our country better," CG Nah noted.

The LRA Commissioner General said the Authority seeks an open and strong collaboration and partnership with the media, to work together in promoting the country's Domestic Resource Mobilization (DRM) efforts which will help accelerate revenue growth and national development. CG Nah said the DRM strategy needs the support of all stakeholders including the Liberian media in order to make it work.

The DRM strategy forms a core part of the government's Pro Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PADP). "We must all be tax compliant in helping to support domestic revenue mobilization no matter your profession, most importantly, you are a Liberian first before becoming a journalist; so, let's love our country," he challenged the media.

CG Nah pointed out that the growth in revenue collection is vital to the development of Liberia and will help better the lives of its people through the provision of social services. "The on-going construction of neighborhood and feeder roads in Monrovia and its environs by the government is a clear manifestation that our own resources are working for us—a trend we must all encourage," he emphasized.

The Director General of the Liberia Broadcasting System (LBS) Ledgerhood Rennie urged media practitioners to put aside personal interests and help move Liberia forward through their reportage. Speaking for the print media, the Managing Director of the Daily Observer Newspaper Bai S. G. Best encouraged his colleagues to work along with the LRA in promoting tax education in the best interest of the country.

They respectively urged their media colleagues to direct strong efforts in assisting the LRA to boost revenue collection to support Liberia's development.

The two media executives indicated that the media has a responsibility not only to keep the peace, but to also help ensure that the country moves forward. The LRA media roundtable was the first since the ascendancy of the new LRA management team headed by Commissioner General Thomas Doe Nah. It brought together over 40 media executives and officials from top media institutions in Liberia as well as the LRA.

### EDITORIAL TEAM

The REVENUE WATCH is a monthly publication of the Communication, Media and Public Affairs Section of the Liberia Revenue Authority

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