



LRA
LIBERIA REVENUE AUTHORITY

REVENUE PERFORMANCE

REPORT

.....

FIRST QUARTER

F I S C A L Y E A R

2017 - 2018

Published by the Policy, Statistics & Strategic
Planning Division of the Liberia Revenue
Authority



Our Core Values



Our Vision

To professionally, fairly, transparently and effectively collect lawful revenues, and to facilitate legitimate trade and social protection for the people of Liberia.

Our Mission

To be a professional revenue administration adhering to international standards and to serve as a model for revenue collection and service delivery.

FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018

F I R S T Q U A R T E R
REVENUE PERFORMANCE
REPORT

Published by the Policy, Statistics & Strategic
Planning Division of the Liberia Revenue
Authority

TABLE OF CONTENTS

General Overview 6

Macroeconomic Outlook	7
Revenue Performance	7
Currency Split and Exchange Rate Impact	9
First Quarter's Highlights	10

Detailed Revenue Performance 11

Domestic Revenue	12
Collection by Department	13
Tax Revenue	14
Non-Tax Revenue	17
External Revenue	19

Trade Statistics 20

Imports	21
Imports by Country of Origin	21
Exports	22

Waivers 23

General Waivers	23
Waivers on Petroleum Products	23

Administrative Initiatives 25

Taxpayer Segmentation	25
Taxpayer Registration	26
Summary Activities by Business Offices	26
Department of Customs	26
Revenue Policy and Strategic Planning Division	27
Professional Ethics Division	28
Legal and Board Affairs	28

Enterprise Risk Management and Compliance Division	29
Transformation and Modernization	29
Internal Audit Division	29
Enterprise Design, Quality Assurance and Result Division	30

Rural and Sector Revenue 31

Rural Revenue	31
Customs Business Offices	31
Ministries, Agencies and Commissions	31

Conclusion 32

Appendices 33

Appendix 1:	Detailed Direct Tax Revenue Performance	33
Appendix 2:	Detailed Indirect Tax Revenue Performance	35
Appendix 3:	Detailed Property Income	36
Appendix 4:	Revenue Collections by Counties and Business Offices	37
Appendix 5:	Revenue Collections by Ministries, Agencies and Commissions	38
Appendix 6:	Waivers by Policy Instruments and Institutions	39
Appendix 7:	Customs Revenue by Customs Business Offices	40
Appendix 8:	Commercial Imports	41
Appendix 9:	Non-commercial Imports	41
Appendix 10:	Total Imports According to Customs Procedure	42
Appendix 11:	Imports by Country of Origin	43

List of Tables

Table 1: First Quarter Original and Adjusted Forecast	11
Table 2: Year on Year Comparison of Customs Revenue by Major Tax Kinds	14
Table 3: Performance of Taxes on Residents	15
Table 4: Performance of Indirect Tax Revenue	15
Table 5: Taxes on International Trade	17
Table 6: Commercial and Non-commercial Imports	20
Table 7: Major Export Commodities	22
Table 8: Waivers on Petroleum Products	24
Table 9: DTD Collections by Taxpayer Segmentation	25
Table 11: Number of Taxpayers Registered in TAS and SIGTAS during the Quarter	26

List of Figures

Figure 1: Year on Year Comparison of Quarter One	8
Figure 2: Major Contributors to September Collection	8
Figure 3: Currency Split and Exchange Rate	9
Figure 4: First Quarter Actual Collections	12
Figure 5: Year on Year Performance by Departments	12
Figure 6: Domestic Tax Department (Actual vs. Projection)	13
Figure 7: Year on Year Comparison of Direct Taxes	15
Figure 8: Performance of Goods and Services Tax	16
Figure 9: Drivers of Goods and Services Tax	16
Figure 10: Drivers of Non-Tax Revenue	17
Figure 11: Year on Year Comparison of Property Income	18
Figure 12: Year on Year Comparison of Administrative Fees	19
Figure 13: Year on Comparison of Imports and Exports	21
Figure 14: Major Trading Partners	21
Figure 15: Commercial and Non-commercial Imports (Trading Partners vs. the ROW)	22
Figure 16: Major Export Destinations	22

GENERAL OVERVIEW

This report contained the First Quarter FY17/18 revenue collection and activities of the Liberia Revenue Authority. It is divided into six parts. The general overview provides a snapshot of the macroeconomic outlook and gives a summary of revenue performance. Part one is the detailed revenue performance; while parts two, three, four and five respectively contained trade statistics, waivers, administrative initiatives, and rural and sector revenue. Part six summarizes the report followed by the appendices.



MACROECONOMIC OUTLOOK

The Liberian economy is yet to fully recover from the impact of the Ebola crisis and the global commodity price fall, especially the prices rubber and mineral resources. Accordingly, these commodities constitute Liberia major exports and hence foreign exchange earnings. The fall in the prices of Liberia's primary export commodities have had serious revenue implication as taxpayers in affected sectors scaled back their commercial operations and delayed investing activities. The slow pace of recovery is further impacted by the drawdown of United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) in 2016. UNMIL has been a major consumer in the Liberian economy and a significant source of foreign exchange earnings.

The economy, which grew by 7.74 percent on average before the twin crisis, is estimated to grow by 2.6 percent in 2017. This slow pace of growth has had negative impact on fiscal revenue, inflation, exchange rate stability, and hence poverty. The headline inflation rate, which measures the overall inflation in the economy, averaged 12.4 percent in the first half of 2017 compared to 7.3 percent in the previous year, and is expected to increase as the Liberian dollar continues to depreciate against the United States dollar. Overall, the Liberian dollar depreciated by 20 percent in the first half of 2017 as compared to 11 percent in the first half of 2016. The current macroeconomic outlook is further marred by excess liquidity in terms of Liberian dollars and a relative shortage of inflows of foreign exchange, in particular the United States dollars. All of these have serious revenue collection implications as shown in the "currency split" section of this report.

The medium-term economic growth prospects are, however, encouraging. Real GDP is expected to marginally increase over the next two years. It is expected to reach an average of 3.6 percent in 2019. This anticipated growth will largely be driven by improvement in infrastructure as well as expected growth in agriculture and services. For instance, improved infrastructure such as increase in road transport networks and cheaper electricity are expected to significantly underpin the medium-term to the long-term economic growth of Liberia.

REVENUE PERFORMANCE

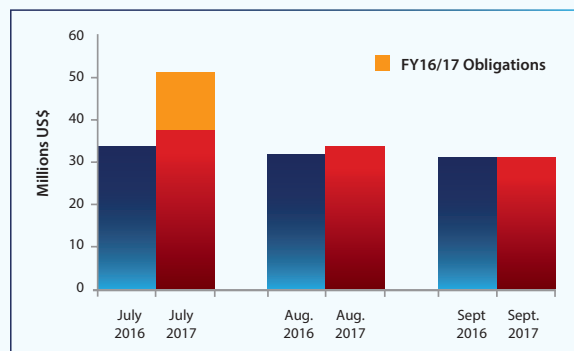
The original revenue target for the first quarter FY17/18 was set at US\$111.12 million. This amount was subsequently adjusted downward by US\$12.06 million, largely on account of Maritime Revenue by US\$0.69 million, Road Maintenance Fund by US\$4.03 million, administrative fee by US\$0.56 million, GSM license fee by US\$0.54 million and forestry revenue by US\$0.26 million; resulting in a revised total projection of US\$99.06 million. A total collection of US\$114.71 million was realized during the quarter, accounting for approximately 20 percent of the yearly target of US\$563.56 million. The actual collection for the first quarter surpassed the quarter's revised target by US\$15.65 million, an equivalent of 16 percent; and original projection by US\$3.59 million or three percent. This performance is partly due to the realization of FY16/17 obligations in July and the overall performance taxes on international trade.

Obligations from FY16/17

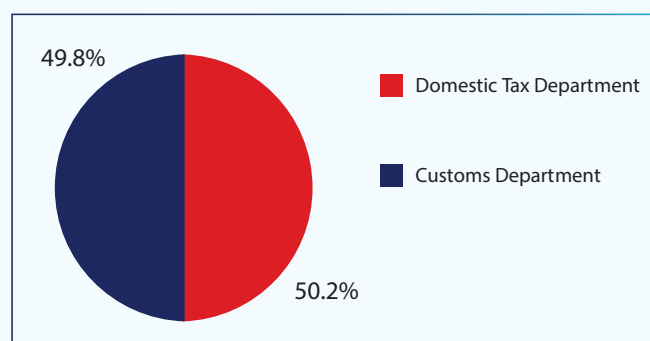
A total of US\$14.53 million was actualized during the period as obligation from FY16/17. This amount constitutes the EU grant of US\$11.34 million and road maintenance fee of US\$3.19 million.

Figure 1: Year on Year Comparison of Quarter One

Panel A: Year on Year actuals



Panel B: Customs and Domestic



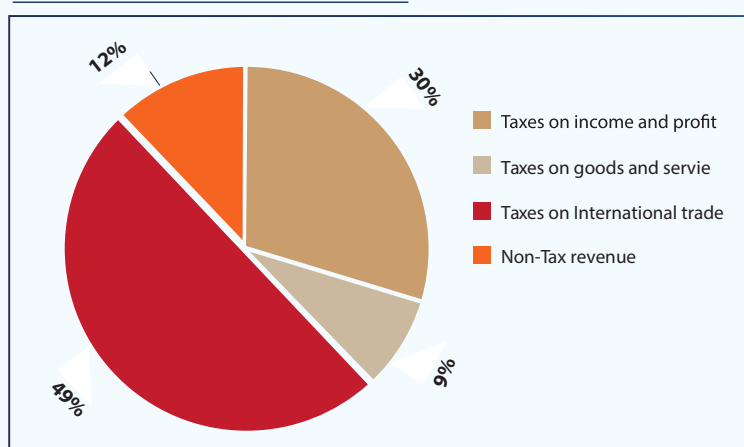
©Source: LRA Databases

The figure above shows actual revenue collection for the first quarter. Panel A shows the year-on-year first quarter performance by months. Accordingly, FY17/18 July, August and September collections exceed the same period FY16/17 collections. Panel B shows revenue collection by departments or administrative structure. As noted in Panel B, Domestic Tax Department contributes 50.2 percent to total domestic revenue while Customs Department accounts for 49.8 percent.

When total collection is assessed on a year-on-year basis, FY17/18 first quarter actuals exceed that of FY16/17 by US\$6.99 million, representing seven percent growth (or 22 percent if the FY16/17 obligations are counted). In term of monthly collection, July is the lead contributor with a total collection of US\$36.89 million representing 38 percent of the quarter's total collection, while August and September respectively account 32 percent and 30 percent. The Domestic Tax Department falls short of its revised quarterly target of US\$52.67 million by US\$2.15 million or four percent, while Customs Department surpasses projection of US\$50.18 million by US\$3.79 million or eight percent.

September contribution to FY17/18 first quarter is US\$30.67 million, representing 30 percent of total collection. The entire September collection is on account of domestic revenue; of which tax revenue contributed the lion share of US\$26.83 million. September collection outperformed its revised forecast by US\$0.24 million and grew by approximately 1.42 percent when compared to the same period of last fiscal year

Figure 2: Major Contributors to September Collection



©Source: LRA Databases

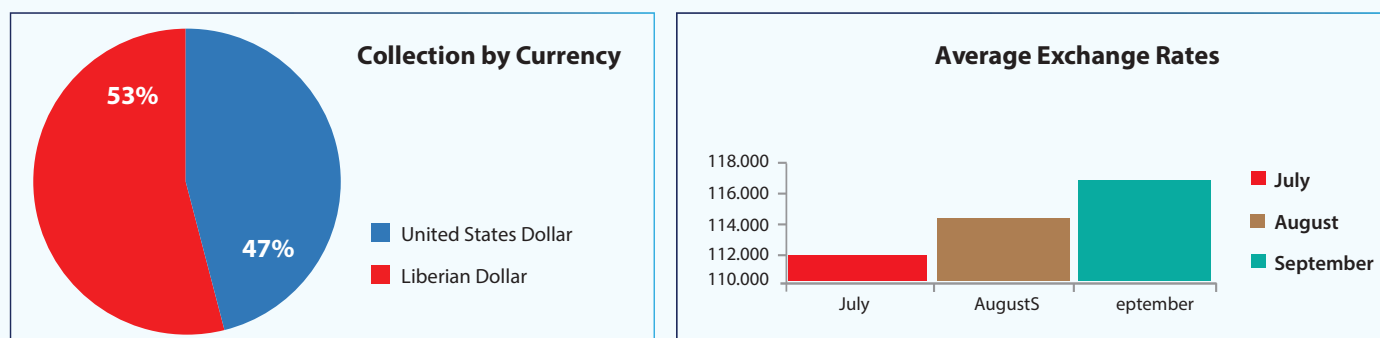
Note: The key drivers of non-tax revenue are property income of US\$2.47 million and administrative fee of US\$1.12 million.

