



UGANDANS WIN BIG AT THE URA MPA E-RECEIPT YANGE GRAND FINALE

URA SCOOPS WOMAN OF THE FUTURE AWARD

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EAST AFRICA TO LEVERAGE TECHNOLOGY TO CURB SMUGGLING

Heads of East African Revenue Authorities have agreed to automate processes through the use of state of the art track technology to combat smuggling and illicit trade. **Continue to page 26**

FOREWORD FROM THE COMMISSIONER GENERAL

Fellow Countrymen,

Thank you for your efforts in paying your taxes and continuously complying with the obligations as a taxpayer.

It's been more than three years of working together as I steer the team in tax administration at Uganda Revenue Authority and I don't take your support for granted. Having stepped into these shoes during challenging times posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, it was a tough job even demanding for taxes.

As a result, we have registered some of the best revenue growth year on year especially at a time when no new taxes were introduced in order to cushion the business community into recovery.

Our revenue collections have grown from UGX 16 Trillion to 25. Trillion by end of last financial year. We have witnessed year on year growth in revenue collections in the last three financial years with UGX 2.5 Trillion (FY 2020/21), UGX 2.395 trillion (FY 2021/22), and UGX 3.55 trillion (FY 2022/23).

Our Tax to GDP ratio is 14%, but we need to significantly grow and relatively compare with our regional partners such as Rwanda at 15% and Burundi that stands at 18%.

URA's technology has also advanced with the intro-

duction of systems such as the Bonded Warehouse Information System (BWIMS), the state of the art Contact Centre, automated ledger reconciliation, not forgetting the Instant TIN platform which have enhanced trade facilitation, service management, taxpayer compliance and registration respectively. At this point, I acknowledge God's promise in the scripture reference of 1 Samuel 7:12 which says "Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named it Ebenezer, saying, "Thus far the LORD has helped us."

Going forward, we are enhancing staff numbers to serve you better and implement a robust performance management system that will ensure efficiency and effectiveness in staff delivery of services to each one of our taxpayers.

Ledger reconciliation is also taking centre stage to provide a clear view of taxpayer obligations. In addition, EFRIS, DTS and Rental tax compliance checks will continue to enable us root out the bad elements that are creating an unfair playfield in the business and trade sector.

Even with the significant taxpayer register growth, we are cleaning the data to have a high value register. In addition, handholding taxpayers to smoothly enrol and meet their tax obligations is a priority in our outreach services. The register growth is powered by the third party data from partner agencies such as Umeme, National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC), and Kampala Capital City



Authority (KCCA) to ensure that all taxpayers are effectively mapped to expand the register.

We have strengthened, and continue to cement stakeholder engagements to build collaborations with different partners that make this tax administration journey easier. This will be coupled with providing extensive tax education to ease taxpayer compliance especially as we come to the end of this financial year.

If there are instances where a taxpayer feels aggrieved or has been wronged, we ask for your reconsideration. If it is a process or legal issue, please bring it to our attention so that we can address it promptly. I also urge you to reach out to us through our different contact points so that we can deliver better revenue services to you. We pick lessons from the feedback you share in the different interaction

platform and promise to devise strategies that will further enhance compliance among the tax paying community.

Thank you for paying your taxes. We acknowledge the civic duty you have all prioritised as we seek to provide resources that will fund benefits for the masses. We promise to continuously invest in top-notch systems and partnerships to ensure exceptional service delivery.

For God and My Country

John Rujoki Musinguzi,
Commissioner General



EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Taxpayers,

I take this opportunity to welcome you to our first edition of the Newsletter in the calendar year of 2024. Thank you for committing to your civic duty of paying taxes, amidst all the challenges that you all weather at individual, family, business and country level.

As Uganda Revenue Authority (URA), we value working together in the revenue mobilisation efforts and we urge taxpayers to take advantage of the alternative dispute resolution and settle tax matters before they get into the costly court processes. The voluntary disclosure programme is also available to enable taxpayers to come clean on any tax arrears before they are discovered in an audit so that they save costs that would have been incurred in penalties and interests.

As we get into the last quarter of the financial year, we are conducting compliance checks on rental income tax, VAT through the Electronic Fiscal Receipting and Invoicing Solution(EFRIS) and the excise duty by the Digital Tracking Solution (DTS). We are closely interacting with the business community and conducting several taxpayer engagements, laying emphasis on these three key systems because the journey to growing our tax to GDP ratio is

in high gear. We must measure up to at least 18% as set by the Domestic Revenue Mobilisation Strategy FY 2024/2025.

Stakeholder collaboration with the business community remains a key pillar in tax administration because our aim is to enhance ease of doing business in Uganda. The taxman is committed to growing Uganda's economy in tandem with providing a facilitating trade environment for the business community.

As an institution, we are leveraging on engaging and educating taxpayers on different fronts, through several associations and partner groups to build morale for compliance. Enforcement is a last resort to sorting differences unless the law requires that enforcement measures are implemented.

Let us work together to make the last mile in revenue mobilisation count. One by one makes a bundle and together we can achieve more than we can ever imagine.

Thank you for paying your taxes.

Ibrahim Kibuka Bossa
Assistant Commissioner, Public & Corporate Affairs, URA

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URA INAUGURATES NEW TARC COMMITTEE

By Irene Kabakama

A new 5-member team was inducted in February 2024 to serve as the new Tax Agents Registration Committee (TARC), a body that regulates and licenses tax agents.

Uganda Revenue Authority unveiled the team during an engagement between URA and tax agents. The new TARC is comprised of Commissioner General (CG) John Musinguzi, Francis Kamulegeya, a former Country Senior Partner of PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) Uganda, David Baliraine Kibumba, a seasoned tax professional, Charles Lutimba from the accounting profession, and Georgina Kirabo, a tax and legal professional.

Musinguzi (CG) handed them the tools of trade and recognized the role of TARC in bridging the gap between the authority and the tax agents "I thank the Tax Agents Registration Committee for doing a splendid job. Thank you for accepting to serve," he said.

TARC is constituted by section 7 of the Tax Pro-

cedures Code Act (TPCA) 2014. They are responsible for the handling of grievances that may arise from the conduct of tax agents. The other roles of the Committee are amendment of tax agent registration details, cancellation of tax agent's registration should they breach their mandate and also propose policy changes to existing laws in the administration, mandate and processes of tax agency.

The composition of TARC is designed to ensure equity in representation and fairness in addressing matters. The five members include the Commissioner General, one representative from the Accountancy profession nominated by the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Uganda, a representative from the legal profession nominated by the Uganda Law Society and two members from the private sector with expertise or relevant experience in economics, finance or taxation appointed by the board of the Uganda Revenue Authority.

Sarah M. Chelangat, the Commissioner Domestic Taxes, welcomed the new team and appreciated the outgoing members who served for three years. She commended the founding



members for resiliently holding down the committee throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the engagement, tax agents requested for an extension of the tax waiver relief to benefit more taxpayers, a request that Mr Musinguzi noted and expressed willingness to lobby from the Ministry of Finance.

