



# NEWS RELEASE

LRA/PR-39/17-18

## Mobile Tax Payment Begins In Liberia As LRA, RG3, UBA & Orange Liberia Launch Platform



President George Weah speaking when he launched the mobile tax payment service at the Monrovia City Hall

(Monrovia April 16, 2018): The Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) in collaboration with Orange Liberia and United Bank for Africa (UBA) on Thursday, April 12, officially launched Liberia's first Mobile Tax Payment Service.

The platform facilitates easy payment of all taxes and fees and reduces the burden on taxpayers who often cover long distances and stand in long queues to pay taxes.

The payment service covers all tax and non-tax fee collections including Business Income Tax (2%, 4%), Corporate Income Tax, Personal Income Tax, Excise Tax, GST, Withholding, Real Estate Tax, as well as Birth, Marriage, Travel Clearance, Fire Safety, Business Registration Renewal Certificates.

The mobile tax payment platform is operated by Orange Liberia GSM network, while the UBA is managing the payment deposits. Lonestar Cell/MTN will join later. The user friendly service is accessible 24 hours a day though out the week.

The launch of the Mobile Tax Payment Service is the first private-to-government payment mode in Liberia.



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Performing the official launch of the platform in Monrovia, President George M. Weah urged taxpayers to use the platform to pay their taxes.

President Weah became the first taxpayer to use the service when he paid his real property taxes during an open testing of the service. "I am using the platform to pay my taxes, so I am now urging you to do same," the Liberia leader noted.

He emphasized the need for all Liberians to begin adapting the culture of tax payment as a means of contributing to the development of the nation.

The Liberian leader described as unwholesome the attitude of some citizens to ignore tax payment as a civil obligation to nation building.

"We must start to give monies to the government through the payment of our taxes so that we stop blaming the government for not developing the country," President Weah said.

He called on the LRA to put in place requisite programs in order to make the tax payment processes easier as a mean of persuading more taxpayers to come forward and pay their taxes.

For her part, LRA Commissioner General Elfrieda Stewart Tamba said the launch of Mobile Tax Payment Service in Liberia is a key millstone in the history of the Authority in implementing Goal four of its Corporate Strategic Plan. The goal highlights the transformation of Liberia's tax administration by utilizing effective Information Communication Technology tools.

"It takes people hours or even days to travel and stand in line to pay taxes, but with this launch one can pay his or her taxes from the comfort of their home, office or even while on the move in less than five minutes," CG Tamba asserted.

She said making the tax payment easier through the introduction of the Mobile Tax Payment platform is one way the LRA can achieve its objective of facilitating voluntary compliance and strengthening domestic resource mobilization.

The LRA CG reaffirmed the Authority's commitment to transforming and modernizing tax administration in Liberia with the aim to enhance the financing of the government's national Pro Poor Agenda.

She thanked all stakeholders including USAID, the UBA Bank for Africa, Orange and Lone Star Communications Networks, the Central Bank of Liberia and development partners for immensely supporting the success of the platform.

Also speaking, USAID/Liberia Mission Director Anthony Chan said the service will greatly contribute to the collection legitimate taxes by the LRA.

He assured the commitment of the USAID/RG3 Project in helping to support enhance Liberia's tax system so as to achieve domestic resource mobilization which he noted is a keen in becoming self-reliance.



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The event attracted the attention of several senior officials of government among them Finance and Development Planning Minister Samuel Tweah and Central Bank of Liberia Governor Milton Weeks, who pledged to assist the LRA in raising the require revenues to support national development.