CURRENCY SPLIT AND EXCHANGE RATE IMPACT

The Revenue Code of Liberia, in addition to existing Government tax payment regulation, does allow for the payment of taxes and fees in both Liberian dollars and United States dollars. This, in addition to the fast pace of the depreciation of the Liberian dollar against the United States dollar, has resulted to an increase in the proportion of taxes and fees paid in Liberian dollars. For instance, more than 53 percent of FY17/18 first quarter total revenue was paid in Liberian dollars. The exchange rate depreciated by more than three percentage point during the first quarter.

Another manifestation of the impact of the exchange rate on revenue performance is the fact the official exchange rate quoted by the Central Bank of Liberia is often far below the prevailing market exchange rate. Consequently, there is an increase in the practice of currency trading by brokers or middlemen. This is particular seen in the collection of customs revenue where approximately 78 percent of the FY17/18 first quarter revenue is collected in Liberian dollars.

Figure 3: Currency Split and Exchange Rate



When compared to the exchange rate used during the formulation of the revenue budget, the Liberian dollar is said to have depreciated by approximately 7 percent. That is, the rate of Liberian dollar to United States dollar increase from L\$109 at the formulation of revenue budget to 116.18 at the end of September. The direct revenue impact of the differential between projected exchange and actuals is estimated at US\$2.89 million.

FIRST QUARTER'S HIGHLIGHTS

This section of the report brings to focus standout tax kinds or initiatives that require urgent management attention or policy redress. This quarter highlights focus on two tax lines – maritime revenue and the road fees.

Maritime Revenue

Maritime revenue is captured in the revenue budget under other taxes on goods and services with the tax code 11461. Specific tax sub-classifications under maritime revenue are:

- Registration charges
- Tonnage tax
- DCO distribution
- Small water craft
- Registration name change
- Maritime corporate fees

A total of US\$3.44 million was projected for maritime revenue under tonnage fee, US\$0.88 million; DCO distribution, US\$1.33 million; and maritime corporate fee, US\$1.24 million. The monthly forecast was largely informed by a payment schedule from the Maritime Authority. Actual collection for the first quarter has, however, fall short of payment schedule by 78 percent. Such a level of underperformance raises red flag and poses risk to the entire maritime revenue envelope, if prompt administrative and policy measures are not taken

Road Fee

The Government, acting through the Inter-ministering Steering Committee on Road Act, introduced a road fee of US\$0.25 per gallon of petroleum products. As a result, US\$5.47 million was estimated to be collected in the first quarter of FY17/18, of which only US\$1.44 million was actualized. The road fee replaced the previous arrangement where the LRPC charged and collected a storage fee of US\$0.25 on behalf of the Government and remit same to the Government.

The implementation the road fee by the LRA has since been hindered by the Supreme Court Ruling after a writ for prohibition was filed by SRIMEX, a local petroleum importer. As a result of the court action, collection of the road fee underperformed by 74 percent. This poses a huge risk to the entire estimated road fee of US\$35.5 million.



DETAILED REVENUE PERFORMANCE

PART ONE



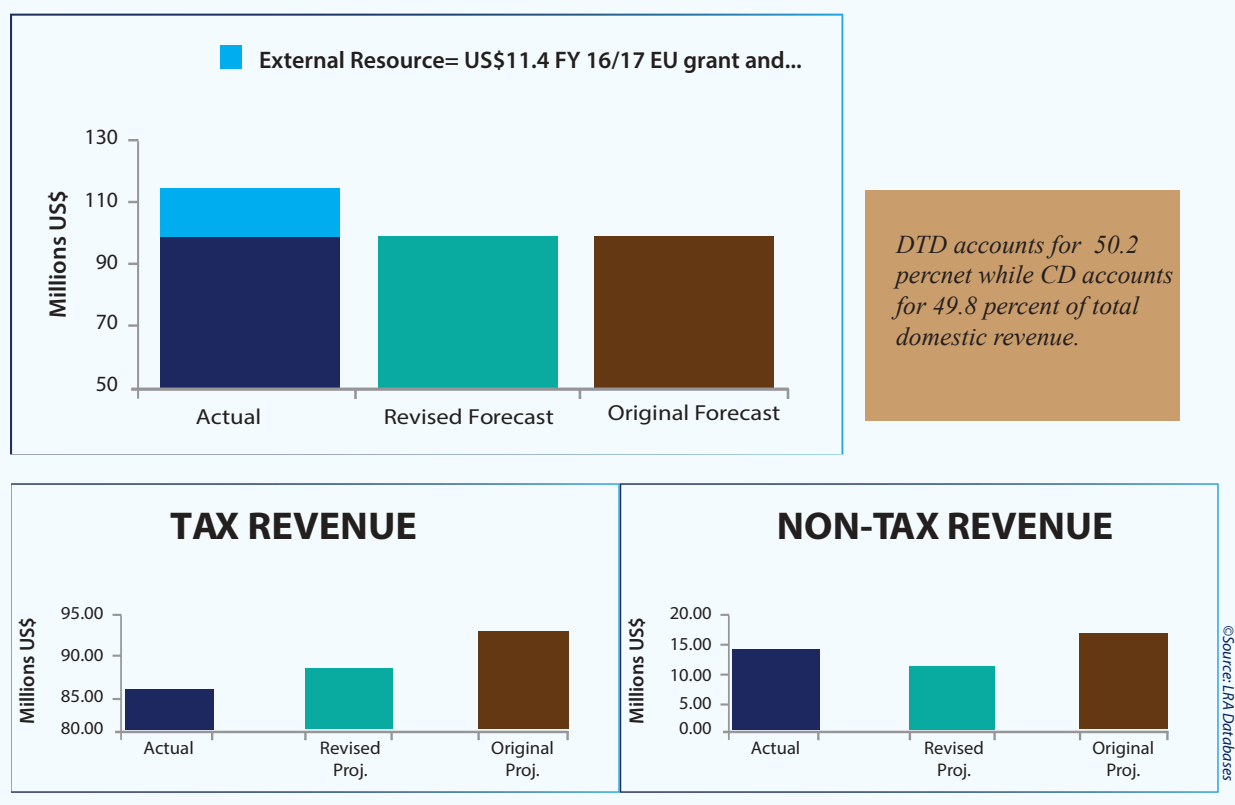
The actual revenue collections during the first quarter of FY17/18 surpassed the original projection of US\$111.12 million by three percent but exceeds the adjusted projection of US\$99.06 million by US\$15.65 million or 16 percent.

Table 1: First Quarter Original and Adjusted Forecast

	Approved Forecast	Risks	Risk Adjusted	Actual	Var (+/-)
GRAND TOTAL REVENUE	111.12	-12.06	99.06	114.71	15.51
Total Revenue (This Period)	111.12	-12.06	99.06	100.18	973.00
Domestic Revenue	111.12	-12.06	99.06	97.50	1,051.00
Domestic Tax	61.17	-8.50	52.67	47.33	-0.42
O/W Road Fund	5.47	-4.03	1.44	1.44	
O/W Maritime	1.43	-0.70	0.73	0.31	-0.42
Customs	49.95	-3.57	46.39	50.18	3.80
External Resources				2.67	-78.00
FY 2016/17 Obligations				14.54	14.54
EU Grants (FY 2016/17)				11.35	11.35
Road Fund				3.19	3.19

©Source: LRA Database, Author's extraction

Figure 4: First Quarter Actual Collections



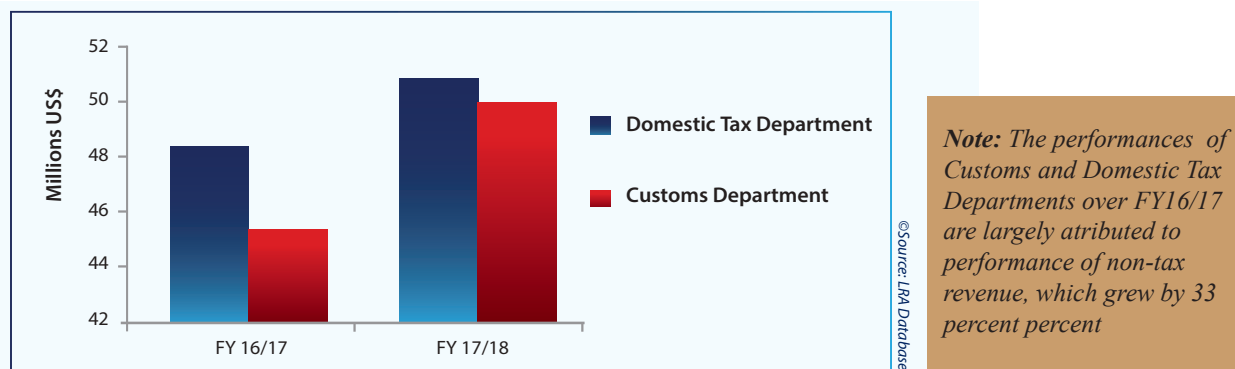
When compared to the first quarter of FY16/17, total collection in the first quarter of FY17/18 grew by seven percent (or 22 percent if FY16/17 obligations are considered). Both Customs and Domestic Tax Departments outperformed the previous year first quarter collections by 16 percent and 5 percent respectively.

DOMESTIC REVENUE

Domestic revenue accounts for 88 percent of the quarter's total collection of US\$114.71 million. When domestic revenue is analyzed on a month by month basis, July is the lead contributor. July's collection surpassed that of August by 11 percent and September by 20 percent. On a year-on-year basis, first quarter domestic revenue

increase by 7 percent over the previous year. This surpasses the overall GDP growth assumption underpinning the revenue budget by 5.6 percentage point. It is worth noting that the depreciation of the Liberian dollar or increasing exchange rate is leading to an underestimation of the growth in revenue.

Figure 5: Year on Year Performance by Departments



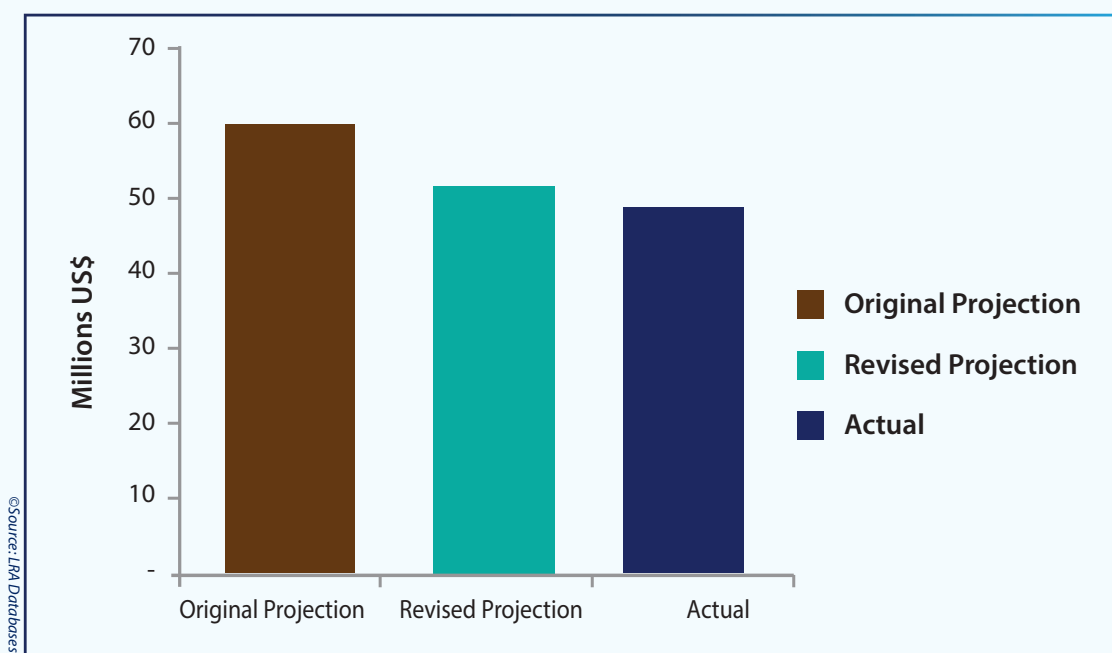
Collection by Department

When total domestic revenue is split according to administrative structure, the Department of Customs collected US\$50.18 million; while the Domestic Tax Department performance for the quarter is US\$47.60 million or US\$50.52 million if FY16/17 the road fund of US\$3.19 million, which was realized in the first quarter of FY17/18, is considered.

