

PTAA urges PM to direct FBR not to make 'illegal' tax demands

Pakistan Tax Advisors Association has approached Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi to prevent the tax department from making illegal and fictitious tax demands against the existing taxpayers, which is resulting into unnecessary litigation and blockage of income tax refunds.

A communication of Javed Iqbal Qazi, chairman of Pakistan Tax Advisors Association, to the Prime Minister Abbasi on Thursday says: "We want to apprise the Prime Minister of the facts and conditions prevailing in the tax arena, which is mainly due to arbitrary approach adopted by the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR). At present, huge amount of refunds are due to the taxpayers all over the country and the FBR has directed its field force not to issue any refund to the taxpayers, especially on the Income Tax side."

It further says that they understood the pressure from the higher management of FBR for collection through arbitrary demands was aimed at pleasing the international agencies but that has resulted into mistrust between the taxpayers and tax collector. "The settled principles of tax laws and the principles laid by the Constitution are not being accepted by the concerned field formations to achieve the arbitrary budgetary targets," it says.

Qazi claimed that the association has received many complaints from all over Pakistan that illegal and fictitious demands are being made against the existing taxpayers, which is resulting into unnecessary litigation. "It has also been brought to our knowledge that the first appellate authority, which is directly operating under the administrative control of the FBR, has been directed to not allow relief where huge demands have been created despite the fact that the issues are settled," he said.

Qazi expressed hope that the federal government and its functionaries under PM's able leadership shall restore confidence of people of Pakistan so that they may get their due share of rights, especially the Federal Board of Revenue which will surely result into creation of an atmosphere of trust and facilitation. "You, being our last ray of hope, are requested to kindly direct the concerned Federal Board of Revenue authorities to save the law of land and create an atmosphere of trust among all the stakeholders by giving the tax payers what is due as per the existing laws," Qazi urged.

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