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Budget 2022: Your Share of Billions in Tax Relief and Business Support

"Now is not the time to increase taxes and put the recovery at risk! Accordingly, we have decided to keep money in the pockets of South Africans." (Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana)

Calling it a "good story to tell", Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana announced, in his first Budget Speech, welcome respite from tax increases, tax relief of R5.2 billion for individuals and businesses, as well as further measures to support businesses in their economic recovery.

These include no increase in the fuel levy, and adjusted tax brackets and rebates for individual taxpayers. For companies, there is a reduction in the tax rate, support in the form of an increase in the Employment Tax Incentive, and a revised support scheme for businesses in distress due to Covid-19.

In this article, we provide a helpful overview of the important tax announcements made, as well as highlight a few issues mentioned in the Budget Speech to be taken note of.

The 2022 Budget Speech brought some good news and welcome tax relief to personal and business taxpayers,

This is possible thanks to tax revenue collection estimates that exceed the 2021 Budget estimate by R182 billion. Given the improvement in revenue collections,

government proposes **R5.2 billion tax relief** to help support the economic recovery, provide some respite from fuel tax increases and boost incentives for youth employment.

The Tax Changes at a Glance

No Increase Levied	Increase Levied	New Tax Levied
VAT	Excise duties on alcohol and tobacco up 4.5 – 6.5%	R2.90 per milliliter on vaping products from 1 January 2023
Transfer Duty Rates	Health promotion levy up to 2.31 cents per gram of sugar	New tax on beer powders to be introduced
Capital Gains Tax	Carbon tax rate increase from R134 to R144, effective from 1 January 2022	
Other Levies	Plastic bag levy is up 3 cents	
	Vehicle Emissions tax rate on passenger cars up to R132/gCO ₂ /km from 1 April 2022	

Tax changes for individuals

- Personal income tax brackets and rebates will be adjusted downwards by 4.5% to prevent taxpayers moving into higher brackets due to inflation, resulting in tax relief of an estimated R13.5 billion.
- The income tax threshold (under 65) has increased to R91,259 per year.
- Medical tax credits will increase from R332 to R347 per month for the first two members, and from R224 to R234 per month for additional members.

Tax changes for companies

Reduction in company income tax rate from 28% to 27% from 1 April 2022 (i.e. for tax years ending on or after 31 March 2023).

Support for small businesses

To support businesses in distress owing to the Covid-19 pandemic, a new business bounce-back scheme was announced; a new version of the R200 billion loan guarantee scheme that was part of the R500 billion stimulus package announced at the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020.

It will be implemented using two mechanisms which will be introduced in sequence:

- Small business loan guarantees of R15 billion will be launched next month provided through participating banks and development finance institutions, with Government underwriting the first 20% of loan losses.
- Treasury wants to introduce a business equity-linked loan guarantee support mechanism by April this year.

Some other issues to be aware of

- The Minister cautioned that while VAT and other taxes have not been increased, this may change in the future, saying that if there are permanent expenditure increases in coming years, there would be no choice but to revisit this.
- Amendments are proposed to provisions relating to the taxation of variable remuneration to ensure wider application of these rules – particularly to the informal sector ('Variable remuneration' includes overtime pay, bonuses or commission; an allowance or advance paid for transport expenses; an amount the employee becomes entitled to as a result of unused leave; any night shift or standby allowance; or any amount paid or granted for a reimbursement as contemplated in the Act). In effect this income will only be taxed on receipt.

- Provisional tax: Government has proposed a review of the provisional tax system on the basis of international developments.
- Corporate tax reduction will be funded by limiting the interest deduction and assessed losses. Assessed losses brought forward will be limited to 80% of taxable income. Smaller companies with a taxable income below R1 million will be exempt.
- To address abuse of such incentives such as the Employment Tax Incentive, government proposes to impose understatement penalties on reimbursements that are improperly claimed in terms of this incentive.
- The Minister urged all companies that have not already done so to develop plans to progressively reduce their carbon emissions, to avoid facing steep taxes. Exporters will also face overseas border taxes for carbon-intensive goods such as iron and steel, which will reduce their competitiveness.
- SARS will be reviewing the processes surrounding the issue of tax clearances as well the declaration of the returns in order to curb tax compliance status abuse in which taxpayers may file an inaccurate return in order to obtain a tax clearance.
- To assist with the detection of non-compliance or fraud through the existence of unexplained wealth, all provisional taxpayers with assets above R50 million will be required to declare specified assets and liabilities at market values in their 2023 tax returns.
- Other future tax proposals include plans for a new personal income tax regime for remote work, a review of the exemption of foreign retirement benefits in domestic tax legislation, a review of depreciation and investment allowances.
- SARS says it focused on deliberate work audits of large business, which has generated an additional revenue in excess of R4 billion. It will focus on a number of revenue-generating priorities, which amongst others include the expansion of the use of data and intelligence; increasing capability to maximise debt collections; implementing the Davis Tax Committee recommendations for the corporate and High Wealth Individual compliance landscape; accelerate criminal investigations and counter illicit practices; and shaping the policy on the informal economy.

