



ISO 9001: 2015 CERTIFIED

TAXATION FOR NONPROFIT ORGANISATIONS IN TANZANIA

A guide for Civil Society Organizations

Second Revised Edition 2024



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Partners









Launching of the report on "The State of Non-Profit Taxation in Tanzania" during the Workshop on Non-Profit Sector Taxation and Validation of the Second Revised Edition 2024 of the CSOs Tax Compliance Toolkit in Tanzania held at Morena Hotel, Dodoma on 3rd October 2023. In the picture is Mr. William Mhoja- Commissioner of Financial Analysis at the Ministry of Finance; Hon. Mwantum Mahiza-NGO Board Chair; Dr. Lilian Badi-NaCoNGO Chair; Madam Vicknes Mayao-NGO Registrar and Adv. Onesmo Olengurumwa-THRDC National Coordinator.

Contents

Ac	knowledgement	,
	eneral Overview Preamble	V
	About this Guide	Vi Vi
1.	Defining a Nonprofit Organisation	1
2.	Nonprofit Organisations and Tax Laws	2
	2.1 Obligations of Nonprofit Organisations under Tax Laws	2
	2.1.1 Registration as a taxpayer	2
	2.1.2 VAT Registration	3
	2.1.3 Acquire and Usage of Electronic Fiscal Devices (EFDs)	4
	2.1.4 Timely Payment of Taxes	4
	2.1.5 Filing of Tax Returns	4
	2.1.6 Record Keeping	5
	2.1.7 Notification of Change of Particulars	6
	2.1.8 Full Disclosure of all business activities	6
	2.2 Rights of Nonprofit organisations under Tax Laws	6
	2.2.1 Privacy and Confidentiality	6
	2.2.2 Right to tax incentives and exemptions allowable under the Tax Laws	6



2.2.3 Objections and appeals	7
2.2.4 Correction of Errors (on issuance of EFD receipt)	7
3. Payment of Taxes	9
3.1 Common taxes and non-tax revenues relevant for nonprofit organisations	9
3.1.1 Tax Revenue Obligations	9
3.1.1.1 Corporate Tax	10
3.1.1.2 Withholding Taxes	12
3.1.1.3 Capital Gain Tax (CGT)	15
3.1.1.4 Pay As You Earn (PAYE)	16
3.1.1.5 Skills Development Levy (SDL)	17
3.1.1.6 Stamp Duty	19
3.1.1.7 Import Duty, Excise Duty and VAT Exemption	20
3.2 Important Points	23
3.2.1 Timely Submission of Applications	23
3.2.2 Offenses on Disposal of Import Duty Exempt Goods.	23
3.2.3 Accountability for Past Exemptions	23
Annexes	25
Annex 1 List of Applicable Tax Laws	25
Annex 2 Taxation of Charitable Organisations	29
Annex 3 Tax Audited Disputes Resolutions Mechanism	36
Annex 4 Worked Example - PAYE	45



Acknowledgement

This is the second revised edition 2023/2024 of the CSOs Tax Toolkit 2024. The idea of preparing and publishing the first Toolkit was brought up during Civil Society Organizations' Directors Reflection Meeting in Mwanza in 2019. This proposal was well received by the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and CSOs across the country. The first edition of this Toolkit was developed in 2021. For the purpose of updating this Toolkit with annual reforms related to finance and tax laws, TRA and THRDC agreed to review and update the Toolkit annually. This second edition was validated by 200 representatives of CSOs on 3rd October, 2023 at Morena Hotel in Dodoma. The validation session was conducted as one of the side events during the 2023 Annual NGOs forum in Dodoma.

The process of updating this Toolkit enjoyed wider consultations of about 1500 Non-Profit Organizations across the country who have been approached for their views in different ways. The list of CSOs that had been consulted is long, but we must take this special opportunity to thank them for their efforts and their valuable contributions. We also appreciate and recognize the leadership and close cooperation accorded to this work by Chairperson of NGOs Board, Ms Mwamtum Mahiza, Ag. Director of Taxpayer Education and Communication at TRA, Mr Hudson Kamoga, Registrar of NGOs, Ms Vickness Mayao and Chairperson of NACONGO, Dr Lilian Badi.



Specifically, we would like to thank all organizations that participated in the process of developing this document under the leadership of the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC). These organizations among others include the National Council of NGOs (NACoNGO), Wajibu Institute of Public Accountability (WIPA) and financial contribution by the UK Aid funded Accountability in Tanzania Programme (AcT2), Ford Foundation, European Union, and Sweden.

We would also like to thank members of the technical team from TRA and THRDC who devoted much of their time and expertise to develop and come up with this revised edition of the CSOs Toolkit. The technical team involved (Mr. Maternus Emily Mallya (Principal Tax Management Officer), Adv. Octavian Kichenje (Legal Counsel), Ms. Kanasia Malisa (Principal Economist and Mr. Joram Katemana (Tax Management Officer) all from TRA. Other team members included Adv. Onesmo Kasale Olengurumwa - Certified Tax Consultant from Afritanza Attorneys and National Coordinator THRDC and Adv. Paul Kisabo, Protection and Litigation Officer from THRDC. It is our belief that this second version will be useful to the Non-Profit sector given the current tax compliance challenges facing CSOs in Tanzania.



General Overview

Preamble

Nonprofit organizations are required to pay taxes and file returns as guided under the laws. Previous studies and consultative discussions involving over 200 NGOs Directors, representatives from the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and the Ministry of Finance and Planning conducted at different occasions in 2019 highlighted various challenges faced by nonprofit organisations in complying with tax laws. This simplified guide intends to enhance knowledge and skills on the legal and administrative aspects to assist nonprofit organizations to become more compliant to the tax laws.

About this Guide

Taxation for nonprofit organisations in Tanzania is a guide on tax issues relevant for nonprofit organizations legally registered and operating in the country under different statutes. This guide:

- explains basic requirements for registering with TRA as a taxpayer
- explains the basic legal and practical details of relevant taxes, levies, duties and concessions applicable



- highlights common misconceptions by non-profit organisations under the different types of taxes, duties and levies.
- contains information on how to become a 'Charitable Organisation' and taxation of charitable organisations.

The information in this guide is not exhaustive. It focuses on taxes that CSOs found most challenging to comply with. The guide also acts as a supplement information from TRA website, Tax Consultation Bureau (DSM), and Regional Taxpayers Education and Communication Officers of TRA found countrywide.

NB: This toolkit does not substitute any Tax Laws or procedure. The tax laws shall prevail in case of any inadvertent conflict.





