

Customers are warned against leaving receipt/sales slip behind at a place of sale.

Translated by Abebe hunachew

Customers are warned that they should keep/hold of their receipt which is given to them by a sales person for goods or services that they have bought and that they should not leave it behind at the place of sale.

Ato Anteneh Tamirat, Head of sales Register Machines and Implementation team in the Ethiopian Revenues and Customs Authority (ERCA); said that it is quite common to see customers leave a place of business or company unintentionally leaving behind their sales slip. However, customers should be aware that there have been many occasions where a receipt that has been left behind has been used for illegal purposes. He said that some unscrupulous salesperson collects the abandoned receipts and use them once more as sales slip for similar purchases made by other customers. This helps them steal a substantial sum of tax which helps their company gain an illegal advantage over their compliant and law abiding competitors.

Furthermore, Ato Anteneh revealed that ERCA is aware of salespersons who are using sales register machines which are not accredited by ERCA. In order to prevent such kinds of illegal activities, ERCA's staff is now visiting companies unannounced and working undercover to identify those companies which are engaging in criminal wrongdoing. Companies have therefore been warned to refrain from their criminal practices otherwise can expect to be found-out and receive the punishment due to them.

To support ERCA's fight against tax evaders, Ato Anteneh added that customers of companies such as supermarkets, restaurants, and so on should ensure that they have been given and taken the correct receipt for goods and services that they have bought. They should also check that their

receipt carries the right purchasing date and time as well as the mark 'ET' which is printed at the bottom of the receipt. According to his statement, the mark 'ET' is a proof of the valid receipt and enable the customer recognize that an accredited sales register machine has been used to print the receipt.