Budget 2022: Your Tax Tables and Tax Calculator

Individuals, special trusts, companies and small business corporations will see some relief from the Budget 2022 proposals, and to help you quantify that, and as a convenient reminder of the various other taxes that remain unchanged, we share both the official SARS Tax Tables and a link to Fin 24's Budget Calculator (just follow the four-step process to do your own calculation).

The Tax Tables cover Individuals, Special Trusts and Trusts, Companies, Small Business Corporations, Turnover Tax for Micro Businesses and Transfer Duty.

Click on the links below each Table for the full SARS "Budget Tax Guide 2022".

How much will you be paying in income tax, petrol and sin taxes? Use Fin 24's four-step Budget Calculator [here](#) to find out.

Have a look at the tax tables below for the new Individual and Special Trust income tax brackets, and for a convenient reminder of the various other taxes that remain unchanged

Income Tax: Individuals and Trusts

Tax Rates from 1 March 2022 to 28 February 2023

Individuals and special trusts

Taxable Income (R)	Rate of Tax (R)
1 – 226 000	18% of taxable income
226 001 – 353 100	40 680 + 26% of taxable income above 226 000
353 101 – 488 700	73 726 + 31% of taxable income above 353 100
488 701 – 641 400	115 762 + 36% of taxable income above 488 700
641 401 – 817 600	170 734 + 39% of taxable income above 641 400
817 601 – 1 731 600	239 452 + 41% of taxable income above 817 600
1 731 601 and above	614 192 + 45% of taxable income above 1 731 600

Trusts other than special trusts: rate of tax 45%

Rebates

Primary	R16 425
Secondary (Persons 65 and older)	R9 000
Tertiary (Persons 75 and older)	R2 997

Age

Below age 65	Tax Threshold R91 250
Age 65 to below 75	R141 250
Age 75 and over	R157 900

Source: SARS

Income Tax: Small Business Corporations

Years of assessment ending on any date between 1 April 2021 and 30 March 2023

Taxable Income (R)	Rate of Tax (R)
1 – 91 250	0% of taxable income
91 251 – 365 000	7% of taxable income above 91 250
365 001 – 550 000	19 163 + 21% of taxable income above 365 000
550 001 and above	58 013 + 28% of the amount above 550 000

Years of assessment ending on or after 31 March 2023

Taxable Income (R)	Rate of Tax (R)
1 – 91 250	0% of taxable income
91 251 – 365 000	7% of taxable income above 91 250
365 001 – 550 000	19 163 + 21% of taxable income above 365 000
550 001 and above	58 013 + 27% of the amount above 550 000

Turnover Tax for Micro Business

Years of assessment ending on any date between 1 March 2022 and 28 February 2023

Taxable Income (R)	Rate of Tax (R)
1 – 335 000	0% of taxable turnover
335 001 – 500 000	1% of taxable turnover above 335 000
500 001 – 750 000	1 650 + 2% of taxable turnover above 500 000
750 001 and above	6 650 + 3% of taxable turnover above 750 000

Source: SARS

Transfer Duty

Transfer duty is payable at the following rates on transactions which are not subject to VAT

Value of Property	Rate
1 – 1 000 000	0%
1 000 000 – 1 375 000	3% of the value above R 1 000 000
1 375 001 – 1 925 000	R11 250 + 6% of the value above R 1 375 000
1 925 001 – 2 475 000	R44 250 + 8% of the value above R 1 925 000
2 475 001 – 11 000 000	R88 250 + 11% of the value above R 2 475 000
11 000 001 and above	R1 036 000 + 13% of the value exceeding R11 000 000

Source: SARS

SARS Makes SMME Tax Compliance Easier

Tax compliance among Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) has been forced into the spotlight by The South African Revenue Service (SARS) who in January launched a new monthly newsletter dedicated to the sector. The January issue covered the matter of tax compliance and revealed a number of new initiatives by SARS to streamline services and encourage smaller businesses to meet their tax obligations.

While SARS indicated that the aim of the new newsletter is to generally "share relevant information pertaining to your SMME's tax affairs and interaction with SARS [and help] you better understand how to meet your compliance obligations" it's clear that by so comprehensively dealing with compliance in the first issue SARS has earmarked the area as being of major concern and a focus going forward.

"Tax complexity itself is a kind of tax" (Max Baucus)

NOTE: Bear in mind that although many of the resources mentioned below are addressed by SARS to you as a private taxpayer, there is just no substitute for professional advice and assistance when it comes to matters of tax.

