

MEDIA RELEASE

20 July 2023

NamRA UPDATES PROGRESS ON FRAUDULENT INCOME TAX REFUND SCAM INVESTIGATION

The Namibia Revenue Agency (NamRA) hereby indicates that significant progress has been recorded in the investigation of the fraudulent income tax refund scam that began in March 2022.

As of 18 July 2023, our investigations have implicated a total of 1,168 taxpayers, employed at 84 institutions, encompassing private companies, Government Offices, Ministries and Agencies (O/M/A's) as well as public institutions.

The total refund amount under scrutiny has surged from the initial amount of N\$ 15 million (March 2022) to N\$833 million, a substantial increase from the N\$136 million reported in January this year. NamRA's relentless efforts in the recovery process have yielded N\$ 19.9 million through intensive recovery interventions.

In line with our commitment to accountability, we have issued 322 demand letters. Pursuant to section 91 of the Income Tax Act, 1981 (Act No. 24 of 1981), 302 notice to agents have been issued, amounting to N\$ 55 million.

To date, 56 criminal cases have been registered with the Namibian Police. Thus far, only 5 suspects have been arrested and charged. More suspects are expected to be arrested in the coming weeks.

NamRA remains unwavering in its commitment to enforce revenue laws and will thoroughly investigate any related malpractices. As the investigation continues, NamRA will keep the public informed of further developments.

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