December 9, 2019

BIR RULING NO. 762-19

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

Natasha Goulbourn Foundation, Inc.
Suite 209 LRI Business Plaza, 210 N. Garcia, Makati City

Attention: *AAA*

Madam :

This refers to your letter dated July 23, 2018 applying on behalf of **NATASHA GOULBOURN FOUNDATION, INC.** for tax exemption certificate being enjoyed by non-stock, non-profit corporation or association under Section 30 (E) of the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC) of 1997, as amended, which was forwarded to this Office by Revenue Region No. 8, Makati City, dated November 27, 2018.

It is represented that **NATASHA GOULBOURN FOUNDATION, INC.** with BIR Taxpayer's Identification No. (TIN) 000-000-000-000 and Certificate of Registration No. OCN 9RC0000269011 dated June 04, 2007, 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. CN200708567; and that the purposes for which the association was incorporated are *to organize, engage in, promote, develop, undertake and finance an association to provide training, information, support, counseling and holistic welfare services to individuals affected by depression and substance abuse.*

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 (E) 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

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(E) Nonstock corporation or association organized and operated exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific, athletic, or cultural purposes, or for the rehabilitation of veterans, no part of its net income or asset shall belong to or inure to the benefit of any member, organizer, officer or any specific person";

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.*" [1] "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.*" [2]

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 Financial Statements of **NATASHA GOULBOURN FOUNDATION, INC.** shows that it pays allowances and honorarium. The payment of honorarium and allowances to the members of the corporation is considered a distribution of the equity (including the net income) of **NATASHA GOULBOURN FOUNDATION, 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. Moreover, Financial Statements for the years 2014 and 2015 show that more than 30% of the operating income are used for administrative expenses which is in violation of the prohibition that not more than 30% of the donations shall be used for the administrative purposes. Additionally, Financial Statements note shows that the foundation is leasing office unit and various stores under non-cancellable operating lease agreements. Proceeds from lease are being used almost exclusively for its perpetuation. It appears that this activity is being carried on by **NATASHA GOULBOURN FOUNDATION, INC.** in a manner similar to organizations operated for profit. Thus, **NATASHA GOULBOURN FOUNDATION, INC.** cannot be qualified as a non-stock, non-profit corporation under Section 30 (E) 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.*" [3] Thus, "*statutes*

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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."* [4] ***(BIR Ruling No. 466-2014 dated November 19, 2014)***

In view of the foregoing, the request of **NATASHA GOULBOURN FOUNDATION, INC.** to be exempted from income tax on its income as a Section 30 (E) corporation is hereby denied as it failed to prove that it is a non-profit corporation. Therefore, **NATASHA GOULBOURN FOUNDATION, 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. Section 87, Corporation Code.
2. *CIR vs. St. Luke's Medical Center, Inc.*, G.R. Nos. 195909 and 195960 dated 26 September 2012.
3. *Ibid.*
4. *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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