"SMME Connect # 1", the January issue of a new SARS newsletter for SMMEs available [here](#), has focused on the issues around tax compliance in the sector. In the letter SARS acknowledges problems around the pandemic that lead to increased difficulty for SMMEs attempting to meet their tax obligations saying, "We acknowledge that the COVID-19 pandemic has impaired our ability to be physically 'At Your Service' as we had to limit the number of taxpayer visits at SARS branches and promote digital channels". It adds, however, that the bulk of the problem comes from the fact that business owners in the sector either find their obligations difficult to understand, or are not aware of their obligations, and just what is required of them.

In acknowledging the problem SARS has also stated that its direct aim is to make the processes simpler, increase knowledge around requirements and ultimately to bring all SMMEs up to date on their tax compliance. This is what the letter, aligned with a new initiative called Vision 2024, sets out to correct.

Aligned with "Vision 2024"?

In March 2020 SARS introduced their new Vision 2024, which they said was an attempt to update the goals and services of SARS in order to improve efficiency and their ability to collect owed taxes.

"Our Vision 2024 is to build a smart modern SARS with unquestionable integrity admired by Government and public and our international peers. We proceed from the base that all taxpayers are honest and if we make it easy and seamless, compliance will increase simultaneously," SARS said in a statement at the time.

In line with this, SARS' new newsletter endeavours to not place blame for past non-compliance. The issue in fact begins with a number of startling stats on the SMME sector in the time of the pandemic. SARS says "95% of SMMEs reported a decrease in revenue attributed to the consumers' inability to earn income" and that "90% of SMMEs are either struggling or temporarily closed". The purpose of these stats is for SARS to say, "We understand your plight and aren't out to get you." It goes on to state that "When you comply with your tax obligations, you place your business at an advantage by eliminating the potential cost of non-compliance and administrative penalties."

What are the changes?

In order to simplify the system and make it easier for SMMEs to meet their tax obligations SARS has introduced a number of new measures, initiatives and system upgrades.

The first step is to confirm your "tax compliance status." This can be done by acquiring a tax compliance pin. The process for doing this is illustrated on a simple [YouTube video](#). The pin can then be used by your accountant over the next 12 months to verify your compliance status.

In addition, SARS has also introduced an online query system designed at assisting taxpayers to raise queries with SARS without going into a SARS branch or calling the contact centre. [The query system](#) allows taxpayers to fill in a form and, amongst other things, request a tax number, submit supporting documents, submit a

payment allocation, report new estate cases, register a tax representative, make tax compliance status requests and verify tax compliance status.

SARS has also introduced a new "Enhanced Debt Management" process, which will allow taxpayers to arrange debt repayments directly through eFiling for four separate tax types: Personal Income Tax, Corporate Income Tax, Value-Added Tax and Pay-As-You-Earn (PAYE). Previously, taxpayers could only make payment arrangements via a debt collector who had been appointed by SARS, in person at a SARS branch, utilising the debt management regional email addresses, or on the My Compliance Profile (MCP) on eFiling.

The new Enhanced Debt Management Process easily allows individuals and companies to catch up on outstanding administrative penalties and taxes from a number of different pages on the site and gives them the ability to:

1. Initiate and simulate a payment arrangement, with an instalment plan of up to 36 months,
2. Supply the reason for the request and preferred method of payment,
3. Attach mandatory supporting documents where required,
4. Submit the request if they meet qualifying criteria.

These new facilities come with a reminder for business owners to also submit their own income taxes, which are a requirement in law that can affect the business' compliance status.

Communication and social media

Finally, SARS has also updated their communications generally, with the newsletter only being one of three communication tools to educate people on their obligations. While the best solution remains conferring with a professional for all possible tax solutions, SARS' new YouTube channel, which covers such diverse topics as, Understanding Tax Compliance Status, Illicit Trade and Counterfeit Procedures, Value-Added-Tax, Turnover Tax, Registration, Licencing and Accreditation and more, will certainly help the modern SMME owner to better understand their responsibilities when it comes to taxes.

SARS has also encouraged SMME owners to follow the service on social media through the following channels: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [YouTube](#).

Multiple Income Streams? The PAYE Dangers and a New Option for Pensioners

A nightmare situation for many South African taxpayers is discovering after their year-end tax assessment that the PAYE they paid on various income streams during the year was not enough. The result is a substantial tax debt, which can often not be settled in time to prevent hefty late payment penalties and interest.

To avoid this happening, taxpayers with multiple incomes can request PAYE to be deducted at a higher rate than the normal tax rate during the year. In fact, from 1 March, SARS will do this automatically for pensioners with multiple incomes.

In this article we discover why there is often a tax shortfall even when PAYE is deducted from multiple income streams, and how to avoid this in future.

