

# The country's revenues

Jody pays the taxes, Julien does not, Michael is surrounded by the tax net, Macarthur remains out of the tax net, Cindy evades taxation by 100%, Julie robs the state treasury by stealing 50% of her taxes. These are discouraging portrayals of a tax machinery, which is steeply drowned in the mug heap of a disparaged culture, where the affording messiahs of the economy avoid taxes with a messianic zeal, leaving the treasury floundering on the brink of emptiness and starvation. It is a sickening fiscal concept that in a country where the wage and salary earners earn the lowest incomes, proportionately pay the highest rate and ratio of taxes. Such a painful exercise takes place because of a corrupt tax machinery, where the collectors are profusely keen to fill their coffers, leaving the govt. pockets gasping and panting for fiscal resources. Such are the diabolical diatribes and tribald tribulations of the ailing tax machinery of our country. Such missives, misdoing and errors are not unknown to our wise and potent tax administrators. But they keep on lingering to the mud heap of a fiscal paralysis they know that the country needs the revenues, which can be accumulated by the application of honest practices. They are not aloof of the fact that the taxation policy is cloaked in a serene umbrella of disparate collections, vibrantly heralding disparities. They know that they are mismanaging tax collection.

They know that they are ruling over stupendous tax leakages. And they know that a vast payable potential is being kept out of the tax net. Chairman, central board of Revenue (CBR) gave a fair assessment Wednesday of the snags and shortcomings under his suzerainty. He overlooks or is it overlords the tax estate of the country. Chairman, Abdullah Yusuf of CBR blatantly stated that retailers and professionals were not included in the tax net. And that the currently booming real estate sector was also excluded from the tax regime. The chairman also lamented the fact that the agriculture sector contributed 25% to the GDP, but tax collection from it remained nil. Recounting a dismal figure, Chairman Abdulla said that the number of direct taxpayers, that is those under the net was around a million citizens out of a population of 150 million. He also termed the ratio of direct tax collection unsatisfactory. Obviously expressing distrust and no-confidence in the mammoth tax machinery working under him.

An expression of distaste and despair, whether willing or unwilling on part of the chairman of our realm of Revenues. Since he feels and we subscribe to the view that our Revenue potential remains unrealized. Meaning thereby that the revenue machine is more keen on corruption, reprobating the economic interests of the country at the altar of their insistently self-willed habits. A million taxpayers is a sad reflection on the efficacy and working of an imposing number of tax collectors and the facilities awarded to them. On thoughtful recollection over years of neglect and forsaken responsibilities, we feel that such a state of affairs has added to the gruesome. Levels of poverty. Revenues generate socio economic development and any laxity thereof means that such development is being compromised. Whereby we come to the home truth that the state of Pakistan owes much of its impoverishment, unemployment and depravation to grossly unholy practices of the CBR and its underlings. And the Chairman like a gallant cavalier has confessed so, without propounding remedies. The Chairman, CBR also boldly professes that the retail and professional sectors are Scott free, not yet within the tax net. it is a lamentable ordeal that the custodian of revenues, despite having shrieked claims of expanding the tax base leave out two significantly heavy sectors. Real Estate is passing through its most glittering and whopping phase ever, but the taxman prefers to remain out of the gatepost of real estate. The chairman has uttered the follies whimsically and at will, without suggesting rectification. Because he loses nothing, neither does the elite. It is a loss in hundreds of billions of the people, already smeared by acute poverty.