# **Professional Review on**

# **INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) BILL**

TAX

### AMENDEMENTS TO INLAND REVENUE ACT

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## **1. Introduction**

- Issued on 18.03.2021
- Order Paper filed in the Parliament on 26.03.2021

#### <u>A long-awaited amendments :</u>

- (i) To rectify identified errors & loopholes in the original Act No. 24 of 2917,
- (ii) To accommodate numerous amendments proposed after November 2019 and activated without legal backing,
- (iii) To accommodate numerous amendments proposed through Gov. Budget 2021.





INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1. Introduction (Contd.)

#### Varying effective dates -

- 01.04.2018,
- 01.04.2019,
- 01.01.2020,
- 01.04.2020,
- 01.04.2021.

Legalization – Through the Parliament in near future (after the committee level amendments, if any).

Public Objections – Through Supreme Courts. (Needs to file a case on or before 01<sup>st</sup> April 2021.



### **2. Employment Income**



Sec.5(3)(c) – Dental, medical or health <u>insurance benefit</u> receiving as an Employment Income was excluded from IT, only if the said benefit is available <u>to all</u> <u>fulltime employees on equal terms</u>. Now proposed to change it to read as "<u>in the same grade of the service, on equal terms</u>".

Sec. 5(3)(f) – Benefits out of the contributions made by an employer to employee's accounts with pension, provident or savings fund or approved savings society were excluded from IT.

Now "gratuity funds" are also included into the exemption.

### **3. Exempt Income (Reference to Third Schedule)**



Sec. 9(3) – Amending to accommodate any tax exemptions giving under <u>Strategic</u>
 <u>Development Project Act</u> (SDPA) by superseding the IR Act limitations.
 (SDPA was inactive for several years).

#### Third Schedule – New Additions;

(hh) a gain made by a person on or after 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 from the <u>realisation of land or</u> <u>building which was sold</u>, exchanged or transferred <u>to a real estate investment</u> <u>trust listed in the Colombo Stock Exchange</u> and licensed by the Securities and Exchange Commission of Sri Lanka;

### **3. Exempt Income (Reference to Third Schedule)**



- **(II)** a gain from the realisation of Sri Lanka <u>international sovereign bonds</u> issued by or on behalf of the Government of Sri Lanka and received or derived by a commercial bank or authorized dealer who made an aggregate <u>investment not less than USD 100 million</u> in such bonds <u>on or after 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021</u>
- (III) <u>interest or discount</u> accrued or derived on or after 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 <u>by any</u> <u>Samurdhi community-based banks</u> established under the Department of Samurdhi Development from security or treasury bonds under the Registered Stocks and Securities Ordinance (Chapter 420) or treasury bills under the Local Treasury Bills Ordinance (Chapter 417)



### **3. Exempt Income (Reference to Third Schedule)**



(oo) on or after 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020, a <u>dividend paid by a resident company</u>;

- (i) to a member to the extent that such dividend payment is attributable to, or derived from, gains and profits from dividend received by that resident company.
  (here the, "gains and profits from dividend" means the dividend received by that company after the deduction of expenses or losses, if any, subject to the provisions of this Act & income tax paid/payable on such dividend received by that company)
- (ii) <u>to a non-resident</u> member.
- (iii)which is engaged in any one or more of the <u>following businesses</u> in accordance with the provisions of Part IV of the Finance Act, No. 12 of 2012 and which has entered into an agreement with the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka established under the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka Law No. 4 of 1978:

(iiia) entrepot trade involving import, minor processing and re-export;

### **3. Exempt Income (Reference to Third Schedule)**



- (iiib) <u>offshore</u> business where goods can be procured from one country or manufactured in one country and shipped to another country without bringing the same into Sri Lanka.
- (iiic) providing <u>front-end services</u> to clients abroad.
- (iiid) <u>headquarters operations</u> of leading buyers for management of financial supply chain and billing operations.
- (iiie) <u>logistics services</u> including bonded warehouse or multicountry consolidation in Sri Lanka.
- (rr) <u>dividends</u> and <u>gains on the realisation</u> of units or amounts derived as gains from the <u>realization of capital assets</u> of a business or investment by a unit holder, from Real Estate Investment Trust listed in the Colombo Stock Exchange and licensed by the Securities and Exchange Commission of Sri Lanka.