A Director of a Non-Profit Organization is required to apply for TIN immeadiately after obtaining certificate of organizational registration from relevant authorities



1. Defining a Nonprofit Organisation

The term nonprofit covers different types of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) including Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Charitable Organisations, Faith Based/Religious Organisations, Trusts, Associations, Community Based Organisations, Cooperative Societies, Legal Aid providers, Philanthropic Organisations etc.

An organisation qualifies as nonprofit if:

- It operates for purposes other than deriving profit or gain and it does not allow any distribution or deemed distribution of profit generated out of its business or undertakings; and
- Its profit, if any must be ploughed back and used solely for improving or expansion of the original organization purpose or function.
- Its constitutive documents prohibit profits or assets distribution for the benefit of particular persons.

In Tanzania, nonprofit organisations are registered under different laws the most common ones are:

- The Non-Governmental Organisations Act, [Cap 56 R.E. 2019]
- The Societies Act, [Cap 337 R.E. 2019]
- The Trustees Incorporation Act, [Cap 318 R.E. 2019]



2. Nonprofit Organisations and Tax Laws

Tax administration in Tanzania is governed by various laws (Refer Annex 1. Nonprofit organizations, like other taxpayers, have a duty to familiarize with these laws especially the most relevant to their operations.

2.1 Obligations of Nonprofit Organisations under Tax Laws

For overall 'obligations' and 'rights' of taxpayers

Read "Client Service Charter" accessible

▶ at; https://www.tra.go.tz/IMAGES/uploads/Laws/NinethClientService CharterRevised.pdf

2.1.1 Registration as a taxpayer

Nonprofit organizations are required to acquire Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) immediately after their formation under their respective laws and commencement of business. Refer Sec. 22(1) of Tax Administration Act, [Cap 438 R.E. 2019].

Procedure for registration

Anorganization can obtain TIN by making an application through Taxpayers Portal. (Tax Administration Act, [Cap 438 R.E. 2019 S. 22 & S. 82]

Upon TIN registration the following information is required;

- a) Organization's Certificate of Registration,
- b) Constitution of the respective organization

- c) A copy of a valid Identification for 'Office Bearers' or key personnel (Either of National Identity Card, Passport, Driver's license, Voter's Identification Card)
- d) An introduction letter from Ward Executive Officer (WEO).
- e) A lease agreement and/or Title Deed/Residence License of office premise.

2.1.2 VAT Registration

A nonprofit organization is required to be registered for VAT from the first day of the month only if;

- a) the turnover (out of taxable supplies but not from grants and donations) is equal to or greater than the registration threshold of 100 million in the period of six months or 200 million in the period of twelve months (Refer Sections 28 & 29 of VAT Act, Cap 148, and Section 90 of TAA 2015 R.E. 2019). This is for only those NPOs that are involved in investments and other business-related activities.
- b) the organisation offers professional/consultancy services (Section. 29 of VAT Act, [Cap 148 R.E. 2019] e.g. consultancy, training etc.
- c) an organization registered for VAT purposes is obliged to file a return under section 66 of the Value Added Tax Act on the 20th day of a month after the end of the tax period to which it relates, whether or not that person has a net amount of value added tax payable for that period. Failure to comply with filling of the return results into penalty under section 78 of the Tax Administration Act, [Cap 438 R.E. 2019].

Note: Non-Profit Organizations are not automatically required to register for VAT because they only receive grants for community services. However, if an organization is involved in investments and business activities, such organization is required to comply with VAT laws (Refer Sections 28 & 29 of VAT Act Cap 148, and Section 90 of TAA 2015 R.E 2019)



2.1.3 Acquire and Usage of Electronic Fiscal Devices (EFDs)

A nonprofit organization that conducts any economic activity and has a turnover of TZS 11 million and above is required to issue a fiscal receipt. Non-profit organisations are also required to issue and demand a fiscal receipt for every transaction made. (Refer Sec. 36 and 86 of TAA, 2015).

2.1.4 Timely Payment of Taxes

Every Taxpayer has a duty to pay tax promptly as and when they fall due, and failure to comply with such an obligation result to interest, penalty and fine (as provided for under section 76,78 and 83 respectively of the Tax Administration Act, R.E. 2019). The payment requirement is prescribed under respective tax laws as explained under part 3 of the guide.

2.1.5 Filing of Tax Returns

Any organisation registered as taxpayer must file tax returns within the prescribed time under the respective tax laws (Refer part 3 of this guide). Literally, 'Tax Return' is a document filed with a tax authority that reports income, expenses and other relevant information for different taxes as required by the law. Currently, tax returns are required to be filed electronically for convenience purposes. (Refer Sec. 37 to 41 of TAA, 2015).

Note: Nonprofit organisations operate in a very dynamic and unpredictable funding environment. Filing of returns enables them to communicate various changes and keep the Commissioner General updated at all times.



Box 2 ELECTRONIC TAX RETURNS FILING SYSTEM

Taxpayers are required to file tax returns through electronic tax return filing system.

The system was developed in order to simplify tax returns filing process by taxpayers.

• A taxpayer shall register into the system by using his/her respective TIN, Email, and Address details on the TRA website: http://www.tra.go.tz and then click Taxpayer Portal Online Services.

Failure to submit returns

• **Section 78** (1) and (2) of Tax Administration Act, 2015 prescribes monthly penalty for failure to file tax return.

Note: Nonprofit organizations operate in a very dynamic and unpredictable funding environment. Those newly registered NPOs and those that operate without funds are advised to regularly inform the Commissioner through District and Regional TRA offices in their localities.

2.1.6 Record Keeping

An organization is required to keep all business records relating to tax matters for a period of five years from the relevant date or for a further period as prescribed for under tax laws"; or until a final decision is made on the documents in case of dispute resolutions. Refer Section 89(1) of the VAT Act, 2014 read with Section 35(3) of the Tax Administration Act, 2015.



2.1.7 Notification of Change of Particulars

Organisations are required to notify the Commissioner General of any change of particulars of the organization such as office location, contact numbers, amendments to constitutive documents etc. In case of any change of the organization's particulars, it is advisable to inform the nearest TRA office.

2.1.8 Full Disclosure of all business activities

Organisations have an obligation to disclose to the Commissioner General all matters relating to business activities conducted by the respective organisations.

NOTE: NPOs are advised to make effective use of the TRA Online Service in complying with tax laws through Taxpayer Portal. This platform is available on TRA Website and it is accessible by every registered taxpayer.

