

GOVERNMENT NOTICE

SOUTH AFRICAN REVENUE SERVICE

No. 39485

10 December 2015

INCOME TAX ACT, 1962

**PROTOCOL AMENDING THE CONVENTION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
BOTSWANA FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE TAXATION AND THE PREVENTION OF
FISCAL EVASION WITH RESPECT TO TAXES ON INCOME, WITH PROTOCOL**

In terms of section 108(2) of the Income Tax Act, 1962 (Act No 58 of 1962), read in conjunction with section 231(4) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 (Act No 108 of 1996), it is hereby notified that the Protocol for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income set out in the Schedule to this Notice has been entered into with the Government of the Republic of Botswana and has been approved by Parliament in terms of section 231(2) of the Constitution.

It is further notified in terms of Article II of the Protocol, that the date of entry into force is 19 August 2015.

SCHEDULE

PROTOCOL AMENDING THE CONVENTION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE TAXATION AND THE PREVENTION OF FISCAL EVASION WITH RESPECT TO TAXES ON INCOME, WITH PROTOCOL

The Government of the Republic of South Africa and the Government of the Republic of Botswana;

DESIRING to amend the Convention for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income, with Protocol, signed at Gaborone on 7 August 2003 (in this Protocol referred to as “the Convention”),

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

ARTICLE I

Article 25 of the Convention shall be deleted and replaced by the following:

“ARTICLE 25

EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

1. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall exchange such information as is foreseeably relevant for carrying out the provisions of this Convention or to the administration or enforcement of the domestic laws concerning taxes of every kind and description imposed on behalf of the Contracting States, or of their political subdivisions, in particular for the prevention of fraud or evasion of such taxes, in so far as the taxation thereunder is not contrary to the Convention. The exchange of information is not restricted by Articles 1 and 2.

2. Any information received under paragraph 1 by a Contracting State shall be treated as secret in the same manner as information obtained under the domestic laws of that State and shall be disclosed only to persons or authorities (including courts and administrative bodies) concerned with the assessment or collection of, the enforcement or prosecution in respect of, the determination of appeals in relation to the taxes referred to in paragraph 1, or the oversight of the above. Such persons or authorities shall use the information only for such purposes. They may disclose the information in public court proceedings or in judicial decisions.

3. In no case shall the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 be construed so as to impose on a Contracting State the obligation:

- (a) to carry out administrative measures at variance with the laws and administrative practice of that or of the other Contracting State;
- (b) to supply information which is not obtainable under the laws or in the normal course of the administration of that or of the other Contracting State;

- (c) to supply information which would disclose any trade, business, industrial, commercial or professional secret or trade process, or information the disclosure of which would be contrary to public policy (*ordre public*).

4. If information is requested by a Contracting State in accordance with this Article, the other Contracting State shall use its information gathering measures to obtain the requested information, even though that other State may not need such information for its own tax purposes. The obligation contained in the preceding sentence is subject to the limitations of paragraph 3 but in no case shall such limitations be construed to permit a Contracting State to decline to supply information solely because it has no domestic interest in such information.

5. In no case shall the provisions of paragraph 3 be construed to permit a Contracting State to decline to supply information solely because the information is held by a bank, other financial institution, nominee or person acting in an agency or a fiduciary capacity or because it relates to ownership interests in a person.”

ARTICLE II

1. Each of the Contracting States shall notify to the other in writing, through the diplomatic channel, of the completion of the procedures required by its law for the bringing into force of this Protocol, which shall form an integral part of the Convention. The Protocol shall enter into force on the date of receipt of the later of these notifications.

2. The provisions of the Protocol shall thereupon have effect beginning on the first day of January next following the year in which the Protocol enters into force.

ARTICLE III

This Protocol shall remain in force as long as the Convention remains in force.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorised by their respective Governments, have signed and sealed this Protocol in two originals in the English language, both texts being equally authentic.

DONE at Pretoria on 21st day of May in the year 2013.

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA**