



# **TAX DEBT** Relief Programme **GUIDELINES**

## **SCOPE**

The guideline is intended to regulate the administration of the Tax Debt Relief programme whereby Eswatini Revenue Service (ERS) waives interest and penalties for taxpayers who pay all their principal debt within the stipulated period and keep their current returns and payments current. The guideline aims at providing information on the manner in which the program will be administered by ERS.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The intention of the ERS on introduction of the Tax Debt Relief Programme is to increase revenue assist taxpayers to reduce their tax debts and work towards attaining tax compliance status. The Program was launched by the Minister of Finance through a notice issued on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May 2022.

## **2. PURPOSE**

This guideline serves to provide clarity on how ERS will facilitate the Tax Debt Relief Programme.

## **3. CONDITIONS FOR THE TAX DEBT RELIEF**

### **When applying:**

- a. The Tax debt relief program is available to all taxpayers who have outstanding tax liabilities
- b. These conditions are applicable to tax debts existing as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.
- c. Taxpayers should submit all outstanding returns and ensure that they are correct.
- d. The program will be open-up to the 5<sup>th</sup> August 2022
- e. A taxpayer is expected to commit to a payment arrangement on the principal tax debt.
- f. The payment arrangement includes a minimum down payment of 20% of principal debt and the balance should be payable within a period of 12 months. *Under exceptional circumstances, taxpayers may further negotiate for extension of time with the Commissioner General. The substance and merits of such requests will influence the Commissioner General's verdict in respect to these; where an application is rejected, the taxpayer will be furnished with the reasons for such.*
- g. Taxpayers under existing payment arrangements qualify to apply.



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- h. The Tax Debt Relief Programme is also available to all taxpayers who have submitted an objection and where there is litigation.

## During the programme

- a. Taxpayer is expected to:
- Pay all monthly instalments on time and in full.
  - File all returns on time when due;
  - Pay in full and on time all payments that will become due and payable.
  - Notify ERS and request for extension of time to pay where there is good cause.  
*Note that any extension of time should not exceed the stipulated period of the payment arrangement.*
  - Not be involved in any deliberate tax fraud or evasion.
- b. Failure to meet the above conditions will lead to termination of the arrangement and all outstanding tax including all penalties and interest become due and payable.
- Where the agreement has been terminated for any reason or the other, the taxpayer concerned will be disqualified from applying into the programme again.
- c. Penalties and interest will be waived AFTER the taxpayer has paid the principal amount in full, in accordance with the agreement.

## 5.1 Brief summary.

Taxpayers are expected to submit applications as a form of expressing interest in the program. Once the principal debt has been paid in full, ERS will waive all interest and penalties from a taxpayer's accounts.

### 5.1.1 Amendments

- The guideline may be amended from time to time as and when necessary.

## 4. CONTACT

For more information on this programme contact the ERS Contact Centre on [info@ers.org.sz](mailto:info@ers.org.sz) or call +268 2406 4050.