2.2 Rights of Nonprofit organisations under Tax Laws

TRA will observe and respect among others, the following rights in ensuring that an organization fulfill their obligations.

2.2.1 Privacy and Confidentiality

An organisation has the right to privacy and confidentiality for private and business information supplied to TRA unless the law provides otherwise.

2.2.2 Right to tax incentives and exemptions allowable under the Tax Laws

Like any other taxpayer, non-profit organisations have the right to tax incentives and exemptions allowed under the tax laws. The type of tax relief depends on the nature of activities that a non-profit organisation undertakes as well as adherence to proper applicable procedures at any given time.



Part 3 of this guide provides details of circumstances for eligibility and procedures for obtaining exemptions/relief under the different tax laws as appropriate.

Nonprofit organisations can also make an application for Commissioner General's ruling under (TAA Section 11, read with ITA Section 64) to become a Charitable Organisation for tax purposes.

Charitable Organisations are eligible to certain tax relief that are not available to other non-profit organisations (Refer part 3 below)

Note: A ruling by the Commissioner General does not exempt an organisation from paying taxes.

▶ Read Annex 2 of this guide for comprehensive information on how to become a Charitable Organisation for tax purposes, eligibility criteria, applicable tax incentives and worked out examples.

2.2.3 Objections and appeals

An organization has the right to object an assessment or tax decision made by the Commissioner General to the extent that, such a right is provided for under the tax laws (Refer Section 50 up to 53 of TAA 2015)

▶ **Read Annex 3** of this guide for detailed procedures on how to make appeals and objections.

2.2.4 Correction of Errors on Issuance of Fiscal Receipts

When an Organisation makes an error on issuance of a fiscal receipt, it should report in writing to the nearest TRA office for rectification and maintain a copy for future reference.





A high table photo with the guest of honor during the validation of the first edition of the NGOs Tax Toolkit on 1st July 2021 at Mlimani City in Dar es Salaam. From the left is Ms. Rehema Tukai (Deputy Programme Director- AcT KPMG), Mr. Maternus Mallya (Principal Tax Management Officer), Adv. Onesmo Olengurumwa (THRDC National Coordinator), the guest of honor Mr. Richard Kayombo Director for Taxpayers Services and Education at TRA, Mr. Masawa Masatu (Manager for Kinondoni Tax Region by then) and Adv. Octavian Kichenje (Legal Counsel - TRA)



3. Payment of Taxes

Every non-profit organisation has a duty to pay taxes timely as they fall due in order to avoid payment of penalties and interest as prescribed under the relevant tax laws.

3.1 Common Taxes Payable by Non Profit Organisations

Nonprofit organisations in Tanzania are eligible to pay the following taxes.

3.1.1 Tax Revenue Obligations

Type of Taxes	Additional Information
Income Tax • Corporate Tax	Annex 2
 Different types of withholding taxes Service fees and contract payments Payments of investment returns (Such as rent, interest, and royalties). 	-
Capital Gain Tax (CGT)	-
 Pay as you earn (PAYE) 	Annex 4
Skills Development Levy (SDL)	-
Stamp Duty	-
Import Duties	-



3.1.1.1 Corporate Tax

Nonprofit organisations like any other taxpayers are eligible for paying corporate tax arising from undertakings or business/investments carried by the organizations. An organization's income for corporate tax purposes constitutes of all collections from economic activities, members' subscription fees, donations, and grants.

The applicable rate of corporate tax for nonprofit organizations is 30% on annual taxable income.

Details of Due Dates

Filing of Statements of Estimated Tax Payable (SOETP) Payments are made in calendar year quarterly instalments over the year of income as stipulated under Section 88 of Income Tax Act, [Cap 332 R.E. 2019]

- On or before 31 March
- On or before 30 June
- On or before 30 September
- On or before 31 December
- Under Section 89 of ITA Cap 332 organisations are required to file estimates of tax payable for the year of income by the end of the first quarter which is also a date for payment of the first tax instalment.
- The filed estimates shall remain in force for the whole of the year of income unless a revised estimate is filed giving reasons for the revision. Revisions are allowed up to the last day of accounting period.
- Details of SOETP are accessed through the TRA Taxpayer portal at https://taxpayerportal.tra.go.tz/#/



Filing of Return of Income (ROI)	Section 91(1) of ITA R.E. 2019 requires a taxpayer to file a return of income not later than six months after the end of each year of income to which it relates accompanied with Certified financial statements.
Penalty/ Fine/ Interest Chargeable	Failure to submit tax returns on due dates and pay tax, if any, will attract penalty/ fine and interest accordingly under Section 76 and 78 of the TAA of 2015.

NOTE: We understand that NGOs are not intended for profit making purposes like commercial companies. Their income depends mainly on donor funds and contributions, except those engaging in business or investment that generate income.

NPOs are advised to observe the following:

- (i) In case of Filing of Statements of Estimated Tax Payable (SETP) as per Section 89 of ITA, NPOs may file NIL return for the year of income to avoid penalty.
- (ii) In case of Annual Return of income (ROI) as per section 91(1) of ITA, non-for-profit organizations with more than one-year grants in their accounts (grants collected or remained for next year activities) are advised to apply to the Commissioner for their unutilized income to be treated as SURPLUS for completion of their pending projects in the next year of income, in terms of S.64 of the Income Tax Act. In this context, NPOs are advised to use well experienced external financial auditors who are more knowledgeable about Taxation of the Non-Profit sector.



3.1.1.2 Withholding Taxes

(a) Withholding Tax on Payments of Professional Services Fees and Contracts

A non-profit organisation has an obligation to withhold tax at the rate provided upon making-payment for professional services rendered. The rate is 5% for resident and 15% for non-resident persons.

- "professional service" means services rendered by a person licensed as a practitioner by any recognised professional body and shall include other services or activities of an independent business character including consultancy, legal, architectural, engineering, supervisory, accounting, auditing, medical, artistic, survey, theatrical performance, sports, exhibition, private security services, private investigation and consultancies in various disciplines or any entertainment held or given other than those for remuneration under contract of employment: Provided that, where the service involves construction works, the payment which is subject to withholding shall be based on the ratio of 3:2 for materials and services respectively (service element is 40% of the payments).
- Treatment of reimbursable costs in the determination of withholding tax base is subject to nature of service contracts. Organisations are advised to read Practice Note No 1 of 2019 for further guidance as shown hereunder.
 - https://www.tra.go.tz/Images/headers/Withholding-Tax-on-payment-for-Goods.pdf
- Organisations are required to demand proper receipts from contractors/service providers for any payments made in respect of services rendered to the organisation.



