

Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church

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14.10.2020 / No. 0986

Sub: Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Act, 2020 - Reg.

Dear Thirumeni/ Achen/ Sir/ Madam

The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Act, 2020 enacted by the Parliament of India came into force w.e.f. 29.09.2020 as per the Gazette Notification of even date. The amended section 17 of the Act stipulates all associations having FCRA has to open a new Bank account in New Delhi as specified by the Central Government by Notification. On 07.10.2020 the Central Government notified that the State Bank of India, New Delhi Main Branch, 11, Sansad Marg, New Delhi - 110001 as the branch wherein all associations shall open "FCRA Account". The Ministry of Home Affairs vide public notice dated 13.10.2020 informed that the Central Government has decided to grant time till 31.03.2021 to open such FCRA Account. Till such time of opening the new "FCRA Account" the associations are permitted to collect funds in the existing FCRA Bank Accounts. In other words, the FCRA registered Associations are permitted to collect funds in their existing FCRA Bank Accounts only up to the date of opening new "FCRA Account" or till 31.03.2021, whichever is earlier. The MHA will publish in their website, a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to facilitate opening and operating FCRA Account in the SBI, New Delhi Main Branch.

Being the above is the matter which requires immediate attention of our FCRA registered Associations, it is hereby informed to all that, the associations that have used the PAN of Mar Thoma Sabha in opening the existing FCRA bank Accounts shall open the "FCRA Account" only after seeking and receiving the written permission from the Sabha Secretary of the Mar Thoma Church. It is further clarified that the permission granted earlier, if any, in this respect or in any other respect, SHALL NOT be used for this purpose. It is also notified that using separate PAN in different Bank Accounts would be a contravention of law and will invite legal proceedings.

Yours Sincerely,

Rev. K.G. Joseph Sabha Secretary

