

NATARAJAN & SWAMINATHAN LLP

A MEMBER FIRM OF KNAV INTERNATIONAL LTD



DATE & TIME: FRIDAY, 21ST FEBRUARY, 2025

TIME 5.00PM



JOIN ZOOM MEETING

https://zoom.us/j/99453552285?pwd= D9Q6We8gGkWtawvh7ivA9FlvuGD3jm.1

MR. R NARAYANA MOHAN

Senior Partner, Natarajan & Swaminathan LLP Chartered Accountants of Singapore. PAST CHAIRMAN of SICCI is inviting you to a scheduled Teams meeting.

SPEAKER

CONTENTS

1. SINGAPORE BUDGET 2025

- Introduction about the budget and the benefits offered to Singaporeans.
- Tax benefits for businesses.

2. CORPORATE SERVICE PROVIDERS ACT 2024

- Purpose of the Act
- Registrar
- Which are Corporate Services
- Designated Activity
- Criteria for Registration or renewal of Registration of qualified individual (Sec 10 & Sec 11
- Deemed Registered Qualified Indiviual
- Criteria for Registration or renewal of Registration of qualified individual (Sec 9)
- Deemed Registered Corporate Service Providers Sec 7 (2) & Sec 8
- Prevention of money laundering, proliferation and terrorism financing
- Providing false information to Registrar Sec 25
- Nominee Director
- Providing Corporate Services without Registration

SINGAPOREAN INDIVIUAL

 As part of SG60 package every individual Singaporean will get CDC vouchers amounting to \$800, gifts for SG60, baby gifts to support large families and mid-career reskilling

60% rebate on personal income tax for the year of assessment 2025 which is kept at \$200

 CPF contribution rate for older workers aged 60 to 65 years old to increase by 1.5% from January 2026

BUSINESS

- 50% rebate on corporate income tax for the year of assessment 2025 kept at \$40,000 (which is the same rebate that was available in year of assessment 2024) which is now being carried forward to year of assessment 2025.
- Singapore to study potential deployment of nuclear power as major investments are necessary to move to clean energy, the budget allocation was \$5 billion
- An additional \$5 billion was injected into coastal and flood protection funds. 5 billion was added to the fund for the airport expansion project (including Terminal 5)
- MAS has set up 'Equities Market Review Group' (to improve listing of companies in Singapore) has recommended tax incentives to get more companies and fund managers to list in the Singapore Stock Exchange (detailed information in the next slide)
- To support innovation, businesses will need to have steady flow of capital for research and development and future growth. An amount of \$1 billion has been allocated in a private credit growth fund.
- Extension of double tax deduction for internalization scheme (extended to 31.12.2030)
- Trade loan (maximum loan quantum permanently enhanced from 5 M to 10 M

TAX INCENTIVES ANNOUNCED IN BUDGET 2025 FOR COMPANIES AND FUND MANAGERS TO LIST ON SGX

	Listing corporate income tax rebate for new company listings in Singapore.	Enhanced concessionary tax rate for new Fund Manager listings in Singapore	Tax exemption on fund managers' qualifying income arising from funds investing substantially in Singapore-listed equities
Who qualifies	Companies and registered business trust that are tax residents in Singapore	Singapore fund managers	Singapore fund managers
Tax benefit	Primary listing: 20% rebateSecondary listings: 10% rebate	5% concessionary tax rate on qualifying income	Tax exemption on qualifying income
Cap on Tax benefit	 Tax benefit cap of \$6 million per year of assessments for qualifying firms with market cap of S\$1 billion. Tax benefit cap of S\$3 million per year for qualifying firms for qualifying firms with market cap of less than S\$1 billion 		 New funds, 30% of AUM (asset under management) invested in Singapore Listed equities. Existing funds, 30% of AUM (asset under management) invested in Singapore Listed equities., annual net inflow equivalent to at least 5% of funds AUM in the preceding year
Limitation	The company receiving the rebate has to remain listed for 5 years, the scheme is open till 31 December 2027.	 The fund management company or the holding company is listed for 5 years and gets a primary listing on SGX. The fund manager must distribute a portion of the profits as dividend, meet requirements for minimum professional headcounts and AUM. The scheme is open up till 31 December 2028 	

GENERAL

 Property developers will be very happy as there is no additional cooling measures in this budget

 The budget has not mentioned any incentives for the recently signed JOHORE SINGAPORE – SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE, which may be forthcoming.

