

# LRAFLASH

LRA news and information as it happens

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## LRA Concludes Dialogues On Domestic Resource Mobilization In Zwedru

The Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) has concluded its series of regional dialogues on domestic resource mobilization, with Commissioner General Elfrieda Stewart Tamba calling on Liberians and other residents of the country to pay only their “fair share” of the legitimate taxes due the state.

Commissioner General Tamba said Liberia can be developed like any other country in the world, but cautioned that this cannot be done with donors’ monies, or when people refuse to pay their taxes which are needed to foster development and provide better social services. CG Tamba made the call on April 6, 2017 when she addressed and officially opened the forth regional stakeholders’ dialogue on domestic resource mobilization in the Zwedru City, Grand Gedeh County.

The dialogue was held in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP) and sponsored by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). The Zwedru gathering brought together at least 75 stakeholders including businesses/investors, traditional leaders, religious and student groups from Grand Gedeh, Maryland, and River Gee Counties.

The gathering, like the previous ones held in Buchanan, Tubmanburg, Gbarnga and Monrovia, provided an opportunity to initiate discourse with various stakeholders, partners and taxpayers on a national Resource Mobilization Strategy, which will be finalized at the country’s first ever national revenue summit slated for June this year.

## Customs Department Exceeds Revised March Revenue Target

In the face of declining trade volumes in the current fiscal year, the Department of Customs exceeded its revenue target of US\$13.9M by US\$4.1M for the month of March 2017. The department generated US\$18.1M in the reporting month exceeding the revised revenue target by 29 percent.

According to the Commissioner of Customs, Saa Saamoi, the international trade volumes in almost each month of the current fiscal year remain significantly lower than the correspond-

ing months in fiscal year 2015/16.

He indicated that the revenue performance is the result of collective efforts in the department to close revenue leakages within the limits of the laws and regulations governing tax administration in Liberia.

“The underpinning emphasis by the Liberia Revenue Authority is that we collect only what is lawfully allowable and that tax payers pay what is lawfully required” the Commissioner is quoted as saying.



**Saa Saamoi**  
Customs Commissioner

# CG Inspects Rural Tax Business Offices



LRA CG Elfrieda Stewart Tamba along with members of her delegation and staff of the Kakata TBO in Kakata during her stop at the TBO there

The Commissioner General of the LRA, Elfrieda Stewart Tamba recently inspected five rural tax Business Offices (TBOs) to boost their confidence and acquaint herself with challenges they are facing in collecting the lawful revenues of the country.

En route to Zwedru City, Grand Gedeh County, to attend the fifth and final regional dialogue on Domestic Resource Mobilization, the CG toured and held talks with senior collectors at the TBOs

in Kakata and Gbarnga cities in Margibi and Bong Counties respectively. Accompanied by the Commissioner of Customs, Saa Saamoi, and the Manager for Rural Tax Business Offices Thomas Jallah, the CG also inspected the Tapita, Ganta and Zwedru TBOs.

Senior Collectors at the TBOs welcomed the CG and team at their respective assignment areas and briefed her, in an interactive discussion, about progress, prospects and challenges in the discharge of their duties. They spoke of issues in expanding their respective tax rolls and revenue base, and stressed the need for additional support from HQ.

In general, most of the TBOs requested additional manpower (collectors and secretariat staff), constant electricity supplies, safes, as well as office equipment including photocopiers, computers, scanners, desks and

chairs.

In response, the CG applauded the TBOs and their respective staff for their services to the state and urged them to reach out as much as possible to increase their tax rolls. CG Tamba assured the TBOs that the LRA administration was working to address their concerns, some of which she said were immediate.

Meanwhile, in the aftermath of her visit, three TBOs including Ganta, Tapita and Zwedru have received additional office equipment, presented by Mr. Jallah, TBOs Manager.

The three TBOs each received one 3-in-1 visitor's chairs, while the Ganta TBO further received an LRA sign board and a filing cabinet. Mr. Jallah also presented to the Zwedru TBO one safe, one LRA Service Center and Core Value sign boards.

## READER of the WEEK

**Mr. Sebastian A. Weah**



The Communications, Media and Public Affairs Section is pleased to announce its prestigious READER OF THE WEEK personality. **Mr. Sebastian A. Weah**, Asst. Commissioner for Medium, Small & Micro Tax Division of the Domestic Tax Department, is our READER. He was selected from a shortlist of nine(9) reader who our roving camera caught unaware. He was graded the highest as you can see him deep into reading the LRA Flash. Congratulations Commissioner Weah!!!

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## Photo News

The Real Estate sector has great revenue generating potential in Liberia. Most property owners are not paying real property taxes, either because they lack the knowledge on payment procedures or are not aware that they must pay. Some are just reluctant to pay, while others deliberately refuse to pay— though they are aware of all the processes and procedures. In this photo news, LRA Assistant Commissioner for Real Estate, Lasana A. Kromah, Sr. is addressing more than 30 journalists at the



Ministry of Information regular weekly press briefing, broadcast live across the country, on the importance of real property tax payment.