"We do not want our businesses to close because of the burden of interest and penalties; we are ready to request an extension of Section 40D to ensure that more taxpayers benefit," said Musinguzi.

He appreciated the agents for supporting taxpayers with their compliance, adding that there has been growth in domestic revenue. Musinguzi also called for increased collaboration to improve Uganda's tax-to-GDP ratio.

"We need all hands on deck to growing our country's tax to GDP so that we can ably move from the staggering 14%," he re-echoed.



THE EFRIS MOBILE APP IS HERE TO EASE COMPLIANCE



By Joshua Niyonshima

The Uganda Revenue Authority unveiled the Electronic Fiscal Receipting and Invoicing Solution mobile application to ease the taxpayers journey to compliance.

According to the Commissioner Information Technology and Innovations at the URA Robert Mutebi, formerly VAT registered taxpayers will directly access the mobile app where as non-registered VAT clients will have to register.

"VAT registered clients will directly access the mobile application while non-VAT registered clients have will have to do first time registration," Mutebi said.

He added that services such as; Stock management, E-Invoicing, and E-Receipting are available on the application.

"When the client selects goods, the Application will load the goods management module. In this module, the client will be able to configure goods stock in, stock adjustment and stock inquiry," Mutebi explained.

Additionally, Mutebi disclosed that using this application in stock management there will be two views for goods and services. A client can be able to add stock and issue invoices to customers.

The EFRIS mobile application is also coming at a time when tax education on Value Added Tax among traders has widened. Recently, the Commissioner General URA John R. Musinguzi engaged Kikuubo traders on EFRIS usage. Among the key improvements he promised to

the traders was a mobile application that would easily be accessed by traders.

"We are going to start serious training on EFRIS. Also, we have developed an EFRIS mobile application that is going to be used by every person using a smartphone. After enough sensitization we can now enroll everyone on EFRIS," Musinguzi said.

For steps on how on to access the mobile application, follow these below;

- 1 Download the app from Apple store or google play store.
- 2 Click install and you will be able to download the EFRIS Mobile
- 3 After downloading you will be prompted to open the application
- 4 A client will be presented with a series of splash screens on the functionalities of the app.
- 5 Step 3 Log into the EFRIS. Mobile application.
- 6 The Client is then required to place their TIN and Password to proceed and login. NB:- Incase the Client does not have a TIN, A TIN can be obtained using this link Get a TIN – Uganda Revenue Authority (ura.go.ug)
- 7 Step 4: Register the device. The app will prompt the client to register the device.



All URA offices do not accept cash payments of any kind.

THINK • SPEAK • EXECUTE

Contact us: 0800117000 or 0800217000 | WhatsApp: 0772140000
Service Inquiry: services@ura.go.ug | Report Corruption: ignite@ura.go.ug



UGANDANS WIN BIG AT THE URA MPA E-RECEIPT YANGE GRAND FINALE

By Dismas Nuwaine

It was all pomp and glamour on Friday February 09, 2024 as the final episode of the Mpa e-Receipt Yange campaign went down at Motiv Uganda. The event saw the final seven winners move away with a flurry of coveted prizes, including fridges, motorcycles, and shopping vouchers, among others.

This eight-month-long campaign was spread over 14 districts and saw 130 participants emerge victorious throughout the country, bagging several prizes to their names.

Christine Nyakatura, a senior citizen from Tororo, emerged as the bronze winner of the night, taking home a boda boda, treadmill, and

a shopping voucher worth UGX 1.5 million. She came in the company of her granddaughters.

“When I was called and told I was a grand winner, I thought it was a lie, but here I am, and the world is witnessing that I have won,” said the retired nursing practitioner. “I want to thank the URA team for this session, and may God continue to bless them as they do their work,” she added.

Sempa Henry was having his daily prayers when the Mpa e-receipt team called him to announce the good news. He took to the stage on Friday, beaming with a smile, his face lighting up with an array of emotions—joy—and perhaps a touch of disbelief.



“God answered my prayers while I was still praying. These gifts will change my life, and I am very grateful to the URA for organizing such a campaign,” said Sempa in ecstatic fashion.

Other winners included Brenda Katushabe, Kenneth Ojara, Brain Nadhomi, Daniel Turyahebwa, and Namisi Geoffrey.

Speaking at the awarding ceremony, Commissioner General John Musinguzi stated that one of the major goals of this campaign was to provide clarity on EFRIS as a tax monitoring system and not an individual tax on its own, as some people had believed.

“We thought this campaign would help us to sensitize our citizens and our taxpayers that EFRIS is not a new tax but a technology that’s efficient in collecting the already existing taxes, especially VAT,” said Musinguzi.

He also emphasized that URA was very deliberate with the gifts given out, issuing transformational gifts that were in themselves symbolic of the mark the EFRIS system would make on Uganda’s taxation structure.



URA SCOOPS WOMAN OF THE FUTURE AWARD



By Elizabeth Nakiru

Uganda Revenue Authority was recognized at the recently concluded Empower Her Awards organized by Nation Media Group alongside her sponsors and partners.

The prestigious Woman of the Future Award was bestowed upon URA as the top organization that has deliberately and consistently provided avenues for women in work spaces to not only build their careers but also take on leadership and decision-making roles.

Speaking at the engagement, the guest of honor and Inspector General of Government, Betty Kamywa, said, "The power to change the world lies in raising a woman, right? This is because God created a woman to be the first influence on a child." She also noted that technology, information, and education are vital in bringing opportunities closer to women and girls and encouraged women to use them.

As a testament to the recognition of the award, URA has 178 women in leadership roles, starting with supervisors, managers, and top management. This is coupled with a robust recruitment system that involves non-discriminatory recruitment at all levels based on merit, even for all leaders, and female representation on the recruitment boards.

"As women, let us open doors for each other; if you see a woman making a mistake in her career, correct her; we all have a chance to mentor each other," said Susan Nsibirwa, the Managing Director of Nation Media Group.

Onapito Ekomoloi, the Nile Breweries Board Chairman, shared his insights, saying, "We need a rules-based environment unlike the role-based systems in place; this is because it's easier to have people follow rules compared to roles that sometimes become hurdles for women and men." He also echoed that rules should be the most empowering tool for women.

In a bid to further empower women, URA instituted the Sexual Harassment and Abuse of Office Policy (SHAO), the Special Committee Against Sexual Harassment (CASH), and the URA Ladies Club.

These initiatives are meant to uplift and amplify women's voices, thus making them feel comfortable growing and thriving in the workplace. Additionally, URA has put in place Integrity Champion support activities and clear disciplinary mechanisms to propel the support structures and systems in place.

The well-deserved award saw URA beat eight other organizations, including CEHURD, A RIGHT TO PLAY, TARA Advocates, FOWODE, and Housing Finance Bank, among others. URA remains committed to supporting women in building and growing their careers.



