

CHAIRMAN FBR ASSURES BUSINESS COMMUNITY TO REDRESS TAX ISSUES

Chairman, Federal Board of Revenue said that the business community is playing a key role in the development of the economy and assured that he would look into their tax issues for redress. He said that the budget making process is in progress and ICCI should submit its written budget proposals for consideration and incorporation in the final budget. He appreciated the initiative of ICCI for acknowledging the role of top taxpayers in the region and said that it would help promote tax culture. He expressed these views while talking to a delegation of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry that called on him led by Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President. Tariq Mahmood Pasha, Special Assistant to PM on Revenue said that there is a trust deficit between the taxpayers and the tax collectors and stressed the need of taking measures to build confidence between the two important stakeholders of the economy. He said that it is very important to create a relationship of trust and confidence between the tax collectors and the taxpayers in order to enhance the tax base and improve tax revenue of the country. He hoped that ICCI would play a role to achieve this goal.

Speaking at the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry apprised the Chairman FBR about the various tax issues of the business community that needed his attention for redress. He said that the completion date of construction projects under the amnesty scheme will be expiring on 30th September 2023 and requested that this scheme should be further extended, at least for 2 years to facilitate the completion of ongoing projects under this scheme. He said that ICCI should be given representation in FBR tax committees that would help build confidence between the taxpayers and the FBR and improve tax culture. He said that ICCI plans to confer awards on the highest taxpayers from every sector of the economy in order to acknowledge their key role in the tax contribution. He said that the Prime Minister of Pakistan would be invited as Chief Guest to that event. He said that the highest tax collecting officers of FBR should also be conferred awards to recognize their hard work and dedication. He further said that the top 10 highest taxpayers of the country should be conferred civil awards on 23rd March by the President of Pakistan on the recommendation of FBR that would encourage tax culture in the country. He said that a level playing field should be given to businesses on the installation of POS devices. Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President ICCI said that due to ban on imports and LCs issue, the industrial activities are badly suffering and stressed that the government should look into this issue to address the concerns of industries.

Engr. Muhammad Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Vice President ICCI said that high taxes on the construction sector is affecting its business activities and said that FBR should reconsider them. Khalid Iqbal Malik, Zafar Bakhtawari and Khalid Javed, former Presidents ICCI also shared useful proposals to improve tax base and increase tax revenue of the country.

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TRADE-RELATED DATA GATHERED THROUGH PSW DECLARED CONFIDENTIAL

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has declared that any trade-related information, transmission, documents, data or record gathered through the Pakistan Single Window (PSW) system shall be confidential.

The FBR has issued Pakistan Single Window Trade Data Dissemination, Exchange and Utilization Rules, 2023, here on Monday. According to the SRO.406(I)2023 issued on Monday, the new procedure shall apply to all persons, entities, government departments, and other public and private firms and organizations connected to the PSW system or receiving PSW trade data for any commercial or non-commercial use.

Under the rules, the customs and any other public or private sector entities, exchanging data with the PSW system, shall put in place adequate measures to ensure protection of personal data, personal privacy, and the confidentiality of individual records and transactions including risk profiles and other such information, and to prevent unauthorised transmission or sharing of information with other entities and individuals.

The operating entity may disseminate the trade data collected by it or any of the ancillary systems linked to it including the Customs Computerized System, Port Community System, Trade Information Portal, etc., or any system ancillary thereto for any of its authorized purposes.

The operating entity may exchange trade data with national and international organizations including single window operators, foreign governments, and international organizations pursuant to signing of an agreement or MOU on such terms and conditions as the two sides agree with the approval of the PSW Governing Council for trade data exchange and integration.

All trade-related data generated by or collected on the PSW system shall at all times be accessible to and shall remain the property of the federal government. The operating entity shall retain the right to suspend or terminate the provision of trade data dissemination services to any local or foreign non-government entity for reasons of national interest and security. In line with recommended best practices, the operating entity shall formulate and apply an enterprise data security and sharing policy to govern and monitor the dissemination, transmission, exchange and use of trade data under these rules and to ensure protection of personal data, personal privacy, and the confidentiality of individual records and transactions, and to prevent unauthorized transmission and sharing of information with other entities.

The operating entity shall regularly review and update this policy in line with best standards and practices.

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FBR ALLOWS GLOBAL SHARING OF SINGLE WINDOW DATA: ENTITY CAN SUSPEND TRANSMISSION IN NATIONAL INTEREST OR FOR SECURITY

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has given conditional permission for the exchange and use of data, statistics, and information obtained under the Pakistan Single Window Act, both domestically and internationally. The operating entity shall have the power to suspend or terminate the provision of commercial data transmission services to any local or foreign non-governmental organisation (NGO) in national interest or for security.

If a data recipient is illegally supplying data to a third party for free or against payment, other than federal or provincial government authorities, the operating entity can act against that data recipient under the Pakistan Single Window Act. Apart from this, action can be taken under the applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

According to a document available with *The Express Tribune*, the FBR has issued the Pakistan Single Window Trade Data Distribution, Exchange, and Use Rules 2023.

In the rules issued by the FBR under Notification No 406(I)/2023, it is stated that any information, transmission, and collection of documents, data, or records related to trade through the Pakistan Single Window System shall be kept confidential.

This data and information can be used only under Pakistan Single Window Trade Data Distribution, Exchange, and Use Rules 2023.

“Trade data” means all trade-related information including trader profiles and types; commodity classification, description, quantity, values, shipping, weight, mode of transport (sea, air, road, or rail), country of origin or destination; port of discharge or export, category of the transaction, supplier information, payments on Pakistan Single Window Platform, regulatory information regarding licences, permits, certificates, release orders, and other documents received through financial instruments.

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