

Media Releases 2007

Outstanding tax returns

Durban, 12 December 2007 - The South African Revenue Service (SARS) today embarked on a campaign to reduce the number of outstanding returns nationally.

Filing tax returns is a key indicator of tax compliance and tax morality. Nationally there are 6 million returns outstanding.

SARS's analysis of the tax register indicates that KwaZulu-Natal has the highest number of outstanding tax returns per geographical or residential spread. The analysis is based on residential codes and residential addresses in 11 geographical areas across the country and effectively points to the fact that the province accounts for about half of all outstanding returns nationally

SARS's management – in partnership with the eThekweni metro council – this morning addressed a public meeting to express concerns about the low levels of tax compliance in the metro a large number of business owners and tax practitioners.

SARS will continue to engage stakeholder organizations in order to improve the levels of tax compliance in the country and will conduct similar campaigns in other cities. Two main projects will guide this campaign:

i) Multiple Offenders: National

- Tax base analysis/case management indicate that:
 - 28 300 non-compliant individuals
 - Responsible for 500 000 outstanding returns

ii) Geographical Spread: National

- 134 000 taxpayers are responsible for 440 000 outstanding returns, spread geographically over 11 residential areas

SARS will also continue its enforcement efforts against tax defaulters. In KZN 58 warrants of arrest were executed in past 3 days and a further 20 warrants will be executed tomorrow. A further 11 individuals who are refusing to cooperate with SARS will also be arrested in the province. In Gauteng 52 individuals appeared in court over the last 2 days for outstanding returns.

A further 6 will appear in court during the next 48 hours