

SARS Auto-assessments

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SARS recently came up with the new initiative of creating auto-assessments for taxpayers.

SARS makes use of data they receive from employers, financial institutions, medical schemes, retirement annuity fund administrators and other 3rd party data providers to create the auto-assessment.

If you have been auto-assessed, you will receive a SMS indicating that you have been auto assessed with a link to the e-filing website or SARS Mobi-app. Once you have clicked on the link you can review the auto-assessment and choose to accept it or choose to edit the assessment.

Should you fail to respond to these auto-assessments as described above, SARS will make an estimated assessment, based on the data at their disposal. This could lead to you missing out on allowable deductions and consequently pay more tax than is required.

If for some reason you did not respond to the notice from SARS, and you would like to make changes to the assessment raised, you would be required to file an objection to that assessment. There may be administrative penalties associated with this.

It is therefore important that you read notifications from SARS to be aware of any assessments that has been made and that you review the auto-assessment should one have been made on your behalf to ensure that your assessments are accurate and that you receive the benefit of all allowable deductions.

As electronic communication increases so do the risks relating to these. Please note these are scams and taxpayers should take note of the following:

- Do not open or respond to emails from unknown sources.
- Beware of emails that ask for personal, tax, banking and eFiling details (login credentials, passwords, pins, credit / debit card information, etc.).
- SARS will never request your banking details in any communication that you receive via post, email, or SMS. However, for the purpose of telephonic engagement and authentication purposes, SARS will verify your personal details. Importantly, SARS will not send you any hyperlinks to other websites - even those of banks.
- Beware of false SMS's.
- SARS does not send *.htm or *.html attachments.
- SARS will never ask for your credit card details.

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