

PRESS RELEASE

Karachi, 11th January, 2005: The task force on Corporate Tax Policy formed by SECP held its 1st meeting at Karachi, under the chairmanship of Mr. Justice (Retd.) Saleem Akhtar. M/s. Abdul Rehman Qureshi, Syed Shabbar Zaidi, Abdul Hamid Chaudhry, Ahmed Khan, Mukhtar Ahmed Gondal, Syed Fayyaz Mahmood, members of the task force participated in the meeting. The task force expressed its satisfaction that the government wanted to analyze the problems in corporate tax policy and the reasons hindering corporatization of businesses. It was decided to work on the following terms at the initial stage: -

- a. To review the existing legal and policy regime for corporate tax with a view to developing an effective corporate tax policy aimed at encouraging corporatization and progressive development of corporate sector.
- b. To review the applicable tax rates; multi-tiered taxation; sales tax; withholding tax; professional tax and capital value tax with a view to suggesting tax reforms in rationalization of tax regime.
- c. To review the procedures for filing of tax returns, audit, assessment & collection.
- d. To review tax refund procedures for various taxes.
- e. To suggest tax policy and administration measures that provide level playing field for corporate and non-corporate sectors.
- f. To suggest viable tax administration measures for implementation of the recommendations.

Task force also decided to hold meetings with the representatives of Overseas Investors Chamber, Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Lahore/Karachi/ Sialkot/Faisalabad/Peshawar/Quetta Chambers; besides, APTAMA, American Business Council and Tax Bars notably those at Karachi and Lahore.

It has also been decided to invite the general public, corporates and tax consultants and others to submit their suggestions or views on the aforesaid topics to Syed Fayyaz Mahmood, Director (Policy), Securities & Exchange Commission of Pakistan, NIC Building, Jinnah Avenue, Islamabad (Telephone No.051-9207648).