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**TREASURER** 

S. Wasimuddin Hashmi - Karachi

January 25, 2024

Mr. Amjad Zubair Tiwana Chairman, Federal Board of Revenue, Islamabad.

Dear Sir,

NAKED SWORD OF SECTION 122(5A) OF THE INCOME TAX ORDINANCE, 2001 (THE ORDINANCE)

We at Pakistan Tax Bar Association understand the situation of the economy in general and the tax system in particular and we are conscious that in Pakistan the number of tax filers are very low and not up to the potential of Pakistan's economy. However, the tax filers are being squeezed under different provisions of the Ordinance, which includes but is not limited to Section 122(5A) of the Ordinance.

We and our member bars have time and again been highlighting that the tax machinery is invoking Section 122(5A) of the Ordinance on the drop of a pin without considering the conditions stipulated in the said Section whereby the legislature has clearly intended that wherever any notice under Section 122(5A) of the Ordinance to be issued it has to be issued when the return is erroneous and prejudicial to the interest of revenue. But the notice under section 122(5A) of the Ordinance is vehemently being issued even after the clear directions of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and the Apex Courts who have decided a number of cases and held that the two conditions need to co-exist i.e. one of it being erroneous and the other of it being prejudicial to the interest of revenue.

The legislature was conscious of the compliance burden on the tax filers therefore they have made the amendment under the audit proceedings that once the tax payer's audit has been conducted the tax payer will not be selected for audit for 4 years. But the naked sword of Section 122(5A) of the Ordinance is always hanging on the tax payer and the department is misusing blatantly under the nose of the FBR. The overabundance of notices issued under Section 122(5A) of the Ordinance subside the relief provided by the legislature by limiting the selection of case for audit under the provision of the Ordinance. Every year the tax filer has to comply with the notices under Section 122(5A) of the Ordinance which increases the cost of doing business and creates hardship for the tax filer.



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In view of the above submission, we strongly urge you to direct your field force not to misuse Section 122(5A) against the clear scheme of invoking the said Section and if you cannot stop the same, it will enhance the trust deficit of the tax filer and jeopardize the actual potential of the Pakistan tax system.

We look forward to discussing the aforesaid with yourself in person if your honor so pleases.

Your truly

Anwar Kashif Mumtaz President M. Rehan Siddiqui General Secretary