• NOTE: Where the turnover of such contractor or service provider is less than 11 million, the organisation may ask for being issued with manual receipt.

Event	Details of Due Dates
Payment and issuance of withholding certificate	Every withholding agent shall pay to the Commissioner General within seven days after the end of each calendar month any income tax that has been withheld during the month.
	A withholding agent shall prepare and serve the withholdee a Withholding Certificate setting out the amount of payments made to the withholdee and income tax withheld from such payments.
	The procedure of generating control numbers for withholding tax on other services is accessed through the TRA Taxpayer portal at https://taxpayerportal.tra.go.tz/#/
Filing of Return	Monthly returns are submitted through the TRA e-filling system on or before the 7^{th} day of the month following the month of withholding.
Penalty/ Fine/Interest chargeable	Failure to submit tax returns on due dates and pay tax, if any, will attract penalty / fine and interest accordingly under Section 76 and 78 of the TAA of 2015.



(b) Withholding Tax on Investment Rturns

i. Withholding Tax on Payment of Rent

Nonprofit organisations renting office premises or other spaces for commercial purposes are required to withhold tax at the rate of 10% before making payment to landlords/managing agents (Refer Section 82 of the Income Tax Act, [Cap 332 R.E. 2019].

Upon payment of rent, the tenant must withhold the tax amount and remit it to the Commissioner General as stipulated under the provisions of Section 84 of the Income Tax Act, [Cap 332 R.E. 2019]. Failure to remit the amount of tax withheld attracts an interest at the statutory rate which is compounded monthly and payable to the Commissioner General under section 76 of the Tax Administration Act, [Cap 438 R.E. 2019].

Most private landlords tend to resist this deduction; however, organizations must adhere to the prevailing tax laws as failure to do that attracts fines and penalties. The law requires the tax payment to be done by the tenant, not the landlord.

ii. Withholding Tax on Payment of Interest

Upon payment of interest in respect of money borrowed from non-financial institutions or from non-resident lenders, nonprofit organisations are required to withhold tax at the rate of 10%. (Refer Section 82 of the Income Tax Act, Cap 332 R.E. 2019).

Upon payment of interest, the organisation must withhold the tax amount and remit it to the Commissioner General as stipulated under the provisions of Section 84 of the Income Tax Act, [Cap



332 R.E. 2019]. Failure to remit the amount of tax withheld attracts an interest at the statutory rate which is compounded monthly and payable to the Commissioner General under section 76 of the Tax Administration Act, [Cap 438 R.E. 2019].

iii. Withholding Tax on Payment of Royalties

Upon payment of royalties in respect of the use of intellectual property rights, nonprofit organisations are required to withhold tax at the rate of 10%. (Refer Section 82 of the Income Tax Act, Cap 332 R.E. 2019).

Upon payment of royalties, the organisation must withhold the tax amount and remit it to the Commissioner General as stipulated under the provisions of Section 84 of the Income Tax Act, [Cap 332 R.E. 2019]. Failure to remit the amount of tax withheld attracts an interest at the statutory rate which is compounded monthly and payable to the Commissioner General under section 76 of the Tax Administration Act, [Cap 438 R.E. 2019].

3.1.1.3 Capital Gain Tax (CGT)

When an organization derives a gain from the realization of an interest in land or buildings situated in Tanzania shall pay income tax by way of single instalment equal to (a) in case of a resident organisation is 10% and (b) 20% in case of a non-resident organisation or 3% of the incomings or approved value of land or buildings for seller who do not possess documentary evidence to substantiate the cost of the assets, before the title to such interest in land or building is transferred into the name of the buyer (Refer Section 90 of the Income Tax Act, [Cap 332 R.E. 2019].

Failure to pay capital gain tax on due date attracts an interest at the statutory rate which is compounded monthly and payable to the Commissioner General under section 76 of the Tax Administration Act, Cap 438.



3.1.1.4 Pay As You Earn (PAYE)

Employees whether full time, part time staff, temporary/casual, interns and volunteers) under non-profit organisations are subject to remittance of PAYE as long as remunerations to their respective employees exceed the prescribed minimum taxable salary threshold (refer Annex 4 for a worked out example).

Event	Details
Remuneration of employees	A non-profit organisation, as an employer who makes payment of salaries, allowances, gratuity, etc to employees shall withhold income tax (PAYE) from the payments made to such employees at the rate provided for under paragraph 1 to the First schedule of the Income Tax Act, [Cap 332 R.E. 2019].
Determination of taxable employment income	 Non-profit organisations need to accurately determine which components of their employees' income should be included in calculating the total taxable income from employment (Section 7 of the Income Tax Act, [Cap 332 R.E. 2019).
	 Non-profit organizations are responsible to withhold PAYE and remit the same to the Commissioner General within seven days after the end of each calendar month (Section 81 and 84 of the Income Tax Act, Cap 332 R.E. 2019).
	 Debit and control number for payment of PAYE are generated through the TRA Taxpayer portal accessible through https://taxpayerportal.tra.go.tz/#/



Filing of Return	Monthly returns are submitted through the TRA e-filing system within seven days after the end of each calendar month.
Penalty/Fine/ Interest	Failure to submit tax returns on due dates and pay tax, if any, will attract penalty / fine and interest accordingly under Section 76 and 78 of the Tax Administration Act, [Cap 438 R.E. 2019]

3.1.1.5 Skills Development Levy (SDL)

SDL is charged under section 14 of the Vocational Education Training Act (VETA) Cap 82 and collected by the Commissioner General of TRA from gross emoluments payable by employers with ten (10) or more employees in the payroll month.

The levy chargeable is equal to 3.5% of the total gross monthly emoluments payable by a non-profit organisation to all employees in respect of that month for Tanzania Mainland and 4% for Zanzibar.

Gross monthly emoluments" in relation to any employee includes wages, salary, leave pay, sick pay, payment in lieu of leave, fee, commission, bonus, gratuity and any subsistence, travelling and entertainment allowance or other allowances paid to him by the employer in respect of his employment or service rendered, and any amount so paid in respect of employment or services rendered by the employee in any month, shall be deemed to be emoluments in respect of the calendar month in which it is paid.



NOTE: Organizations eligibility is determined on monthly basis. Due to nature of funding and activities, non-profit organisations may have less than ten (10) employees with formal contracts but from time to time engage several others on casual or volunteer basis and pay them allowances. When that happens and the total number of persons receiving payment exceeds ten (10), then the organisation becomes liable to pay SDL on that month.

