



MALDIVES  
INLAND REVENUE  
AUTHORITY

# MIRA POST

Issue no: 15/2015 15 December 2015

## ONLINE FILING MANDATORY FOR LARGE TAXPAYERS FROM 1 JANUARY 2016



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### Important Deadlines

December Submission of GST and Green tax return and payment for November 2015

**28**

December Payment of Tourism Land Rent for first quarter of 2016

**31**

January Payment of Trade Fee for January 2016

**10**

January Submission of Royalty Statement and Sales Report for December 2015 and payment of Duty Free Royalty

**10**

\* If the deadline falls on a public holiday, then the last submission deadline would be the next working day

# Online filing mandatory for large taxpayers from 1 January 2016

**Yousuf Shiraz, Principal Officer, Tax Training**

All the taxpayers whose annual turnover is equal to or more than MVR 100 million are required to file their tax returns and make payments via MIRA's online portal, MIRAconnect from 1 January 2016 onwards.

Payments can be made through MIRAconnect by

using Vaaru Card or debit/credit card issued by Bank of Maldives. Payment can also be made through MRTGS.

Tax returns that must be filed through MIRAconnect include, GST return, Withholding Tax return and BPT return. Additionally, payments for Tourism Land Rent, Agricultural Land Rent, Company Annual Fee and Vehicle Fee can be made through MIRAconnect.

## Do you Import goods into Maldives? Are you aware of these?

**Mohamed Hameed, Principal Officer, Individual Business Audit**

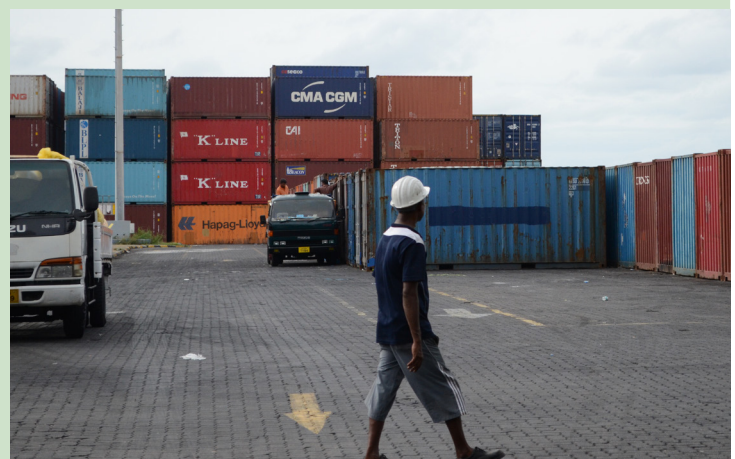
Maldives is a country highly dependent on imported goods and thus most businesses operating in Maldives are importers. For the purpose of taxation, such businesses should pay a special attention towards the following factors.

All importers should register for GST within 30 (Thirty) days from the date on which the permit is granted by the relevant government authority to import goods. When selling such products an invoice must be raised and relevant rate of GST must be charged and paid to MIRA. However, persons importing goods solely for private purposes without holding a permit to sell imported goods need not register for GST. Further, state institutions can also import goods without having to register for GST.

Sometimes a different person might import goods using the import license of another person. Example would be when 'B' imports goods for the purpose of his business using the import license of 'A'. In such instances 'A' should value such goods

using the market price and issue tax invoice to the 'B' and the GST computed should be paid to MIRA. If 'B' is registered party for GST, 'B' could claim the GST paid to 'A' as his input tax.

If the taxpayer's import license gets cancelled or terminated, he may file MIRA 106 form to MIRA provided that he fulfills other conditions to deregister from GST. However, taxpayer should continue filing GST returns until deregistration process is finalized and notified to the taxpayer by MIRA.



# Pay your **Green Tax** the **Green way**

**Ali Zaid Mohamed, Principal Officer, Payment Processing**

In keeping with the spirit of green tax, return submission and payment of tax have been made convenient, efficient and environment friendly. MIRA's new online portal, MIRAconnectPlus is a paperless system for making payments and submitting returns efficiently and reliably.

No additional registration is

required for MIRAconnectPlus as Green Tax registered taxpayers have already been issued with their login credentials.

