

2008

One week left to reconcile!

Pretoria, 25 August 2008 -- From today the South African Revenue Service (SARS) will be extending hours of operation at branches across the country to accommodate the anticipated increase in employers seeking to submit their payroll records to SARS ahead of the Friday 29 August deadline.

Branch Offices will be open from 7am to 6pm until Friday.

This will allow an extra three hours per day during which employers can receive assistance from SARS staff at branches and the national call centre to submit their PAYE reconciliations.

Tax Season for Employers-

By today more than 100 000 employers have submitted their PAYE reconciliation declarations to SARS along with some 5.6 million employee tax certificates [IRP5/IT3(a)] on behalf of their employees.

However, many employers have yet to submit their EMP501 reconciliation declaration and copies of employee tax certificates. They have until 29 August in order to do so by using the new [e@syFile](#) software developed by SARS to assist employers to do this electronically or visiting their nearest branch.

The deadline will not be extended. Strong penalties will be imposed against defaulting employers.

Tax Season For Individuals--

From today SARS began mailing about 3.6 million letters to registered taxpayers who submitted a manual tax return last year explaining the process to be followed this year. Attached to the letter is a request form for taxpayer to complete and send back to SARS in order to receive this year's tax return.

Taxpayers are required to order a tax return this year for three reasons:

1. Tax returns will be customised to each taxpayer's unique requirements. This means taxpayers will only receive returns containing those income and deduction sections relevant to their tax circumstances.
2. Tax returns will be pre-populated with employees' tax certificate information: Using the information supplied by employers, SARS will complete this information on tax returns on behalf of employees. For extra security of this information taxpayers need to confirm their address and details by requesting a return.
3. Fewer taxpayers are submitting manually: More than 1 million taxpayers submitted their return using eFiling last year and SARS is hoping to grow this even further this year. **In addition, this year taxpayers who earn less than R120 000 per year and have no additional income or deductions except for those reflected on their IRP5/IT3(a) tax certificate do not need to submit a return.** Both these reasons make mailing an income tax return to all registered taxpayers economically inappropriate.

Taxpayers who are registered users of the electronic submission facility – eFiling - do not need to request a return. They will be able to construct their own unique return online.

Employers and individual taxpayers can access any information about the 2008 Tax Season through the SARS website (www.sars.gov.za), the SARS call centre or any SARS branch.

ENDS