A. Domestic Tax

Domestic Tax Department collection represents 49 percent of total domestic revenue. Tax revenue contributes the lion share of Domestic Tax Department total collection, accounting for 77 percent, while non-tax revenue accounts for 23 percent. The major drivers of tax revenue are income and profit, goods and services tax and property income, representing 59, 19 and 13 percent respectively

Figure 6: Domestic Tax Department (Actual vs. Projection)



Domestic Tax Department fell short of projection by US\$2.7 million. This short fall is largely on account of Government withholding which was budgeted at US\$5.7 million but only US\$2.4 million was realized. The Department first quarter collection represents 16 percent of its core budget.

B. Customs Revenue

Customs revenue increase by 10 percent over FY16/17 actual collection US\$45.58 million. The growth of customs revenue is driven taxes on international trade, representing 95 percent, and mineral royalty representing four percent of total customs revenue.

The performance of taxes on international trade is largely driven by import duties, 58 percent and other customs charges, including goods and services tax, of 40 percent. The performance of import duties is underpinned by the increase in the average import duty rate from 4.7 percent in FY16/17 to 5.1 percent in FY17/18 despite an overall 20 percent decline in commercial trade.

Table 2: Year on Year Comparison of Customs Revenue by Major Tax Kinds

Descriptions	FY16/17 Actual	FY17/18 Actual
Total	45,577	50,177
International Trade	42,732	47,907
Import Duties	22,861	27,548
O/W: Import duties on goods other than rice and petroleum	15,472	20,227
Import duties on petroleum products	4,763	4,836
Other Import Duties	1,669	2,485
Charges on Imports	17,477	19,317
O/W: GST on imported goods (excluding petroleum)	11,039	12,713
GST on imported petroleum	4,212	4,338
Excise	2,255	929
O/W: Excise tax on other imported goods (n.e.c).	926	428
Excise tax on alcoholic beverages (imported)	603	199
Excise tax on tobacco and tobacco products (imported)	365	131
Excise tax on non-alcoholic beverages (imported)	331	172
Fees on Exports	139	58
O/W: Other exports	28	27
Cocoa and coffee	87	29
Other Non- Tax Revenue	2,845	2,199
Forestry (FMCs)	968	269
Mineral Royalty (LME)	1,870	1,920
Bonded warehouses	8	10

©Source: LRA Databases

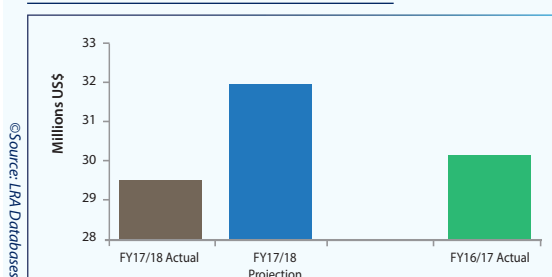
Tax Revenue

Tax revenue is the lead contributor to domestic revenue, accounting for US\$86.62 million or 86 percent. The key drivers of tax revenue are taxes on international trade, taxes on income and profits and taxes on goods and services, with each respectively contributing 55 percent, 33 percent and 11 percent to total tax revenue. Customs and other import duties are the major contributors to taxes on international trade, contributing 98 percent, of which import duties account for 59 percent while other customs charges on imports (including international GST) account for the remaining 41 percent.

Direct Taxes

When domestic revenue is segmented on the basis of the mode of payment (that is, whether the payment is directly received from the taxpayers or through an intermediary), Direct tax revenue contribution to total tax revenue is US\$29.6 million, representing 34 percent. This is largely on account of taxes income and profit, of which withholding on salaries and wages is US\$10.82 million and corporate income tax is US\$5.9 million. Real estate tax accounts for 1.5 percent of the direct taxes. Direct tax revenue falls short of projection by US\$2.31 million and contracted by 2.4 percent.

Figure 7: Year on Year Comparison of Direct Taxes



The underperformance of direct tax revenue is due to the underperformances of withholding on salaries and wages (PAYE) and corporate income tax. Corporate income tax fell short of projection by US\$1.58 million and declined by 10 percent when compared to the same period last year. Similarly, personal income taxes fell short of projection by two percent and declined by one percent when it is compared to the previous year.

Taxes on Income and Profit

Taxes on income and profit grew by 4 percent when compared to the same period of the previous fiscal year. The contribution of taxes on income and profit to the domestic revenue envelope is largely driven by taxes on residents, accounting for 97 percent. The remaining 3 percent is on account of taxes on nonresidents.

The key drivers of taxes on residents are withholding on residents and corporate income tax, representing 79 and 20 percent respectively. Withholdings on personal income tax contribute the maximum share of the total withholdings on residents of US\$22.34 million. Total collection on account of withholding of personal income is US\$17.10 million. Other withholdings, including withholding on services, interest and dividends and GOL payments together account for the US\$5.24 million.

Table 3: Performance of Taxes on Residents

	Actual (000US\$)	Projection (000US\$)
Taxes on residents	28,303	29,746
Corporate income tax	5,589	7,172
Presumptive tax	376	333
Withholdings on residents	22,338	22,242
PIT	17,100	17,129
Other withholdings	5,238	5,113

Note: Withholding on GOL payments including salaries is US\$2.4 million.

Indirect Taxes

The classification of tax revenue by means of collection (i.e. whether the taxes are directly collected from the ultimate taxpayer or through an intermediary) shows that indirect taxes are the lead contributor to tax revenue. In particular, a total of US\$55.41 million was collected on account of indirect taxes, representing

approximately 64 percent of total tax revenue. Indirect taxes outperformed projection by US\$2.55 million or 5 percent. The key drivers of indirect taxes are taxes on international trade, services tax, goods tax and domestic excise.

Table 4: Performance of Indirect Tax Revenue

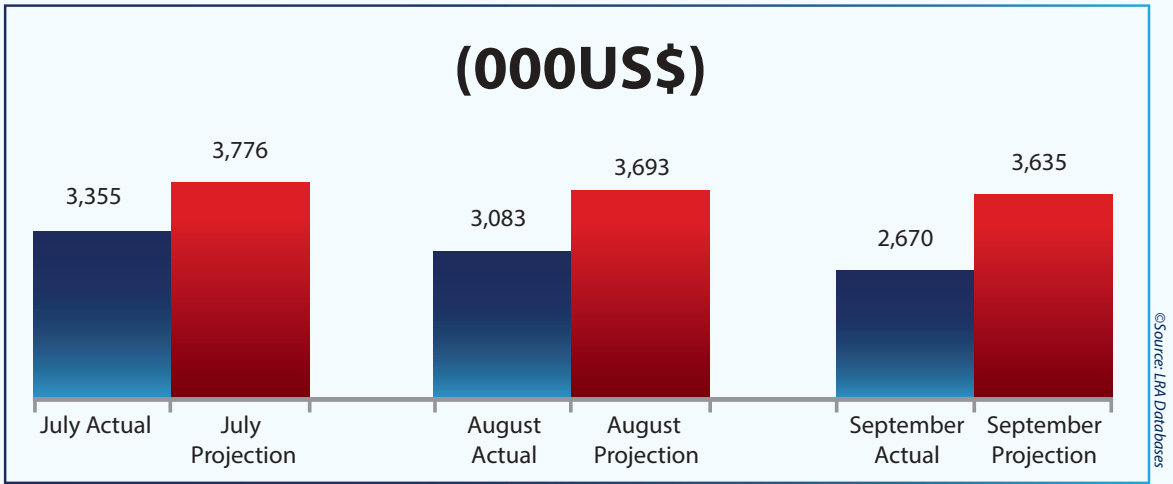
	Actual (000 US\$)	Projection (000US\$)	Variance (%)
Indirect taxes	55,407	52,857	5%
Goods tax (GST)	1,800	1,643	10%
Service tax (GST)	4,245	5,302	-20%
Domestic excise	1,446	935	55%
Taxes on International Trade	47,916	44,978	7%

Taxes on Goods and Services

Goods and services tax contribution to the domestic tax revenue is US\$9.12 million. It however fell short of the quarterly target by approximately US\$1.99 million or 18 percent. When analyzed on month by month basis, goods and services tax performance declined in the month of September as compared to

July and August. Collection in September accounts for a little less than 30 percent of the total quarterly collection. Similarly trend is also observed in last performance, where goods and services tax showed a downward movement during the quarter.

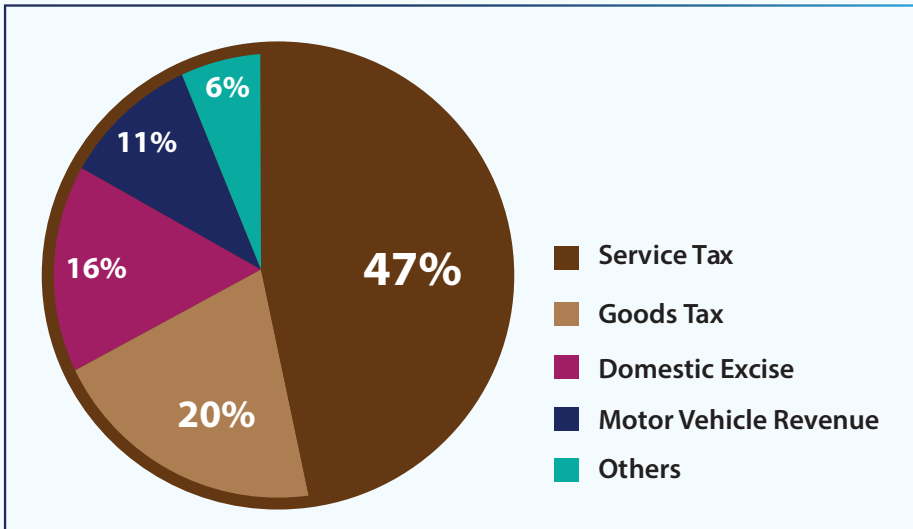
Figure 8: Performance of Goods and Services Tax



The major contributing lines to goods and services tax are service tax contributing 47 percent, goods tax contributing 20 percent, domestic excise contributing 16 percent and motor vehicle revenue contributing

11 percent. When compared to FY16/17 first quarter goods and service tax contracted by 10 percent. This is largely due 16 percent contraction in service tax.

Figure 9: Drivers of Goods and Services Tax



Taxes on services tax fall short of quarterly target by 20 percent. This is largely attributed to the decline in the GSM service revenue, especially revenue intake from Lonestar MTN, the sector's largest contributor.

The performances of domestic excise can be attributed to improvement in excise on beverages, which is partly due to the policy changes that saw the rate on locally produced beverages reduced to 25 percent from 35. For instance, Monrovia Breweries, one of the leading local producers of beverages recorded a 4.9 percent increase in production. This policy has, however, seen

a corresponding adverse effect on excise on imported beverages. In particular, excise on imports falls short of quarterly target by more than 69 percent.

Taxes on International Trade

Overall, taxes on international trade outperformed projection by US\$2.94 million. Import duties, international goods and services taxes, and excise on imported goods are the lead contributors to taxes on international trade. Together, they account for more than 95 percent of total taxes on international trade.

Table 5: Taxes on International Trade

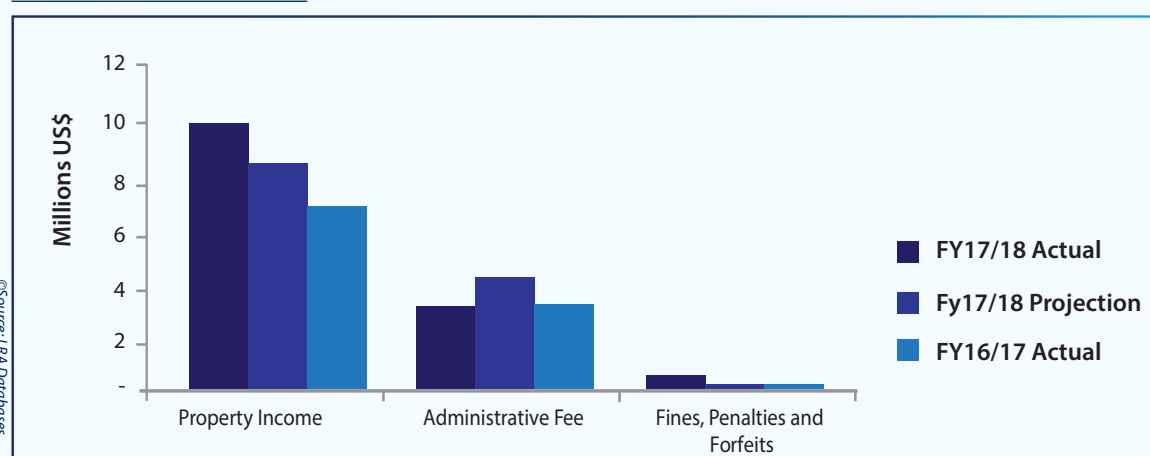
	Projection (000US\$)	Actual (000US\$)
International Trade	44,978	47,916
Import duties on general goods	16,769	21,853
Import duties on petroleum	5,320	4,836
GST on general goods	12,256	12,713
GST on petroleum	3,846	4,334
Excise on imports	3,038	929
Others	3,749	3,251

©Source: LRA Databases

Non-Tax Revenue

Non-tax revenue contribution to the domestic revenue envelop is US\$13.98 million, representing 13 percent. The drivers of non-tax revenue are property income, administrative fees and fines. Overall, non-tax revenue outperformed the quarterly target by 4 percent, amounting to US\$0.50 million.

