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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Axis's Finance Act Series 2023!

Today, we embark on an overview of The Finance (miscellaneous provisions) Act 2023, shining light on the pivotal changes to reshape the financial services realm. Stay tuned, as in our upcoming series, my colleagues will delve deeper, elaborating the intricacies of specific legislative amendments impacting our sector.

In this paper, we shall explore some of the recent noteworthy measures and amendments made to the law, pursuant to the The Finance (miscellaneous provisions) Act 2023, that relate to the financial services industry, which include business facilitation, compliance, income tax, employment, and updates in the companies and financial services sector. Year on year, new measures are introduced, or amendments are made to the law to make the Mauritian jurisdiction even more appealing to investors.



Under the business facilitation part, we delve into the measures that streamline applications for work permits and encourage investment in Mauritius. Notably, the introduction of the National Electronic Licensing Platform for work permit applications and other significant changes that make Mauritius even more attractive for non-citizens.



Moving on to compliance, we focus on the amendments to the Financial Services Act, emphasizing the new powers given to the Financial Services Commission (FSC) and the Chief Executive of the FSC. These changes aim to enhance regulatory oversight, promote transparency, and bolster the country's efforts against money laundering and financing of terrorism.



We will then explore the significant amendments to income tax. These amendments offer various exemptions, reliefs, and reduced rates for specific sectors, including partial exemption for interest earned by Collective Investment Schemes, reduced tax rate for profits from selling aviation fuel to airlines, abolition of the solidarity levy and much more.



In the employment sector, the Finance Bill introduces progressive changes, such as the 4-day workweek option for workers, improved benefits for part-time workers, extended leave to care for family members with healthcare-related issues, and increased petrol allowances, among others.



Finally, we conclude with updates in the companies and financial services sector. These changes inter alia include mandates for public listed companies to have a minimum percentage of women on their boards, improvements in shareholder communication and corporate governance, and the expansion of the regulatory framework to include digital assets and virtual asset custodians.

These amendments are set to enhance investor's confidence, attract more investments, and foster sustainable economic growth in Mauritius. At Axis, we are here to assist you in navigating these new measures and ensuring you have the right information to make informed decisions.

// By **Assad Abdullatiff**, Managing Director – Axis Fiduciary Ltd

