

IRC staff warned of corruption

THE Internal Revenue Commission (IRC) is warning its staff against participating or engaging in any form of corruption with any taxpayer.

The management issued the warning after one of its staff was alleged to have solicited and accepted cash from a taxpayer on the pretext of facilitating the taxpayer's refunds.

The IRC, in a statement issued on Friday, said the staff received

K1210 from a taxpayer in 2016 but failure to deliver resulted in the termination of the staff.

"Taxpayers are warned that parliament has in the last budget passed amendments to the Internal Revenue Commission laws to allow the commission to prosecute any taxpayer or taxpayers representative found to be offering bribes to induce IRC staff to perform their duties," IRC said.

"This law is operational from 1 January this year and IRC will not hesitate to use this law and publicise the cases when caught."

"Taxpayers are encouraged to respect and observe due process and follow established office processes when following up on their tax matters and refrain from giving cash, bribes or any inducement in cash or kind to Internal Revenue Commission staff as no fee is charged for any

services that the IRC provides.

"The IRC maintains a zero-tolerance policy against bribery and corruption and is quick to discipline its staff."

"Internal Revenue Commission staff members are also urged to refrain from accepting tokens of appreciation in cash or kind from friends, relatives, colleagues or anyone."

"Any incident or suspected cases of bribery and corrup-

tion must be reported promptly to the Internal Affairs division of IRC.

"On a positive note, two staff received letters of appreciation from the Commissioner-General (Betty Palaso) for their courage in standing up against corruption by refusing a substantial amount of money and reporting the incident in which they were offered money while discharging their duties."

I am not notified of suspension: Auli

EAST Sepik education adviser Joseph Auli says he has not been officially notified that he has been suspended.

He was responding to a report in the *The National* last week, quoting acting provincial administrator Richard Kombo, who said Auli had been sidelined pending the outcome of investigations into teachers' concerns in the province.

Auli, who has been a teacher for 23 years, was asked to occupy the education adviser's position five and a half years ago. He said he was yet to receive any official notification of his "siding-in".

Kombo earlier said Teaching Service Commission officers were in Wewak to address teachers' concerns including their resumption.

There are more than 4000 teachers in East Sepik.

A spokesperson at the East Sepik governor's office has told teachers they will be monitored so they should be at work

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Tax office cracks whip on corruption in office

THE International Revenue Commission is cracking down hard on staff involved in bribery and corruption.

As such it has reinforced its internal safeguard processes to ensure staff remain compliant and act within its strict administrative requirements.

The commission reinforced this last week following the sacking of a senior tax officer for soliciting and accepting cash from a taxpayer on the pretext of facilitating his refunds.

According to the IRC investigations proved that the staff had received K1210 from the taxpayer but failed to deliver what was promised.

The matter was then reported to IRC's internal affairs who after investigations found the staff lied because it was not his job to process refunds as he works in a different section.

At the same time the IRC has urged taxpayers to follow established procedures when following up on tax matters and to "refrain from giving cash, bribes, or other inducements in cash or kind to IRC staff as no fee is charged for any services that the IRC provides."

"The IRC maintains a 'zero tolerance' policy against bribery and corruption and is quick to discipline its staff," the Commission said.

"IRC staff are also urged to refrain from accepting tokens of appreciation in cash or kind from friends, relatives, wantoks, colleagues or anyone as when caught it will seriously affect their future with the IRC and the lives of their families."

On a positive note two staff received "letters of appreciation" from the Commissioner General Betty Palaso for their courage in "standing up against corruption by refusing a substantial amount of money and reporting the incident where they were offered the money while discharging their duties."

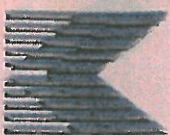
"Taxpayers are warned that Parliament has in the last budget passed amendments to the IRC laws to allow IRC to prosecute any taxpayer or taxpayers' representative found to be offering bribes to induce IRC staff to perform their duties," the Commission said.

"This law is operational from January 1, this year and IRC will not hesitate to use this law and publicise the cases when caught."



IRC staff are also urged to refrain from accepting tokens of appreciation in cash or kind from friends, relatives, wantoks, colleagues or anyone.

Internal Revenue Commission



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