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**National Transport Authority**

**8.1 Privatisation of Vehicle Examination Centres**

Examination of vehicles, for the purpose of issuing fitness certificates was carried out by three Private Operators at Forest Side, Plaine Lauzun and Laventure Examination Centres as from November 2016.

The prescribed fees for examination of vehicles were increased by 50 per cent. However, vehicle owners were required to pay the current fees, with Government topping up the difference. The Private Operators were then required to pay back to Government a levy of 20 per cent based on their collections.

***8.1.1 Contract***

As of October 2017, a contract has not yet been signed with the three Private Operators. Terms and conditions included in the Letter of Comfort issued in June 2016 such as concession period, frequency of tests, prescribed fees, levy, among others, need to be finalised and formalised.

* + 1. ***Examination Fees – Taxi***

According to the monthly returns submitted by the three Private Operators, examination fees for taxis were being collected at the rate of Rs 300 per vehicle.

However, fees for taxis were not prescribed in the First Schedule of the Road Traffic (Examination of Motor Vehicles and Trailers) Regulations 2016. Examination fees for taxis were also not included in the annex attached to the Letter of Comfort sent to the Private Operators. It was not known upon what authority were the fees of
Rs 300 collected.

* + 1. ***Examination of Autocycles***

According to the First Schedule of the Road Traffic (Examination of Motor Vehicles and Trailers) Regulations, a fee of Rs 200 should be paid by the owner in respect of a motor cycle/auto cycle for fitness test. However, according to monthly reports verified, examination of auto cycles was not being carried out by the three Private Operators.

* + 1. ***Data Protection***

The National Transport Authority (NTA) holds confidential information of a personal or business nature relating to its own operations and functions and that of private individuals and companies. For administrative convenience, the NTA shared its information with the three Private Operators to enable them to verify the particulars of vehicles being examined, and also for them to input details on validity of certificates of fitness issued by them for every vehicle examined for the licensing and records needs of the NTA.

According to the Data Protection Act, the NTA and the Private Operators fall under the definition of Data Controller and Data Processor. The Act provides that every Data Controller and Data Processor should, before keeping or processing personal data or sensitive personal data, register himself with the Data Protection Commissioner.

There was no evidence that the three Private Operators were registered with the Data Protection Office.

***Recommendations***

* The contract should be finalised with the Private Operators;
* Necessary amendments should be brought to the Road Traffic (Examination of Motor Vehicles and Trailers) Regulations 2016 to include examination fees for Taxis;
* Measures must be taken to ensure that the three Private Operators comply with the Data Protection Act;
* Regulations regarding auto cycles to undergo fitness tests should be enforced by the relevant Authorities.

***NTA’s Reply***

* The contract is being finalised by the State Law Office;
* It is proposed to amend the regulations for the provision of an examination fee of
Rs 300 for taxis;
* On 17 October 2017, the three Authorised Examiners have been requested to register themselves with Data Protection Commissioner.
	1. **Revenue Collection**

***8.2.1* *Underpayment of Motor Vehicle Licences***

Motor Vehicle licences were collected at Head Office NTA, Post Offices, Private Examination Centres, Districts Cash Offices and at Rodrigues Island.

Motor Vehicle Licences booklets were issued to Districts Cash Offices by the Treasury and collections amounted to some Rs 35.5 million during financial year 2016-17. During the period July 2015 to June 2017, 588 cases were noted at the Curepipe District Cash Office, whereby the cylinder capacity of vehicles recorded on duplicate disc (receipts) did not tally with that recorded in the database of vehicles maintained by the NTA. The resulting underpayment of licence fees amounted to some Rs 1.9 million. The 588 cases included 157 cases for the year 2016-17 worked out by the NTA.

The 588 cases may have arisen due to:

* Negligence by Collecting Cashiers;
* Vehicle owners involved having produced books with forged engine capacities.

***8.2.2 Rodrigues***

Motor Vehicle licences booklets were also issued to Rodrigues for collection of road tax. During financial year 2016-17, some Rs 16.7 million were collected. However, used booklets were never returned to the NTA for reconciliation and verification purposes. Thus, completeness and accuracy of the figures reported in Treasury Abstracts regarding amounts being remitted by Rodrigues could not be ascertained.

***Recommendations***

The NTA should take necessary measures such as:

* Investigation on cases of underpayments of licences at Curepipe District Cash Office. Collections prior to July 2015 should be verified with a view to detecting other possible cases;
* Claiming reimbursement of underpayments by vehicle owners;
* Allowing access to its database of vehicles to collecting cashiers to verify cylinder capacities;
* Taking up the matter with the Treasury so as to reinforce control measures at District Cash Offices;
* Require the NTA at Rodrigues to return all used licences booklets for verification purpose.

***NTA’s Reply***

Out of 157 cases resulting in an under payment of Rs 573,250, a sum of Rs 483,450 has been recovered.

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