Once the return has been filed through MIRAconnectPlus, it will display the payment options. Currently the payment options are to pay via Vaaru Card which is a specialized card linked to USD account or MRTGS provided by banks in the Maldives. Vaaru Card is a special card issued by the Bank of Maldives in

association with MIRA, which can only be used to make tax payments to MIRA online.

You may also choose to pay via MRTGS. Once you select this option you will be emailed semi-completed MRTGS form to your registered email. Simply fill in the bank and account you wish to pay the amount from, sign and submit the form to the bank. The payment will be updated to our system automatically and you will receive the receipt to your email address.

## First Green Tax return due on 28 December 2015

**Aishath Saana, Senior Officer, Tax Training**

All the Green Tax registered tourist resorts, hotels and vessels are required to file the Green Tax return for November on or before 28 December 2015. Green Tax is imposed pursuant to the sixth amendment to the Maldives Tourism Act, at the rate of \$6 per 24 hour block, from

tourists staying at Green Tax liable tourist establishments.

Since foreign tourist vessels are required to file the return before they depart from Maldives, the aforementioned deadline will not be applicable to them.

With the exception of foreign tourist vessels, all tourist establishments must submit MIRA 501 form.

If taxpayers fail to file the return by the deadline, MVR 50 per day and 0.5% of tax payable will be charged as fine. Likewise, failure to pay the green tax amount by the deadline, a fine of 0.05% of the outstanding amount will be applicable.

Filing of Green Tax return and payment of Green Tax must be done via MIRA's new online portal "MIRAconnectPlus".

# December 2015: Last month of “Kobaa Raseedhu” campaign

**Faatheen Abdul Latheef, Senior Officer, Marketing and Public Relations**

“Kobaa Raseedhu” campaign which commenced on 1 August 2015 aiming to promote the habit of issuing receipts for business transactions will be ending on 31 December 2015.

Monthly winner was drawn among the submissions of November and the winner is HDh. Neykurendhoo, Nazim Ali. The campaign, which runs for 5 months, includes a monthly cash prize of MVR 3,000 and a grand prize of MVR 20,000.

| Rank | Number | Number of Unique Receipts | Total Receipts |
|------|--------|---------------------------|----------------|
| 1    | 000304 | 648                       | 1759           |
| 2    | 000387 | 551                       | 2311           |
| 3    | 000348 | 469                       | 1966           |
| 4    | 000370 | 394                       | 763            |
| 5    | 000358 | 375                       |                |

Grand prize will to be given to the person who submits the most number of receipts from the most number of business outlets. The lucky winners of the December month prize and grand prize will be announced in the upcoming month, January.

Anyone can still participate in this campaign by sending a photo of the receipts you obtain from businesses to MIRA via viber or email. It is also possible to check the number of receipts submitted for the campaign from the “Kobaa Raseedhu” page on our website.

## Withholding Tax

**Mohamed Azhan, Principal Officer, Micro Business Audit**

Withholding Tax is a tax that is deducted from payments that are made to non-residents for a particular service and the use of certain assets. It is required to be deducted under section 6 of the BPT Act at the rate of 10% from the gross payment made to non-resident. The non-resident or the service provider will get 90% of the gross income.

Since the actual taxpayers are non-residents the tax has to be paid to MIRA by every person that makes a payment specified under section 6 of BPT Act to non-resident. They must deduct the WHT from the gross amount of the payment and pay WHT to MIRA. Below are the types of the payments which are subject to Withholding tax.

Rent, royalty and such consideration for the use of plant, machinery, equipment or other property for the purpose of a business

Payment made to carry out research and development

Payment made for the use of computer software

Payment of fees for management personal or technical services and any other commission or fee not constituting income from any employment

Payment made in respect of performance by public entertainers

Rent in respect of the viewing in Maldives of cinematographic films

**ONLINE TOKEN SYSTEM**

- Download the 'QueueBee' App
- Register to use the app (you only have to do this once)
- Scan the QR Code for MIRA's services (you can find this below and on our website)
- Select your preferred service and get your token
- The app will tell you how many people are in line ahead of you and also alert you when your token number is called - and by which counter.