

TAXPRACTICE

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

WEEK OF 19 - 25 June 2025
(Issue 24 -2025)

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TOP STORIES

SARS Regional Stakeholder Restructuring Announcement

SARS has announced the amalgamation of the North West, Limpopo, and Mpumalanga regions into a single region, formally named the Northern Region. This restructuring will take effect from the next quarter.

Ms Thobile Mngomezulu has been announced as the Regional Director of this newly formed Region. In light of this, SARS will convene a single regional meeting covering all three former regions. Dates for the sessions will be announced in due course.

Despite this consolidation, SARS remains committed to maintaining regular engagement with tax practitioners and taxpayers within each of the three sub-regions, ensuring continued support and communication. Affected tax practitioners are encouraged to reach out to SAIT for further information.

SARS Refutes False Tax Refund Claims

SARS has issued a warning about misleading information circulating on various websites, claiming that salaried workers are entitled to tax refunds of R8,000 if they file their tax returns before 30 July 2025.

These claims are inaccurate, as tax assessments are based on individual circumstances, and no such blanket refund exists; SARS has confirmed that this misinformation did not originate from the organisation.

Taxpayers and tax practitioners are reminded that the income tax return filing dates are as follows:

- Auto-assessments for a segment of taxpayers whose affairs are less complex: 7 – 20 July 2025
- Filing season opens for non-provisional taxpayers who were not auto-assessed: 21 July – 20 October 2025
- [Provisional](#) taxpayers: 21 July – 19 January 2026

All official communication from SARS regarding the upcoming filing season deadlines is available [here](#). Click [here](#) to see examples of false news websites.

[#StayAbreastOfTheTaxWave](#)

Are you a **tax practitioner** with a passion for writing?

Let's feature your article on the Tax
Practice: Weekly Highlights.

Send your article to
taxassist@thesait.org.za.

Approximately 500 – 1500 words

PART A: COMPLIANCE & SARS OPERATIONS

SAIT-SARS 'ON-THE-GROUND' ENGAGEMENT

SARS introduces Express Functionality on eFiling for seamless taxpayer experience

To enhance taxpayer convenience, SARS has introduced a new Express Functionality on its eFiling platform, streamlining access to key Personal Income Tax services.

With this enhancement, the most commonly used features are now easily accessible directly from the eFiling landing page. When [logging in to your eFiling profile](#), the new Express Tabs will appear at the top left of the home page.

This functionality enables taxpayers to quickly and easily:

- Submit outstanding returns from previous tax years
- View or edit their tax returns
- Update personal or banking details

For step-by-step guidance, visit the official SARS [YouTube channel](#) where you'll find helpful tutorials on using the eFiling platform.

Reminder that SARS implements improvements to the Tax Practitioner phone queue

In recent weeks, SAIT has received numerous reports of frustration from both taxpayers and tax practitioners who are struggling to get through to SARS via their telephone service channels. While these concerns are under active consideration at various forums, SARS has implemented a key change aimed at improving the efficiency of its call system, specifically for tax practitioners.

To this, SARS has improved its Interactive Voice Response (IVR) on its telephone service channel for tax practitioners. Previously, when tax practitioners failed to authenticate themselves, the calls were rerouted to the Income Tax queue. Based on the relevant updates, if a tax practitioner fails to correctly authenticate themselves, the call will automatically end.

It is now essential for tax practitioners to have both their practitioner number and identity number readily available when contacting SARS to facilitate a successful and efficient call.

Read more about the improvements [here](#).

Final reminder: Auto-assessment process for the 2025 tax filing season

SARS has identified a significant segment of both non-provisional and provisional taxpayers, typically with straightforward tax affairs and income from one or more sources such as formal employment, for auto assessment for the 2025 Filing Season.

Taxpayers selected for auto-assessment will receive a pre-populated tax return prepared by SARS. If the taxpayer agrees with the assessment and the information is accurate, no further action is required. However, if the taxpayer identifies any missing or incorrect information, they are required to edit and submit their return via SARS eFiling by 20 October 2025.

The auto assessment process will work as follows:

1. Notification from 7 July 2025 – 20 July 2025:

SARS will contact affected taxpayers via SMS and/or email, notifying them of their auto-assessment.

2. Refunds or payments:

Refunds: If a refund is due, it will be paid into the taxpayer's registered bank account within 72 business hours of the notification.