Figure 10: Drivers of Non-Tax Revenue



©Source: LRA Databases

Non-tax revenue, when compared to the FY16/17 first quarter of US\$10.61 million is at US\$14.07 million and grew by 32 percent. This growth is largely driven growth in property income which is 41 percent.

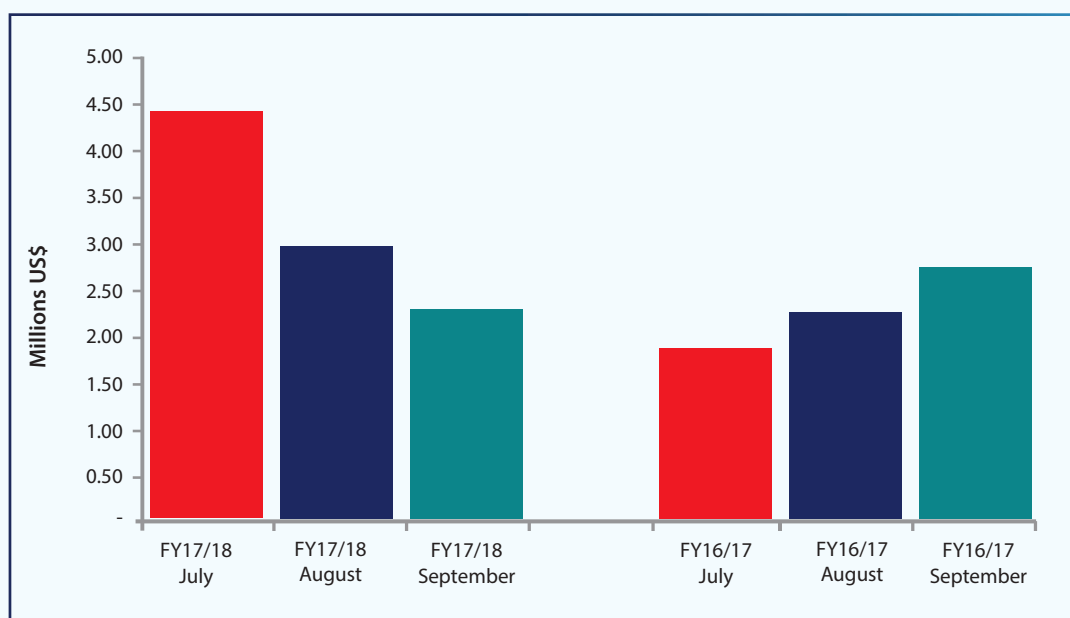
Property Income

Property income constitutes the maximum share of total non-tax revenue, representing 71 percent or US\$9.89 million. Royalties and rents and road fund are the two main contributors to property income with each contributing US\$5.19 million and US\$1.44 million. The contribution of royalties and rent is

largely underpinned by mining and forestry royalties with each respectively contributing US\$2.19 million and US\$1.33 million.

When compared on a year-on-year basis, property income grew by 41 percent. July registered the highest intake for the quarter followed by August. This monthly declining pattern is the reverse of FY16/17 first quarter where September recorded the highest followed by August. See appendix three for detailed property income.

Figure 11: Year on Year Comparison of Property Income



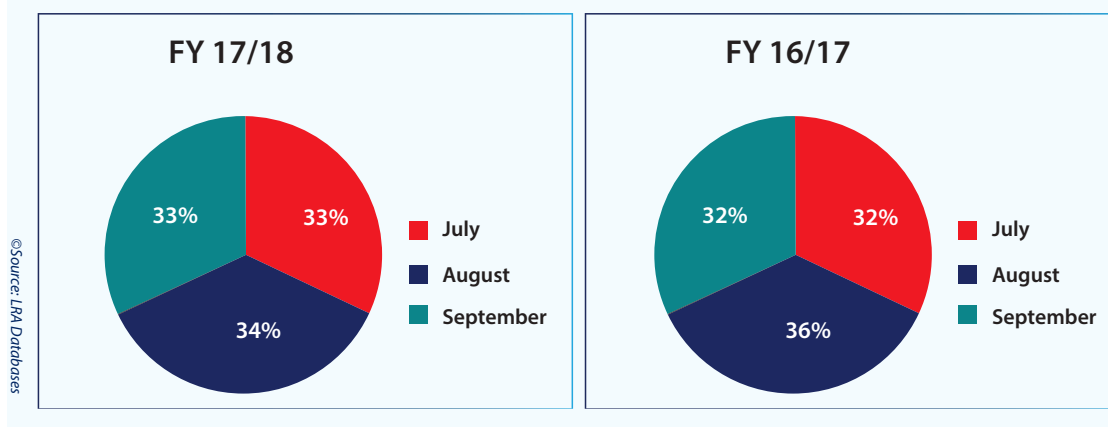
Administrative Fees

Administrative fee is the second leading contributor to non-tax revenue with a total contribution of US\$3.38 million representing 24 percent of total non-tax revenue. It, however, falls short of the quarter target by 29 percent of US\$1.38 million. The main sources of administrative fees are Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Labor, the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization and the Liberian Business Registry. Together, they contribute more than 84 percent of total administrative fees. The underperformance of administrative fee is largely due to the underperformances of the Ministry of Post

and Telecommunication, 88 percent; Ministry of Information 82 percent; Ministry of Agriculture 36 percent; Land, Mines and Energy, 61 percent; and the Liberia National Police, 39 percent.

Compared to the first quarter of FY16/17, administrative fee registered a 5 percent growth. As expected, administrative is evenly distributed by month, with each month contributing approximately 33 percent.

Figure 12: Year on Year Comparison of Administrative Fees



External Revenue

The total external revenue realized during the first quarter of FY17/18 is US\$14.02 million. Of this amount, only US\$2.67 is attributable to FY17/18 given that US\$11.34 million constitutes obligation from FY16/17. The two contributors to total external revenue are USAID (FARA) grant of US\$2.67 million and EU grant of US\$11.34 million.

The USAID (FARA) grant was short of anticipated intake by US\$ 0.078 million, which is attributed to currency loss.

PART TWO

TRADE STATISTICS



A year on year analysis of the first quarter showed a 20 percent decline in commercial imports and a 13 percent increase in non-commercial imports. The decline in commercial imports was occasioned by reduction in importation by major commercial importers. The reduction in importation by these major commercial importers is on account of skepticism surrounding the Presidential and Representative Elections. The increase in non-commercial importation is partly due to increase in the importation of vegetable products and foodstuff such as rice; military and other security related equipment; electro mechanic equipment for LEC operations and palm mill equipment by Sime Derby.

Table 6: Commercial and Non-commercial Imports

Description	First Quarter FY16/17 ('000US\$)	First Quarter FY17/18 ('000US\$)	Total	Percent
Commercial Imports	121,768	97,115	218,883	-20%
Non-Commercial Imports	158,859	179,066	337,925	13%
Total Imports	280,626	276,182	556,809	-2%

Source: LRA Databases

The trade deficit (i.e. the value of exports less imports) for the period is US\$206.45 million. The value of total imports for the period, of which the value of commercial import is US\$97.12 million, is US\$276.63 million. Non-commercial imports account for 63 percent of the total import value or US\$179.07 million. Of the total export value of US\$70.08, permanent exportation accounts of US\$67.38 million representing 96 percent while US\$2.71 or 4 percent was recorded under re-exportation

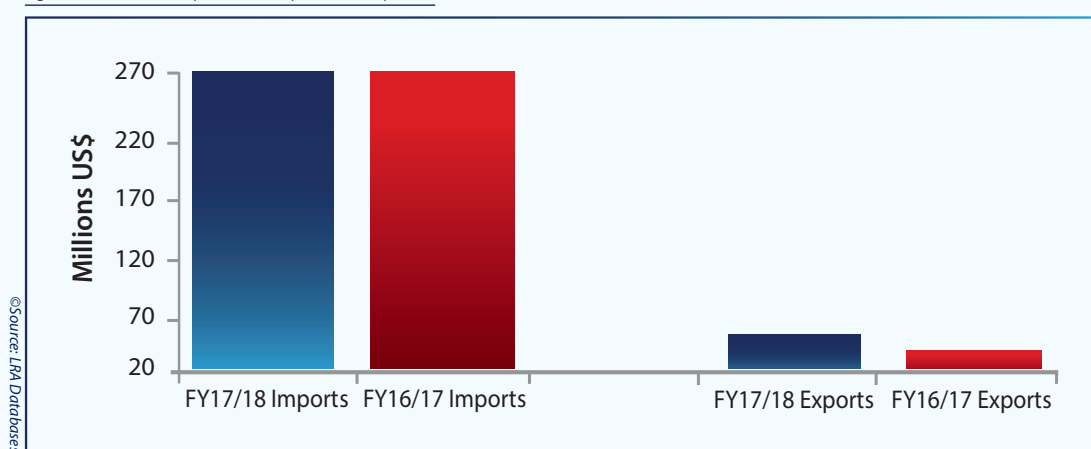
When compared to the same period of FY16/17, the import value declined by US\$4.45 million or 1.6 percent. The decline in import value relative to the same period last fiscal year can reasonably be attributed to electioneering uncertainties as vendors delay procurement or investment decisions. Unlike imports, exports recorded a growth of 34 percent over the previous. The major drivers of the growth in export value during the first quarter of FY17/18 are minerals and rubber, accounting for 50 percent and 39 percent respectively.

IMPORTS

Imports recorded during the period are broadly classified under commercial and noncommercial imports. The total value of commercial imports is US\$97.12 million, while noncommercial imports is US\$179.07 million. The tables below show the major commodities imported during the period by broad HS heading description. Accordingly, the top five commodities imported under commercial

imports category during the period are petroleum products, electrical machinery and home appliances, transportation, textiles, and home chemicals. Together, they constitute 53 percent of the total import value. See Appendices 8 and 9 for detailed commercial and non-commercial imports.

Figure 13: Year on Comparison of Imports and Exports

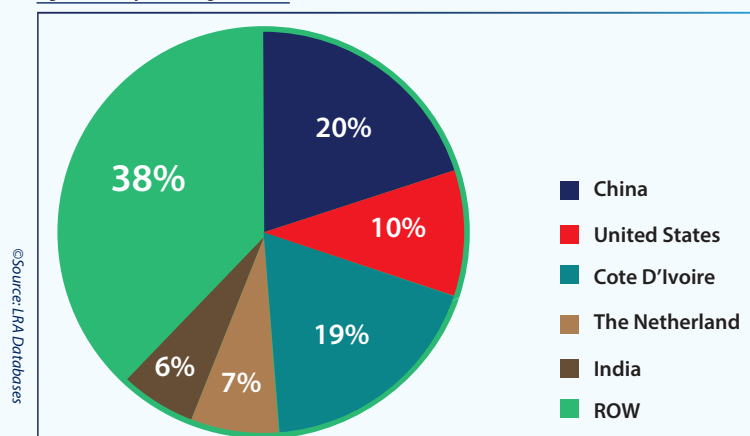


Imports by Country of Origin

The major trading partners, as defined by the country of origin, during the first quarter of FY17/18 are China, Cote D'Ivoire, United States, the Netherlands and India. Together they account for approximately 62 percent of the total trade value.