# TAX TALK YOUR PARTNER IN TAX

## **3. Exempt Income (Reference to Third Schedule)**

- (t) any amount derived on or after 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018, <u>by any non-resident person</u> as any payment for <u>aircraft, software licenses or as for other related services</u> from the Sri Lankan Airlines Limited.
- (u) the gains and profits earned or derived by any person from-
  - (i) the sale of produce from agro farming of such person within the period of <u>five</u> <u>years</u> of assessment commencing <u>from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019</u>.

Provided that in relation to an undertaking which consists of the production of agro farming produces and utilizing such produce to <u>agro processing or manufacture</u> of any product, such produce shall be deemed to have been sold for the agro processor or manufacturer at the market price prevailing at the time of such deemed sale, and the gains and profits computed on the basis of such deemed sale in relation to the agro farming shall be considered as exempt gains and profits within the period of five years of assessment commencing on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019.

### **3. Exempt Income (Reference to Third Schedule)**



- (ii) providing <u>information technology</u> and <u>enabled services</u> on or after 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020, as may be prescribed. (Await for the prescription).
- (iii) <u>any service</u> rendered in or outside Sri Lanka to any person <u>to be utilized</u> <u>outside Sri Lanka</u>, where the payment for such services is received in foreign currency and remitted through a bank to Sri Lanka on or after 1<sup>st</sup>January 2020.
- (iv) <u>any foreign source</u> [other than gains and profits referred to in subparagraph (iii)] where such gains and profits are <u>earned or derived in foreign currency</u> and <u>remitted through a bank</u> to Sri Lanka on or after 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020.

### **3. Exempt Income (Reference to Third Schedule)**



- (v) any <u>vocational education programmes</u> of any Vocational Education Institution which is standardized under Technical and Vocational Education and Training concept (TVET concept) and regulated by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission,
  - (a) if such institution has <u>doubled its student intake</u> of the vocational education programmes for such year of assessment compared to the student intake of such programmes in the year of assessment immediately preceding that year of assessment.

(b) for a period of <u>five years</u> commencing on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021.

### **3. Exempt Income (Reference to Third Schedule)**



Provided however, for the purpose of paragraph (a), any institution which doubled the student intake of the vocational education programmes as provided for in the first year and maintained the <u>same student intake</u> of such programmes of the first year for the next four years shall be deemed as an institution which fulfilled the requirement in such years.

(vi) any business of <u>export of gold, gems or jewellery</u> or from the business of <u>cutting and polishing of gems</u> which are brought to Sri Lanka and exported after such cutting and polishing, where such gains and profits <u>earned in</u> <u>foreign currency</u> are <u>remitted through a bank</u> to Sri Lanka, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021.

### **3. Exempt Income (Reference to Third Schedule)**



**(V)** any amount derived on or after 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 by;

- (i) any <u>non-resident</u> person from <u>laboratory services</u> or <u>standards certification</u> services.
- (ii) any <u>religious institution</u> which is registered with the Ministry in charge of the subject of religious affairs, by way of <u>grants or donations</u>.
- (w) gains and profits received or derived from business (other than any gains from the realisation of capital assets and liabilities of the business as calculated under Chapter IV of this Act) by a person from <u>following any new undertaking</u> (which is not formed by splitting-up or re-construction of an existing undertaking) commenced on or after 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021, for that period, subject to the conditions contained herein;

### **3. Exempt Income (Reference to Third Schedule)**



- (i) an undertaking which is involved in the <u>sale of construction materials recycled</u> in a selected separate site established in Sri Lanka to recycle the materials which were already used in the construction industry, (a person who is involved in the provision of construction services using construction materials recycled by him from a site with the same conditions, in the provision of such services provided by him shall be deemed to have sold such materials for the construction service at a market price prevailing at the time of such deemed sale), for a period of <u>ten years.</u>
- (ii) any business commenced on or after 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 by <u>an individual after successful</u> <u>completion of vocational education</u> from any Vocational Education Institution which is standardized under Technical and Vocational Education and Training concept (TVET concept) and regulated by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission, for a period of five years.



(iii)an undertaking commenced by a resident person for the purpose of manufacturing of boats or ships in Sri Lanka and received or derived any gains and profits from the supply of such boats or ships, for a period of seven years.

- (iv) any renewable energy project established with a capacity to produce not less than one hundred Mega Watts of solar or wind power and supplied such power to the national grid, for a period of seven years.
- (v) an undertaking commenced on or after January 1, 2021 by any resident person who constructs and installs communication towers and related appliances using local labour and local raw materials in Sri Lanka or provides required technical services for such construction or installation, for a period of five years

## **3. Exempt Income (Reference to Third Schedule)**



(vi) an undertaking for <u>letting bonded warehouses or warehouses related to the</u> <u>offshore business</u> in the Colombo and Hambanthota Ports, if such person has invested on such undertaking on or after 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021.

Tax exemption periods provided in the above subparagraphs [other than in subparagraph (vi)] shall be reckoned from the year of assessment in which the undertaking commences to make profits (assessable income from such business) from transactions entered into in that year of assessment or from the commencement of the year of assessment immediately succeeding the year of assessment in which the undertaking completes a period of two years reckoned from the date on which the undertaking commences to carry on commercial operations, whichever occurs earlier."

# 4. Allowable & Disallowable Expenses, Outlays & Losses



#### Sec 10(1)(b)(v) -

Contributions to **gratuity funds** by employers are also included into the disallowable list (only if <u>not included</u> into employment income). (Though it is included into employment income, under Sec. 5(3)(f) it is excluded and hence to be treated as included).

#### Sec 11(4) -

Adding (4) to treat the <u>cost of funds</u> incurred on loans granted to vocationally trained persons as an allowable expense (incurred in the production of income) of the financial institution. (When it is obvious, why is this clause???)

### 4. Allowable & Disallowable Expenses, Outlays & Losses (Contd.)

#### Sec 14 – Repair & Improvements –

- W.e.f. 01<sup>st</sup> April 2021 the maximum limitation of claiming (i.e., 5% of WDV of depreciable buildings & 20% of WDV of other depreciable assets) of expenses is **applicable only on cost of improvements** & <u>not on repair cost</u>.
- "Improvement" is defined to include the expenditure incurred to <u>long term</u> <u>enhancement of value</u>.

#### Sec 15A – Marketing & Communication Expenses -

- W.e.f. 01<sup>st</sup> April 2021, <u>even capital nature</u> marketing & communication expenses are allowed.
- "Marketing and Communication Expenses" are defined in Sec. 15A(2).



### 4. Allowable & Disallowable Expenses, Outlays & Losses (Contd.)

X

Sec 18(1)&(2) -

**Deductible Financial Cost** formular applicable to <u>any company</u> (having an issued capital) changed w.e.f. 01<sup>st</sup> April 2021 as follows; (How to treat an Overseas Co?)

Financial Cost of the year

Financial Facility Value

4 times of Issued Capital + Reserves

Sec 19(3) -

**This amendment facilitates to set off the brought forward business losses** of a company occurred during a period where a low tax rate was applicable <u>under SME</u> against the subsequent <u>non-SME period</u> higher tax rated income.





#### Sec 20(2) -

Amendments are proposed to this section dealing with <u>change in the accounting year</u> <u>of trusts & companies</u> for better clarity.

