

**FBR offers audit closure opportunity to selected late filers**

KARACHI: Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has offered an audit closure opportunity to the late filers selected for audit automatically under section 214D of Income Tax Ordinance, 2001.

This was stated by Nausheen Javaid Amjad, member audit, FBR at a seminar on section 214E of Income Tax Ordinance, 2001, jointly organized by Pakistan and Karachi Tax Bar Associations at RTO building here on Monday.

She termed the notices served under section 177 of the Ordinance for tax years 2015, 16 & 17 as an audit closure opportunity, saying that those notices were served only in those cases, which qualified for easy-exit from compulsory audit.

Furthermore, Nausheen said FBR took unprecedented facilitation step for taxpayers who filed their returns of income for tax years 2015, 2016 and 2017 after closing dates.

She said the section 214D, which automatically selected late-filers for audit was omitted from the Ordinance through Finance Act, 2018 and subsequently section 214E was inserted via supplementary Finance Act, 2018.

Nausheen further said that explanatory IT circular no.6 of 2018 was issued and the whole scheme was integrated & automated where no human intervention was required which was unprecedented in the history of Pakistan and added that proceedings of sections 177(1) and 214C were independent from section 214E.

Replying to a question over payment of tax or penalty, she said the opportunity was optional else late-filers may go with the alternative of audit proceeding.

Later, Abdul Qadir Memon President PTBA in his concluding address said that FBR earmarked over 1.2m cases of late-filers for compulsory audit u/s 214D which otherwise was not humanly possible to accomplish.

He however lauded the cooperation and efforts extended by the member audit to realize the issue and devise a solution which was practically agreeable and reminded the participants of the cutoff date to avail the opportunity by December 31, 2018.

Commenting on the scheme, President KTBA Khalid Mehmood said that was high time for taxpayers to put their house in order and hoped that whole process was likely to be culminated in facilitation mode by the FBR.

**RECORDER REPORT**