

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 Renters, 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

CORPORATE INCOME TAX

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

Advance Payment on CORPORATE 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 property owners

INCOME TAX RETURN (Filing and Payment) Due on or

before March 31st of each calendar year

- CORPORATE INCOME TAX
- PERSONAL INCOME TAX

Covers: All businesses and persons earning income from Liberia



LRA & USAID/RG3 to Introduce Taxpayer Advocate Service Program

As part of professionalizing and improving taxpayers confidence, the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) in collaboration with USAID Revenue Generation for Governance and Growth (RG3) have embarked on the establishment of a taxpayer advocate service program at the LRA.

Both institutions agreed that the Taxpayer Advocate Service program will assist taxpayers who may be suffering severe economic burden or extreme delays in processing issues within the LRA.

The introduction of said position is part of the standard and modernization efforts of the LRA to improve tax related matters.

Commissioner General Elfrieda Stewart Tamba has welcomed the initiative, stating that it will bring credibility to the LRA and its local and international partners.

The Chief of Party of USAID RG3, Alex Kitain, for his part said the Taxpayer Advocate will report

directly to CG Tamba and deal with taxpayers who are experiencing hardship of difficulties in processing their tax payments and other related issues.

Both institutions want to follow international best practices in revenue collections and addressing critical issues among taxpayers. Currently the USAID RG3 project is partnering with the LRA to implement the taxpayer advocate service program.

In addition, the Taxpayer Advocate Service will provide one more avenue for taxpayers to get assistance and get problems resolved with the LRA.

Additionally, to qualify for the assistance, taxpayers must be experiencing delays in their tax processes lasting more than thirty days (30 days) to resolve their tax issues, or have not received a response or resolution to the problem by the date that was promised by the LRA.

Tax Payment is a Statutory Responsibility

LRA Assistant Commissioner Tells University Student



The Assistant Commissioner for Real Estate Tax Division, Lasana A. Kromah, Sr. in May told hundreds of university students that paying taxes is a statutory responsibility and national obligation by all citizens who receive taxable incomes.

Mr. Kromah indicated that tax payment is a statutory responsibility of all citizens and property owners that must be honored at all times.

He told the university students that tax payment is very vital in enhancing the development of Liberia as donor funding gradually dries up.

The Assistant LRA Commissioner noted that the taxes collected are used to enhance national development and to provide basic social services.

Mr. Kromah made the comments when he served as panelist at an interactive tax education forum organized by the Conscious Students Alliance For Democratic Promotion, with the intent to provide relevant information about the payment of real estate tax and the processes involved.

Assistant Commissioner Kromah emphasized the need for the payment of real estate tax by all property owners within the borders of Liberia.

He hailed the organizers of the tax education forum for organizing the event. He noted that the LRA was committed to exerting all efforts to ensure that all sectors of the society receives the relevant information about tax payment in the country.



PED Embarks On Annual Staff Integrity And Assets Declaration Awareness

With the many standards and reforms being introduced at the LRA, the Professional Ethics Division (PED) in early May commenced its annual nationwide ethics awareness for employees.

The exercise is intended to create awareness by explaining provisions of the LRA Professional Ethics and Code of Conduct as well as the code values of the authority.

This year's exercise involves a presentation on the asset declaration requirement for employees. All LRA employees are under obligation to declare their assets to the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission.

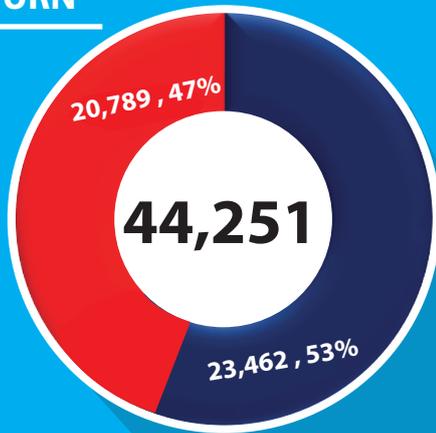
The exercise which is still ongoing, has covered LRA employees in eight counties including Sinoe, Rivercess, Grand Bassa, Grand Kru, Nimba, Maryland, Grand Gedeh and River Gee.

The awareness exercise provides an opportunity for the PED which is tasked with the responsibility to investigate LRA employees' ethical conduct, to interact with employees and discuss ideas on ethical and integrity issues and encourage them to always practice voluntary compliance and fair dealings in the discharge of their respective duties.