#### Sec 36(5) -

As per this new addition of sub-section 5 effective from 01<sup>st</sup> April 2021, when <u>an asset</u> is used in the production of different gains/profits subject to <u>different tax rates</u> the cost of and the consideration for the asset shall be apportioned according to the usage of the asset & based on the market value.

(However, the way it is drafted this amendment is poor)



#### Sec 38(1A) – Consideration Received –

As per the amendment, the consideration received shall be the higher of the <sup>1</sup>amount received/ receivable or <sup>2</sup>assessed value.

**Assessed value means** the value at the time of realization, certified by a professionally qualified valuer in a valuation report.

However, the tax official is empowered to determine the consideration received ignoring the qualified valuer's assessed value. (It is challenging the qualified valuer's profession???)

**Sec 53(1A)** – W.e.f. 01<sup>st</sup> January 2020 the partnerships made liable to pay IT (@ 6%) separately from its partners.



**Sec 55(4)** – As per the amendment, <u>no refund</u> facility is there on the allocated IT (which is paid by the partnership) to the partners.

Sec 60(2) – Treating of all business activities of a company as single company's business - Amended for better clarity.

Sec 62(2) – Remittance Tax - Amendment offers remittance tax exemption if the total income is retained in SL for <sup>1</sup>expansion of its business, to <sup>2</sup>acquire <u>CSE listed shares/securities</u> or <sup>3</sup>to acquire any SL Treasury Bills/Bonds for a minimum period of <u>3 years</u>. (W.e.f. 01.04.2021)

### 5. Other Changes (Contd.)



### Sec 66 (2),(3),(4) – Banking Business –

Amending;

- to tax the reversal of previously allowed provisions,
- requiring maintaining documents for specific provisions and
- to define key words ("banking business", "debt claim", "directives made by the CBSL").

Sec 68 – NGOs & Charitable Institutions - Amending for rectifying typing error.

Sec 70 – Change of Tax Residence - Amending for rectifying typographical error.

**INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) BILL5. Other Changes (Contd.)** 



**Sec 75 – Double Taxation** - Amending for clarity.

- **Sec 76 Profit & Income/Loss from International transactions** Amending for clarity.
- Sec 77 Profit & Income/Loss from transactions between Associates Amending for clarity.
- **Sec 78 Dispute resolution panel** Amending for clarity.

Sec 83 – WHT on Employment Income - Amending to abolish WHT.



#### Sec 83A - Inserting to introduce Advance Personal Income Tax(APIT).

- Employees need to deduct APIT w.e.f. 01<sup>st</sup> April 2020 on employment income if such employee;
  - (a) Is a non-resident or non-citizen of Sri Lanka, or
  - (b) Is a resident of SL who gives his consent.
- **Sec 84 WHT on Investment Income** Amending to abolish WHT other than on winning from <u>lottery</u>, <u>reward</u>, <u>betting or gambling</u> w.e.f 01<sup>st</sup> January 2020 and facilitate of replacing with AIT.



#### Sec 84A - Inserting to introduce Advance Income Tax (AIT).

- W.e.f. 01<sup>st</sup> April 2020 resident taxpayers may request to the WHT agent to deduct Advance Income Tax (AIT) from the payment of dividend, interest, discount, charges, natural resource payment, rent, royalty, premium or similar periodic payment sourced in SL.
- On receipt of such request the WHT Agent shall deduct AIT.
- **Sec 85 WHT on Service Fee & Contract Payment** Amending to abolish WHT w.e.f 01<sup>st</sup> January 2020.



#### Sec 85(1A) - Inserting to introduce Advance Income Tax (AIT).

A person shall withhold tax at the rate provided in the paragraph 10 of the First Schedule to the Act where such person pays a dividend, interest, discount, charges, natural resource payment, rent, royalty, premium, service fee or an insurance premium with a source in SL to a nonresident person.

Sec 87 – Withholding Certificates - Amending for clarity.