Event	Details
Determination and payment of monthly SDL payable	SDL is charged based on the gross emoluments of all payments made by the employer to the employees in the calendar month.
	Employer shall pay to the Commissioner General within seven days after the end of each calendar month.
	Debit and control number for payment of SDL are generated through the TRA Taxpayer portal accessible through https://taxpayerportal.tra.go.tz/#/
Filing of Return	Monthly returns are submitted through the TRA e-filing system within seven days after the end of each calendar month.
Penalty/Fine/ Interest	Failure to submit tax returns on due dates and pay tax, if any, will attract penalty/fine and interest accordingly under Section 76 and 78 of the Tax Administration Act, [Cap 438 R.E. 2019]



3.1.1.6 Stamp Duty

Payment of Stamp Duty is guided by the Stamp Duty Act, [Cap. 189 R.E. 2019]. Section 5 of the Act provides that, all documents (instruments) listed in the schedule of the Stamp Duty Act and which are executed in Tanzania Mainland or executed outside Tanzania Mainland but, relate to any property, or any matter to be performed in Tanzania Mainland, shall be chargeable with stamp duty. Different instruments are chargeable with different rates of stamp duty under the Stamp Duty Act, [Cap 189 R.E. 2019].

For a chargeable instrument to be admitted as evidence before the court of law must be duly stamped as provided for under Section 47 (1) of the Stamp Duty Act under otherwise such a chargeable instrument will be inadmissible. In case of doubt as to whether an instrument is required to be stamped or as to the amount of the Stamp Duty, contact the nearest TRA Office.

The most common instruments for nonprofit organisations include:

- Conveyancing documents (transfer of ownership)
- Commercial contracts
- Valuation reports
- Memoranda and Articles of Association
- Powers of Attorney



Due date and persons liable to pay stamp duty	 Within 30 days from signing an instrument, the instrument holder is required to take the instrument to TRA for stamp duty assessment and payment. Due date is within 30 days from the date of signing/execution of an instrument.
	 Section 41 of the Act gives room for parties to agree on who shall be liable to pay the stamp duty. In the absence of an agreement, the stamp duty may be paid by either drawer, maker or executor depending on the nature of an instrument
Offenses Penalty/Fines	Covered under Sections 73, 74, 75 and 76 of Stamp Duty Act and Section 91 of the Tax Administration Act, [Cap 438 R.E. 2019].

3.1.1.7 Import Duty and Value Added Tax Exemptions

A nongovernmental organization may apply for exemption of VAT to Commissioner General in a prescribed form on importation or supply of goods or services to be used solely for project implemented by respective nongovernmental organization provided such a nongovernmental organization has an agreement with government of Tanzania for the project to be implemented. Such agreement should provide that VAT on such importation or supply of goods or services is exempted as provided for under section 6(2)(g) of Value Added Tax Act, [Cap 148 R.E. 2019], read together with amendment of the same under section 74 (a) of the Finance Act, 2021.



A nongovernmental organization may also enjoy exemption of VAT on importation of goods listed under items 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 of Part I of the schedule to the Value Added Tax Act, 2014. Such exemptions refer to the importation and local supplies of medicine or pharmaceutical products, articles designed for people with special needs, education materials, health care and education services.

Further a nongovernmental organization may also enjoy exemption of VAT on importation of goods listed under items 6, 7, and 8 of Part II of the schedule to the Value Added Tax Act, 2014. Such exemptions refer to the imported goods such as imported food, clothing or other goods e.g. shoes for free distribution to orphanages or to schools for children with special needs; or on imported emergency goods for disaster relief; or in case of religious organization, on goods imported for free provision of health, water, education, or religious services and in case where there is any consideration it should not be more than 50% of the fair market value.

An organisation that is eligible for exemption is required to make an application for exemption in writing to the Commissioner General before imported goods are cleared through the customs.

The application must be supported with the following document:

- a) An application letter by the head of the organisation or the one acting on behalf.
- b) An introduction letter from District Commissioner (DC) where the project is implemented.
- c) An introduction letter from a Ward Executive Officer (WEO) where the project is implemented.
- d) Registration Certificate of the respective NGO (Religious/Charitable Organization) from Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry responsible with Community Development, or from Registration Insolvency and Trusteeship Agency (RITA)



- e) TIN Certificate
- f) Commercial documents for imported goods (i.e. invoice, bill of lading, packing list)
- g) Organization's annual procurement plan
- h) Organizations utilization report accounting for the remission granted during the previous year (if any)
- i) Donation certificate in case of donated goods
- j) Distribution plan on the imported goods (especially when imported goods are in a form of general merchandise)
- k) Any other relevant information to support the application.

NOTE

- 1. Under Section 2 of the Value Added Tax Act, [Cap 148 R.E. 2019] a nonprofit organization means a Religious or Charitable organisation established and functions solely for (a) the relief of poverty or distress of the public, (b) the provision of general public health, education or water; and (c) the supply of religious services.
- 2. In whatever circumstances there is no exemption on excise duty. Accordingly, therefore when a nongovernmental organization imports aged motor vehicles (more than 8 years for private cars of carrying capacity not more than 10 passengers and those aged more than 5 years for public motor vehicles of carrying capacity of more than 10 passengers from the date of manufacture); will be required to pay excise duty as provided for under the provisions of the Excise (Management and Tariff) Act, [Cap 147 R.E. 2019].



3.2 Important Points

3.2.1 Timely Submission of Applications

Most organisations eligible for exemptions do not submit applications on time. Organisations are advised to send the application as early as possible to have the ruling made before arrival of the goods to avoid storage and demurrage charges unless the request is related to emergency interventions.

3.2.2 Offenses on Disposal of Import Duty Exempt Goods.

When non-profit organisations that have benefited from import duty exemptions do not follow prescribed procedures for disposal of related assets and pass on the benefit to persons not entitled to such benefits, they are committing an offense under section 119 of the East African Community Customs Management Act, 2004.

3.2.3 Accountability for Past Exemptions

For accountability purposes, organizations receiving exemptions are required to provide utilization reports accounting for the remission previously granted (and asset disposal procedures wherever applicable).