Payments: If tax is due, payment must be made by the deadline via SARS eFiling, the SARS MobiApp, or directly to SARS's bank account.

3. Accessing the Auto-Assessment:

Taxpayers can access their auto-assessment via SARS eFiling or the SARS MobiApp, where they can verify the completeness and accuracy of the information.

4. If the assessment is accurate:

If the taxpayer agrees with the assessment, no further action is needed, and the return will be considered submitted.

5. If action or changes are needed:

If any income or expense information is missing or incorrect, the taxpayer must submit a corrected return via SARS eFiling.

Taxpayers who are not automatically assessed and are required to file a tax return will only be able to start filing tax returns from 21 July 2025. For non-provisional taxpayers, the deadline is 20 October 2025. Provisional taxpayers as well as Trust submissions can start with filing a return from 21 July 2025 until 19 January 2026.

Taxpayers are strongly encouraged to review their assessments carefully and submit any necessary corrections promptly to avoid penalties or delays. Taxpayers are further urged to ensure that their banking details and contact information (email and cell phone number) are accurate and up to date to enable the efficient processing of refunds.

Taxpayers and practitioners are advised to visit the [Tax Season](#) webpage on the [SARS website](#) for comprehensive guides, updates, and detailed information related to the 2025 Filing Season.

Final reminder: 2025 filing season document preparation

A critical part of preparing and submitting accurate and complete tax returns is ensuring that all relevant supporting documents are readily available and submitted when required.

These documents serve as proof of income, deductions, and claims made on returns, and they are essential for the correct calculation of the taxpayer's tax liability or refund. Below is a list of common supporting documentation required when completing your ITR12 Income Tax Return for the 2025 tax year, which commenced from 1 March 2024 to 28 February 2025:

1. Income documentation:

- IRP5/IT3(a): Employees' Tax Certificate for income received, including salary, bonuses, and lump sums from an employer, pension fund, provident fund, or retirement annuity.

2. Interest and dividend certificates:

- Local and foreign interest income
- Foreign dividend income

Note: If married in community of property, certificates for both you and your spouse are required. If married out of community of property, only the respective spouses' certificates are required.

3. Medical expenses:

- Medical scheme tax certificate for the applicable period.
- Proof of qualifying medical expenses paid out-of-pocket and not reimbursed by your medical aid.
- A completed ITR-DD (Confirmation of Diagnosis of Disability) form, if claiming disability-related expenses.

4. Travel allowances and employer-provided vehicles:

- A logbook recording business travel is essential if claiming deductions related to a travel allowance or fringe benefit for an employer-provided vehicle.

5. Retirement contributions:

- Income tax certificates from your financial institution confirming contributions to a retirement annuity fund.

6. Tax-free investment certificates:

- Tax certificates from financial institutions for contributions to tax-free savings/investment accounts.

7. Donations:

- A valid Section 18A donation tax certificate if you are claiming a deduction for qualifying donations made to approved Public Benefit Organisations (PBOs).

8. Capital gains:

All relevant documentation for capital gains transactions, such as:

- Proof of proceeds (e.g. sale agreements, invoices, IT3(c) certificates)
- Calculations of base costs for each asset sold
- Supporting documents for both local and foreign asset disposals

9. Commission earners:

Documentation supporting commission-related expenses, including:

- Invoices and receipts for claimable expenses
- A logbook if business travel deductions are claimed

10. Rental income

- All information related to the letting of property, such as:
- Rental or lease agreements
- Bond statements showing interest if claimed
- A detailed schedule of rental-related expenses and supporting invoices

11. Business and farming income

- Financial statements for any trading or farming activities, where applicable.

12. Other income and deductions

- Supporting documents for any additional income earned or deductions claimed not covered above.

To avoid delays or penalties, ensure that your supporting documents are:

- i. Accurate and up to date
- ii. Available if requested by SARS
- iii. Retained for a minimum of five years

For detailed guidance, refer to [IT-AE-36-G05 - Comprehensive Guide to the ITR12 Income Tax Return for Individuals - External Guide](#), available on the SARS website.

Being well-prepared not only ensures compliance but can also enable taxpayers to claim the full range of deductions and benefits they are entitled to.

SAIT TaxHelpline – escalations

As part of our ongoing commitment to serving our members, SAIT escalates appropriate cases within the SARS structures on their behalf. For assistance with this, members can submit their queries via the [TaxHelpline](#).