- Sec 88 Final Withholding Tax Amending to the time limit the validity of certain final WHT treatments till 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 and to accommodate following new list of final WHT w.e.f. 01<sup>st</sup> January 2020 under Sec. 88(1A);
  - (a) Amounts paid as winnings from lottery, reward, betting or gambling. (not been a business income)
  - (b) Payments to non-citizen non-resident person subject to WHT other than payments derived through a SL PE, and
  - (c) Interest paid to/treated as derived by a SL citizen non-resident individual excluding the followings;
- Interest falling within the relief threshold of Rs. 3mn (personal allowance),

### 5. Other Changes (Contd.)



- **Sec 90 Payment of tax in instalment** Amending for clarity.
- **Sec 93 Capital Gain Tax Returns –** Amending mainly to facilitate of filing capital gains monthly returns.
- **Sec 94 Return of income not required –** Ament to make filing of tax return for employees' compulsory.
- **Sec 95 Self Assessment** Amending for clarity.
- **Sec103 TIN –** Amending to make the using of TIN mandatory in all tax related documents.
- Sec 113 Filing of Tax Returns Amending to make mandatory filing of tax returns electronically by Companies.



- **Sec 120 Accounts & Records –** Amending to make mandatory the maintenance of Financial Statements in such a way to identify the taxable income separately to facilitate of applying different tax rates (w.e.f. 01.04.2021 under **Sec. 120 (1A)**.
- **Sec 126 Tax Returns** This section is amending by stating as to improve the clarity, but by materially expanding the coverage.

**Section 93** - Subject to Sec. 94 and subject to any instructions by the CG, every person requires to file a return of income or capital gains.

The Section 126(5) of the existing Act requires a person **prepares** a tax return for **a reward** also to sign it, whereas a few professionals may have <u>signed accordingly</u>.

### 5. Other Changes (Contd.)



- A few professionals may have done so due to;
  - (i) misunderstanding of the law,
  - (ii) though it is not ethical of providing of services for "rewards" by a professional, may have done so or
  - (iii) any other reason.
- Section 126(4) and 126(5) of the Act reads as follows;
  - (4) A taxpayer or the taxpayer's duly authorized agent<u>, shall sign the return</u>, <u>attesting</u> to its accuracy and completeness.
  - (5) Where a return or part of a return was **prepared for reward by** some other person, including by an approved accountant, other than a full-time employee of the taxpayer, that other person <u>shall also sign the return</u>.

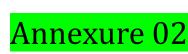


However, the CG designed the tax returns with the following certification closes <u>having extended coverage</u> or with the un-specified coverage;

### 2018/19 – Declaration as per the Return issued by the CG; Annexure 01

Presume that the word "I" means <u>the taxpayer or his Agent</u> who should mandatorily sign Part "B".

2019/20 – Declaration as per the Return issued by the CG;



I declare to the best of my knowledge and belief that all particulars furnished in this Return and Schedules are	true, correct and
complete. I am aware that making an incorrect or false statement or giving false information is an offence.         Whether the Return or part of the Return prepared by other person       Yes         Image: No [         (If "Yes" Please fill Part A & Part B , of the Declaration If "No" fill only part B)	
Part A	
Approved Accountant/Any other authorized person	TAX TALK YOUR PARTNER IN TAX
Designation	
Telephone Number Mobile	
E-Mail	
Signature	Annexure 01 –
National Identity Card Number	<b>2018/19</b>
TIN, If Applicable	
Date:	
Part B	
Full Name of the Declarant	
Designation	
(Managing Director/Director/Secretary/Principal Officer)	
Telephone Number     Mobile	
E-Mail	
Signature	
National Identity Card Number 017101 017100000000	ANA
TIN, If Applicable	
Date:	

• Notice and Form specified under Section 126 of the Inland Revenue Act, No. 24 of 2017 by the Commissioner General of Inland Revenue.

