

MEDIA RELEASE

18 January 2023

UPDATE ON THE FRAUDULENT REFUND SCAM

The Namibia Revenue Agency (NamRA) hereby provides update on the progress of our ongoing investigation into the fraudulent refund scam as announced in March 2022 and the accompanying recovery efforts.

As at 10 January 2023, a total of 921 taxpayers have been implicated in the referred scam, which has increased from 409 as reported in July 2022. These taxpayers are employees of 56 institutions ranging from private companies, Government Offices, Ministries and Agencies (O/M/A's) and public institutions.

The total refund under consideration is more than **N\$ 136 million**, up from the last indicated amount of **N\$ 36 million**. Thus far, **N\$ 7.8 million** has been recovered through various efforts. In line with the recovery process, 128 demand letters were issued to the implicated taxpayers. Fourteen (14) institutions have been appointed as agents to collect on behalf of NamRA as per section 91 of the Income Tax Act, 1981 (Act No. 24 of 1981). We therefore express our gratitude to all institutions that have aided our investigations and trust that we can rely on their continued support.

To date, 50 criminal cases have been lodged with the Namibian Police (NAMPOL) and further action/s will follow as determined by NAMPOL. As the investigations continue, we remain steadfast in carrying out our mandate of enforcing the revenue and customs laws and investigate any detected tax fraud cases.

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