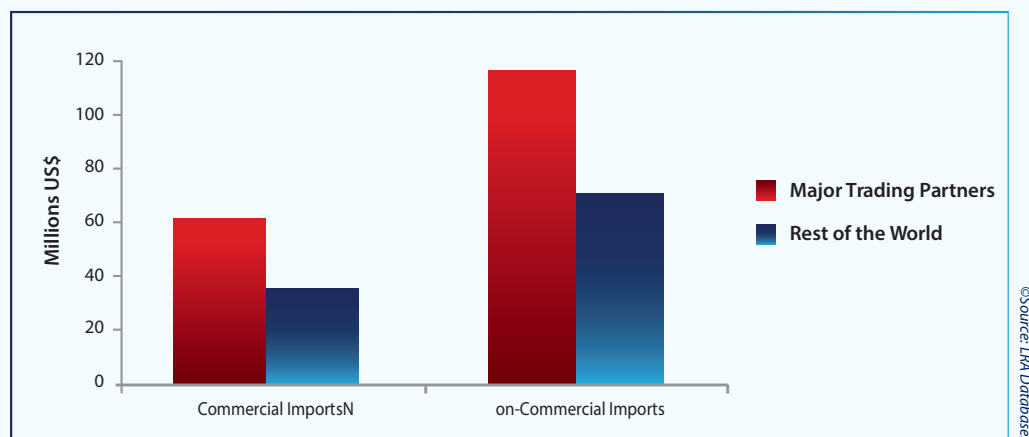
With the exception on Cote D'Ivoire, where the majority of our petroleum products come from, import trade with regional bodies such as ECOWAS and MRU remains relatively weak compared to the European and Asia. The total values of trade with ECOWAS and the MRU remain minimal compared to the Asia and Europe and United States of America.

Figure 14: Major Trading Partners



Approximately 61 percent of commercial and noncommercial imports come from our major trading partners

Figure 15: Commercial and Non-commercial Imports (Trading Partners vs. the ROW)



EXPORTS

Commodity export, which basically constitutes minerals and rubber products account for the lion share of the total exports for the quarter. In particular, mineral exports account for 50 percent of total export while rubber product exports represent 39 percent.

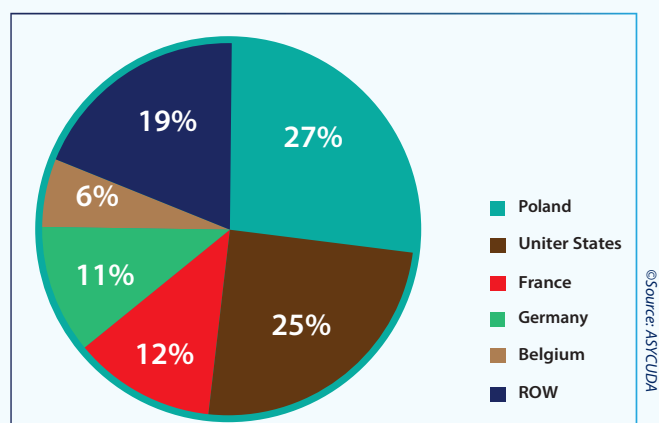
Table 7: Major Export Commodities

Commodities Descriptions	Permanent Export	Re-Exportation	Total Export	Share (%)
Mineral Products (Iron Ore, Unrefined Gold, etc.)	34,799	-	34,799	50%
Plastics/Rubbers (Tires, Latex, etc.)	27,149	178	27,327	39%
Animal or Vegetables Fats & Oil	2,772	-	2,772	4%
Cocoa and Cocoa Preparation	1,238	-	1,238	2%
Others	1,418	2,532	3,949	6%

©Source: ASYCUDA

The major export destinations registered during the quarter are Poland, United States, France, Germany and Belgium. Approximately 75 percent of the quarterly exports were headed to Europe.

Figure 16: Major Export Destinations





GENERAL WAIVERS

The total amount of waivers, on account of international trade, during the quarter is US\$28.29 million. Waivers on general goods, excluding petroleum, is US\$27.29 million representing 96.5 percent of total waivers while waivers on petroleum products account the remaining 3.5 percent. These waivers are informed by various policy instruments, including incentive certificates issued under the Section 16 of the Revenue Code, Executive Orders, Government contracts and procurements, concession agreements, and diplomatic privileges.

In term of policy instruments, Executive Orders accounts for the lion share of total waivers on general goods, which is 24 percent. This is following by Section 16 certificates, 22 percent; concession agreement, 17 percent; MACs, 12 percent; government project, 11

percent; and diplomatic mission 11 percent. When total general goods waivers are viewed on a monthly basis, September accounts US\$9.84 million of total general goods waivers. See Appendix 6 for detailed waivers by policy instruments and institutions.

WAIVERS ON PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

Total waiver on petroleum products during the first quarter of FY17/18 is US\$1.00 million, equivalent to 3,033,000 gallons. When total waiver on petroleum is distributed according to product type, AGO accounts for 89.3 percent while PMS account for 10.7 percent. The distribution of waiver on petroleum is presented in the table below.

Table 8: Waivers on Petroleum Products

CATEGORY	September			First Quarter FY17/18			Share
	AGO	PMS	WAIVED	AGO	PMS	WAIVED	%
WAIVER	735,500	30,000	241,820	2,707,500	325,500	1,000,775	100%
WAIVER EXCL. GOL PROJ.	668,500	30,000	215,020	2,487,000	325,500	912,575	91%
CONCESSIONS	361,000	2,500	80,445	1,274,500	2,500	286,625	29%
DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS	140,500		56,200	570,500	7,000	231,350	23%
LEGISLATURE	68,500	27,500	39,775	145,500	316,000	200,400	20%
Representatives	5,000	27,500	14,375	55,500	221,000	121,650	12%
Senators	63,500		25,400	90,000	95,000	78,750	8%
INVESTMENT INCENTIVES	92,000		36,800	380,000		152,000	15%
GOL PROJECTS	67,000		26,800	220,500		88,200	9%
Hydro Rehabilitation	19,000		7,600	56,500		22,600	2.3%
Port Rehabilitation	13,000		5,200	27,000		10,800	1.1%
Road	35,000		14,000	137,000		54,800	5%
EXECUTIVE ORDER	4,000		800	109,000		39,200	4%
INGOs	2,500		1,000	7,500		3,000	0.3%

©Source: ASYCUDA

A total of 765,500 gallons were waived in September, of which AGO accounted for 96 percent while PMS accounted for 4 percent. The top beneficiaries for September are concessions, 33 percent; diplomatic missions, 23 percent; Legislature, 16 percent; investment incentives, 15 percent; and GOL projects, 11 percent.

ADMINISTRATIVE INITIATIVES

PART FOUR



Several administrative measures were undertaken during the first quarter of FY17/18. These measures were basically geared toward enhancing revenue mobilization, improving voluntary compliance and positively impacting taxpayers' behavior. Paramount among these measures are an ongoing data cleansing exercise to ensure the correctness, accuracy and reliability of the taxpayer registry; effort to expand the tax base (including the real property tax initiatives, monitoring of filing ratios, audit, arrear collection and follow-up calls to ensure compliance); and direct transfer of tax payment through the commercial banks.

TAXPAYER SEGMENTATION

The divisions within the Domestic Tax Department registered a deficit of US\$2.75 million or 5 percent. This is largely on account of Medium, Small and Micro Tax Division, US\$1.5 million; and Natural Resource Tax Section, US\$0.71 million. Similar

pattern is observed for the month of September, where the various divisions within the Domestic Tax Department registered a deficit of US\$0.25 million or 2 percent.

Table 9: DTD Collections by Taxpayer Segmentation

Division	FY 17/18 September			FY17/18 July-September		
	Target	Actual Outturn	% Var.	Target	Actual Outturn	% of Var.
LTD	8,337	8,466	2%	26,902	27,498	2%
NRTS	2,351	2,779	18%	9,182	8,471	-8%
MSMTD	1,690	1,558	-8%	6,775	5,236	-23%
RETD	330	126	-62%	967	787	-19%
SECTOR	2,038	1,526	-25%	6,021	4,966	-18%
TBO	129	173	34%	500	641	28%
Total	14,875	14,629	-2%	50,346	47,600	-5%

Source: Domestic Tax Department

TAXPAYER REGISTRATION

In quarter one of FY17/17, the total of 4,064 new tax payers' registration forms from Liberia Business Registry were received by the Liberia Revenue Authority through its Tax Payer Service Division, for configuration in the tax system – which are Standard Integrated Government Tax Administration System

(SIGTAS) and Tax Administration System (TAS). Of the total 4,064 forms received, Enterprise businesses accounted for 1,833 or 45 percent, Real Estate owners' accounted for 125 or 3 percent and Individuals accounted for 2,106 or 52 percent respectively.

Table 10: Number of Taxpayers Registered in TAS and SIGTAS during the Quarter

No.	Segmentation	Amount	Composition (%)
1	Enterprise	1,833	45%
2	Real Estate	125	3%
3	Individual	2,106	52%
Total		4,064	100%

©Source: Liberia Business Registry

SUMMARY ACTIVITIES BY BUSINESS OFFICES

Below is a summary of the major happenings during FY17/18 first quarter by business offices.

Department of Customs

In addition to its revenue collection mandate (which is presented in the detailed FY17/18 First Quarter Report), the Department of Customs, in keeping with its approved business plan, undertook the following activities during FY17/18 first quarter.

- Received and investigated two case (through its Technical Operation Division) – one classification and one evaluation. Both cases were reported by aggrieved importers against BIVAC and were accordingly investigated with a final decision reached.
- The Compliance and Enforcement Division (which comprises of Post Clearance Audit, Anti-Smuggling and Collection Enforcement) made 37 interventions.

Sources	Offenses	Number of Intervention	Receivable (US\$)	Amount Paid US\$)	Balance (US\$)
Anti- Smuggling	Under-Declared/Excess	11	19,105	8,545	10,559
Anti-Smuggling	Smuggled Vehicles	1	1,328	1,328	
Anti-Smuggling	Under-Declaration	2	706	706	
Anti-Smuggling	Miss-use of Duty Free	2	29,252	12,000	17,252
Anti-Smuggling	Under-Valuation	1	4,625	0	4,625
Anti-Smuggling	Excess/Undeclared	10	9,298	7,133	2,165
Anti-Smuggling	Excess	2	4,061	2,722	1,338
Anti-Smuggling	Penalty for Excess	1			
SUBTOTAL		30	68,375	32,434	35,939
PCA	Miss-Classification	6	39,748	39,748	
PCA	Mis-Calculation	1	1,590	1,590	
SUBTOTAL		7	41,338	41,338	0
Grand Total	37	109,713	73,772	35,939	
Percent Outstanding					33%

- Continue the monitoring of the impact and result of mitigating measures in place in ASYCUDA. ASYCUDA selectivity analysis show 82 percent of total declaration were PSI consignments and 34 percent were selected RED lane.

Revenue Policy and Strategic Planning Division

The Revenue Policy and Strategic Planning Division, achieve the following during the period.

- Reviewed the LRC and the LRA Act and made the following policy proposals to the MFDP for the Minister's approval and consideration. The objectives of proposed amendment are to simplify the Code, shield the revenue base and improve compliance (see summary table below).

Proposed Amendment		Objective of the proposal
LRC Section 12	Tax on debt due Gov't	To pass on cost of collection to debtor
LRC Section 59	Right of appeal	Protect revenue during appeal hearing
LRC Section 79	Award for informer	To encourage whistleblowing
LRC Section 201	Taxable income	Broaden the definition of gross income to include worldwide income
LRC Section 301	Partnership income	To ensure proper taxing of partnership
LRC Section 400(b)(c)	Dividend for res. Corp.	To shield the revenue base
LRC Section 804 (a)	Imposition of the tax	To ensure the taxation of airport services
LRC Section 806 (f)	Nonresident	To ensure the taxation of nonresident re-insurer
LRC Section 905 (f)	WH on payment	To reduce the threshold for withholding on payment for service rendered.
LRC Section 905 (l)	WH on payment	To nullify the provision
LRC Section 905 (m)	WH on payment	To deter payers from not withholding
LRA Act Section 27	Funding the LRA	To specify the funding modalities of the LRA
LRA Act Section 36	Pension payment	To clarify which agency responsible for payment of pension

- Conducted a national domestic resource mobilization symposium. The symposium, brought together major national and international actors, culminated to the production of a white paper on domestic revenue mobilization. A subsequent domestic revenue mobilization strategy paper is being developed by a consultant.
- Produced FY16/17 annual report. The annual captures FY16/17 revenue performance and key happenings during the fiscal year.
- Produced 48 daily flash, first quarter customs exemption report, and revenue performance report. These reports provide the timely revenue performances and guide the MFD in the execution of the national expenditure budget.
- Completed the first half monthly revenue forecast. The monthly forecast provides the basis for target setting and performance measure for the operational departments.
- Conducted 3 trainings in revenue forecasting and reporting, and one in principle of taxation
- Signed MOUs with Kenya, Uganda, and South Africa on regional and international collaboration and cooperation.
- Proposed the following policy measures to the MFDP for the Minister's approval and consideration
- In collaboration with MFDP and RG3, produced a draft amendment the Excise Law (Chapter 11 of the LRC). The draft amendment significantly simplified and modernized Liberia's excise regime

Professional Ethics Division

The Professional Ethics Division, during the quarter, implemented the following in keeping with its mandate and business plan.