URA REDEFINES TAX EDUCATION FOR WOMEN IN BUSINESS AND TRADE

By Mercy Okori

The global sustainable development Goal 5 on Gender equality is a cross-cutting agenda with key focus on gender inclusive national policies, budgets and institutions. As a requirement, it is equally an obligation for government institutions to include gender and equity considerations in their interventions.

The United Nations Development Programme website in Ghana highlights key challenges and opportunities in engaging women in trade. In reference to a report titled Engine of Trade in Africa, in reference to the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), it's noted that amplifying the voices of women across Africa on how to make the AfCFTA Protocol on Women and Youth in Trade work for development, pre-existing gender imbalances at the macro and micro levels could hinder women from taking advantage of, and fully benefiting from AfCFTA. UNDP further notes that a McKinsey study projects that

Africa could gain USD 316 billion in GDP by 2025 if this gender gap is bridged.

For the last 2 years, URA has conducted targeted gender sensitive and responsive tax education sessions for women in business and trade in Uganda. These sessions are hinged on the URA tax education strategy that addresses three pillars of awareness, nurturing and empowerment of taxpayers.

Tax education emphasis is laid on strengthening tax education through sector-based engagements and stakeholder meetings to enhance tax knowledge and disseminate tax literature information.

Women play a key role in trade in Africa and will be essential to Africa's success in exploiting its trade potential. Women make a major contribution to trade in most African countries through their involvement in the production of tradable goods as cross-border traders and as managers

and owners of firms involved in trade, according to the World Bank. This requires equipping them with information, technology and confidence to strengthen their capacities in order to improve their livelihoods and wellbeing. However, lack of information strongly affects Women's full economic participation.

The women entrepreneurs can be propelled into technology through mentorship, upskilling and educating leaders on the benefits of diversity in the work environment and the importance of business formalisation by entrepreneurs. This improves their prospects of doing business with the government, access to incentives, financial services and also expands Uganda's revenue sources.

URA envisaged the establishment of its presence at the forefront in empowering women entrepreneurs in Uganda under the women in business engagements as a way of extending and fostering economic growth, development and

equipping them with the necessary tax related information. These engagements are preparing women in business to become tax compliant, meet their tax obligations and enjoy their rights. To this end, URA has engaged and trained 11,200 women entrepreneurs and women cross border traders in FY 22/23 and half year 23/24, through partnerships with women through associations like Uganda Women in Trade and Manufacturing (UWTM), Uganda Women Entrepreneurs Association Limited (UWEAL), Simba group of companies' HER Working Women, Institute for Social Transformation (IST), Oxfam International in Uganda, SEATINI-Uganda, Twambuke Women Farmers and Manufacturers Association, DFCU Rising woman, and the annual Finance Trust Bank women literacy program.

During last year's 10th celebration of the women's entrepreneurship month organized by UWEAL, URA was nominated and won the government agency of the year in recognition of the authority's outstanding contribution and commitment to trade facilitation for women entrepreneurs through tax education outreaches and support services that provide women entrepreneurs with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to improve how they operate their businesses in an ever-growing digital economy.

As we pick feedback to improve service delivery to the different taxpayers, URA urges the public to jointly propel URA's journey of developing Uganda together through continuous partnerships with women entrepreneurs and associations as we strive to economically empower women and communities.

HOW URA IS PROGRESSING IN THE COMPLIANCE OF RENTAL TAX



By Immaculate Wanyenze

The Real estate is one of the fastest growing sectors yet less taxed. URA's role in intensifying tax education in this sector to build knowledge for rental property owners in an attempt to enhance compliance cannot also be over emphasized. **Proscovia Nabicu**, the Manager Rental tax in URA shares insights on how the project is progressing in terms of revenue growth. Below are the excerpts;

What is the current revenue contribution of rental tax and how many landlords do we have?

With the intensified emphasis on field inspection and close monitoring of Rental Arrears' portfolio, the rental tax performance is still growing. As of February 2024, URA collected UGX 9,135,385,196 out of the set target of UGX21,063,281,373. The rental taxpayers' register as of 29th February 2023 stood at 200,937.

How is Rental tax computed?

In determining the tax due for individuals, the threshold for payment of tax is UGX. 2,820,000 and no other deductions are allowed. Tax is charged at a flat rate of 12% for individuals and 30% for non-individuals.

Steps in Computation of Rental Tax for an individual

In computing individual rental tax for a resident individual, the following steps are considered:

Step I: Determine the total annual gross rent (R) from all sources of the individual;

Step II: Deduct the threshold of Shs.2, 820,000; therefore, chargeable rental income =

R-2,820,000

Step III: Determine rental income tax at 12% i.e. 12 % (R-2,820,000)

For Companies, Trustees and retirement fund

Step I: Determine the total annual gross rental income (R) from all sources of the company

Step II: Deduct up to 50% of the annual gross rental income as allowance for expenditures and losses R-50% R = Chargeable income

Note that: the claimed expenses shall be subject to verification by Uganda Revenue Authority, therefore only expenses that have been incurred in the generation of rental income for the company can be claimed.

Step III: Determine rental income tax at 30%
Tax payable = 30% x chargeable income

In the ongoing enforcement, some officers are estimating assessments of taxes for landlords to pay even in an occupied premises. What is your advice?

Estimating assessments of taxes for unoccupied premises is a contentious issue that could inaccurately reflect the actual income or tax liability of the landlord. Here are some considerations and advice:

curately reflect the actual income or tax liability of the landlord. Here are some considerations and advice:

• Knowledge of Tax Laws

Tax officers should familiarize themselves with the rental income tax laws regarding the taxation of rental properties, including provisions related to unoccupied premises, to avoid assessing non-existing rental tax of unoccupied premises.

• Seek Clarification

If enforcement officers are estimating assessments for unoccupied premises, inquire about the basis for their calculations and the rationale behind their decisions. Request clarification on how they arrived at their estimates and whether they have done in-depth property inspections to ascertain considered unoccupied properties.

• Reject these assessments

If you believe that the assessments are unjustified or inaccurate, consider rejecting them unless they present any evidence or documentation that supports their position, such as rental contracts, vacancy rates, or financial records.

What is in it for me to expose my landlord who is not paying tax?

Exposing a landlord who is not paying taxes may have both potential benefits and risks for you. Here are some factors to consider:

Benefits

• Increase tax base

Exposing tax evasion helps uphold the law and ensures that everyone pays their share of taxes, which is essential for the development of the country.

• Protection of Tenant Rights

It can protect your rights as a tenant. Landlords who evade taxes may deploy short-cuts in other areas, potentially putting tenants at risk in terms of safety, legal and tax obligations.

Risks

• Potential Retaliation

There's a possibility that your landlord may retaliate against you for reporting them. This could manifest in various forms, such as eviction, harassment, or legal action.

• Strained Relationship

Exposing your landlord could strain your relationship with them, leading to tense interactions or difficulties in the landlord-tenant relationship, especially if you continue to reside on their property.

Share current progress of the ongoing rental enforcement and what it is intended to do?

