



Media Release

Appointment of Mr. Sam Loi as Acting Commissioner of Tax



Commissioner General of IRC, Sam Koim today announced the appointment of Mr Samuel Loi as the Acting Commissioner of Tax for a period of three months.

The National Executive Council (NEC), in its decision No. 119/2020 made on 29 April 2020 appointed Mr. Loi as the Acting Commissioner of Tax (COT) for a period of three months. The Head of State sanctioned the decision through National Gazette, No. G277, dated 15th May 2020.

Mr. Loi's career with IRC began as a Source Collection/SWT Auditor within the then Revenue Assessment Division in 1999 when he first joined. He was later promoted to Non-Specialist Company Assessor in 2001.

In 2003, he was promoted to Complex Auditor within the same Division. In 2008, Mr. Loi was handed the Senior Resource Company Auditor position and was an incumbent for three years.

In 2011, another appointment came when he was promoted director for Large Business – Banking and Finance. Then in 2013, Mr. Loi became Acting Assistant Commissioner for Tax Audit Division, and followed on to become an Assistant Commissioner in 2014.

On September of 2018, Mr. Loi became Assistant Commissioner to head the Large Taxpayers Office until, his recent appointment as acting COT was declared in April this year by the NEC.

IRC's Commissioner General Sam Koim was privilege to announce Mr. Loi's appointment in a small gathering held today (21 May 2020) at Revenue Haus in Port Moresby.

"Mr. Loi's successes and experience gained over time with IRC will be applied to manage the Tax Wing during his short term. We've had three lawyers at the Commission level since I took office and hence I had to initiate this change to make sure that we have an accountant here to crunch the numbers for me." Mr. Koim added.

The CG acknowledged the work done by Commissioner Pauline Bre and Acting Commissioner Elijah Titus at the time the organization was going through a leadership transition. "Ms. Bre will now return to her substantive positions as Commissioner Services and Mr. Titus to his substantive position as Assistant Commissioner Legal Services Division.

There is a lot of tax legal reforms that we are driving on behalf of Treasury with due dates closely tied to debt financing of government budget hence requires the special attention, skills and expertise of Mr Titus to drive that," Koim said. "Ms. Bre will also assist in improving governance and performance of the IRC as a tax administration consistent with the IRC's Annual Plan 2020 to "Build the foundations of a robust, modern and efficient tax administration". He concluded.

Mr. Loi in accepting his appointment said, "During the three-month period, I look forward to assisting the Commission in three key areas of the annual plan, i) addressing timely filing, payment and processing, ii) follow through with the compliance initiatives on GST withholding recently announced with its supporting business process, and initiate targeted compliance based on reliable cross agency intel.

Part of the three months' work will be to assess the impact of Covid-19 especially SOE restrictions on taxpayers to review the tax measures announced under phase 1."

In the meantime, the position of the Commissioner of Tax will be advertised soon for a permanent appointment to be made by the NEC.

Authorized for Release

**Mr. Sam Koim LLB (Hons)
Commissioner General**

