STANDING AND SELECT COMMITTEES ON FINANCE PUBLIC HEARINGS



DRAFT DISASTER MANAGEMENT TAX BILLS 2020

22 July 2020

PRESENTED BY:

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Separation of powers

PARLIAMENT'S CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS - AT RISK?

Separation of powers

BACKGROUND



MPs expressed concern: Covid-19 relief measures were bypassing Parliamentary oversight.

- We acknowledge: Certain tax changes historically become effective from the day of Budget Speech delivery, despite the fact that the relevant Bills still need to be passed by Parliament.
- Adv Jenkins stated that should these amendments be deemed improper, they would then be reversed by Parliament.
- Between 2017-2019 various of these extensions added to ITA and VAT Act. Now about 19 sections require "after the fact" Parliamentary approval.

Separation of powers

CONCERNS WITH THIS APPROACH



1

Constitutional Mandate of Parliament – Legislative approval



"Rubber stamping"

2

Practical implementation







Example:



Taxpayer querying why relief not available to him because he qualifies?

SARS Legal Department:

"... It should be noted that the <u>legislation</u> in respect of the tax relief relating to provisional tax is <u>yet to be promulgated</u>. It is for this reason that SARS would <u>not be able to make system adjustments</u> at this point in time. I therefore believe that the Taxpayers would currently have to apply for the relief."

SUBMISSION:

 Emergency Bills have previously been passed in 3 days - mechanisms are in place, it is doable!



- Parliament <u>must ensure</u> it oversight role is fulfilled.
- The <u>power to reverse</u> cannot be theoretical to meet constitutional muster. Parliament must be able to <u>practically</u> unscramble the egg.
- Recommend review of all these provisions to determine which can be practically reversed by Parliament.



COVID-19 Disaster Relief Organisations

SECTION 18A DEDUCTIONS – APPROVAL REQUIREMENTS

COVID-19 Disaster Relief Organisations 1 Apr 2020 - 31 July 2020

SAICA
THE SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE
OF OWNER INFORMATION TO

Requirements for establishment

NPO..

Carrying on COVID-19 disaster relief

Carries on public benefit activity (par(a))

Complies with requirements in s30(3)

Commissioner can withdraw approval

Deemed to be:



EM says <u>apply</u> for approval?

PBO

Exempt from tax

Approved by C:SARS



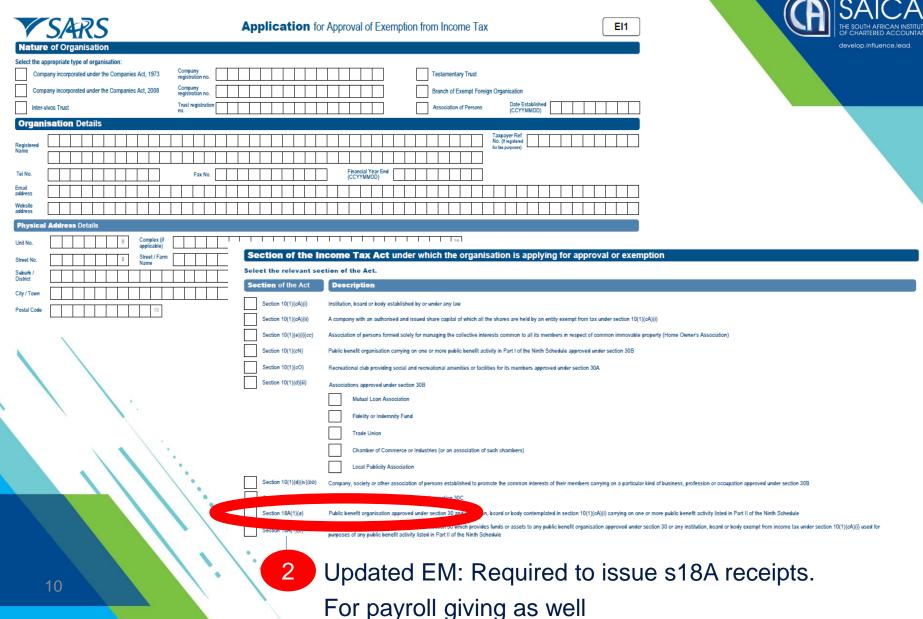
List of 'approved' PBOs?



s18A

SUBMISSION:







Case by case penalty waivers

Case-by-case penalty waivers



SARS website:

Penalties:

•Case-by-case application to SARS for waiving of penalties: Larger businesses (with gross income of more than R100 million) that can show they are incapable of making payment due to the COVID-19 disaster, may apply directly to SARS to defer tax payments without incurring penalties. Similarly, businesses with gross income of less than R100 million can apply for an additional deferral of payments without incurring penalties.

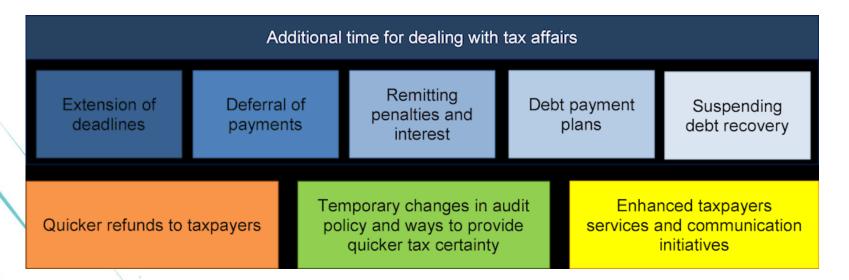
•How to apply for the waiving of penalties for tax debt:

- Larger businesses (with gross income of more than R100 million) that are incapable
 of making payment due to the COVID-19 disaster, may apply to defer tax payments
 without incurring penalties by emailing us
 on COVID19IPAaboveR100m@sars.gov.za.
- Similarly, businesses with gross income of less than R100 million can apply for an additional deferral of payments without incurring penalties by emailing us
 on COVID19IPAbelowR100m@sars.gov.za.
- For more information on the requirements and documents to include in the application, see the How do I query my debt webpage.

Case-by-case penalty waivers



What OECD recommended and other countries did?



Blanket postponement and deferrals

Administrative burden reduced for all

TAA: SECTION 167 AND 168

168. Criteria for instalment payment agreement

A senior SARS official may enter into an instalment payment agreement only if -



- (a) the taxpayer suffers from a deficiency of assets or liquidity which is reasonably certain to be remedied in the future;
- (b) the taxpayer anticipates income or other receipts which can be used to satisfy the tax debt;
- (c) prospects of immediate collection activity are poor or uneconomical but are likely to improve in the future;
- (d) collection activity would be harsh in the particular case and the deferral or instalment agreement is unlikely to prejudice tax collection; or
- (e) the taxpayer provides the security as may be required by the official.

Already secured by other lenders due to COVID-19

Relax requirements during COVID-19

SUBMISSION:



Relief not included in bills

Relief not included



But necessary

Essential service relief

Fringe benefit on "care packages"

Section 10(1)(o) exemption

Plus permanent establishment concerns for corporates

Home office allowances



Thank you