There are several unregistered landlords, those who are under-declaring rental income and those not declaring at all. Whereas efforts have been made to ensure that all landlords are compliant with registration, filing and payment requirements, there are still some that are non-compliant.

As a strategy, we intensified field work activities particularly in eight (8) divisions i.e. Kampala Metropolitan area (CBD), Nakawa division, Makindye division, Rubaga division, Kawempe division, Wakiso, Entebbe and Mukono division.

This is intended to close the compliance gaps identified and improve on rental tax performance.

The on-going field activities are expected create constructive impact in the following areas;

- Increase the numbers in the rental register through new rental tax registrations and TIN amendments.
- Increase the rental income tax revenue.
- Improve taxpayers' compliance.
- Identify any change of ownership of properties.

URA STRENGTHENS TIES WITH BUGANDA KINGDOM

By Irene Kabakama

John R. Musinguzi, the Commissioner General of the Uganda Revenue Authority, visited the Katikkiro of Buganda Kingdom, Owek. Charles Peter Mayiga to discuss strategies on how voluntary compliance can impact revenue collection.

In the February 06, 2024 meeting, the Katikkiro encouraged URA to work with the media and equip them with all the necessary information needed for proper reporting, adding that this will equip taxpayers with knowledge to pay taxes with ease.

Owek. Mayiga also pledged the support of the Buganda Kingdom in advancing tax education towards their subjects to help them remain and become compliant. He challenged URA to engage policymakers on proper service delivery for accountability purposes to taxpayers.

“Tax collection is a public good that requires the participation of everyone and paying taxes is a responsibility that needs to be instilled in people from an early age,” Owek. Mayiga stated.

The Buganda Kingdom Premier commended Mr. Musinguzi for adding a human face to tax collection, pointing out that this will go a long way in influencing voluntary compliance and broadening the tax base. “The way taxes are collected and used will contribute to widening the tax base,” he emphasized.

In his remarks, Musinguzi appreciated Buganda Kingdom for being good stakeholders. He noted how URA has found it inevitable to work with different stakeholders as part of its total transformation drive to encourage voluntarily compliance.

Musinguzi also reiterated calls for voluntary compliance from all Ugandans, citing the low tax-to-GDP ratio of 14%.

Responding to Katikkiro’s call for accountability to citizens, Musinguzi pledged to revive initiatives like the “Because of You” campaign that illustrate what taxes are doing.

URA has strategically worked with Buganda Kingdom on several aspects such as support donations to the health campaigns run under the annual Kabaka birthday run, and also recently, the Ekisaakaate team provided a platform for URA to educate the youngsters about basics in taxation.

It was also emphasised that URA does not levy taxes on donations or gifts to Buganda Kingdom, known as Oluwalo. This is provided for under Section 21(1)(j) of the Income Tax Act that exempts gifts or donations received by cultural leaders or institutions from income tax, the value of any property acquired by gift, bequest, devise, or inheritance that is not included in business, employment, or property income. This provision also applies to any legally recognised cultural institution in Uganda.





URA AND WEST NILE LEADERS ADOPT MASS SENSITIZATION TO END SMUGGLING

By Kamugisha Kabahweza Allan and Kabakama Irene

URA, together with West Nile Leaders, have resolved to turn to mass sensitization, refresher courses for enforcement officers, and intelligence-led operations as alternatives to amicably quell smuggling in the region.

Mr John Musinguzi, the URA Commissioner General (CG), made this commitment in a stakeholder meeting held in Arua on Monday February 12, 2024, together with the State Minister for General Duties – Hon. Henry Musasizi to engage a group of West Nile leaders including MPs, LC5 Chairpersons, Security entity leaders as well as a business community thought leaders.

In previous meetings, the West Nile leaders had strongly condemned the shootings, violence against the Uganda Revenue Authority enforcement team, and smuggling in the region. A

position shared by the URA boss.

“I associate myself with the resolutions of the previous meetings which condemned senseless killings, smuggling, and violence in whatever form,” reckoned Musinguzi.

The 4th Division Commander Brig. Gen. Michael Kabango who presented the resolutions agreed upon in the previous meetings after the January incident echoed the condemnation.

“There was a total condemnation of the killings whether deliberate or accidental by security officers, the violent response by the community to enforcement and the act of smuggling and tax evasion,” said Gen. Kabango.

In the meeting, the leaders agreed that taxes must be collected for the country to deliver services albeit amicably.

“I do not have a problem with tax collection, but the way the enforcement is carried out,” said the Koboko District Woman Member of Parliament – Hon. Taban Sharifah.

Arua Central Member of Parliament Hon. Atima Jackson Lee Buti echoed this stance noting that he was optimistic about the outcomes of this engagement in driving the region towards peaceful trade.

Musinguzi applauded the leaders for the resolutions and pledged that no more lives should be lost in revenue mobilization. He highlighted different strategies URA is putting in place to avoid the repetition of the unfortunate incidents.

These strategies included intensifying mass sensitization on taxation and its benefits, intelligence-led operations, deepening understanding of what triggers violence, and intensifying training and refresher courses to staff attached to enforcement.

Minister Musasizi applauded the West Nile leaders for the resolutions and urged them to cooperate with URA in the execution of the sensitization campaigns and revenue mobilization initiatives to raise the tax-to-GDP ratio of Uganda from under 14 % to 16 %.





URA CONDOLES WITH AGGRIEVED FAMILIES IN WEST NILE

By Kamugisha Kabahweza Allan and Kabakama Irene

In February 2024, Commissioner General, John R. Musinguzi together with Hon. Henry Musasizi, the State Minister for General Duties, led a delegation of officials that met with the families of the deceased and injured persons in West Nile region.

During these community barazas, Mr. Musinguzi conveyed condolences to the family of the late Amori Jackson who lost his life in a tragic smuggling-related incident in Koboko last year, and the widow of the man who died due to a stray bullet in Madi Okollo early this year.

The URA and local government team also visited the 13-year-old girl who is recovering from a gunshot wound on the leg at Nebbi Hospital and shared a token of support towards her family to assist them with treatment needs.



"I bring condolences from Uganda Revenue Authority. We are deeply saddened and regret the unfortunate demise of one of our comrade, the late Amori Jackson, who passed on last year," said Musinguzi.

The CG relayed the condolences at Boma Grounds in Koboko Municipality and Madi-Okollo Town Council Hall in February 2024, which barazas were attended by leaders including Members of Parliament, LC5 leadership, Resident District Commissioners, business leaders, and the community.

He emphasized that enforcements against smuggling should not result in any more deaths. "We agreed in a meeting that this should be the last time such incidents happen, and we can achieve this by cooperating."

This move came after a series of recent mishaps in the West Nile region that resulted into unprecedented death and injury to some of the locals in Koboko, Arua and Madi Okollo districts.

Musinguzi urged the community to always comply when stopped by the enforcement team and cease the habit of pelting stones at law enforcement officers to end the violence exhibited in the recent past.