"Every advantage has its tax." (Ralph Waldo Emerson)

An unfortunate reality for many non-provisional taxpayers with multiple income streams is a large and unexpected tax liability following a year-end tax assessment – even though PAYE was paid each month on their income streams.

Taxable income streams include salaries and wages, allowances, pensions and retirement annuities, rental income and investment income. Many taxpayers have multiple income streams: a common example is a pensioner receiving two pensions paid by two different administrators; or receiving both a pension and a retirement annuity. Other examples would include a person holding two part-time positions, or receiving both a pension and a salary, such as a widow who is employed but also receives a deceased spouse's pension.

In all of these and other cases where taxpayers who receive income from more than one source of employment, pension, or annuity, the employees' tax (PAYE) deducted by the respective employers or retirement funds may not be enough to cover their final annual tax liability assessed at the end of the year.

How can the PAYE deductions not be enough?

Because SARS calculates tax liability annually on assessment, a taxpayer could well face an unexpected and large tax liability, even after having paid PAYE every month on various income streams.

This is because the South African tax system requires adding together all sources of income of a taxpayer into a single total sum, which then determines the tax rate which applies to all the income combined.

So, the more the total income from all sources, the higher the tax rate and the more tax due.

By deducting PAYE every month, employers or retirement funds assist taxpayers to pay their tax liability in advance over the year. When only one employer or retirement fund is involved, the total PAYE deducted monthly should be equal to the tax liability on assessment, leaving no extra tax due on assessment.

However, where more than one employer or retirement fund is involved, each will deduct the correct amount of PAYE on only the salary or pension/annuity they each pay. In addition, each will also independently apply the rebates the taxpayer is entitled to.

When all the sources of income are added together during the year-end assessment, and any rebates are applied only once, the total income often pushes the taxpayer into a higher tax bracket. Applying this correct and higher tax rate on the full amount then results in an additional amount of tax to be paid on assessment.

In practice

The "pension plus salary" example below illustrates just how much more the tax payable on the total combined income assessed at the end of the year could be than the PAYE paid on each separate income stream during the year.

An Example

The table below gives an example of how the combined taxable income is calculated in the case of a taxpayer who is over the age of 65 years and receives a salary of R240 000 from employer A and a salary of R160 000 from employer B during the tax year.

	Salary	Pension	Assessment
Taxable Income	240 000	160 000	400 000
Normal Tax Payable	18 895	3 375	62 840
Less: Tax paid in the form of PAYE withheld by employer and pension fund	18 895	3 375	22 270
Additional amount of tax to be paid on assessment			40 570

Source: SARS

The taxpayer in the example will face an additional R40,570.00 tax liability on assessment, because although a total tax of R22,270.00 had already been deducted by way of PAYE paid during the year, it was too little to cover the full annual tax liability of R62,840.00.

Large, unexpected tax debts such as this often lead to delayed payments and therefore penalties, further burdening the taxpayer.

How to avoid the problem

Taxpayers with multiple income streams, who are at risk of a large tax liability when the annual income tax return is assessed at the end of the tax year, need to have more accurate monthly amounts of PAYE deducted. Fortunately, the Income Tax Act allows these taxpayers to make additional voluntary tax payments by making a written request to their employers, insurance companies and/or retirement fund administrators to deduct additional monthly PAYE.

To voluntarily pay more PAYE, you have two options –

1. The first option involves applying a single percentage at which PAYE should be deducted by all employers and retirement funds that pay a salary or pension/annuity to you.
2. The second option is to increase the amount of PAYE deducted by one or more employers or retirement funds but is more complex to calculate.

Either way, professional assistance is highly recommended. Ensuring that more appropriate amounts of PAYE tax is deducted during the year will eliminate surprises and ease the financial burden when submitting annual tax returns at the end of the tax year.

Pensioners – a new option for you from 1 March

Not many pensioners are currently making use of this option but, fortunately, recently introduced legislation has enabled SARS to provide them with a new service from 1 March. Using the latest data available to it, SARS will determine a more accurate PAYE deduction amount for pensioners with multiple income streams, and then automatically provide their retirement fund administrators with this new PAYE deduction percentage. This will allow a more accurate amount of PAYE to be deducted from pensions or annuities payable from March 2022. The rate will be valid for the entire tax year unless the taxpayers' circumstances change. However, you can request retirement fund administrators to rather use the normal PAYE deduction rate, or to deduct PAYE at an even higher rate than the increased rate provided by SARS.

Your Tax Deadlines for March 2022

- 25 March Value-Added Tax (VAT) manual submissions and payments
- 30 March Excise Duty payments
- 31 March End of the 2021/22 Financial year
- 31 March Value-Added Tax (VAT) electronic submissions and payments & CIT Provisional payments where applicable

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