INTERNATIONAL
THE NEWS
October 14, 2025

FPCCI, KTBA seek extension in tax return filing deadline

By our correspondent

KARACHI: Leading business and tax bodies have urged the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to extend the deadline for filing income tax returns for the Tax Year 2025, citing persistent technical issues and reduced filing time due to delayed release of return forms.

In separate letters to FBR Chairperson Rashid Mahmood Langrial, the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) and the Karachi Tax Bar Association (KTBA) called for extending the existing October 15 deadline. The FPCCI proposed a new deadline of October 31, 2025, while the KTBA sought an extension until November 15, 2025.

FPCCI President Atif Ikram Sheikh said taxpayers and stakeholders were facing delays in obtaining essential financial documents, difficulties in integrating Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems with FBR's digital invoicing, and recurring technical problems with the online filing portal. He urged the tax authority to adopt a taxpayer-friendly approach and grant additional time to ease compliance pressures.

The KTBA, which has been corresponding with the FBR since August to highlight portal-related issues, reiterated that several technical glitches and legal anomalies in the Iris system remain unresolved. These include the incorrect chargeability of surcharges under Section 4AB, non-adjustment of refund claims from previous years, and misclassification of taxes under Section 235.

The association noted that the final income tax return form was notified on August 18, 2025, effectively reducing the legally allowed 92-day filing window by 49 days, in contravention of Rule 34A of the Income Tax Rules, 2002. It said this compression of time, combined with unresolved system errors, had made compliance impractical for many taxpayers.

Both FPCCI and KTBA have appealed to the FBR to consider the exceptional circumstances and grant a reasonable extension to ensure taxpayers can fulfil their legal obligations without undue hardship or penalties.