"Don't rally people to attack law enforcement officers. A life is lost, and nothing is as precious as life. Let's condemn the acts together," said Musinguzi.

Hon. Henry Musasizi, the State Minister for General Duties, stated that some tragic instances could have been prevented if they had been managed more effectively.

"We found out that some incidents that led to the deaths of our people could have been avoided if handled better, and the officers involved will be arraigned in court to face charges," he said.

Later in the day, the meeting committed to uphold the agreed to resolutions from previous meetings which include the condemnation of smuggling, violence against any party and the shootings.



SOWING A TAX EDUCATION MUSTARD SEED TO THE YOUNG

By Dismas Nuwaine

In the morning hours of Wednesday January 24, 2024, as the early morning sun cast a soft glow over the Nakawa industrial area, the Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) tax education team prepared for a class. One could over hear the mild rustle of papers and the faint tap of keys on the laptop as the impending lesson was being reviewed. The team then gently made their way to the van parked adjacent to the revenue body's tower.

They carried with them boxes. One was full of educational booklets – an oversimplified guide to the understanding of taxation dubbed as "Toto". The other, full of branded gifts and notebooks to issue out during the study session. With this, the team took to the Ekisaakaate which was attended by hundreds.

Firmly tucked into their robust plastic chairs, the young people paid undivided attention as the officials delivered tenets of tax wisdom. The taxman Andrew Kyakonye taught the young people the percentage cuts levied on specific taxes, including and not limited to, Pay as You Earn (PAYE), Value Added Tax (VAT), Income Tax and how the government uses the taxes for socio-economic development.

To quote Malcom X, "Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today". Echoed decades back by a fire brand civil rights activist, this rhetoric continues to make perfect sense in this day and age. Unlike the 60's, we are now in the information age where to Robert Browning, ignorance is not innocence but sin.

Taxes are as old as the history of civil societies.



To John Locke, they preceded the social contract. Fed-up by the lawless state of nature – where human life was solitary, untamed and in social chaos – individuals agreed to give their liberty to the hands of a sovereign. The latter was charged with safeguarding the people under their sphere of influence. It's this sovereign we now call a Central government.

In order for governments to function, they need to provide agreed national needs and services to people. To fund these developments, every government has its own taxation structure where everyone is mandated to contribute to national development. As such, tax compliance is a personal mandate, a civic duty of invaluable feat that supports not just the government functions but the well-being of people in society.

Its these fundamental truths that every young person has the right to know and Uganda is not short of young people.

According to the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), Uganda has one of the youngest populations, not just on the continent but in the entire world, noting that 44% of Uganda's citizens are below the age of 14 years old.

This confirms the undeniable truth that the pearl is not just rich in natural resources, but much so in human resources. If this crop of young people can be thoroughly educated on the duty and responsibility of taxation, then this could be the magic bullet for future compliance initiatives.

URA has strategically positioned for this with the review of curriculum with National Curriculum Development Centre to include taxation in the Entrepreneurship subject. Similar efforts are also being deployed to develop a curriculum for students undertaking Business Technical Vocational Education and Training (BTVET).

It would probably be ideal to twitch things up a little bit in our education system, if we considered making it mandatory for all students to learn and appreciate their country's fiscal and financial policies.

The education sector should change stance from a mild summarized approach, that's an option to only business majors, to a comprehensive draft that encompasses all students – for these matters are nothing like the St. Lawrence sea way or Canadian prairies in geography – but true-to-life principles that shape people's interaction with their central government.

Just like a mustard seed, young people have a whole life ahead of them to optimise. The immense potential must be harnessed. As fertile soils are to the mustard seed, so is education to the young. The seed towers a head high over every other thicket and bush – a far cry from the minute seed it once was. Similarly, education liberates the young people increasing their scope of intellectual modesty. In this case, increasing their comprehension and appreciation of the taxation structure.



EAST AFRICA TO LEVERAGE TECHNOLOGY TO CURB SMUGGLING

51st EARACGs MEETING



...tive Governments and implement tax measures that will optimize revenue for sustainable development of the EAC Partner states.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Natu El-maamry Mwamba, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Finance of the United Republic of Tanzania called upon the Revenue Administrations to enhance collaboration on enforcement and revenue collection operations to support economic development for the benefit of regional citizens.

She encouraged the leaders to draft resolutions on specific areas that will generate more revenue in a sustainable way. These include sharing of best experiences and how to address common challenges facing tax administrations to optimize revenue in the region, enhancing the development of innovative technologies to sustainably facilitate taxpayer compliance, enhancing tax compliance through existing tax laws, and harmonizing tax laws and procedures among others.

Meanwhile, the Revenue Authorities also agreed to conduct an in-depth analysis to identify the causes of smuggling and concretize practical solutions to be presented at the next meeting that is scheduled for August in Nairobi, Kenya.

By Akinyi Winiefred

Heads of East African Revenue Authorities have agreed to automate processes through the use of state of the art track technology to combat smuggling and illicit trade.

This decision was made at the 51st East African Revenue Authorities Commissioners General (EARACG) meeting that was hosted by the Tanzania Revenue Authority in Dar es Salaam in January 2024.

EARACG is a biannual meeting that allows lead-

ers of tax administrations from across the region to share experiences and address common challenges facing their institutions.

This year's meeting was held under the theme "Harnessing Regional Synergy to Optimise Revenue for Sustainable Development." It was attended by Commissioners General from Uganda Revenue Authority, Tanzania Revenue Authority, Burundais des Recettes, South Sudan Revenue Authority, Zanzibar Revenue Authority, Kenya Revenue Authority and the Rwanda Revenue Authority.

Mr. Alphayo J. Kidata, the Commissioner Gen-

eral of Tanzania Revenue Authority, chaired the meeting and reminded the participants that the major goal for the formation of the EARACG forum is to attain harmonised, standardised and integrated tax administration systems among partner states in the region.

This in turn looks at fostering competitiveness, avoiding harmful tax competition and also contributing to the sustainability of public finances and eventually economic growth in the region, among other aspects.

Mr Kidata stated that as tax leaders, they advise on the best policy options to their respec-

WHY YOU SHOULD WORK WITH A LICENSED CLEARING AGENT

By Alfred Okoya and Akinyi Winiefred

In the business of importation, clearing agents are a “necessary evil.” Their services are indispensable to importers due to the intricate and rigorous nature of Customs procedures, regulations, and commodity coding.

Engaging a clearing agent as a representative not only saves time but also mitigates costs associated with fines that follow inadvertent violations. Large importers may opt to establish in-house clearing units, employing qualified individuals to manage Customs transactions.

Before engaging a clearing agent, importers are advised to conduct due diligence to ensure the agent is duly authorized and licensed.

Genuine clearing agents hold valid License certificates from URA, maintain transparency regarding their licenses, and are granted access to the Customs system under their company's registered name.

A license signifies the authorization bestowed upon an individual or entity by a competent authority, granting permission to engage in activities that would otherwise be deemed unlawful or unauthorized.

