Tribal Gaming Accounting and Financial Reporting

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ARTICLE DETAILS
Article History
Received: 22 February 2017
Accepted: 26 February 2017
Published Online: 03 March 2017

Keywords
Tribal
Financial
Reporting
Accounting
Gaming

ABSTRACT
This study has been performed to bring forth the inequality brought upon the tribal gaming and business field. Such inequalities are put forth because the tribal people have no solid knowledge of the rules of the trade or business and no one educates them. Tribal gaming has huge potential and can be used to bring prosperity to the economy if their financial reporting is done right. I have found that there is a lot of under the desk reporting going on, which signifies that in spite of the talks happening on making the tribal world a better one, no action is really taken upon those who corrupt it.

An article published recently in the Indian Country Today article addressed the issues revolving around the accounting, financial reporting and auditing of most of the tribes. It stated that the financial statements for the tribes, for all purposes is not of any worth and is of no interest to the CPA firm.

It has also been recognized that services that deliver effectively to tribal members are a priority. There are trusted advisors who can help these tribal people achieve their goals by providing services to improve their governance capabilities and structures and also help in enhancing the revenue streams through partnerships and development.

So, how do they successfully run tribal gaming?

Running and successful gaming businesses have many factors linked to it, which include operational efficiency and complying with the industry and the regulations of the government. To meet these goals, a comprehensive audit and consultation services are required. These requirements should be made available to tribes of all classes as it helps in improving business; helps create training programs and so on and so forth.

Other tribal enterprises:

In addition to the vast number of tribal governments and gaming operations, there are other tribal enterprises or businesses for people who specialize in various things. There are dedicated specialists and firms who give their 100 percent in these industries which include agribusiness, construction, forest products, real estate, hospitality, and manufacturing products for the regular consumer.

The standards provided to the tribal community, even after all of this growth and potential, are not that high as the government usually does not consider the important differences between tribes and other governmental entities. Treating these tribal organizations that are self-sufficient and well off is not an award of some sort as this violates the tribe’s sovereignty and their own governance. This does not in any way help the tribes that are less fortunate and stuck in audits and other financial crisis and this happens on a larger scale because the governments look at this from a financial standpoint and thus they fail to look at the tribes that need them ever so much than the tribes that don’t. This can be solved if the governing bodies that maintain a check on these communities double all their effort to see a noticeable change in auditing, accounting and financial reporting within and out of the gaming sector.

Managing these government bodies is another task entirely as they look at thing from a financial standpoint hence, hindering the work of auditors on all levels of the ladder. They impose complex laws that do not benefit anyone and only bring in more hardship for people of lower or lesser known tribes in the long run.

Exemption of the tribal people from website publications is a minuscule victory for the tribes, but the battle for fair financial reports and equal gaming rights is not over here. A tribal exempted must pursue the Single act audit which is a crucial requirement that relates to the tribe’s financial conditions and statements and also helps them make their transactions go through public inspection. A lot of the times, a whole lot of content in these statements is regarding sensitive business, operational and information regarding their governance, which is supposed to be a matter of confidentiality for these tribes. This content is in no way related to the financial side of things and it is inappropriate to be sent for public inspection.

To solve this, the public inspection requirement has to be changed. Tribes minimize adverse consequences by organizing units and independent structures for financial reporting that completely block the government’s interference and completely relinquish all rights from federal awards. To still legally comply with the obligatory policies and audits by the government, these tribes prepare financial statements of only the required and necessary data for the audits. This data is non-confidential and it does not violate any acts. This helps them protect their confidential matters and keeps the involvement out of the hands of the governing bodies.
Conclusion:

Now, when we hear about these tribes not complying with the standard issued policies, would we still blame them? I think not. This process of making the tribal businesses requires a lot of time and resources. A lot of money is spent each year for the betterment for these tribes but that money is just a number and is spent on the wrong things. To effectively make these tribes prosper, we have to set aside the financial standpoint and look at this matter on a more humane level.

To make their lives better, trading laws have to be simplified and budgeting, as well as business policies, need to be formed with no financial profits in mind as that hinders the progress and quality of work in these areas.

REFERENCES
