

## OPENING REMARKS

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PUBLIC FILING EVENT BY THE RT. HONOURABLE PRIME  
MINISTER, HIS EXCELLENCY AMBROSE MANDVULO DLAMINI

PSPF BOARDROOM, 14 NOVEMBER 2019

- Your Excellency The Rt Hon. Prime Minister
- Cabinet Ministers
- SRA Management and Team
- Senior Government officials
- Representatives of Business Community
- Members of the media
- Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

## WORDS OF APPRECIATION

Let me start by passing my sincere appreciation to the Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini in particular yourself Honourable Prime Minister and your entire Cabinet for your continued support and guidance as we push our mandate of domestic resource mobilization to fund the Government's development agenda.

## OUR STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Your Excellency, please allow me to point out that our current strategy as an organization ends in March 2021. We developed our overall long-term strategy in line with the V5 system; and this concept allows us to breakdown the milestones into three-year strategic goals. In an effort to

renew our strategy, we have already consulted various stakeholders who influence our strategy, to solicit ideas on the areas we need to improve in order to attain our mandate of improving domestic resource mobilization. Our ultimate goal is to reach 100% voluntary compliance (V1). Currently we are implementing initiatives to attain a goal of - **Making Compliance easier and costing less.**

Let me appreciate, Your Excellency, your agreeing to do this public filing event. It is not secret that your behaviour as a leader influences multitudes of people. Traditionally the P.M would come to the SRA offices as that was the only method in use for the submission of returns in the past. The **e-Tax initiative**, which you will be using today to file your returns from the comfort of your offices is one of the many initiatives we have implemented to make compliance easier and have it cost our taxpayers less. As an organization, we are very excited that as the Head of Government, you have taken the lead and you are using this platform, which we believe will encourage others to do the same.

## **AREAS OF COLLABORATION TO DRIVE COMPLIANCE**

Before I conclude Honourable Prime Minister, I want to mention that we cannot achieve our mandate without collaboration with other key stakeholders, especially from a systems integration and data sharing perspective. Our April 2021 strategic goal is “An eye on every cent-taxable and non-taxable”. The idea is that, this will allow us to know how much is circulating in the economy and help us determine if we are taxing the economy efficiently. In this regard, we need to collaborate, particularly with Government Ministries and State-Owned Entities to cross check validity of data submitted by taxpayers. Examples of databases we need are:

- PIN Database from Ministry of Home Affairs
- Companies database from Ministry of Commerce
- Properties database from Deeds office
- Vehicle registration database from Ministry of Finance
- Procurement database from Ministry of Finance
- Employers Database from ENPF
- Etc.

To this end, I am happy to report Your excellency that we have engaged Principal Secretaries on this initiative on October 31<sup>st</sup> and they expressed unwavering support for it. We are, therefore, optimistic that our goal will indeed be realized by the set date.

To our taxpayers, we encourage you to embrace this innovation as indeed there are many benefits associated with it. We urge you to register for e-tax as it will alleviate the burden of queueing. The return is also configured to assist you as you populate it.

I THANK YOU ALL.