



# Public Notice Tax Amnesty

## ***Tax Amnesty on late tax lodgements and overdue taxes Effective from 01 Nov-31 Dec 2017***

As part of the O'Neill/Abel Government's 100 Day 25 Point Plan, the Commissioner-General of the Internal Revenue Commission (IRC), Betty Palaso today announced that a **'tax amnesty'** on **outstanding tax returns and outstanding taxes** is in place **effective from 01<sup>st</sup> November to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017** (*tax amnesty period*).

This means that additional financial penalties in the form of taxation penalties that are usually imposed on taxpayers who lodge tax returns late or pay taxes late will not be penalised when the outstanding returns are lodged and the overdue taxes paid within the tax amnesty period.

The tax amnesty will apply to

- 1) Outstanding Tax Returns such as:
  - corporate income tax returns;
  - personal income tax returns;
  - salary & wages tax returns;
  - GST tax returns; and
  - any other tax return that a taxpayer was required to lodge, but has failed to do so and/or a return that remains outstanding.
- 2) Any overdue or outstanding taxes.

Any taxpayer who lodges an outstanding tax returns and pays outstanding or overdue taxes from 01<sup>st</sup> November and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017 **will not be penalised** because of this tax amnesty.

**This is an opportunity for all taxpayers to bring your tax affairs up to date without incurring an additional financial burden in the form of additional taxes through the imposition of taxation penalties.**

### **CONDITIONS**

***For those who are late:*** To take advantage of this tax amnesty you must make sure that you:

- 1) Lodge all your outstanding annual and monthly returns before 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017.
- 2) Pay the overdue base tax in full within the period 01<sup>st</sup> Nov-31 Dec 2017.

***For taxpayers who have entered into a payment arrangement with IRC prior to 01st November 2017:***

- 1) You must settle the base tax in full during this tax amnesty period or within the already agreed payment period.
- 2) You will not pay any penalties that have been imposed on you when you pay the base tax in full during this tax amnesty period.

IRC will not be entering into any arrangement with any taxpayer who has overdue taxes or outstanding tax returns to agree to spread out your outstanding base taxes unless that arrangement is to pay all the base taxes by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017.

Any requests for payment arrangements within the tax amnesty period will be treated as a normal payment arrangement by our Debt Lodgement & Enforcement Division. As the base tax, plus the penalties, will be applied into the payment arrangement, it will be to your advantage to pay the outstanding taxes in full during the amnesty.

### **The tax amnesty ends on the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017.**

Taxpayers who have outstanding tax returns and overdue taxes are encouraged to make full use of this two months' grace period.

For further information or inquiries, taxpayers should visit the nearest IRC office or contact the Assistant Commissioner Debt and Lodgement Enforcement Division, Mr Steven Tsivele on telephone 322 6669 or email [stivele@irc.gov.pg](mailto:stivele@irc.gov.pg) or [augustined@irc.gov.pg](mailto:augustined@irc.gov.pg)

Taxpayers are reminded that the normal lodgement and payment dates are:

- Goods and Services Tax - 21st day of every month,
- Salary and Wages Tax - 7th day of every month,
- Company Income Tax and Personal Income Tax - 28th February each year after the close of the financial year, or, as such other reporting period as approved by the Commissioner General; and
- Payment of the assessed tax can be paid anytime within 30 days without penalty after the notice of the assessment is issued, or, such other period as directed by IRC.

*To clarify:* Lodgements that are due in November and December (during *the tax amnesty period*) which are lodged, and the taxes arising paid on the respective due dates, will not have penalties applied to them as they are lodged and paid on time.

To those compliant taxpayers who have made a commendable effort to keep their lodgements and payments in order and on time throughout the year, we sincerely thank you and encourage you to continue to be compliant, you are indeed a great partner in building PNG. Your taxes go toward funding development programs of the Government.

**Authorised by:**

**Ms Betty Palaso, OBE  
Commissioner General**