CORPORATE SERVICE PROVIDERS ACT 2024

PURPOSE OF THE ACT

The purpose of this act is to regulate corporate service providers, and qualified individuals who provide or supervise the provision of corporate services and to impose requirements on those persons so as to detect or prevent money laundering, proliferation financing and terrorism financing.

Registrar

A Registrar means the Registrar of Corporate Service providers appointed under the act (includes deputy and assistant registrar)

The registrar must keep and maintain –

- a. Register of Corporate Service providers
- b. Register of registered qualified individuals.

CORPORATE SERVICE PROVIDERS ACT 2024

The act has been passed in the Parliament, and it will come into operation on a day that the minister notifies in The Gazette. (It has got 46 sections)

CORPORATE SERVICES

Corporate service means any of the following services-

- a. Forming, on behalf of another person, or corporation or other legal person
- b. Acting, or arranging for another person to act -
- i. as a director or secretary of a corporation
- ii. as a partner of a partnership; or
- iii. in a similar capacity in relation to other legal persons;
- c. providing a registered office, business address, correspondence or administrative address or other related services for a corporation, partnership or other legal person;

CORPORATE SERVICE PROVIDERS ACT 2024

CORPORATE SERVICES

- d. acting or arranging for another person to act, as a nominee shareholder on behalf any corporation, other than a corporation
- e. Carrying out any designated activity in relation to the provision of any accounting service
- f. Carrying out an ACRA transaction with the ACRA Registrar using the electronic transaction system –
- i. On behalf of another person or
- ii. For one or more companies as a secretary of each of those companies.

DESIGNATED ACTIVITY

Designated activity means the preparation to carry out or the carrying out of the transactions for a customer concerning any of the following activities:

- a. Buying or selling of real estate
- b. Management of client money, securities or other assets
- c. Management of bank, savings or securities accounts
- d. Organization of contributions for the creation, operation or management of corporations
- e. Creation, operation or management of legal persons or legal arrangements, or buying and selling of business entities

CRITERIA FOR REGISTRATION OR RENEWAL OF REGISTRATION OF QUALIFIED INDIVIUAL (Sec 10) & (Sec 11)

The individual is a fit and proper person successfully completed the prescribed course or training.

The individual's license is not cancelled, suspended, restricted, or paid a fine of \$ 25,000 for contravention or censured [sec 19(2) & (3)] by the registrar

DEEMED REGISTERED QUALIFIED INDIVIUAL

A deemed registered qualified individual means a key appointment holder of a deemed Registered Corporate Service Provider who is treated under section 15(3) (who is a public accountant) as registered under section 10 as a registered qualified individual

CRITERIA FOR REGISTRATION OR RENEWAL OF REGISTRATION OF CORPORATE SERVICE PROVIDER (Sec 9)

- 1. An individual or a partnership registered under business registration act
- 2. Company
- 3. Limited liability partnership
- 4. Limited partnership

The applicant has to meet the criteria (1) (The applicant being and individual) is a registered qualified individual, at least one partner of the applicant (being partnership, limited liability partnership or limited partnership) is a registered qualified individual.

DEEMED REGISTERED CORPORATE SERVICE PROVIDERS Sec 7(2) & Sec 8

Deemed registered corporate service provider "means an accounting entity that is treated under section 7 (2) as registered under section 8 as a registered corporate service provider

PREVENTION OF MONEY LAUNDERING, PROLIFERATION FINANCING AND TERRORISIM FINANCING

Sec 17 (1) A registered corporate service provider must perform customer due to diligence measures in each of the following circumstances:

- a. Before providing any corporate service to a customer
- b. Where the registered corporate service provider has reason to suspect money laundering, proliferation financing or terrorism financing
- c. Where the registered corporate service provider has reason to doubt the veracity or adequacy of information obtained from earlier customer due diligence measures
- d. Under other circumstance prescribed for the purpose of this subsection
- (2) A registered corporate service provider must not proceed to provide any corporate service to any person if there exist any circumstances prescribed for the purpose of this subsection

Providing false information to Registrar - Sec 25

- a. Materially false
- b. Omit to provide
- c. Intentionally alters, suppresses or destroys any documents order information shall be guilty of an offense, shall be liable upon conviction to a fine not exceeding \$ 50,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years.

NOMINEE DIRECTOR

Nominee Director means a director who is accustomed Or under an obligation whether formal or informal to act in accordance with the directions, instructions, or wishes of another person

PROVIDING CORPORATE SERVICES WITHOUT REGISTRATION

SEC 7 (4) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a time not exceeding \$ 50,000 or to imprisonment correct term not exceeding two years or to both. (What about part time bookkeepers?)