- 1. Go to www.tra.go.tz
- 2. Click on Taxpayer portal
- 3. Click on Service
- 4. Click on **EFD and VFD error** management services
- 5. Click on My Device
- 6. Check the correctness of the information on the **EFD/VFD** machine
- 7. Report early to TRA office if there is a discrepancy of information to the EFD/ VFD machine



Annex 1 List of Applicable Tax Laws

Common Tax Laws

The Tax Administration Act, [Cap 438 R.E. 2019]

The Income Tax Act, [Cap 332 R.E. 2019]

The Value Added Tax Act, [Cap 148 R.E. 2019]

The Stamp Duty Act, [Cap 189 R.E. 2019]

The East African Community Customs Management (Amendment) Act, NO.2, 2011

The East African Community Customs Management Act, [Cap 204 R.E. 2017]

The Excise (Management and Tariff) Act, [Cap 147 R.E. 2019]

The Motor vehicle (Tax Registration and Transfer) Act, [Cap 124 R.E. 2019]

The Finance Act, 2021

The finance Act, 2023

Other Tax Laws

The Tanzania Revenue Authority Act, [Cap 399 R.E. 2019]

The Tax Revenue Appeals Act, [Cap 408 R.E. 2019]

The Airport Service Charges Act, [Cap 365 R.E. 2019]

The Port Service Charges Act, [Cap 264 R.E. 2019]

The Hotels Act, [Cap 105 R.E. 2006]

The Local Government Authorities (Rating) Act, [Cap 289 R.E. 2019]

The Local Government Finances Act, [Cap 290 R.E. 2019]



Regulation under the Tax Administration Act

The Tax Administration (General) Regulation, GN. NO. 101, 2016 The Tax Administration (Transfer Pricing) Regulations, GN. NO. 166, 2018

Regulations under the Income Tax Act

The Income Tax Regulation, GN. NO. 464, 2004 Transfer Pricing Guideline, July 2020

Regulations under Value Added Tax Act

The Value Added Tax (General) Regulations, GN. NO.225, 2015 The Value Added Tax (General) (amendment) Regulations, GN. NO. 608, 2018

Regulations under the EAC Customs Management Act

EAC Customs Management (Duty Remission) Regulations, 2008 EAC Customs Management Regulations, 2010 EAC Customs Management (compliance and enforcement) Regulations, EACG NO. 7, 2012

Other Regulations

The Port Service Charge Regulations, GN. NO. 743A, 2019

The Road Traffic (Motor Vehicles Registration) (Amendments) Regulations, GN. NO. 744A, 2019 The Road Traffic (Amendment) Regulations, GN. NO. 745, 2019

Road Traffic (Motor Vehicles Registration) Regulations GN. NO. 177, 2001

The Road Traffic (Motor vehicle Registration) (Amendments) Regulations, GN. NO. 205, 2014 The Road



Traffic (Motor Vehicles Registration) (Amendment) Regulations GN. NO. 230D, 2017

The Fire and Rescue Force (Safety Inspections and Certificates) (Amendments) Regulations GN. NO. 230B, 2017 The Tax Administration (General) (Amendment) Regulations GN. NO.230E, 2017

The Tourism Development Levy Regulation, GN. NO. 352, 2013

Tax Administration (Electronic Revenue Collection System) Regulation, GN. NO. 230A, 2017 The Electronic Tax Stamps Regulations GN. NO.16, 2018

The Local Government Authorities (Rating) (Collection of property rates) regulations, GN. NO.1, 2020

The Tax Administration (Registration of small vendors and service providers) regulations, GN. NO. 36, 2020

The TRA (Assessment, Collection and Accounting for Advertisement fee for Billboards, Posters and Hoarding) Regulations, GN. NO. 2, 2020





From left, Mr. Edmund Kawamala-Deputy Commissioner for Small Taxpayers-Domestic Revenue Department (TRA); Hon. Mwantum Mahiza-National NGO Board Chair; Adv. Onesmo Olengurumwa-THRDC National Coordinator; Mr. John Deogratius -NGO Registrar Kinondoni District during the Bi-Annual CSOs and TRA Meeting on Taxpayer Education on 30th June, 2023

Annex 2 Taxation of Charitable Organisations

A. Qualifying for Charitable Status

A non-profit organization may qualify to be a charitable organization under two circumstances:

- Where the organisation is a resident entity of a public character established and functions solely as an organisation for the following
 - a) the relief of poverty or distress of the public,
 - b) the advancement of education; or
 - c) the provision of general public health, education, water or road construction or maintenance.
- ii. Where the organisation is a resident entity of a public character that has been issued with a ruling by the Commissioner General as provided for under the provision of section 11 of the Tax Administration Act 2015, stating that it is a charitable organisation.

B. Application Procedures and Qualifying Criteria

The application for a ruling is done by writing an application letter to the Commissioner General using form no ITX 902.01 E.

The application should also be attached with the following documents;

- Registration Certificate of the Organisation.
- Introduction letter from the District Commissioner, indicating the projects performed by the Organisation in the area



- Financial statements at least for three years.
- The Organization's constructive document
- The Organization's TIN Certificate

C. Computation of Taxable Income of a Charitable Organisation

The modality of taxation on the income generated by a charitable organisation is provided for under the provisions of 64 of the Income Tax Act 2004. The same taxation modality applies for religious organisations.

The table below illustrates the computation.

Take any income generated by the charitable/religious organisation during the year of income	XXXX
Add: All gifts and donations received by the same during the year	
Total Gross Income earned	
Less: 25% of the Gross earned income	
All expenditures applied pursuit of the functions falling under the definition of a charitable organisation	
The charitable /religious organization's savings approved by the Commissioner General to finance further charitable projects if any	
Taxable income of a charitable /religious organisation	



D. Ring Fencing of the Losses Incurred by the Charitable Organisation.

- i. Losses incurred by a charitable organisation from the charitable business may only be offset against income earned from such charitable business. Any loss incurred from charitable business is not allowed to be offset against incomed earned from any other business.
- ii. Losses incurred by charitable organisation from any other business may only be offset against income earned from such any other business. Any loss incurred from any other business is not allowed to be offset against the income earned from the charitable business.

E. Repercussions of Ceasing to be a Charitable Organisation.

When an organisation ceases to be a charitable organisation the following happens:

- i. The organisation shall immediately be treated as conducting a business other than its previous charitable business.
- ii. The 25% of gross income which was claimed to be deductible by the charitable organisation in compliance with section 64(1)(b)(ii) of the Income Tax Act, 2004 will immediately be disallowed when calculating the taxable income over the year of income of such organisation ceased to be a charitable organisation.

