



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF FINANCE – INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

VALUE ADDED TAX (VAT) REFUNDS FOR REGISTERED TAXPAYERS

The purpose of this notification is to request all VAT registered vendors who are owed VAT refunds by Inland Revenue Department to visit their regional office of registration and submit relevant accounting records for verification as soon as possible so that refunds can be paid out.

This notification relates strictly to VAT refunds **older than January 2016** of which the VAT returns were, in a manner stipulated in the VAT Act duly submitted to Inland Revenue Department before **January 2016**.

Section 38(2) of the VAT Act compels the Commissioner of Inland Revenue Department to refund any amount of VAT claimed by a taxpayer after being **satisfied** that such a refund is indeed due to a registered person. Based on this provision of the Act, Inland Revenue Department will carry out some audits and verifications to ascertain that such a VAT refund is due and payable to a person claiming it.

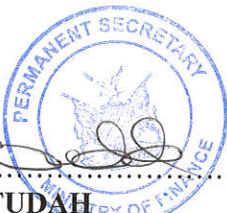
Furthermore, taxpayers are advised to settle **outstanding balances** on any other tax account that they are registered for as the Commissioner shall first apply the amount of the refund in reduction of any such outstanding balance (tax, interest, penalty) before the remaining refund is paid out to the taxpayer.

Section 38(6) of VAT Act requires all VAT returns **to be filed** before any refund can be paid out to the taxpayer. In this respect, all taxpayers to whom this notification applies are expected to have submitted all the VAT forms irrespective of whether or not business transactions were recorded during such a period. If there are outstanding returns, the Commissioner will withhold the payment of such a refund.

In the days to come, further communications to the affected taxpayers will be made via SMSes, telephone calls and or other means of communication. However, affected taxpayers are called upon to visit their nearest office of Inland Revenue Department and need not wait for an official communication.

For the purpose ^{of} our data integrity and effective communication, taxpayers are requested to verify the correctness of and update their **contact details** (cell phone number, email, postal address) with any of the offices of Inland Revenue Department.

Inquiries relating to this notification should be addressed to the Directorate: Tax Administration and Support Services, Tel: +264 (61) 209 2941.



MS EB SHAFUDAH
PERMANENT SECRETARY: FINANCE

DATE