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CRY WOLF!



The incisive newsletter for tax analysts with too much time on their hands.

Feeling Sheepish

It has been three years since the last edition of this publication. Reason enough for the editorial collective to feel sheepish! Fortunately there are no subscriptions to refund, since you gentle reader, got exactly what you paid for. Perhaps you will feel the same way after perusing this edition.

- Olfo and Pawsa Rilpa

Being Fleeced?

Two consecutive editions of a fellow tax publication had us butting heads when we read them.

The January edition first announced; "New treaty... With the government of the Republic of San Merino for the exchange of information relating to tax matters..."

The February edition then went on to add; "GN 23 GG 34936... Agreement between SA & the Republic of San Merino for the exchange of information relating to tax matters. *San Merino*?"

Clearly someone was guilty of woolly thinking here! A potentially vandalised vowel had to herded back into the fold.

A wise exponent of the art of taxation once suggested looking at the source in such cases, so we trotted off post haste to peruse the ennui inducing annals of the *Government Gazette*. A task fortunately speeded by the advent of the freely searchable version to be found at http://www.greengazette.co.za/.

The review revealed the drafters' honour to be intact, since the name of the country was correctly reflected as the Republic of San Marino. Well, almost intact, since the notice referred to the agreement being "for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion." A little further searching revealed a correction notice issued on 23 March 2012, announcing that what we are dealing with is an agreement "for the exchange of information." Honour restored.

Were these baa'd mistakes or merely unfortunate ones? After chewing the cud for a while, we decided the latter.

- Olfo and Pawsa Rilpa

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