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When is the right time?

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The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) has often emphasized the importance of the timely filing of tax returns and being aware of the changes in the returns to be filed and the deadlines of filing the same.

“There is always a right time for everything.” It took years before I truly understood the meaning of those words.

Like most people, success was not handed to me on a silver platter. Success came only after enduring and persevering through a number of failures, setbacks, and feelings of self-doubt.

It was not easy to rise after every fall. But I was able to do it because my conviction to succeed and to achieve my goals was much stronger than the thought of throwing in the towel. And in each of those moments when I finally attained what I worked so hard for, I realize that, indeed, there is always a right time for everything – a right time to graduate, a right time to pass the board exam, a right time to get a new job, a right time to get promoted, or even a right time to fall in love.

Apparently, the “right timing” has always been applicable in different aspects of life, including taxation.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) has often emphasized the importance of the timely filing of tax returns and being aware of the changes in the returns/forms to be filed and the deadlines of filing the same. In Revenue Memorandum Circular (RMC) Nos. 27-2018 and 73-2018, the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) prescribed new and revised BIR forms for expanded withholding tax (EWT) and final withholding tax (FWT), effectively replacing old BIR Form Nos. 1601-E and 1601-F. And along with the issuance of these new forms, deadlines of filing the EWT and FWT returns have also been changed. This is pursuant to the enactment of Republic Act No. 10963 or the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) Law.

A summary of these changes is provided in the table below for easy reference:

Tax Type	Covered Period	Form Type	Due date for filing & payment
Expanded Withholding Tax (EWT)	1st month of the quarter	BIR Form No. 0619-E	For Non-eFPS taxpayers: on or before the 10th day of the following month in which the withholding was made; For eFPS taxpayers: on or before the 15th day of the following month, depending on the industry group as set forth in RR No. 26-2002
	2nd month of the quarter	BIR Form No. 0619-E	
	Calendar quarter	BIR Form No.1601-EQ	Not later than the last day of the month following the close of the taxable quarter
Final Withholding Tax (FWT)	1st month of the quarter	BIR Form No. 0619-F	For Non-eFPS taxpayers: on or before the 10th day of the following month in which the withholding was made; For eFPS taxpayers: on or before the 15th day of the following month, depending on the industry group as set forth in RR No. 26-2002
	2nd month of the quarter	BIR Form No. 0619-F	
	Calendar quarter	BIR Form No.1601-FQ	Not later than the last day of the month following the close of the taxable quarter
Quarterly Alphalist of Payees (QAP)	Calendar quarter	Attachment to BIR Form No. 1601-EQ and 1601-FQ	Shall be submitted thru esubmission@bir.gov.ph or thru the dedicated email address of the RDO not later than the last day of the month following the close of the taxable quarter

Source: RMC Nos. 27-2018 and 73-2018

Manual filers can download the new remittance forms (BIR Form Nos. 0619-E and 0619-F) and the new remittance returns (BIR Form Nos. 1601-EQ and 1601-FQ) from the BIR website (www.bir.gov.ph). However, for eBIRForms filers, the new remittance forms and returns are already available in the offline eBIRForms Package v7.1. Likewise, for eFPS filers, the new remittance and returns are already available in the the eFPS. Amount to be indicated in the quarterly returns (BIR Form Nos. 1601-EQ and 1601-FQ) shall be the total amount/taxes withheld for the quarter. Thus, the remittances made for the first two (2) months of the quarter using the new remittance forms (BIR Form Nos. 0619-E and 0619-F) shall also be reflected in the quarterly return.

In case the taxpayer has no withholding tax due for the month, the taxpayer is still required to file the abovementioned remittance forms/returns thru the use of eBIRForms or eFPS, whichever is applicable.

In view of the foregoing, I would like to reiterate that it is important to take note of the changes in the compliance requirements of the BIR, specifically on the filing of tax returns at the right time. Otherwise, taxpayers may experience their own setbacks in the form of penalties, surcharges, and/or tax audit investigations.

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