- Investigated 6 cases out of 8 reported cases. Five of the cases were sustained (culpable), of which the administrative sanctions recommended

were 3 dismissals and 2 warnings. In term of the sources of information pertaining to a case, 2 cases were reported by PED, 1 by whistleblower, 1 by internal audit, 3 by Domestic Tax Department and 1 by unspecified source. The nature of each case is presented in the table below:

No.	Nature of cases	Sources	Period
1	Failure to conduct physical examination	Customs	July
2	Smuggling	Customs	August
3	Tampering with flag receipt	Domestic tax	August
4	Tax evasion	Domestic tax	August
5	Delay in issuing tax clearance	Domestic tax	September
6	Unauthorized use of LRA vehicle	Domestic tax	September
7	Obstruction of GST? VAT Awareness	Domestic tax	September
8	Violation of Section 9 of the professional ethics Code	Other	September

- Conducted 23 background checks out of 23 request from HR Twenty-two (22) of the check results came out with no disqualifying information while one (1) was recommended for dismissal.
- Conducted ethics and integrity and asset declaration awareness exercises across the country. Thirty percent of LRA staff participated in both exercises. As a result, 50 senior customs officers have declared their assets. Eight (8) counties have been covered, including Sinoe, Maryland, Grand Bassa, Nimba, River Gee, Rivercess Grand Gedeh and Grand Kru. In addition to the counties, the following offices have been completed: RIA Customs, Marshall Tax Office, Bentol TBO, Internal Audit, Taxpayer Services, ERMD, EDQARD, CG Office, Large Tax, MSMTD, and General Services.
- Collaborated with Ministry of Justice and the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) in investigating a possible money laundering case.

- Represented LRA (through the Revenue Enforcement and Litigation Division) in 4 criminal cases. This was done in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice. One case was rule in favor of the LRA but pending sentencing by Judge. The others are ongoing with MOJ seeking assignment for continuation.
- Heard 14 objection and protest cases. Four of the cases were concluded. Four (4) of the cases concluded and final determination sent to the taxpayers. The remaining cases are to be finalized pending the review of additional requested documents.
- Completed 309 employment and service contracts, prepared Board communications and circulated same to Board members.
- Prepared and submitted petitions for closure to the Tax Court which yielded closure of 37 businesses in various categories.

Legal and Board Affairs

The Legal and Board Affairs Department rendered the following services during first quarter of FY17/18.

- Represented the LRA (through the Revenue Enforcement and Litigation Division) in several civil cases. Out of 30 labor cases, LRA won 10 cases while 6 cases were taken to the Supreme Court on appeal.

Enterprise Risk Management and Compliance Division

In keeping with its approved business plan, the ERMCD undertook the following activities:

- Drafted an enterprise risk management framework.
- Identified and trained 16 risk champions. These risk champions are resident in the various

business units and will work with the respective business units in the drive to mitigate risk.

- Developed a term of reference for risk coordinators, owners and champions – the risk champions are responsible for the coordination of risk management activities within their respective business areas and report the risk owners. For their part, the risk owners are responsible for developing an understanding of and becoming competent in the implementation of risk management principles and practices in the work areas. In short, the risk owners are responsible for managing risks to their business units. The enterprise risk management coordinators role includes the collation and consolidation of risk information; liaise with the risk owners in their respective departments in managing and reporting on departmental risks. The ERM risk coordinators report to the ERMCD.
- Conducted training for 60 Customs and ERMCD staff.
- Introduce a vehicle repairs and maintenance application. The vehicle repairs and maintenance application is intended to aid the logistic team in ensuring the timely serving of LRA vehicles.
- Conducted a compliance risk identification assessment for large taxpayers. The assessment ranks risky taxpayers and tax types by sectors. The draft is currently been reviewed by the IMF consultant. The assessment covers the following sectors: construction, wholesale and retail, manufacturing, finance and insurance, and communication. As a result of the risk assessment, 347 high risk taxpayers were identified for comprehensive audit. Consequently, 144 audits were planned of which 109 has been completed. A total of US\$2.9 million and LR\$17.23 million was raised from audit assessment.

Transformation and Modernization

The Transformation and Modernization Division, in keeping with its first quarter business plan, undertook the following activities during the period.

- Conducted Executive Management Steering Committee meeting. The Steering Committee brings together all stakeholders involved with the reform agenda of the LRA.

- Finalized the LRA project inventory and begun the utilization of the Microsoft Office Project Application for the management of the LRA transformational projects.
- Rollout the direct transfer platform for the payment of taxes to the LPRC customs office. All large taxpayers are currently utilizing the direct transfer platform for the payment of taxes. The platform enables taxpayers make payment through commercial banks.
- Completed the term of reference and organization profile of the setup of the Fiscal Investigation Division. Hopefully, the Division will provide quality and timely tax intelligence investigation and enforcement services that foster optimal revenue collection within the LRA.
- Signed a proof of concept agreement for the payment of taxes using mobile money. This will hopefully ease the payment of taxes for small and medium taxpayers.

Internal Audit Division

In keeping with its overall mandate and per business plan, the Internal Audit Division completed the following activities during first quarter of FY17/18.

- Conducted follow-up reviews on agreed audit recommendations to validate implementation and disposition of findings in accordance with agreed timetable.
- Identified several governance issues and made recommendations for restructuring, effective supervision and management oversight. The identification of these issues was a result of full audit of the LRA's operating units.
- Reviewed the risk management policies, procedures and activities of the LRA and made recommendations for improvement.
- Evaluated compliance with the Revenue Code, internal service standards and standing operating procedures of the in Large Tax, Freeport Customs Business Office, Security Management Section, Transport Management Unit, Facility Management Unit, LPRC Customs Business Office, Urban Tax Business Office Human Resource Management, Budget and Finance, and Procurement and Asset Management.

Enterprise Design, Quality Assurance and Result Division

The following activities were carried out by EDQARD in keeping with their business plan

- Started the process of redesigning the monitoring and evaluation framework. The monitoring and evaluation template has been submitted to internal stakeholders and a stakeholder engagement with stakeholder begin effective monitoring of activities of the departments, division, sections and units business plans is underway. The Division also started the preparation of gathering data for monitoring and evaluation reporting.
- Review 21 audit case files from Post Clearance Audit Division and Domestic Tax Department
- Adopted an ISO 9001:2015 integrated quality management system (QMS). The QMS policy has been developed and pending management's approval. A QMS manual and framework are concomitantly being developed.
- One institutional level review of HRD business process is ongoing. Questionnaires have been developed and submitted to relevant staff. Feedbacks have been collected and analyzed. The final report is due in the second quarter.
- Completed three monthly quality assurance activities reports and the QAS FY17/18 first quarter report.



RURAL REVENUE

Revenue generated from the counties (including rural Montserrado) during the period is US\$1.80 million compared to a forecast of US\$1.05. The lead contributors are Nimba, 27 percent; Maryland, 18 percent; Margibi, 13 percent; Cape Mount, 13 percent; Grand Bassa, 8 percent; and Bong, 8 percent. Tax business offices account for 61 percent of total rural revenue. See Appendix 4 for detailed collections by counties and business offices.

CUSTOMS BUSINESS OFFICES

The Division of Port Operations provides supervision over customs field offices (CBOs) responsible for the collection of border taxes. The number of CBOs has increased from 17 to 19 over the last fiscal year primarily due to the operationalization two gold mines which have already started to export. The primary focus of this division is revenue collection which encompasses the uniform application of procedures and relevant laws which support the collection of lawful revenue and the facilitation of legitimate trade. Freeport CBO remains lead driver in revenue generation. An aggregate amount of US\$37.35 million has been collected against a forecast of US\$34.74 million, depicting an over performance of US\$2.61

million or 6 percent above quarterly target. The urban Customs Business Offices contributed 99 percent to the total revenue collected during the period, of which Freeport CBO accounted for 72 percent followed by the LPRC CBO with 20 percent. The rural CBOs, comprising 11 border offices, combined contribution for the quarter is under one percent of the quarter's total collection. This is partly a result of the ongoing infrastructure challenge. Bad road network continues to impede intra-regional and/or cross border trade while the absence of automation increases the potential for fraud at land borders. The tables below show disaggregate the revenue collected from each CBO during the period and the percentage achieved. See Appendix 7 for detailed Customs revenue by customs business offices.

MINISTRIES, AGENCIES AND COMMISSIONS

Total revenue collected during the quarter, on account of ministries and agencies, is US\$4.52 million against a target of US\$6.28 million, representing a 28 percent shortfall. In comparison to the FY16/17 first quarter, MACs revenue grew by 4 percent or US\$0.19 million. The month September recorded total MACs revenue of US\$1.50 million against a target of US\$2.03 million. See Appendix 5 for detailed revenue collections by ministries, agencies and commissions.

PART SIX

CONCLUSION



A total of US\$114.99 million was realized during the first quarter of FY17/18, representing 20 percent of the year target of US\$563.56 million. Actual collection for the period surpassed original projection by US\$10.78 million or 10 percent. The first quarter performance came amidst slow pace of economic growth, which can be attributed to the global commodity price fall, post Ebola shocks and the continue depreciation of the Liberian dollar against the United States dollar.

When compared to the same period last, total collection increased by 14 percent. Collection on account of external resource is US\$14.02 million, constituting the FY16/17 European Union grant of US\$11.34 million and USAID FARA grant of US\$2.67 million. Domestic revenue accounted for 97 percent (or 88 percent if FY16/18 obligations are included) of the quarter's target. In term of administrative structure, the Department of Customs accounted for 51 percent of total domestic revenue, while the Domestic Tax Department accounted for 49 percent. The main driver of domestic revenue is tax revenue, accounting for 89 percent.

A US\$206.45 million trade deficit was reported during the period. Similarly, a 20 percent decline in commercial imports was recorded during the period, partly due to skepticism surrounding the elections. Non-commercial imports, on the other hand, increase by 13 percent due to a surge in the importation of vegetable products, food stuff (including rice), military and/or security equipment, electric equipment for the LEC and palm mill equipment for Sime Derby.