The most urgent escalations this week include:

1. Delays in finalising income tax returns selected for manual intervention without verification.
2. Delays in finalising and payment of refunds.
3. Delays in finalising requests for remission of penalties.
4. Delays in finalising registered representative requests.

SAIT continues to engage with SARS at both regional and national levels on a case-by-case basis regarding the escalations mentioned above. Feedback is communicated directly to the affected members as appropriate.

SARS regional and national operational meetings

SAIT and its Regional Representatives attend SARS/RCB regional meetings quarterly, offering opportunities for effective, systemic discussions (qualifying for CPD points)*.

** For effective and meaningful engagement with SARS, Regional Representatives are encouraged to provide three specific examples of issues or challenges that arise. It is important to note that regional meetings are not intended for individual case escalations but serve as a platform to address systemic issues impacting the broader tax practitioner community.*

Feedback from the RCB/SARS regional and national meetings

Feedback from the North West regional meeting that was held on 23 June 2025 can be accessed [here](#).

Upcoming RCB/SARS regional and national meetings

1. Mpumalanga – 27 June 2025
2. KwaZulu Natal – 30 June 2025
3. Eastern Cape – Gqeberha and Kareiga – 13 August 2025
4. Gauteng – 21 August 2025
5. Eastern Cape – 29 August 2025
6. Western Cape – 3 September 2025
7. Free State and Northern Cape – 8 September 2025
8. Free State and Northern Cape – 10 November 2025 and
9. Eastern Cape – Gqeberha and Kareiga – 12 November 2025
10. Gauteng – 20 November 2025.

Other meetings of interest

1. SARS National Operational Forum – 14 August 2025;
2. RCB Forum meeting tentatively scheduled for 16 September 2025;
3. RCB Forum meeting- 11 November 2025; and
4. SARS National Operational Forum – 20 November 2025.

DAILY COMPLIANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Due dates for reporting and payments: June 2025

Month	Date	Tax Type	Notification
June 2024	06/06/2025	Employment Taxes	EMP201 - Submissions and payments
	25/06/2025	Value-Added Tax	VAT201 - Manual submissions and payments
	30/06/2025	Value-Added Tax	VAT201 - Electronic submissions and payments
	30/06/2025	Income Tax	ITR14 - Submission of 2024 returns for companies with a June year-end
	30/06/2025	Income Tax	1st provisional (2025) - Submissions and payments for individuals, trusts and companies with a December year-end
	30/06/2025	Income Tax	2nd provisional (2025) - Submissions and payments for companies with a June year-end
	30/06/2025	Income Tax	3rd provisional (2024) - Payments for companies with a December year-end

SAIT member resources

- [SAIT important tax dates calendar](#) – contains important dates from January 2025 to January 2026 (unchanged).
- [SAIT SARS contact map](#) – links service requirements to SARS channels (unchanged).

Key operational news

No key operational news was noted for the week of 19 - 25 June 2025.

Other SARS and related operational publications and announcements

Reminder that SARS published the June 2025 edition of the Monthly Tax Digest

On 17 June 2025, SARS published the June edition of the monthly tax digest. In this issue, SARS focuses on the upcoming 2025 filing season for individuals.

This issue reiterates and provides guidance on the following:

- Key filing season dates;
- The importance of early preparation and submission;
- The express filing functionality available via eFiling, as well as the auto-assessment process, and
- A reminder for individuals to remain alert to potential scams during the filing season.

These matters have been addressed and unpacked in previous SAIT TPWH issues. Readers are encouraged to consult the SARS June 2025 edition of the [Monthly Tax Digest](#) or refer to the above-referenced issue for comprehensive insights and analysis.

TAX PRACTITIONER MANAGEMENT

SAIT TaxHelpline – Tax practitioner access and functionality (eFiling)

No key tax practitioner access and functionality matters pertaining to eFiling were identified in the week of 19- 25 June 2025.

Key tax practitioner news

Reminder that the 2025 SARS tax practitioner registration and compliance audit will kick off on 1 July 2025

SAIT will soon commence its annual review of membership compliance through the annual SARS compliance Audit, which begins in **July 2025**.

Under the Tax Administration Act, individuals providing tax-related services must register with both a Recognised Controlling Body (RCB) and SARS as a Tax Practitioner. RCBs are also required to manage their tax practitioner members' compliance with registration requirements.