Under Section 145 of the East African Commu-

nity Customs Management Act (EACCMA) 2004, as amended, the Commissioner of Customs is vested with the authority, to license and regulate the operations of clearing agents involved in Customs transactions pertaining to the declaration and clearance of goods or baggage, excluding non-manifested personal baggage of travelers by air, land, or sea.

Once licensed, a clearing agent assumes the mantle of authority to act on behalf of the owner of goods, as stipulated in Section 146 of the EACCMA.

According to Ibrahim Bbossa the Assistant Commissioner of Public and Corporate Affairs at URA, appointment and authorization of agents is facilitated through a system-based process, accessible via the owner's TIN account on the URA web portal.

Functions undertaken by the clearing agent encompass a spectrum of activities. These include - but are not limited to - making declarations, participating in physical examinations of goods, and representing the owner before Customs officials.

These powers, however, are accompanied by corresponding responsibilities and personal obligations to the clearing agent. While the principal remains personally liable for duties and compliance with laws, the clearing agent also



bears liability for assessed duties under Sections 147 and 148 of the EACCMA.

URA's Efforts to Further Streamline the Sector
To enhance efficiency in the operations of clearing agents, URA has embarked on a systematic journey to professionalize the sector through a series of initiatives.

Principal among these initiatives is the full automation of Customs declarations, a strategic move ensuring transparency and accountability through the issuance of email notifications upon declaration submission.

Bbossa explains that all clearing agents are mandated to undergo rigorous training programs in clearing and forwarding before gaining access to the customs system. This measure, he says, is aimed at bolstering proficiency and professionalism while simultaneously mitigating errors that often result in penalties for importers

or exporters.

Additionally, URA, in collaboration with the National Curriculum Implementation Committee (NCIC) Uganda introduced the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Program for the Customs Clearing and Freight Forwarding (CC&FF) industry. This innovative program seeks to sustain professionalism, elevate industry standards, and safeguard consumer interests by fostering ongoing competence and expertise among industry practitioners.

To enforce compliance with Customs laws and procedures, URA implements stringent performance indicators for licensed agents. These indicators serve as benchmarks, measuring adherence to established standards, including clearance turnaround time, accuracy of declarations, and instances of offenses committed during the clearance process.



URA STEPS UP FIGHT AGAINST SMUGGLING DURING CROSS BORDER ENGAGEMENTS

By Irene Kabakama

Uganda Revenue Authority is prioritizing engagement and education as an approach that will identify the challenges taxpayers face. The taxman took to engaging local leaders through the cross-border barazas.

URA held four cross-border tax Barazas in Mutukula, Katuna, Busia, and Malaba to address issues in smuggling, customs procedures and processes. The country-wide sensitization and training program will enable URA and the communities to easily disseminate tax information to extensively curb the vice across borders.

Smuggling takes many forms, including outright smuggling, concealment, undervaluation of goods, and misclassification of goods. URA has employed various strategies to curb smuggling in the country, hinging on the three Es approach: Engaging, Educating, and Enforcing.

In addition, URA uses intelligent information to track down smugglers, in addition to advanced technology like the Non-Intrusive Inspection cargo scanners which unravel concealed, undeclared and mis-declared goods.



As URA resounds the message on smuggling, they urged the leaders to discourage traders from engaging in smuggling activities because it leads to revenue loss, distortion of the country's economic performance, health disasters, and in some instances loss of lives, among others problems.

Reagan Basoga the station head of Mutukula OSBP encouraged the community to pay taxes saying that some people engage in smuggling out of ignorance. He cited examples of people smuggling tax-free seeds and mosquito nets.

The Kabale Resident District Commissioner, Nyakahuma Godfrey appreciated URA's approach of sensitizing people about taxes and called upon URA to work with other government entities like the local government to provide a 360-degree understanding of taxes.

Mutukula Mayor, Mujaasi David was concerned about Ugandan goods being priced higher than similar goods in neighbouring countries, a concern he raised for government to ensure that goods are priced competitively with neighbouring countries, adding that this will reduce on smuggling.

"These engagements enable people to transition from smuggling to legitimate cross-border trade. I used to smuggle spaghetti and shoe cream, which were popular in Kabale's market at the time, but I am now happily paying taxes," revealed a former smuggler, Kyarisiima, during the Katuna engagement.

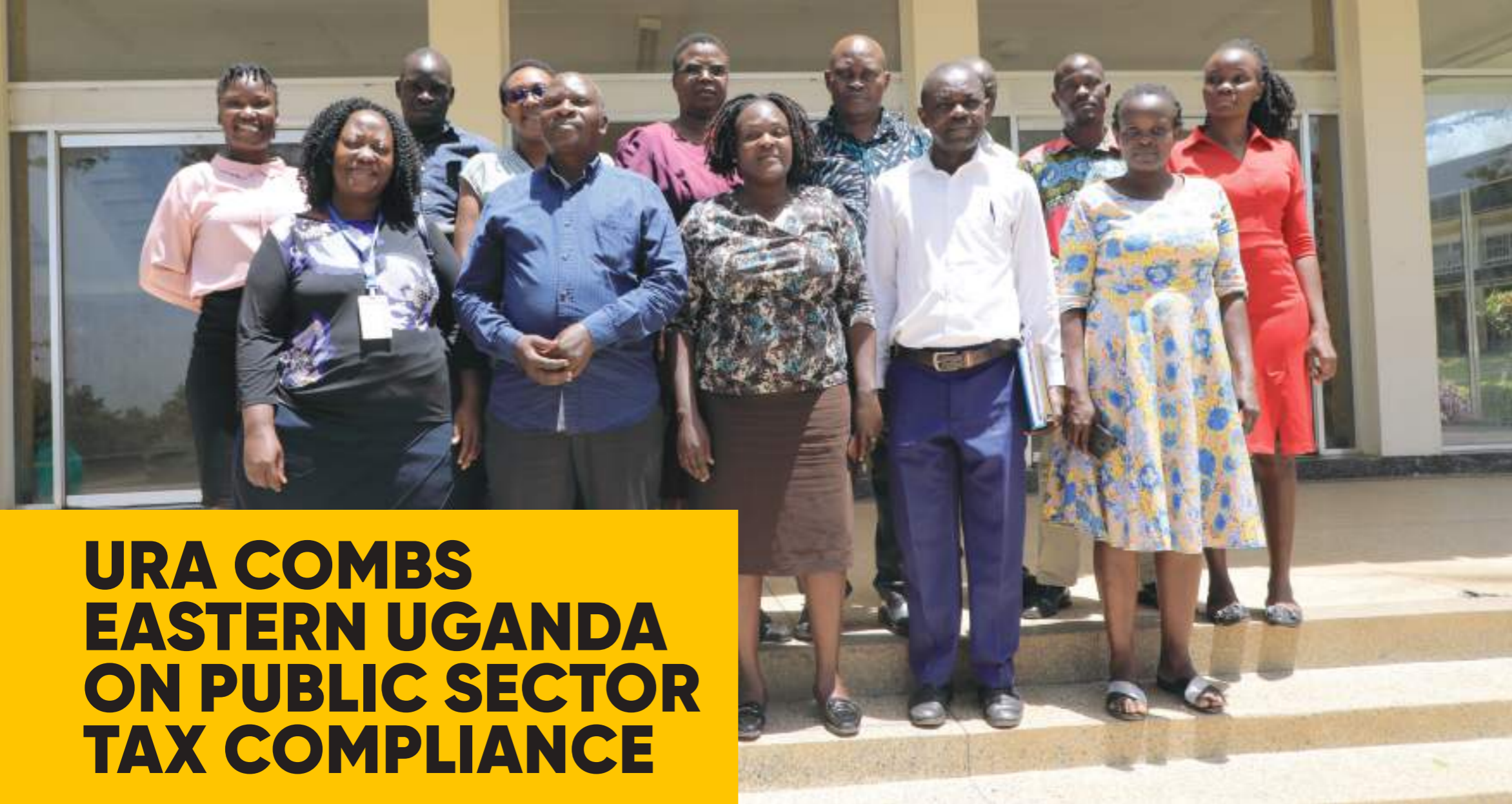
During the discussions, most of the traders cried out to government to create a healthy trade environment free from risks but also urged fellow traders to utilise gazette trade areas and diligently pay taxes."