- Declare income and other particulars for the year of assessment ended 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.
- Attach Audited Financial Statements and Schedules.
- Attach any other documents required to be submitted.

 Duly completed Return along with the Schedules and any other required documents should be submitted to the Inland Revenue Department on or before the 30<sup>th</sup> of November, 2019.

• Please note that penalties are imposed on any person who has not submitted a Return or submitted an incorrect Return, and penalties & interest shall be imposed for non-payment of taxes on due dates.

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#### SECTION - 02. DECLANATION

Whether the Return or part of the Return is prepared by any other person Yes (If "Yes", PART A & PART B of the DECLARATION should be filled. If "No" only PART B should be filled)

PART A			TT			1	1	T		TT	T					
Approved Accountant/ Any other Authorized Person																
Designation																 
Telephone Number							1 des	Mot	ile					_		
E-Mail																 
Signature									r							
NIC Number / Passport Number										OF	FIC	IAL	FI	RAN	IK	
TIN (If Applicable)																
Date	28 42	/	SEN	1 1	2	8 8	Y	5								

No

#### PART B

I declare to the best of my knowledge and belief that all particulars furnished in this Return of Income are true, correct and complete. I am aware that making an incorrect or false statement or giving false information is an offence.

Full Name of the Declarant			_		-	-		_										
Designation				İ	T												1	
	(1	Manag	ging	Dire	ctor/	Dire	ector	/Sec	cretai	ry/P	Principa	al Off	icer/	Duly	Autho	orized	Age	ent)
Telephone Number									ľ	Mob	bile							
E-Mail																		
Signature												(D) U			LF		NK	
NIC Number / Passport Number												UI	. II. II.	L II FA	IL H		1989	
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- Return of Income specified under Section 126 of the Inland Revenue Act, No 24 of 2017, by the Commissioner General of Inland Revenue
- Declare income and other particulars for the year of assessment ended 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2020 0
- Attach Audited Financial Statements, and any other documents required to be submitted
- Duly completed Return of Income and attached documents should be submitted to the Inland Revenue 0 Department on or before 30th November, 2020
- Penalties are imposed on any person who has not submitted a Return or submitted an incorrect Return 0
- Penalties and interest shall be imposed for non payment of taxes on due dates



# exure 02 –



Now, it is amending to extend the requirement of signing the tax return by **preparators**, **fillers** and/or **assistors** who are giving those services **for a payment**.

- The requirement of taking responsibility on an <u>unknown</u> and <u>unverified</u> information providing by a taxpayer is <u>not fair</u> and <u>not in line with the Constitution</u> of the country.
- Further, the <u>taxpayer is paying fees</u> for advising, computing and/or filling the return with the figures provided by him and <u>not to verify the correctness</u> of the information so provided and hence, if the Government requires the professional to verify the correctness of the information, needs to pay for it to the professional.





- **Sec 129 Return of Information** Amending for broaden the purview of the section.
- Sec 139 Administration Review Amending for broaden the purview of the section.
- **Sec 140 Appeal from Administrative Review** Amending for broaden the purview of the section.
- Sec 157 Interest on Underpayment & Late Payment Amending for better clarity.
- Sec 158 Interest on Refundable Amounts Amending to;
  - extend the time period for computation of interest. (i.e., "from the date of refund claim filed until the refund is paid")
  - interest nonpayment (graze) period to be increased from <u>60 days</u> to <u>6</u> <u>months</u>.

### 5. Other Changes (Contd.)



**Sec 159 – Interest Rate** - Amending for better clarity.

Sec 190 & 190A -

**Impeding Tax Administration** – Inserting a new section, (Sec. 190A) to introduce punitive provisions in relation to auditors, tax practitioners, tax advisors or approved accountants –

Sec 190(1) reads as;

A person who <u>willfully impedes</u> or <u>attempts to impede</u> the Department in the administration of this Act <u>shall be guilty of an offence</u> and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding one million rupees or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or both such fine and imprisonment.



