June 6, 2019

BIR RULING NO. 348-19

Section 30 (H) of the NIRC of 1997, as amended; RMO No. 20-2013; RMC No. 051-14; BIR Ruling No. 466-2014

Eastern Mindanao College of Technology, Inc.
Broca Street, San Jose District, Pagadian City
Zamboanga del Norte

Attention: *AAA*

Gentlemen :

This refers to your letter dated April 14, 2016, applying on behalf of **EASTERN MINDANAO COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY, INC.** for tax exemption certificate being enjoyed by non-stock, non-profit corporation or association under Section 30 (H) of the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC) of 1997, as amended.

It is represented that **EASTERN MINDANAO COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY, INC.** with BIR Taxpayer's Identification No. (TIN) 000-000-000-000 and Certificate of Registration No. OCN 2RC0000561510 dated July 14, 2008, is a non-stock, non-profit association duly organized and existing under the laws of the Republic of the Philippines; that it is registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) under Company Registration No. G1998-00114; and that the purposes [1] for which the association was incorporated are:

1. *To establish a tertiary level of education that will provide academic and vocational courses that are in relation to the needs of fast growing industries both domestic and abroad.*

2. *To offer the following academic courses: Bachelor of Science in Economics, Industrial Education, Elementary and Secondary Education, Engineering, Marketing Management, Accounting, Liberal Arts, Computer Science, Development Studies, Business Management, Industrial Technology, Information Technology, and other Degree courses.*

3. *To offer all TVET programs and as a Competency Assessment Center*

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for all TVET programs.

4. *To operate enterprises that will serve as the On Job Training Center for the students.*

5. *To expand operation for the institution as the need arises such as Masteral degree, Doctoral Studies and the like.*

6. *To raise fund that will sustain the operational and expansion program.*

7. *To accept domestic and foreign donations (in kind or cash).*

8. *To operate as TVET COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT CENTER.*

In reply, please be informed that Section 30 of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended, enumerates the non-stock and/or non-profit corporations/associations/organizations that are exempt from income tax in respect to income received by them as such. Section 30 (H) of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended, provides, *viz.*:

> *"Sec. 30. Exempt from Tax on Corporations. — The following organizations shall not be taxed under this Title in respect to income received by them as such:*
>
> xxx xxx xxx
>
> *(H) A nonstock and nonprofit educational institution;"*
>
> xxx xxx xxx"

"Non-stock" means *"no part of its income is distributable as dividends to its members, trustees, or officers"* and that any profit *"obtained as an incident to its operations shall, whenever necessary or proper, be used for the furtherance of the purpose or purposes for which the corporation was organized."* [2] "Non-profit" means that *"no net income or asset accrues to or benefits any member or specific person, with all the net income or asset devoted to the institution's purposes and all its activities conducted not for profit."* [3]

Revenue Memorandum Circular (RMC) No. 51-2014 has clarified that in order for an entity to qualify as a non-stock and/or non-profit corporation/association/organization exempt from income tax under Section 30 of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended, its earnings or assets shall not inure to the benefit of any of its trustees, organizers, officers, members or any specific person. The following are considered "inurements" of such nature:

1. *The payment of compensation, salaries, or honorarium to its trustees or organizers; x x x.*

In the submitted documents of **EASTERN MINDANAO COLLEGE OF**

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TECHNOLOGY, INC., it was disclosed that Board of Directors are entitled to Honoraria. Treasurer's Certification by **EASTERN MINDANAO COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY, INC. _____**, BBB, dated July 24, 2018, states that:

> *"2.1. Honoraria of its fifteen-member Board of Trustees paid for board meetings attended during the school Fiscal Year ending May 31, 2018 is Php217,500.00;"*

The giving of honoraria to the members of the Board of Directors is considered a distribution of the equity (including the net income) of **EASTERN MINDANAO COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY, INC.** This is a form of private inurement which the law prohibits in the organization and operation of a non-stock, non-profit corporation. This act violates the requirement that no part of the net income or assets of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of any individual or specific person. Thus, **EASTERN MINDANAO COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY, INC.** cannot be qualified as a non-stock, non-profit corporation under Section 30 (H) of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.

Please bear in mind that, *"being a non-stock and/or non-profit corporation does not, by this reason alone, completely exempt an institution from tax."* [4] Thus, *"statutes granting tax exemptions are construed **strictissimi juris** against the taxpayer and liberally in favor of the taxing authority. A claim of tax exemption must be clearly shown and based on language in law too plain to be mistaken. Otherwise stated, taxation is the rule, exemption is the exception. The burden of proof rests upon the party claiming the exemption to prove that it is in fact covered by the exemption so claimed."* [5] ***(BIR Ruling No. 466-2014 dated November 19, 2014)***

In view of the foregoing, the request of **EASTERN MINDANAO COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY, INC.** to be exempted from income tax on its income as a Section 30 (H) corporation is hereby denied as it failed to prove that it is a non-profit corporation. Therefore, **EASTERN MINDANAO COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY, INC.** shall be treated as an ordinary corporation subject to thirty percent (30%) income tax rate pursuant to Section 27 (A) and other internal revenue taxes imposed by the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.

Please be guided accordingly.

Very truly yours,

(SGD.) CAESAR R. DULAY
Commissioner of Internal Revenue

Footnotes

1. Amended Articles of Incorporation adopted on November 12, 2015.

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2. Section 87, Corporation Code.
3. *CIR vs. St. Luke's Medical Center, Inc.*, G.R. Nos. 195909 and 195960 dated 26 September 2012.
4. *CIR vs. St. Luke's Medical Center, Inc.* [G.R. No. 195909 & G.R. No. 195960, 26 September 2012].
5. *Quezon City and The City Treasurer of Quezon City vs. ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation* [G.R. No. 166408, 6 October 2008].

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