Mandatory SARS and practitioner compliance requirements:

- Valid Tax compliance PIN (in your personal name) and good standing;
- Criminal-free status
- Completion of 2024 CPD hours
- Submission of annual declaration forms

As part of this process, various categories of membership compliance and registration information will be updated. PR numbers will also be updated, as some members are still using outdated alpha-numeric PR numbers. Members who are still using alpha-numeric PR numbers and those who do not have their PR numbers are classified by SARS as “ghost practitioners” and risk deregistration. SARS requires all tax practitioners to activate and use their unique PR number.

As an RCB, SAIT is legally required to audit 20% of its entire membership and report compliance status to SARS annually. SARS and SAIT will randomly select a pool of tax practitioners to partake in this mandatory compliance audit. All selected candidates will be notified via email, telephone and SMS. Prompt response is highly encouraged.

Consequences of non-compliance

SAIT aims to help members become compliant, stay empowered, and avoid deregistration or membership downgrade to the unregulated Affiliate category. Although we achieved 94% compliance conversion strike rates in the previous audit, 134 members remained non-compliant and were subsequently downgraded, thus losing their practitioner status.

SARS deregistrations:

With over 30 tax practitioner deregistrations due to non-compliance with section 240(3)(d) of the Tax Administration Act (TAA) in 2005 already, the rising numbers are alarming.

Compliance issues typically stem from lapses in tax obligations, failure to meet Continuing Professional Development (CPD) requirements, or criminal activity. Practitioners must remain informed and compliant with SARS regulations to avoid deregistration, as this can severely impact their professional standing and operational capabilities.

Kindly note that members who default on the above requirements will be suspended and reported to SARS for deregistration.

Given that tax practitioner compliance is a statutory requirement, **our consultants are here to assist**. However, failure to respond to and comply with the audit may result in revocation of registration.

For any inquiries on the annual Tax Practitioner Audit, please contact the SAIT Legal and Compliance Department via the following email: info@thesait.org.za.

Government & stakeholder newsletters

No other government and stakeholder newsletters were released in the week of 19 - 25 June 2025.

Other tax practitioner access and functionality publications and announcements

- 24 June 2025 – The East London [mobile tax unit schedule](#) for July to September 2025 is now available.

PART B – LEGISLATION & POLICY

LEGISLATION, INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS & POLICY

Tax policy & international agreements

No new tax policy and international agreements were released in the week of 19 - 25 June 2025.

National legislation

No new national legislation was published in the week of 19 - 25 June 2025.

LEGISLATIVE INTERPRETATION

Legislative calls for comment

No new calls for comment were released in the week of 19 – 25 June 2025.

Submissions made to SARS and current calls for comment

The SAIT VAT Technical workgroup has studied and provided feedback to SARS on the draft [BGR 4 \(Issue 4\)](#).

The SAIT VAT Technical workgroup, in principle, agrees with the content outlined in the [BGR 4 \(Issue 4\)](#), which outlines the apportionment methodology municipalities must use to determine the VAT input tax deduction ratio under section 17(1) of the VAT Act.

Key points raised in the submission are inter alia

The draft BGR makes references that may be open to interpretation or distorted. These have been highlighted and include inter alia the following:

- o Gross debtor interest may disproportionately affect the apportionment ratio due to high municipal debt recovery rates.
- o Dividends and profit shares from joint ventures need clearer treatment, especially when received for the first time.
- o Forex gains/losses from hedging should be proportionately included to reflect economic reality.
- o Inclusion of traffic fines and other non-taxable income could distort the formula; a proxy is recommended.

Furthermore, measures are required to clear the ambiguity around the annual adjustment requirement and the transitional rule dates, which are inconsistent with the intended effective date.

To this end, the submission suggests several adjustments to improve clarity, fairness, and practicality of the ruling, emphasising proportionality and the need to avoid distortive outcomes.

Members are encouraged to study the [BGR 4 \(Issue 4\)](#) and the [submission](#) for full and further details.

SARS releases updated Interpretation Note 19 (Issue 6) and Interpretation Note 90 (Issue 3)

- ***SARS releases updated interpretation note 19 (issue 6)***

SARS has released [Interpretation Note 19 \(Issue 6\)](#) (“interpretation note”) clarifying the conditions under which individuals, trusts, and other non-corporate taxpayers may apply to submit accounts for a period ending on a date other than the last day of February.