- (2) For the purposes of this section, a person impedes the administration of this Act if the person—
  - (a) fails to comply with a lawful request by a tax official to examine documents, records, or data within the control of the person;
  - (b) fails to comply with a lawful request by a tax official to have the person appear before officials of the Department;
  - (c) interferes with the lawful right of a tax official to enter into premises;
  - (d) fails to file a return;
  - (e) uses a false taxpayer identification number or a taxpayer identification number that does not apply to the person;



(f) refuses to allow the Commissioner-General or authorized officer to inspect or measure land or refuses to deliver for inspection any map, plan, title deed, instrument of title or other document;

- (g) makes a statement to a tax official that is false or misleading in a material particular;
- (h) fails to comply with a notice issued under section 170;
- (i) fails to maintain required records; or
- (j) otherwise impedes the determination, assessment or collection of tax.

# 5. Other Changes (Contd.)



#### Amendment Bill introduced the following new Section 190A;

- **190A**. Any **<sup>1</sup>auditor**, **<sup>2</sup>tax practitioner**, **<sup>3</sup>tax advisor** or **<sup>4</sup>approved accountant** other than a fulltime employee of the taxpayer who-
  - (a) <sup>1</sup>prepares, <sup>2</sup>fills or <sup>3</sup>certifies or <sup>4</sup>assists in <u>preparing</u>, <u>filling</u> or <u>certifying</u> the tax <u>returns</u>, <u>accounts</u>, <u>records</u>, <u>appeals</u> and <u>objections</u> or <u>any other document</u> or <u>information</u> to furnish to the Commissioner-General; and
  - (b) <sup>1</sup><u>intentionally</u> disregards or fails to take reasonable care in discharging the professional duty, or <sup>2</sup><u>fraudulently</u> prepares and certifies such document or information or <sup>3</sup><u>deliberately</u> <u>misinterprets</u> any provision of this Act or <u>any other Act</u> administered by the Commissioner-General, or any regulation, rule or order made thereunder,

commits an offence under this Act, and on conviction after summary trial before a Magistrate, <u>be</u> <u>liable to</u> <sup>1</sup><u>a fine not exceeding one million rupees</u> or to <sup>2</sup><u>imprisonment</u> of either description for a term not exceeding <u>six months</u> or for a <sup>3</sup><u>prohibition order</u> preventing him from practicing in such capacity."

### 5. Other Changes (Contd.)

### **Coverage of Person;**

- (i) auditor,
- (ii) tax practitioner,
- (iii) tax advisor or
- (iv) approved accountant

### Coverage of service;

- (i) prepares,
- (ii) fills,
- (iii) certifies, or
- (iv) assists.



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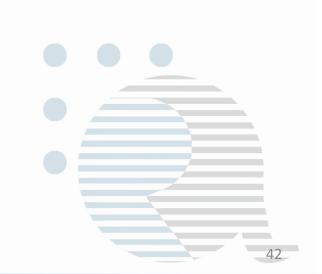
### 5. Other Changes (Contd.)

### **Coverage of Punitive act;**

- (i) does it intentionally,
- (ii) does it fraudulently,
- (iii) does it deliberately.

### Types of punishment;

- (i) a fine,
- (ii) imprisonment, or
- (iii) prohibition order preventing him from practicing.





### 5. Other Changes (Contd.)

#### **Related Issues;**

- (i) Is the loading of such responsibilities to an auditor, tax practitioner, tax advisor or approved accountant fair, and correct?
- (ii) Can it be done under the Constitution of the country?
- (iii) Who is a tax practitioner and/or a tax advisor? (not defined)
- (iv) Who is paying to these listed persons?
- (v) To whom they should provide services?
- (vi) Is the Government ready to pay for the additional services (verification) expecting from these persons by this amendment?





(vii) Can any of these listed persons take the responsibility of the information not verified by themselves?