In Tororo, John Okea, the district chairperson, underlined the connection between revenue and service delivery.

"Taxes collected by URA are used to build tarmac roads, hospitals, piped water systems, power, and the ambulances you see. That means revenue has to be collected to get service delivery," noted Mr Okea.

During the engagement, the traders were briefed on the simplified trade regimes, including the simplified EAC certificate of origin, the simplified import regime (PB4), and the simplified export regime. URA has simplified the trade regime to ensure that traders are not burdened with extra costs.

These discussions will be replicated in Arua and Elegu at a time to be communicated.



URA COMBS EASTERN UGANDA ON PUBLIC SECTOR TAX COMPLIANCE

By Niyonshima Joshua

As part of URA's efforts to enhance taxpayers' understanding of its new systems, the taxman engaged with officials from the local governments of Eastern Uganda districts of Bugiri, Bugweri, Busia, and Tororo. Also engaged was Busitema University and Tororo UCC.

Barbara Nakasolya, a client relations manager in the Public Sector Office at URA, called on the procurement officers to act as URA's representatives by using and enforcing the Electronic Fiscal Receipting and Invoicing System (EFRIS).

"Where URA cannot reach, please be our representatives. Don't award tenders to people who are not on EFRIS so that they're encouraged to use the EFRIS platform so that URA can collect the taxes due," Nakasolya rallied the public servants.

Her call extended to town clerks, whom she urged to desist from using tax agents who file returns late and drive the government into debt. "Town councils and divisions, you are not faring well. This is because you have relinquished your duty of return filing to tax agents. My humble request is for you to do it yourself since you have received the training."

According to Nakasolya, many town councils have been non-compliant, hence the need to train them before deploying enforcement. The officials were trained on how to use the revamped URA portal to make tax payments, reconcile, and correct ledgers, among others.

Local governments Speak out

In his remarks, Tamuzadde, the Principal Finance Officer for Bugiri District, lauded URA, noting that the training was timely given the recent modifications to the URA system, especially the revamped URA web portal.

"What we need now is more training on URA systems so that we can fully participate in building Uganda together," Tamuzadde added.

Representing the Town Clerk, the Treasurer of Bugiri Municipality Baisi Stephen appreciated URA's outreach mechanisms. He recognized the harmonization of the HR function with the return filing office for easy compliance which wasn't the case earlier.

The Senior Assistant Town Clerk of Tororo Municipal Western Division Okiro Joseph applauded URA for the timely intervention in matters related to tax. He craved for more learning from the Taxman.

"I want to thank URA for reaching out. We feel the pinch when money that we would have used ends up going back as fines and penalties. It is



our responsibility to see that work is completed. We are going to organize more learning sessions," Okiro said.

The Chief Finance Officer of Busia district Wakoli Patrick sought understanding into who is eligible for Pay as You Earn (PAYE) and how it is computed.

"There are four categories, of councillors; District Executive Committee who receive a monthly salary, non-executive member councillors paid a honorarium, sub-county councillors who receive a sitting allowance and LCI chairpersons get 120,000 shillings annually," explained Wakoli.

Nakasolya explained that according to Sec 19 of the Income Tax Act, Employment Income is money that includes salaries, wages, pay instead of leave, overtime pay, fees, commission gratuity, and any other including allowances hence a need for councillors to pay tax per the law.





She clarified that a transport refund and an allowance or payment below UGX 10,000 are not taxable.

“So, the only amount exempt from tax is money below UGX 10,000 and transport as provided for in sec 19 (2F) of the ITA,” Nakasolya noted.

She added, “Councillors are charged 30% on their allowances because Council is regarded as secondary employment. Is there double taxation, no, we expect that if you are a councillor here and they charge you wrongly. Please file your returns and ask for a refund. You will not lose out.”

Political leaders pledge support to revenue mobilisation.

The Speaker of Busia district local government Mr. Malowa Charles challenged his fellow political leaders to consider developing Uganda by contributing their share of tax to the country.

Malowa exclaimed, “When we heard about URA coming, we looked forward to receiving direction from you. As Council, our roles lie in legislation, representation, appropriation, and oversight but we are aware that you are the custodian of the tax knowledge.”

“We would happy to hear that all councillors are contributing to this nation in matters of tax. I am one of those who are proud to be paying tax. I get my salary and what is deducted, I don’t feel the pinch except the tax towards my building,” Speaker.

Unveiling different sources of Income for taxation, the station head of Busia DT station Mr. Wilson Katumba from the Busia URA Station urged the councillors to show love to their motherland and the people they serve by paying tax.

“As a patriotic Ugandan serving in a public office, you should be at the forefront through paying taxes. Tax will always come to you If you earn an income whether from employment, business, or rented property. Let us embrace the digitalization because it is the way to go. Now you can pay taxes from anywhere,” Katumba said.

Public Sector Contribution to National Revenue. Data obtained from the URA’s website shows that for the last three years, revenue contribution by the public administration and Defence, compulsory social security has been growing. In the FY 2020/21, UGX 913.78bn was collected. This grew by 6.87% in the FY 2021/2022 with a contribution of UGX 1,519.23bn while a growth of 5.10% was recorded in the FY 2022/2023.

With a set target of almost UGX 30 trillion, the contribution of the Public sector to the national basket is expected to grow. In October 2023, URA unveiled a new ledger system that has allowed businesses to harmonize their tax positions hence easing compliance.

The programs that have so far benefited the Municipalities of Bugiri, Tororo, and Uganda College of Commerce are also benefiting local governments in South Western Uganda and Mid-Western Uganda.



