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"IMPROVING TAX ADMINISTRATION - ITS ROLE IN SMALL BUSINESS AND PRIVATE ENTREPRENEURSHIP"

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Abstract: Tax administration plays a crucial role in the functioning of small businesses and private entrepreneurship. Efficient tax administration not only ensures compliance with legal requirements but also fosters a conducive environment for business growth and economic development. This article explores various strategies and approaches to improving tax administration and discusses their implications for small businesses and private entrepreneurship. By examining the challenges faced by both tax authorities and businesses, this article aims to provide insights into the importance of effective tax administration in promoting business sustainability and economic prosperity.

Keywords: Tax administration, small business, entrepreneurship, compliance, economic development.

Introduction: Tax administration is a fundamental aspect of any economy, serving as the mechanism through which governments collect revenue to fund public services and infrastructure. In the context of small businesses and private entrepreneurship, effective tax administration is particularly crucial due to the unique challenges and dynamics inherent in these sectors. Small businesses often lack the resources and expertise to navigate complex tax regulations, while entrepreneurs require a supportive tax environment to innovate and grow their ventures.

The role of tax administration in small business and entrepreneurship extends beyond revenue collection. It encompasses promoting compliance, fostering a level playing field, and facilitating business expansion. However, achieving these objectives requires addressing various issues such as tax complexity, administrative burdens, and enforcement challenges. In this article, we explore strategies for improving tax administration and discuss their implications for small businesses and private entrepreneurship.

Challenges in Tax Administration:

Small businesses and entrepreneurs face numerous challenges related to tax administration. These include:



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Complexity: Tax codes and regulations can be convoluted, making it difficult for small businesses to understand their obligations and comply with the law. Complex tax systems also increase the administrative burden on businesses, consuming valuable time and resources.

Compliance Costs: Small businesses often incur significant costs associated with tax compliance, including hiring tax professionals, investing in accounting software, and maintaining detailed records. These costs can be disproportionately burdensome for small enterprises with limited financial resources.

Informality: In many countries, a significant portion of small businesses operate in the informal economy, evading taxes and avoiding regulatory oversight. Informality undermines tax administration efforts and creates unfair competition for compliant businesses.

Enforcement Challenges: Tax authorities may face difficulties in enforcing compliance among small businesses and entrepreneurs, particularly in sectors with high levels of informality or cash transactions. Limited resources, inadequate technology, and ineffective enforcement mechanisms can hamper tax collection efforts.

Strategies for Improving Tax Administration:

To address the challenges outlined above and enhance tax administration for small businesses and entrepreneurship, several strategies can be adopted:

Simplification of Tax Codes: Simplifying tax codes and regulations can reduce compliance costs and improve voluntary compliance among small businesses. Clear and straightforward tax laws make it easier for entrepreneurs to understand their obligations and fulfill them accordingly.

Digitalization and Automation: Leveraging technology for tax administration can streamline processes, reduce errors, and enhance efficiency. Digital platforms for filing taxes, managing records, and communicating with tax authorities can simplify compliance for small businesses and improve data accuracy for tax authorities.

Education and Assistance Programs: Providing educational resources and assistance programs can help small businesses and entrepreneurs navigate the tax system effectively. Workshops, seminars, and online tutorials can enhance awareness of tax obligations and promote compliance.

Tailored Compliance Approaches: Adopting tailored compliance approaches for small businesses based on their size, sector, and level of sophistication can improve compliance outcomes. Flexible compliance options, such as simplified reporting



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requirements or graduated penalties, can encourage voluntary compliance without unduly burdening small enterprises.

Collaboration and Partnership: Collaboration between tax authorities, business associations, and other stakeholders can enhance tax administration outcomes. Engaging with industry groups and local chambers of commerce can facilitate communication, address concerns, and foster a cooperative compliance environment.

Implications for Small Businesses and Entrepreneurship:

Improving tax administration can have significant implications for small businesses and entrepreneurship:

Reduced Compliance Burden: Streamlining tax processes and simplifying regulations can reduce the administrative burden on small businesses, allowing them to focus on core activities and business growth.

Enhanced Competitiveness: A fair and efficient tax system fosters a level playing field for businesses, promoting competition based on merit rather than tax avoidance. This can benefit compliant businesses and encourage entrepreneurship and investment.

Improved Access to Finance: Enhanced tax compliance can improve the creditworthiness of small businesses, making it easier for them to access financing from banks and other financial institutions. This can facilitate business expansion and investment in innovation.

Contribution to Economic Development: Effective tax administration contributes to economic development by increasing government revenue, funding public services, and creating a stable business environment conducive to investment and growth.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, improving tax administration is essential for supporting small businesses and entrepreneurship. By addressing challenges such as complexity, compliance costs, and informality, governments can create a more conducive tax environment that fosters business sustainability and economic prosperity. Adopting strategies such as simplification, digitalization, education, tailored compliance approaches, and collaboration can enhance tax administration outcomes and promote a fair and efficient tax system for small businesses and entrepreneurs.

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