Note: Definition of Terms

i. An entity of public character means an entity established and functions solely for a public purpose and which operates in such a way that:



- (a) its membership is open to the general public or an identifiable group of a community with common interests.
- (b) it operates for purposes other than deriving profit or gain.
- (c) it does not allow any distribution or deemed distribution of profit generated out of its charitable business; and
- (d) its profit is ploughed back and used solely for improving or expansion of the original charitable purposes or function.
- ii. Commissioner General's Ruling refers to a legally binding pronouncement issued by the Commissioner General in response to a written application made by a person or class of persons for recognition and approval of status of an established organisation in respect of tax laws.
- iii. Religious organisation means a resident entity of a public character established for the advancement of religion and issued with ruling by the Commissioner General under section 11 of the Tax Administration Act 2015 stating that it is a religious organisation.
- iv. Resident entity means an entity which (a) it is incorporated or formed under the laws of the United Republic of Tanzania (b) the entities management and control of affairs are exercised in the United Republic of Tanzania at any time during the year of income.



F. Worked Examples on Computations of Taxable Income of a Charitable Organisation Worked Example 01:

Suppose the income of the organization from its charitable business is TZS. 250,000,000 excluding TZS. 50,000,000/= received by way of voluntary contributions. It is assumed that the income applied for the purposes of nonprofit organisation is TZS. 180,000,000.

TRANSACTIONPARTICULARS	AMOUNT
Income from charitable business for the year ended Dec 2019	250,000,000
Voluntary contributions deemed income Under section 64(2)(a)	50,000,000
Income from charitable business for the year of income	300,000,000
Less: Income applied in pursuit of its functions	180,000,000
Surplus/Unapplied income for the year of income	120,000,000
Less 25% of gross receipt (additional allowance)	75,000,000
Income chargeable to corporate tax	45,000,000

It is important to note that as deliberated above, the maximum non-application of income admissible is 25 percent of the total income of the organization (that is 25 percent of TZS 300,000,000.) which is TZS 75,000,000. The balance of unapplied income in the amount of TZS 45,000,000 is liable to tax during the year of income.



Worked Example 02

M/s Trust is a charitable Organisation providing charitable services in Tanzania. During the year 2017, it had income of TZS 15,000,000 of which TZS 12,000,000 was applied toward charitable functions. Since unapplied income of TZS 3,000,000 was less than 25% of the total income, the amount was not taxed.

During year 2018, the Organization derived income of TZS 25,000,000 of which TZS 10,000,000 was applied towards its charitable functions. The Organisation applied to the Commissioner General to be allowed to save TZS 8,750,000 to be applied towards its functions in the year 2019. The Commissioner General allowed saving of the amount. The balance of TZS 6,250,000 which is TZS 25,000,000 less TZS 18,750,000 (TZS 10,000,000+8,750,000) was not taxed.

However, the Organisation ceased to be a charitable Organisation in the year 2019 before applying to its functions the amount of TZS 8,750,000 saved from its charitable business in the year 2018. The Organisation made income of TZS 16,000,000 during the year 2019.

TRANSACTIONPARTICULARS	AMOUNT
Business income for year 2019	16,000,000
Surplus amount in year 2018	6,250,000
Unspent amount in 2018	8,750,000
Total income for the year 2019	31,000,000
Less: 25% of the Gross earned income (25% of TZS 25,000,000)	6,250,000
Taxable income for the year 2019	24,750,000





Launching of the Tax Compliance Toolkit for NGOs. From right is Mr. Richard Kayombo-Director of Taxpayers Services and Education from TRA, Ms. Feliciana Nkane-Deputy Commissioner Tax Investigation, Mr. Onesmo Olengurumwa-THRDC National Coordinator, and Mr. Jackson Mmari from Wajibu Institute. The Toolkit was launched on 24 September 2021 at THRDC Headquarters, Dar es Salaam.

Annex 3: Tax Audit and Disputes Resolution Mechanisms

Tax Audit is conducted by the TRA to review the compliance status of the Organization. The Tax Audit may extend up to three years or more. Taxpayers have an obligation to maintain their documents for audit purposes for a period not below five years.

TRA audits process/Flow of events





Relevant Documents to Prepare after Receiving an Audit Notification.

Tax liabilities may arise due to lack of sufficient information on the taxpayer to support her claims such as expenditure and other allowable deductions. In the absence of supporting documents, TRA auditors are likely to decline some expenses and other allowable deductions resulting into a tax liability. Therefore, NGOs are advised to ensure that they provide sufficient information and/or documents supporting their claims in the course of audit.

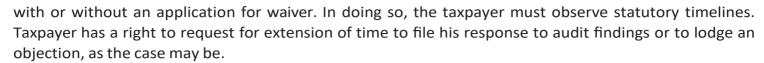
The following are some of the important documents that may be required:

- Financial statements
- Projects contracts/Agreements
- General ledgers
- Tax returns
- Bank statements respective schedules Proofs of payment.
- Lease agreements
- Any other relevant information/documents

Responding Audit Findings and Lodging Objections

Failure to respond to audit findings or lodge objection within the prescribed time may have adverse consequences on the taxpayer. Once audit findings have been issued to a taxpayer, the taxpayer is obliged to respond to the same by replying to every tax claim raised by auditors, with supporting evidence. The Commissioner shall evaluate the response & supporting evidence and issue Notice of assessment/tax liability. The taxpayer after receiving notice of tax liability, if aggrieved, is supposed to lodge an objection





- i. A taxpayer is required to respond to audit/examination findings within fourteen (14) days from the day of receiving the findings.
- ii. A taxpayer may be given an extension of time (not exceeding fourteen (14) days) to respond to the findings, upon giving reasonable grounds for extension.
- iii. The Commissioner may grant extension of time upon request by the taxpayer who has reasonable ground(s) to warrant extension of time to file an objection against a tax decision.
- iv. In case of objections, the taxpayer is supposed to lodge the same within 30 days from the date of receiving notice of assessment. The taxpayer may request the extension of time.
- v. The taxpayer is supposed to pay one third (1/3) of the tax liability or undisputed amount whichever is greater.
- vi. The taxpayer may request for a waiver of this requirement or to pay any lesser amount.

Note that if paragraph (v) and (vi) above are not complied with, the objection lodged shall not be admitted.



Stages for Dispute Resolution

1. Filing an Objection to the Commissioner General

A person aggrieved by the assessments issued, may file an objection to the Commissioner General within 30 days. The objection should be in writing stating the grounds upon which it is made. (TAA S. 51)

The Commissioner shall determine an objection within six months and issue final assessment. In case the Commissioner fails to determine the objection within six months, the assessment will be confirmed by operation of law.