The LRA undertook and implemented several administrative initiatives during FY17/18 first quarter, all geared toward enhancing revenue mobilization, improving voluntary compliance and positively impacting taxpayers' behavior. Paramount among these measures are an ongoing data cleansing exercise to ensure the correctness, accuracy and reliability of the tax registry; and efforts to expand the tax base, including real property tax awareness and property registration, monitoring of filing ratios, audits, arrears collection, and the implementation of a direct transfer platform that allows taxpayers to make direct payment through commercial banks.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Detailed Direct Tax Revenue Performance }

	Project	Actual	Variance
Direct Taxes	31,906	29,617	(2,289)
Taxes On Income & Profits	30,940	28,899	(2,041)
Taxes On Residents	29,760	28,052	(1,708)
Personal Income Tax (PIT)	23,435	22,933	(502)
Corporate Income Tax (CIT)	7,172	5,589	(1,582)
Pit Section 200A (Residents)	13	6,722	6,709
PIT For Residents (200A)	13	6,719	6,706
Rural PIT For Residents (200A)	1	4	3
CIT Section 200B (Residents)	7,172	5,589	(1,582)
CIT Rice Prod. (15%) (200B2A)	-	6	6
CIT Mining (30%) (200B2A)	242	-	(242)
CIT Petroleum (30%)(200B2A)	0	-	(0)
CIT Life Insurance (4% On Premium)(200B2B)	130	68	(62)
CIT Regular (25%)(200B2C)	6,800	5,516	(1,284)
Presumptive Section 200C (Small Tax)	333	376	43
Presumptive (Small Tax) (4%)(200C)	215	188	(27)
RUR- Rural Presumptive Tax (200C) For Small Taxpayers (4%)	118	188	70
Withholding Taxes (Residents)	22,242	15,364	(6,878)
WH (Res.) On Salaries And Wages	17,116	10,399	(6,717)
Rur- Rural Wh On Salaries And Wages(Residents)	246	452	206
WH (Res.) On Rent	806	22	(785)
Rur- Rural Withholding On Rent(Residents)	16	3	(13)
WH (Res.) On Payments For Serv. Rendered	2,986	3,038	52
WH (Res.) On Interest, Dividends, Royalties, License Fees	215	842	627
WH (Res.) On Payments Of Acquisition Price	85	145	60
WH (Res.) Of Income On Rubber Sales 4%	159	211	52
WH (Res.) On Game Winnings	20	22	2
WH (Res.) On Property Tax(Resident)	0	0	(0)
WH By Gol 1%, 2 & 4% (Resident)	592	229	(363)
Taxes On Non-Residents	1,180	847	(333)
WH (Non-Res.) On Rent	9	11	2
WH (Non-Res.) On Payments For Services Rendered	510	674	165
WH (Non-Res.) On Interest, Dividends, Royalties, License Fees	239	162	(77)
WH (Non-Res.) On Payments Of Acquisition Price	418	-	(418)
WH (Non-Res.) On Other Payments By Government Agency	3	0.31	(3)

Direct Taxes	Project	Actual	Variance
	31,906	29,617	(2,289)
WH (Non-Res.) On Game Winnings	1	-	(1)
Taxes On Payroll And Workforce	-	0.34	0.34
Taxes On Payroll And Workforce	-	0.34	0.34
Taxes On Payroll And Workforce	-	0.34	0.34
Taxes On Payroll And Workforce	-	0.34	0.34
Taxes On Property	967	718	(248)
Recurrent Taxes On Immovable Property	967	718	(249)
Taxes On Unimproved Land Within City, Town, Municipal Or Commonwealth District	59	51	(8)
City Or Town Lot (Within City, Town, Municipal)	43	32	(11)
Farmland (Within City, Town, Municipal Or Commonwealth District)	0	0	0
Other Land Use 1 Acre Or Above (Within City, Town)	16	19	3
Taxes On Unimproved Land Outside City, Town	3	15	12
Farmland (Outside City, Town, Municipal Or Commonwealth District)	3	15	12
Taxes On Improved Land No Matter Where Situated	904	652	(252)
Business Or Commercial Use	701	505	(196)
Industrial Use	84	57	(26)
Residential Use	93	77	(17)
Farm Use In Urban Areas	-	0	0
Farm Use Outside Of Urban Areas	1	1	1
Buildings And Other Improvements Situated On Public Land For Commercial Use	26	12	(15)
Buildings And Other Improvements Situated On Public Land For Residential Use	-	0	0
Recurrent Taxes On Net Wealth	-	0.049	0.049
Recurrent Taxes On Net Wealth	-	0.049	0.049
Recurrent Taxes On Net Wealth	-	0.049	0.049
Estate, Inheritance, & Gift Taxes	-	0.079	0.079
Estate, Inheritance, And Gift Taxes	-	0.079	0.079
Estate, Inheritance, And Gift Taxes	-	0.079	0.079
Taxes On Financial & Capital Transactions	-	0.059	0.059
Taxes On Financial And Capital Transactions	-	0.059	0.059
Taxes On Financial And Capital Transactions	-	0.059	0.059

©Source: LRA Databases

Note: Figures in '000US\$

Appendix 2: Detailed Indirect Tax Revenue Performance }

	Projection	Actual	Variance
Indirect Taxes	52,857	56,523	3,666
GENERAL TAXES ON GOODS & SERVICES	6,944	6,054	(890)
Sales Taxes (Goods)	1,643	1,800	157
Domestic Goods Tax	1,634	1,797	163
RUR- RURAL Domestic Goods Tax	8	3	(6)
Sales Taxes (Services)	5,302	4,254	(1,048)
Service Tax	5,243	4,206	(1,037)
RUR- RURAL Service Tax	59	48	(11)
EXCISE TAXES (DOMESTIC)	935	1,446	511
Excise Taxes On Domestic Goods	935	1,446	511
Excise Tax	935	1,446	511
TAXES ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE	44,978	49,022	4,045
CUSTOMS AND OTHER IMPORT DUTIES	44,853	48,964	4,111
IMPORT DUTIES	23,193	28,291	5,098
Import duties on goods other than rice and petroleum	14,859	20,227	5,368
Import duties on rice	3	0	(3)
Import duties on petroleum products	5,320	5,579	259
ECOWAS trade levy	1,102	859	(242)
Other import duties	1,909	1,626	(284)
OTHER CUSTOMS CHARGES ON IMPORTS	18,621	19,744	1,123
Transshipment fees	12	25	13
Local fish levy	1	-	(1)
Special tax on agricultural products	0	0	(0)
Customs user fees	702	832	131
Vehicle entry permit	0	0	0
Customs penalties and fines	1,294	918	(376)
GST on imported goods (excluding petroleum)	12,256	12,713	457
Pre-shipment inspection	511	548	38
GST on imported petroleum	3,846	4,707	861
EXCISE TAXES ON IMPORTED GOODS	3,038	929	(2,109)
Excise tax on alcoholic beverages (imported)	1,041	199	(842)
Excise tax on tobacco and tobacco products	624	131	(493)
Excise tax on luxury automobiles (imported)	5	-	(5)
Excise tax on earth, stone and asbestos (imported)	-	-	-
Excise tax on non-alcoholic beverages (imported)	400	172	(229)
Excise tax on other imported goods n.e.c.	967	428	(539)
FEES AND OTHER LEVIES ON EXPORTS	125	58	(67)
FEES ON EXPORT	123	56	(67)
Cocoa and coffee	67	29	(38)
Other Agricultural Products	0	-	(0)
Forest products	1	0	(0)
Other exports	55	27	(28)
EXCISE ON EXPORTED GOODS	2	2	(0)
Excise tax on scrap metal (exported)	2	2	(0)
Excise taxes on other exported goods n.e.c.	0	-	(0)

Source: LRA Databases

Appendix 3: Detailed Property Income

PROPERTY INCOME	Projection	Actual	Variance
	2,964	5,345	2,381
INTEREST INCOME	-	0.10	0.10
INTEREST	-	0	0
Interest from private entities (domestic)	-	0.10	.10
ROYALTIES & RENT	2,925	5,285	2,359
Forestry	999	1,378	79
Forestry (FMCs)	997	1,378	381
Stumpage Premium -(FMCs & TSCs)	302	429	126
Area fees (forestry - FMCs)	84	29	(56)
Contract administration fees (forestry - FMCs)	60	1	(59)
Stumpage fees GoL share	136	564	428
Chain of custody for stumpage share	111	0	(111)
Timber Export license fee	3	2	(1)
Log and wood product export fee	268	340	72
Chain of custody management fee	21	-	(21)
Forest product fees (Forestry - FMCs)	6	2	(5)
Other fees (Forestry - FMCs)	5	12	7
Forestry (TSCs)	2	1	(2)
Area fees (Forestry - TSCs)	2	0	(2)
Forest product fees (Forestry - TSCs)	0	-	(0)
Other fees (Forestry - TSCs)	-	0	0
Mineral Mining	1,398	2,192	794
Mineral Mining	169	246	77
Surface rental - Land in mineral exploration and mining areas	169	246	77
Mineral Royalty	1,139	1,920	781
Royalties Iron ore 4.5% (mineral mining)	10	130	120
Royalties Iron ore - Other (Agreements) (mineral mining)	0	-	(0)
Royalties Gold and other base metals 3% (mineral mining)	1,035	1,575	540
Royalties Gold and other base metals - Other (Agreements)	3	-	(3)
Royalties Commercial Diamonds 5% (mineral mining)	-	-	-
Royalties Commercial Diamonds - Other (Agreements) (mineral mining)	91	215	124
Other Mineral Mining	89	26	(63)
Class B license (mineral mining)	57	-	(57)
Class C license (mineral mining)	12	20	8
Other fees (mineral mining)	20	6	14)
Intangible Non-produced Assets	463	1,644	1,181
Facility Based Operators License Fees	463	1,644	1,181
Cellular Mobile Networks	463	1,644	1,181
Rent and rates - other non-produced assets	46	56	11
Rent and rates - other non-produced assets from other government units	-	56	56
Other fees (intangible non-produced assets)	46	-	(46)
Others	19	13	(6)
Rental of bonded warehouses	4	10	6

© Source: LRA Databases

PROPERTY INCOME	Projection	Actual	Variance
	2,964	5,345	2,381
Other fees (other)	15	4	(11)
Asset sales	39	60	22
Asset sales	39	60	22
Sale of non-produced government assets/properties	39	60	22

Appendix 4: Revenue Collections by Counties and Business Offices }

		September	FY17/18 First Quarter	
Counties and Business Offices	Target	Actual	Target	Actual
Bomi County	4,323	13,782	16,031	46,300
Bomi (TBO)	4,323	13,782	16,031	46,300
Bong County	28,538	29,656	84,794	152,370
Gbarnga (TBO)	13,538	20,656	43,794	112,370
Jorwah(CBO)	15,000	9,000	41,000	40,000
Gbarpolu County	1,050	866	3,893	2,797
Bopolu/Gbarma(TBO)	1,050	866	3,893	2,797
Grand Bassa County	17,679	50,834	65,554	150,430
Buchanan (TBO)	17,679	50,834	65,554	150,430
Buchanan (CBO)	-	-	-	-
Grand Cape Mount County	58,498	45,564	146,588	240,238
Cape Mount (TBO)	13,498	31,564	52,588	101,238
Bo-Waterside (CBO)	45,000	14,000	94,000	139,000
Grand Gedeh County	14,082	17,573	50,249	44,408
Zwedru (TBO)	5,082	10,573	18,249	24,408
Toe Town(CBO)	9,000	7,000	32,000	20,000
Grand Kru County	411	625	1,528	3,494
Grand Kru (TBO)	411	625	1,528	3,494
Lofa County	34,083	30,395	83,429	96,335
Kolahun/Foya (TBO)	1,017	932	3,769	4,215
Voinjama/Zorzor(TBO)	2,066	2,463	7,660	10,121
Yealla (CBO)	23,000	18,000	51,000	58,000
Mendicorma (CBO)	8,000	9,000	21,000	24,000
Margibi County	26,373	62,866	99,091	230,048
Marshall (TBO)	16,183	39,444	63,255	169,312
Kakata/Salala (TBO)	10,190	23,422	35,836	60,737
Maryland County	47,831	89,400	148,785	325,395
Harper (TBO)	30,831	79,400	111,785	288,395
Harper (CBO)	17,000	10,000	37,000	37,000
Montserrado County	2,754	2,169	10,211	11,052
Bensonville (TBO)	2,754	2,169	10,211	11,052
Nimba County	88,299	110,096	331,834	482,775
Tappita(TBO)	1,147	2,317	4,253	7,311

	September		FY17/18 First Quarter	
Counties and Business Offices	Target	Actual	Target	Actual
Ganta (TBO)	10,744	24,914	39,189	69,354
Sanniquellie (TBO)	3,408	7,865	18,393	28,111
Loguatu (CBO)	31,000	32,000	141,000	231,000
Ganta (CBO)	42,000	43,000	129,000	147,000
Butuo (CBO)	-	-	-	-
River Gee County	1,370	2,428	5,082	7,265
Webbo (TBO)	1,370	2,428	5,082	7,265
Rivercess County	-	-	594	620
Rivercess (TBO)	-	-	594	620
Sinoe County	1,709	2,533	6,337	11,420
Greenville/Juarzon (TBO)	1,709	2,533	6,337	11,420
Greenville (CBO)	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	327,000	458,787	1,054,000	1,804,948

Appendix 5: Revenue Collections by Ministries, Agencies and Commissions

Description	September			FY 17/18 Quarter 1		
	Target 000US\$	Actual 000US\$	Var. (%)	Target 000US\$	Actual 000US\$	Var. (%)
MACs	2,029	1,498	-26%	6,277	4,523	-28%
Agriculture	19	21	10%	104	67	-36%
Commerce & Industry	2	7	287%	13	15	12%
Education	4	11	178%	8	18	130%
Fire Service	8	3	-59%	14	11	-22%
Foreign Affairs	250	193	-23%	802	627	-22%
Forestry Development Authority	1	20	3144%	2	21	790%
Gender Culture & Social Protection	-	1	0%	-	1	0%
Health & Social Welfare	20	16	-20%	77	54	-30%
Immigration & Naturalization	407	340	-16%	1,150	959	-17%
Industrial Property Office	2	1	-64%	10	3	-72%
Information	13	0	-98%	27	5	-82%
Internal Affairs	33	10	-70%	64	41	-36%
Justice	5	5	4%	30	13	-55%
Labor	433	296	-32%	1,116	952	-15%
Lands, Mines & Energy	33	20	-40%	81	31	-61%
Liberia Business Registry	217	145	-33%	512	468	-9%
Liberia Copyright Office	0	-	-100%	0	0	-70%
Liberia National Police	3	2	-41%	10	6	-39%
National Documents & Records	24	18	-26%	63	57	-10%
Other Ministries & Agencies	4	4	-13%	279	22	-92%
Post & Telecommunication	7	0	-97%	173	21	-88%
Public Works	56	35	-38%	97	118	-40%
Temple of Justice	3	0	-93%	11	1	-94%
Transport	485	350	-28%	1,533	1,012	-34%
Youth & Sports	-	0	0%	-	0	0%

