

Government Gazette

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Vol. 565 Cape Town

4 July 2012

No. 35491

STATE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

No. 591 4 July 2012

It is hereby notified that the President has assented to the following Act, which is hereby published for general information:-

No. 28 of 2011: Tax Administration Act, 2011.



AIDS HELPLINE: 0800-123-22 Prevention is the cure

GENERAL EXPLANATORY NOTE:

[]	Words in bold type in square brackets indicate omissions from existing enactments.		
		Words underlined with a solid line indicate insertions in existing enactments.		

(English text signed by the President) (Assented to 2 July 2012)

ACT

To provide for the effective and efficient collection of tax; to provide for the alignment of the administration provisions of tax Acts and the consolidation of the provisions into one piece of legislation to the extent practically possible; to determine the powers and duties of the South African Revenue Service and officials; to provide for the delegation of powers by the Commissioner; to provide for the authority to act in legal proceedings; to determine the powers and duties of the Minister of Finance; to provide for the establishment of the office of the Tax Ombud; to determine the powers and duties of the Tax Ombud; to provide for registration requirements; to provide for the submission of returns and the duty to keep records; to provide for reportable arrangements; to provide for the request for information; to provide for the carrying out of an audit or investigation by the South African Revenue Service; to provide for inquiries; to provide for powers of the South African Revenue Service to carry out searches and seizures; to provide for the confidentiality of information; to provide for the South African Revenue Service to issue advance rulings; to make provision in respect of tax assessments; to provide for dispute resolution; to make provision for the payment of tax; to provide for the recovery of tax; to provide for the South African Revenue Service to recover interest on outstanding tax debts; to provide for the refund of excess payments; to provide for the write-off and compromise of tax debts; to provide for the imposition and remittance of administrative non-compliance penalties; to provide for the imposition of understatement penalties; to provide for a voluntary disclosure programme; to provide for criminal offences and sanctions; to provide for the reporting of unprofessional conduct by tax practitioners; and to provide for matters connected therewith.

Tax Administration Act, 2011

BE IT ENACTED by the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa, as follows:—

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

ctions	

Secti	ions	
	CHAPTER 1	5
	DEFINITIONS	
	Definitions	
	CHAPTER 2	
	GENERAL ADMINISTRATION PROVISIONS	
	Part A	10
	In general	
2. 3. 4. 5.	Purpose of Act Administration of tax Acts Application of Act Practice generally prevailing	15
	Part B	
	Powers and duties of SARS and SARS officials	
5. 7. 3.	Powers and duties Conflict of interest Identity cards Decision or notice by SARS	20
	Part C	
	Delegations	
0.	Delegations by the Commissioner	
	Part D	25
	Authority to act in legal proceedings	
1.	Legal proceedings on behalf of Commissioner Right of appearance in proceedings	
	Part E	
	Powers and duties of Minister	30
3. 4.	Powers and duties of Minister Power of Minister to appoint Tax Ombud	
	Part F	
	Powers and duties of Tax Ombud	
15. 16. 17. 18. 19.	Office of Tax Ombud Mandate of Tax Ombud Limitations on authority Review of complaint Reports by Tax Ombud Resolution and recommendations	35
	resonation and recommendations	70

21.	Confide	entiality

CTTA	D	TTT	2
t HA		1 H.K	٦,

	REGISTRATION	
22. 23. 24.	Registration requirements Communication of changes in particulars Taxpayer reference number	5
	CHAPTER 4	
	RETURNS AND RECORDS	
	Part A	
	General	10
25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33.	Submission of return Third party returns Other returns required Statement concerning accounts Duty to keep records Form of records kept or retained Inspection of records Retention period in case of audit, objection or appeal Translation	15
	Part B	20
	Reportable arrangements	
34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39.	Definitions Reportable arrangements Excluded arrangements Disclosure obligation Information to be submitted Reportable arrangement reference number	25
	CHAPTER 5	
	INFORMATION GATHERING	
	Part A	30
Ge	neral rules for inspection, verification, audit and criminal investigation	
40. 41. 42. 43. 44.	Selection for inspection, verification or audit Authorisation for SARS official to conduct audit or criminal investigation Keeping taxpayer informed Referral for criminal investigation Conduct of criminal investigation	35
	Part B	
Ins	spection, request for relevant material, audit and criminal investigation	
45. 46. 47. 48. 49.	Inspection Request for relevant material Production of relevant material in person Field audit or criminal investigation Assistance during field audit or criminal investigation	40

40

45

Act No. 28 of 2011

81.

82.

83. 84. 85.

86.

87.

88.

89.

90.

Fees for advance rulings

Binding effect of advance rulings Applicability of advance rulings Rulings rendered void

Subsequent changes in tax law

Publication of advance rulings

Non-binding private opinions

General rulings

Withdrawal or modification of advance rulings

Procedures and guidelines for advance rulings

Part C

	Inquiries	
50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57.	Authorisation for inquiry Inquiry order Inquiry proceedings Notice to appear Powers of presiding officer Witness fees Confidentiality of proceedings Incriminating evidence Inquiry not suspended by civil or criminal proceedings	5
	Part D	
	Search and seizure	
59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65.	Application for warrant Issuance of warrant Carrying out search Search of premises not identified in warrant Search without warrant Legal professional privilege Person's right to examine and make copies Application for return of seized relevant material or costs of damages	15 20
	CHAPTER 6	
	CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION	
67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74.	General prohibition of disclosure SARS confidential information and disclosure Secrecy of taxpayer information and general disclosure Disclosure to other entities Disclosure in criminal, public safety or environmental matters Self-incrimination Disclosure to taxpayer of own record Publication of names of offenders	25
	CHAPTER 7	
	ADVANCE RULINGS	
75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80.	Definitions Purpose of advance rulings Scope of advance rulings Private rulings and class rulings Applications for advance rulings Rejection of application for advance ruling	35