REVENUE PERFORMANCE

MONTHLY UPDATE

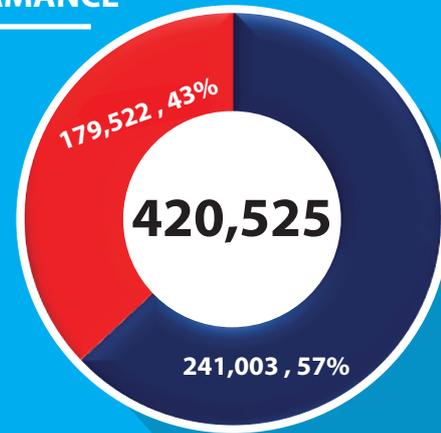
MAY REVENUE OUTTURN



■ Domestic Tax Department ■ Customs Department

The gross total revenue outturn for the month of May was US\$ 44.25M. The US\$44,25M came above its forecast of US\$ 43,253M by US\$ 998K or 2%. This amount represents 9% of the total revenue generated as at June 7, 2017 & 11% of domestic revenue. Domestic Tax Department accounted for 53% or US\$ 23.46M whilst Customs Department accounted for 47% or US\$ 20.78M. For the period under consideration External Resources had no receipt.

YTD-DOMESTIC REVENUE PERFORMANCE



■ Domestic Tax Department ■ Customs Department

The year to date revenue outturn of Domestic Revenue discloses that domestically we have generated US\$ 420.5M or 79% of the US\$ 529.9M approved forecast after exhausting 92% of the fiscal year. In actuality so as to achieve the target we have a balance to be collected at US\$ 109.4M of which Domestic Tax Department account for US\$ 72.3M or 66% whilst Customs Department account for US\$ 37.0M or 34%.

Commending Commissioner General Tamba For Championing The Cause For Tax Compliance

By Alvin Jask

Until quite recently, many Liberians didn't know much about paying taxes. Therefore issues of paying taxes and related matters had not been on the front burner of national discourse. However, with the advent of the LRA in 2014, a new chapter had since opened, where in many persons do not only know about taxes, but specific tax types and their responsibilities to pay their taxes.

No doubt, the culture of paying lawful taxes in Liberia is one of the newer innovations by the illustrious Commissioner General of the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) Mrs. Elfreda Stewart Tamba. As head of the LRA, CG Tamba has vigorously led a team of professional individuals to collect millions of dollars, as required under the law, to support the national budget. In the midst of unending serious challenges and constraints including limited budgetary support, frauds and low technological strength, the LRA, under the stewardship of Madam Tamba, has met budgetary targets set by the national legislature.

This is an effort that deserves very high commendation from well-meaning Liberians whom apparently lost this sense of nationalism as a result of a brutal civil conflict.

The crisis, as people may be aware, hugely escalated the high illiteracy rate in the country, thereby impacting every facet of life including that of the culture of paying taxes.

The reintroduction and enforcement of a tax compliant culture being created by CG Tamba would now create the enabling environment for the collection of lawful "Tax Dollars" and at the same time make taxpayers aware of their benefits therefrom—as the taxes paid are used by government for the wellbeing of the state and its people.

This visionary move by Commissioner General Tamba and her strong team of officials and staff is encouraging Liberians and all residents of the country, to engage in the payment of their fair share of the state's entitlements: taxes

Moving forward with this excellent initiative would mean the reawakening of the one-time vibrant culture of nationalism that disappeared as a result of long years of civil conflicts in Liberia. Indeed, Commissioner General Tamba is championing a great cause of collecting the lawful revenues of the state.

REVENUE WATCH

LRA Intensifies Tax Awareness



Tax awareness in Maryland



Tax Clinic at LRA Headquarters



Tax Awareness with Business Community



Tax Awareness in Gbarnga, Bong County



Tax Awareness in River Gee



Tax Awareness in RedLight

Taxpayer Service Division Initiates Project To Boost Awareness



The Taxpayer Services Division (TPSD) of the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA), as part of its activities, is strengthening its engagement with the taxpaying public as a way of creating tax consciousness and enhancing compliance. In the engagements, the division has disseminated hundreds of brochures and other informational materials containing tax kinds, payment procedures and due dates. The outreach objective is to provide education on the importance of paying taxes including payment processes according to the Manager for Inquiry, Information and Education, Mr. Derrick L. Nyumah.

Mr. Nyumah said the outreach campaign which is taking place in various communities across the country seeks to address key concerns from taxpayers regarding limited access to information about taxation. To achieve the objective, the division developed a distribution plan as part of the strategy to supply all LRA service windows with adequate information materials. Information materials are key to educating and informing potential and current taxpayers and will keep them up to date to new tax information, he said. At least 18 service centers in and around Monrovia have been supplied with informational materials.

EDITORIAL TEAM

Elfrieda Stewart Tamba,
D. Kaihenneh Sengbeh
Victor K. Seah
Jerry Laynumah Siakor
Tyrence W. Moore, Jr.

Manager, CMPA /Executive Editor
Senior Officer, CMPA/ Editor
Public & Social Media Affairs Officer/Staff Writer
Communication Officer/Graphic Designer

kaihenneh.sengbeh@lra.gov.lr
victor.seah@lra.gov.lr
jerry.siakor@lra.gov.lr
tyrence.moore@lra.gov.lr

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ELWA Junction, Paynesville City, Liberia;
www.lra.gov.lr