Source: LRA Databases

Appendix 6: Waivers by Policy Instruments and Institutions

CATEGORY	Sept 1-30 FY17/18			July-Sept FY17/18	
	CIF (000US\$)	PAID (000US\$)	WAIVED (000US\$)	WAIVED (000US\$)	YTD (%)
Total waiver	50,078	401	9,865	27,285	100%
Total waiver excluding GOL projects and MACs	42,691	398	8,425	21,174	78%
Total waiver excluding GOL projects	48,187	398	9,524	24,339	89%
Total waiver excluding MACs	44,582	401	8,766	24,120	88%
Executive Orders	16,741	81	3,122	6,572	24%
Investment incentives	10,894	167	2,767	5,947	22%
Concessions	9,090	134	1,579	4,616	17%
MACS	5,496		1,099	3,165	12%
Diplomatic Missions	4,032		541	3,006	11%
Government Projects	1,891	3	341	2,946	11%
<i>Air Port renovation</i>	387		62	791	3%
<i>GOL</i>	1		0	15	0.05%
<i>Hydro</i>	618	1	129	335	1.23%
<i>Infrastructure</i>	66		6	75	0.27%
<i>Road</i>	818	2	144	1,700	6%
<i>Water</i>	1			30	0.11%
INGOs	1,368	5	313	698	3%
Legislature	61	1	19	93	0.341%
<i>Representatives</i>	39	1	12	65	0.238%
<i>Senators</i>	22	0	7	28	0.103%
Medical Institutions	31		5	67	0.246%
LNGOs	256	5	30	63	0.231%
Liberian returnees	67	1	14	57	0.209%
Educational institutions	93	2	24	32	0.117%
Religious organizations	58	2	11	21	0.077%
Judiciary				2	0.007%

©Source: ASYCUDA

Appendix 7: Customs Revenue by Customs Business Offices¹

First Quarter (July-September) Comparative Analysis		
Customs Business Offices	FY16/17 Actual	FY17/18 Actual
TOTAL CUSTOMS	45,577	51,222
URBAN PORTS	43,991	50,524
Free Ports	31,754	37,358
RIA	985	408
Parcel Post	2	3
MLM&E	1,870	1,920
LPRC	8,937	10,286
BIVAC	443	548
RURAL PORTS	1,586	698
Loguatu	147	231
Ganta	97	147
Buchanan	433	-
Greenville	626	-
Toe Town	66	20
Harper	59	37
Yealla	57	58
Jorwah	41	40
Butuo	0	0
Mendicorma	32	24
Bo-Waterside	28	139

Descriptions	First Quarter				September			
	Budget	Actual	Var	Achieved	Budget	Actual	Var.	Achieved
TOTAL CUSTOMS	46,389	51,222	10%	110%	14,852	15,950	7%	107%
URBAN PORTS	45,843	50,524	10%	110%	14,662	15,810	8%	108%
Free Ports	34,744	37,358	6%	108%	11,056	11,449	3%	104%
RIA	418	408	0%	98%	131	155	0%	118%
Parcel Post	2	3	0%	142%	1	1	0%	138%
MLM&E	1,139	1,920	2%	169%	409	838	3%	205%
LPRC	9,016	10,286	3%	114%	2,893	3,145	2%	109%
BIVAC	524	548	0%	105%	173	223	0%	129%
RURAL PORTS	546	698	0%	128%	189	141	0%	74%
Loguatu	141	231	0%	164%	31	32	0%	102%
Ganta	129	147	0%	115%	42	43	0%	103%
Buchanan	-	-	0%	0%	-	-	0%	0%
Greenville	-	-	0%	0%	-	-	0%	0%
Toe Town	32	20	0%	63%	9	7	0%	79%
Harper	37	37	0%	101%	17	10	0%	57%
Yealla	51	58	0%	114%	23	18	0%	77%
Jorwah	41	40	0%	98%	15	9	0%	61%
Butuo	0	0	0%	101%	0	0	0%	76%
Mendicorma	21	24	0%	113%	8	9	0%	117%
Bo-Waterside	94	139	0%	149%	45	14	0%	31%

Appendix 8: Commercial Imports }

Broad Commodity Description	Sept. FY17/18	First Quarter FY17/18	Share
	CIF 000US\$	CIF 000US\$	%
Mineral Products Diesel and Gasoline	11,003	15,158	16%
Machinery/Electrical Filter dryers and Battery chargers	4,834	14,307	15%
Transportation Used vehicles and spare parts	3,018	8,230	8%
Textiles Used/worn clothes	1,935	6,791	7%
Chemicals & Allied Industries Dentifrices	2,131	6,320	7%
Miscellaneous Edible Preparation Tomato ketchup, Cubes	1,454	4,628	5%
Metals	1,027	4,467	5%
Prepared Cereals, Flour Starch or Milk	1,666	4,038	4%
Meat and Edible Meat Offal	1,172	3,771	4%
Wood & Wood Products Exercise books and Hard board	1,081	3,393	3%
Plastics/Rubbers Fishing materials, feeding bottles	1,160	3,360	3%
Fish and Crustaceans, Mollusks & Invertebrates	1,187	3,133	3%
Dairy Product, birds eggs, Natural Honey Infant milk	664	2,385	2%
Vegetable Products Onions, Apples and Wheat)	654	2,333	2%
Stone/Glass	918	2,245	2%
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	742	2,114	2%
Mineral Water, Beverages, Spirits and Vinegar	594	2,063	2%
Sugar and Sugar Confectionary	400	1,935	2%
Footwear/Headgear	277	1,720	2%
Prepared Meat, Fish, Crustaceans,	520	1,573	2%
Animal or Vegetables Fats & Oil	71	1,045	1%
Major Imports	36,509	95,009	98%
Others	624	2,106	2%
Total Imports	37,133	97,115	100%

©Source: LRA Databases

Appendix 9: Non-commercial Imports }

Commodity Description	Sept FY17/18	Quarter 1	Share
	CIF VALUE (000US\$)	CIF VALUE (000US\$)	YTD %
Mineral Products Motor Oil, Cement, Break Fluid	6,868	40,487	23%
Vegetable Products Onions, Apples, Wheat	10,846	2,886	18%
Chemicals & Allied Industries Dentifrices	16,794	24,391	14%
Machinery/Electrical Generator, Battery, Television	9,098	23,072	13%
Transportation Used Vehicles and Parts	4,451	14,497	8%
Plastics/Rubbers	2,421	12,559	7%
Metals	3,066	10,104	6%
Optical, photographic; parts and accessories thereof.	3,265	6,469	4%
Animal or Vegetables Fats & Oil	3,651	3,846	2%
Stone/Glass	1,263	2,168	1%
Arms and ammunition	1,870	1,878	1%
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	805	1,820	1%
Textiles (Used Clothing)	380	1,276	1%

©Source: LRA Databases

Commodity Description	Sept FY17/18	Quarter 1	Share
	CIF VALUE (000US\$)	CIF VALUE (000US\$)	YTD %
Mineral Water, Beverages, Spirits and Vinegar	464	1,016	1%
Major Imports	65,243	176,468	99%
Others	1,045	2,598	1%
Total Imports	66,288	179,066	100%

Appendix 10: Total Imports According to Customs Procedure }

INDICATOR	CPC DESCRIPTION	COM (000US\$)	NON-COM (000US\$)	TOTAL (000US\$)
Normal Import	Normal Import	97,115	179,066	276,182
	Pre-shipment Inspection Outside ECOWAS (PSI)	83,260	60,975	144,235
	Imports for Direct Home Consumption	83,260	58,043	141,303
	Imports for Bonded Warehouse	-	2,932	2,932
	Destination Inspection outside of ECOWAS (IM)	2,317	75,359	77,677
	Imports for Direct Home Consumption	2,317	74,442	76,760
	Transit & Transshipment	-	724	724
	Temporary Imports	-	141	141
	Imports for Bonded Warehouse	-	52	52
	Destination Inspection within ECOWAS (COM)	11,422	41,392	52,814
	Imports for Bonded Warehouse	-	39,014	39,014
	Imports for Direct Home Consumption	11,422	2,378	13,800
	Special Release Outside of ECOWAS (SRI)	0	1,330	1,330
	Imports for Direct Home Consumption	0	1,330	1,330
	Simplified Declaration Outside the ECOWAS (SDI)	116	-	116
	Imports for Direct Home Consumption	116	-	116
	Simplified Declaration Within the ECOWAS (SDC)	-	10	10
	Imports for Direct Home Consumption	-	10	10
	Draw Down	21,092	1,654	22,746
	Destination Inspection within ECOWAS (COM)	20,742	893	21,634
	Imports for Bonded Warehouse	20,742	893	21,634
	Destination Inspection outside of ECOWAS (IM)	350	761	1,112
	Imports for Direct Home Consumption	350	761	1,112
Grand Total		118,208	180,720	298,928

©Source: AS/CUDA

Appendix 11: Imports by Country of Origin }

Country/Commodities	Comm. CIF (000US\$)	Non-Comm. CIF (000US\$)	Total (000US\$)	Share %
China	30,198	26,206	56,404	20%
Machinery/Electrical (Generator Battery, Television)	9,368	6,501	15,869	6%
Metals	2,234	4,097	6,331	2%
Vegetable Products (Onions, Apples, Wheat)	140	5,544	5,685	2%
Transportation (Used Vehicles and Parts)	1,943	2,963	4,906	2%
Textiles (Used Clothing's)	3,493	228	3,721	1%
Chemicals & Allied Industries (Dentifrices, ORS)	1,974	1,396	3,370	1%
Cote D'ivoire	12,431	39,299	51,730	19%
Mineral Products (Diesel, Gasoline, etc.)	10,207	39,134	49,342	18%
Chemicals & Allied Industries (Oral Rehydration Salt)	1,348	-	1,348	0%
Miscellaneous Edible Preparation (Tomato ketchup, Cubes etc.)	725	-	725	0%
Wood & Wood Products (Exercise books, Hardboard0	23	103	126	0%
United States	7,516	20,184	27,700	10%
Vegetable Products (Onions, Apples, Wheat)	489	10,329	10,817	4%
Machinery/Electrical (Generator Battery, Television)	269	3,295	3,564	1%
Textiles (Used Clothing's)	2,780	265	3,045	1%
Plastics/Rubbers (fishing materials, water tank, etc.)	93	2,535	2,628	1%
Transportation (Used Vehicles and Parts)	1,721	752	2,473	1%
Netherlands	3,003	15,574	18,577	7%
Chemicals & Allied Industries (Dentifrices, Oral Rehydration Salt, etc.)	214	13,859	14,073	5%
Vegetable Products (Onions, Apples, Wheat)	875	14	889	0%
Prepared Cereals, Flour Starch or Milk	676	-	676	0%
Transportation (Used Vehicles and Parts)	119	552	671	0%
Dairy Product, birds eggs, Natural Honey, etc.)	411	21	432	0%
India	6,888	9,101	15,989	6%
Machinery/Electrical (Generator Battery, Television)	345	3,495	3,840	1%
Metals	95	2,393	2,488	1%
Transportation (Used Vehicles and Parts)	1,695	194	1,889	1%
Chemicals & Allied Industries (Dentifrices	1,174	684	1,859	1%
Vegetable Products (Onions, Apples, Wheat)	60	1,395	1,455	1%
Major Trading Partners	60,035	110,364	170,399	62%
ROW	37,080	68,702	105,783	38%
Total Imports	97,115	179,066	276,182	100%

©Source: ASYCUDA

For More Information Contact:

*Liberia Revenue Authority
ELWA Junction, Paynesville
Monrovia, Liberia*

Visit our website at:

*www.lra.gov.lr
info@lra.gov.lr*

Contact Us:

*+231-0888-572-572
+231-0770-572-572*