2. Appeals to the Tax Revenue Appeals Board

In case the taxpayer is aggrieved by determination of objection, or confirmation by operation of law, the taxpayer may appeal to the Tax Revenue Appeals Board ("TRAB") within 30 days. The appeal should be in writing stating the grounds upon which it is made. (TAA S. 53) and S.16 of Tax Revenue Appeals Act (TRAA)

3. Appeals to the Tax Revenue Appeals Tribunal

Where the taxpayer is aggrieved by the decision of TRAB, he may appeal to the Tax Revenue Appeals Tribunal (TRAT).

4. Appeals to the Court of Appeal

A taxpayer who is not satisfied with the decision of TRAT, may appeal further to the Court of Appeal of Tanzania (CAT).

Note that in preferring appeals, the taxpayer MUST observe the prescribed timelines.



Summary of Important timelines

Step	Event	What taxpayers should do?	Timelines
Step 1	TRA issues an assessment	 If in agreement with the TRA's position, the taxpayer should pay as per the assessment. If not in agreement, proceed to step 2. 	 Within 30 days from the date of service of the assessment.
Step 2	Lodging the notice of objection	 Request (if have reasonable justification) for waiver of one third of the tax assessed or payment of the lesser amount. Pay amount not in dispute or one third of the tax assessed, whichever is higher. Lodge notice of objection to the Commissioner General. 	 Within 15 days before expiration of the time to lodge the objection. Within 30 days from the date of service of the tax assessment.
Step 3	Determination of objection	 If an objection is not determined in stated timeline, taxpayer should appeal to TRAB as the assessment is considered confirmed. Taxpayer to respond to TRA proposal relating to lodged objection. 	 Within 6 months after admission of objection. Within 30 days from receipt of the proposal.



Step 4	Appeal to Tax Revenue Appeals Board (TRAB)	 Appealing to the TRAB by submitting to TRAB a notice of intention to appeal. File statement of appeal with TRAB and send copy to the TRA. 	 Within 30 days from the date of the final tax decision. Within 45 days from date of service of the final tax decision (i.e., 15 days after filing notice of intention to appeal)
Step 5	Appealing to Tax Revenue Appeals Tribunal (TRAT)	 Appealing to TRAT by filing a notice of intention to appeal with TRAT. File statement of appeal with TRAT. 	 Within 15 days from the date of the board's decision. Within 30 days from the date of service of the decision and proceedings of the Board in respect of which one intends to appeal.
Step 6	Appealing to Court of Appeal of Tanzania (CAT).	 Appealing to CAT by filing a notice of intention to appeal with TRAT. 	Within 14 days after the appealable decision of the Tribunal



Alternative Disputes Resolution Negotiations with the TRA in case of Disagreements?

Yes, there are possibilities to do negotiations which is done through the third party by way of mediation.

- **Mediation:** a third party is involved to get the TRA and taxpayers to agree where it is no longer possible for them to reach an agreement on their own (potential role of tax ombudsman). This procedure can be involved where a complaint relates to services delivery, procedure or administrative matter arising in the course of administering tax law by TRA, the Commissioner or staff. It does not concern matters of legislation or tax policy or matters that are subject to tax objection or appeal.
- **Settlement:** The TRAA allows parties to an appeal to enter into an amicable settlement concerning their dispute at any stage when an appeal is pending before TRAB or TRAT. The settlement if successful is adopted and pronounced as a decision of TRAB or TRAT as the case may be.

NOTE: NPOs are encouraged to have tax consultants or trained lawyers to assist them on regular basis on issues related to tax compliance,

Tax Ombudsman duties includes:

- To review complaints and resolve the same through mediation or reconciliation where necessary.
- **2** To act independently and impartially when reviewing
- **3** To use informal, fair and cost-effective procedures in resolving complaints.



- To provide taxpayer's education on Tax Ombudsman functions and procedures for making complaints.
- To facilitate access to taxpayers on dispute resolution processes within the TRA; and
- To identify and review tax administrative issues related to customer services or procedures with negative impact on taxpayers.

While performing his duties, the tax ombudsman will be subjected to some limitations and shall not review the following.

- 1 Legislation or tax policy.
- TRA's policy or practice unless it relates to service, administrative or procedural matter that relates to administration of tax laws.
- A matter subject to objection or appeal save for an administrative matter relating to such tax objection or appeal.





Annex 4 Worked Example - PAYE

Example of calculation of taxable income from employment – what to include. Read this case study together with section 72 (2) and (3) of the Income Tax Act, [Cap 332 R.E. 2019]

Mr. Joshua who is married to Maria with six children was employed by Global Company Limited as a Managing Director. He entered a contract with his company for a period of 5 years with effect from 1st January 2018. He was residing in Mwanza and obtained employment in Dar es Salaam. The employer paid his transport costs to Dar es Salaam of TZS 35,000/= for each member of his family. His salary was TZS 3,600,000/= per month. Other fringe benefits included:

- A company car Toyota Mark II 1800 cc registered in Tanzania 2010.
- School fees paid directly to the Karol Academy for his four children amounting TZS 6,000,000/=
- Medical services paid to AAR Health Services TZS 1,150,000/= p.a. for the employees.
- Life insurance premium paid to NIC TZS 50,000/= p.a.
- Telephone charges paid to TTCL TZS. 100,000 p.a.
- Electricity TZS 80,000/= p.a
- Water (DAWASA) TZS 30,000/= p.a.
- The Company also provides cafeteria services to its employees at a cost of TZS 2,000/= per day.
- He was also availed with security services from XYZ Ltd, and the Global Company paid TZS 60,000 p.m.



- His domestic servant was signing company's payroll for a payment of TZS 50,000/= p.m. during the year 2018.
- The contract of service was made between Mr. Joshua and Global Company Limited on 31st December 2017.

Mr. Joshua's total taxable income for the year 2018 will include;

•	Salary 3,600,000x 12	TZS 43,200,000
•	NSSF contributions	(TZS 2,160,000)
•	Taxable salary	TZS 41,040,000

Ad	d: Taxable fringe benefits:	
•	Transport to DSM for extra 2 persons (35,000 x 2)	TZS 70,000
•	School fees	TZS 6,000,000
•	Telephone charges	TZS. 100,000
•	Electricity	TZS 80,000
•	Life insurance premium	TZS 50,000
•	Security services 60,000 X 12 =	TZS 720,000
•	Domestic servant payment 50,000 X 12	TZS 600,000
•	Water	TZS 30,000
•	Motor vehicles benefit	TZS 250,000
TO	TAL ANNUAL INCOME	TZS 48,940,000







Partners