This discretionary approval under section 66(13A) of the Act allows taxpayers engaged in business or professional activities to align their accounting periods with operational realities, such as seasonal income or foreign reporting requirements. The [interpretation note](#) outlines detailed scenarios, including partnerships, deceased estates, and farming operations, and emphasises that approval is subject to strict compliance and must not be used to gain tax advantages.

The new guidance also addresses the implications for provisional tax payments, capital gains, and VAT reporting, ensuring that while accounting flexibility is granted, statutory obligations remain anchored to the traditional year of assessment. SARS has provided illustrative examples to help taxpayers understand how to apply and comply with the new provisions. This move is expected to ease administrative burdens for qualifying taxpayers while maintaining the integrity of the tax system.

Members are encouraged to study this [interpretation note](#) for full and further details.

- ***SARS releases updated interpretation note 30 (issue 3)***

SARS has provided an updated [interpretation note](#) on how companies may apply to close their financial accounts on a date other than the last day of their financial year. Under section 66(13C) of the Act, companies can request approval to align their tax reporting with operational realities—such as seasonal business cycles or administrative constraints—by selecting a fixed day within 10 days before or after their financial year-end. The note outlines the conditions for approval, including compliance status and the absence of tax avoidance motives, and emphasises that such approval does not alter the company’s official financial year or year of assessment.

The [interpretation note](#) also addresses implications for provisional tax, capital gains, and trading stock, ensuring that while flexibility is granted, tax obligations remain consistent. Similarly, SARS has included practical examples to illustrate how companies can benefit from this provision without compromising fiscal integrity. This clarity is expected to streamline financial reporting for businesses while maintaining robust oversight.

Members are encouraged to study the [interpretation note](#) for full and greater detail.

Reminder that SARS publishes guidance on the tax treatment of the net-billing tariff system for excess power generated

The ongoing energy crisis in the country, combined with increasing electricity demand, has prompted the introduction of several tax incentives and measures aimed at easing the burden on the national grid and supporting South Africa’s international climate commitments.

Among these initiatives is the net-billing tariff system, which allows customers to earn export credits for surplus electricity generated from renewable sources and fed back into the

grid. This system requires that the customer's electricity production be synchronised with the grid, typically achieved through the use of inverters.

In line with this, SARS has published a [Guide](#) on the tax implications of the Net-billing Tariff System. The [Guide](#) explains how taxpayers can claim tax credits for excess power exported to the grid under this system and outlines the treatment of various expenses incurred in generating renewable electricity. Essentially, the net-billing tariff system serves as a mechanism to compensate customers for the energy they supply back to the grid when their generation is synchronised accordingly.

Members are encouraged to study the [Guide](#) for full and comprehensive details.

Reminder that SARS has released additional Guides to assist with Tax Administration

On 11 June 2025, SARS released two new [Guides](#) in respect to the following:

- [Guide to Advance Tax Rulings \(Issue 2\)](#): provides guidance in respect of the application for an advance ruling and an overview of the Advance Tax Ruling (ATR) process.
- SARS has also released a [Quick Reference Guide on the ATR System](#) on how a person who wishes to submit an ATR application on the ATR system may do so.

Members are encouraged to read these guides to understand how to apply for a Ruling from SARS.

Published court cases

No new court judgments were published in the week of 19 - 25 June 2025.

Other SARS publications and announcements

No other legislative publications or announcements were issued by SARS during the week of 19 - 25 June 2025.

OTHER MATTERS OF INTEREST FOR A TAX PRACTICE

SARS, Government, and Private Sector unite to celebrate SMMEs

SARS, alongside various government departments and private sector partners, invites you to take part in SMME Day. The event will be hosted at multiple locations across the country, making it easy to attend at a venue near you. The pertinent details are as follows:

Date: 27 June 2025
Time: 09:00 – 15:00
Theme: Supporting SMMEs: Employment, Livelihoods, and Economic Growth

SARS representatives will be on-site to assist. SMMEs are encouraged to bring their respective login devices for SARS to assist with accessing their eFiling profile or updating their details. They are further reminded to also bring along any relevant supporting documents, such as updated business address and contact information.

SMMEs play a vital role in job creation and driving economic growth. Thus, SARS is committed to supporting SMMEs by simplifying tax compliance and raising awareness of available resources.

Don't miss this opportunity to get the support you need to stay tax-compliant and focused on growing your business.

For more information on the event, click [here](#).