(viii) Which law requires him to verify those information?

- (ix) If so, why the law expects a thing which cannot be done obviously?
- (x) Is the section 190A drafted properly & legally to cover the expected goals?
- (xi) Isn't it create a tax fear which will adversely affect to the application of the tax Law?
- (xii) Does it want to create a fear among the professionals not to provide services in relation to appealing & objections?



(xiii) By using the words intentionally, fraudulently, deliberately misinterprets, is there any assurance that some tax officials may not misuse those?

(xiv) If misused, isn't it result the wasting of the taxpayers' money & productive time in challenging with the courts?

(xv) How come any other Act covers with it & if it is possible, is it fair?

(xvi) Who has granted the practicing license & who could restrict it?

(xvii) With the above restrictions what the use of having professional bodies?

Your responses are welcome.



**Sec 195 – Interpretations** – Some new interpretations are included;

• Agricultural Business (w.e.f. 01.04.2019)

*"agricultural business" means* the business of <sup>1</sup>agro farming or <sup>2</sup>agro processing, but excludes farming of, or processing of liquor or tobacco produces or products,"

- Agro Farming (w.e.f. 01.04.2019)
  - <sup>1</sup>"agro farming" means

(a) the tillage of the soil and <u>cultivation</u> of land with plants of <u>any</u> description, <u>cultivation</u> in green house, <u>bee-keeping</u>, <u>rearing of fish</u>, <u>shrimp farming</u> or <u>animal</u> <u>husbandry</u>, <u>poultry farms</u>, <u>hatchery</u>, <u>veterinary</u> or <u>artificial insemination</u> services;

The above part (a) is specific & clear.





(b) the <u>cleaning</u>, <u>sizing</u>, <u>sorting</u>, <u>grading</u>, <u>cutting</u> or <u>chilling</u> of any produce produced out of any activity referred to in paragraph (a) by any person who is engaged in <u>any</u> <u>such activity</u>, in preparation of such produce <u>for the market</u> but <u>excludes</u> the agro or <u>food processing</u>;

- The term "Food Processing" is not interpreted?
- By trying to made some liable at 14% certain obvious & mandertory primary activities are missing in the above resulting some types of cultivations (farming)/ might be badly affected?
- **Agro Processing** (w.e.f. 01.04.2019)

<sup>2</sup>"agro processing" means the processing of any locally produced agricultural, fishing, or animal product and **includes** an undertaking for the <u>dehydrating</u>, <u>milling</u>, <u>packaging</u>, <u>canning</u> for the purpose of changing the <u>form</u>, <u>contour</u> or physical <u>appearance</u> of such product in preparation <u>for the market</u> but **excludes** an undertaking of <u>deep-sea fishing</u> or <u>manufacturing</u>;"

## 5. Other Changes (Contd.)



### • Manufacture

**"manufacture" means** a change in a non-living physical object, article or thing-(a)resulting in <u>transformation</u> of such object, article or thing into a new and distinct object, article or thing <u>having a different name</u>, <u>character</u> or <u>use</u>; or

(b) <u>bringing into existence</u> of a new and distinct object, article or thing with a different chemical composition or integral structure;";

### • Sri Lankan Permanent Establishment

*"Sri Lankan permanent establishment" means* <u>any business connection</u> or <u>fixed</u> <u>place of business</u> through which the business of the enterprise is wholly or partly carried out, irrespective of the number of days of such business being <u>carried out in</u> <u>Sri Lanka</u>;"



• Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission

**"Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission" means** the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission established under the Tertiary and Vocational Education Act, No. 20 of 1990;".

**Sec 201 – Temporary Concessions -** sixth schedule validity period extended from 5 years to 7 years.

Sec 203 – Transitional Provisions – Sub paragraph (5) amends.

Schedules to the Act – All six schedules are also amending.

### **FOR FURTHER CLARIFICATIONS PLEASE COMMUNICATE WITH US** .....





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