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COURTING TRANSPORT OPERATORS FOR THEIR COMPLIANCE

By Niyonshima Joshua

In a bid to foster tax compliance and promote road user efficiency, the Uganda Revenue Authority has partnered with the Ministry of Works and Transport and the Uganda Police to sensitize players in the transport sector on advance income tax, motor vehicle registration, and road safety.

Advance income tax is an annual tax paid by passenger service vehicles and goods or freight vehicles. Vehicle owners are required to pay an advance income tax for each vehicle. Motor cycles and passenger service vehicles (PSVs) are required to pay advance income tax according to the number of passengers or tonnage they carry.

The advance income tax law came into effect from 01st July 2015, and passenger vehicles and motorcycles are required to pay UGX 20,000 per

licensed passenger a year while goods vehicles are required to pay UGX 50,000 per licensed tonnage, which starts from two tonnes.

During the engagement with Tororo residents at the Rock Hotel, Rukundo Amon, the in-charge of the Tororo Domestic Taxes Office, emphasized the need for individual TINs, urging the transporters to endeavor to own a single TIN to avoid inconveniences.

“It is essential to note that an individual is entitled to one TIN. In case you have a TIN for each motorcycle or vehicle, please come, and we will merge those TINs into one. Let us adhere to the legal guidelines,” Rukundo noted.

Amula Albert, the Deputy Resident District Commissioner of Tororo District, called on the residents to comply with paying taxes, emphasizing the need for service delivery.



“There is no way the government is going to provide services without people paying taxes. On the tax register, we have 3 million taxpayers. When you look at businesses making money, they are around 7 million, so why can't we pay our fair share of tax?” he said.

In his remarks, Abigaba Bonnyventure, a process officer at the Ministry of Works, reminded the transporters to access motor vehicle registration, transfer of ownership, and related services at the Ministry.

“We are doing this as a business enabler and helping the government mobilize revenue,” he added.

As URA embarks on collecting over UGX 29 trillion this financial year, taxpayer education has been earmarked as one of the strategies for achieving voluntary compliance. This is being done on a sectoral basis.

In addition to Tororo, a similar engagement was held with transporters in Mityana.

PICTORIAL

URA Recommends Tax Education to Ekisakaate Youngsters

The Commissioner General Uganda Revenue Authority, John R. Musinguzi has noted that tax education aimed towards the young generation is a magic bullet for future compliance initiatives which the revenue body is prepared to take on.

The URA boss made the remarks during the closing ceremony of the 2024-edition of the Ekisaakaate Gatonya at Hormisdallen School in Gayaza.



Giving back to Nakawa Market Vendors

Recently, URA in partnership with the Pamoja Peace and Love Foundation and other partners, engaged in the extensive cleaning of the Nakawa main market under the Green Guard Campaign.

The team started by sweeping the main road that cuts through the market area and the hard-to-reach spots to remove loose dirt and dust. By midday, a mountain of trash had been collected; this was then whisked off by a trash car, groaning under the weight of its burden.



PICTORIAL



URA Tips Ugandans at Harvest Money Expo

A team of tax educators from URA pitched at Kololo Independence grounds, which played host, to Uganda's biggest agricultural exhibition – the Harvest Money Expo 2024 – organized by Vision Group Uganda.

For three consecutive days, the team, while educating taxpayers on how taxation intersects with the agricultural sector in Uganda, engaged with streams of players within Uganda's agricultural sector, including, but not limited to, grass-root farmers, retailers, and current and prospective investors in this space.



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ENFORCEMENT PICTORIALS



URA sweeps Kapchorwa and Mbale for uncustomed goods

The URA team conducted operations in the districts of Mbale and Kapchorwa targeting smuggled goods, especially wheat flour, sugar and soap. In Kapchorwa, a Fuso truck registration number UAM762X was intercepted with smuggled wheat flour and sugar.

By the end of the operations, the team had impounded 254 cartons of wheat flour, 19 bags of Sugar, 148 boxes of soap, 24 boxes of Colgate herbal toothpaste, and 4 boxes of Bic pen all made in Kenya.



Enforcement team recovers UGX 9m from Textile Smuggler in Kabale

On the night of Valentine's day, the URA enforcement in Kabale recovered UGX 9m from an intercepted motor vehicle registration number UAE 217V which was suspected to be carrying contraband. After a cat and mouse chase, the smuggler abandoned the goods which were retrieved and verification revealed assorted items worth USD 2116 in Cost, Insurance, and Freight.



URA impounds smuggled Petrol in Elegu

URA enforcement officers in West Nile seized over 1000 liters of smuggled petrol in Elegu, Amuru district that was being smuggled from neighboring South Sudan.



Cargo scanner retrieves 87.9 tonnes of steel coils disguised as scrap

URA apprehended 3 trucks last week as they ferried 49 rolls of steel coils that were mis-declared as scrap from South Sudan. The Elegu Enforcement received a Non-intrusive inspection (NII) cargo scanner alert about the trucks and immediately intercepted them to uncover over 87,955kgs of steel coils

Four suspects arrested for smuggling cigarettes

URA impounded 64 boxes of cigarettes whose worth is estimated at UGX140 million in Ssenge Village, Naluvule Parish, Wakiso District. The cigarettes were smuggled into the country through porous border points and consolidated at a house in Ssenge dispatch to the market. Four people in connection with the contraband consisting of 59 boxes of ORIS Slims cigarettes and 5 boxes of Platinum Seven were arrested and three motor vehicles used in conveying the smuggled cigarettes were also impounded. These include a Vitz UBN 404Y, a Super Custom UBA 683G, and a Subaru Forester UBK 718X.



ENFORCEMENT PICTORIALS



Textile Smuggling operation foiled in Jinja

The URA enforcement team in Jinja recovered over 68,000 square meters of fabrics and textiles that were smuggled into the country. These were recovered from two trucks, a box body UBH 863M with 200 bales that were stacked from Kenya and Fuso truck registration number UBL 378Y which was ferrying 31,000 square meters of various textile rolls that were declared as saw dust.



Four vehicles impounded for aiding smuggling in Mbale

Four vehicles, three Fuso trucks with registration numbers KDB 674Y, UBE 128M, and UAY 105G, as well as a Toyota Carib UAP 803D, were seized for smuggling wheat flour, sugar and cement. In addition, eight motorcycles were also taken into custody six of which had Kenyan registration number plates. Upon inspection, these were transporting 250 kg of sugar, 69 cartons of wheat, and 600 bags of Kenyan cement.



Packwach yields big in enforcement operation

URA enforcement officers in Nebbi seized over 3,000 liters of cooking oil that had been smuggled in from the Democratic Republic of Congo. The 200 jerry cans of Nzuri cooking oil were impounded from Nyaravur Trading Center abode a fully loaded truck UBL 444U.



Over 2000 smuggled phones intercepted in Mayuge

Uganda Revenue Authority has foiled a smuggling feat and intercepted 2,040 mobile phones in Mayuge district. A one Isma, known for smuggling via Lake Victoria, was nabbed with the phones in a Toyota Noah registration UBN 384Q fully loaded with 34 cartons of feature phones.





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