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TEXTO

Nothing is certain

IN MID-2012 Eike Batista, until recently Brazil's richest man, saw his empire battered. OGX, an oil firm he controls, said its wells were less productive than it had thought. By the end of the year Mr Batista's fortune fell by two-thirds, to \$12.4 billion. Now he is under attack on another flank. On January 8th MMX, his mining company, said it had been handed a bill relating to its activities in 2007, for 3.8 billion reais (\$1.8 billion) for corporate income tax and social security, plus interest and fines.

MMX says it will be fighting these "totally baseless" charges. That adds it to a growing list of Brazilian firms battling the tax authorities over huge sums. The previous day Natura, a direct-sales cosmetics firm, said it was disputing 630m reais in federal sales taxes. In December Fibria, a paper-and-pulp firm, and Santos Brasil, a port operator, said they were being chased for 1.7 billion and 330m reais, respectively, in corporate income tax and social security. None of the four companies has made loss provisions; all say they regard the risk of having to pay as remote.

Fonte: www.economist.com

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Em meados de 2012, Eiki Batista, até recentemente o homem mais rico do Brasil, disse que seu império quebrou. A OGX, uma firma de petróleo que ele controla, disse que seus poços(Wells) estavam menos produtivos do que ela tinha pensado. No final do ano a fortuna do Senhor Batista caiu dois terços, para 12,4 bilhões de dólares. Agora ele está sob ataque em outro flanco. Em 08 de janeiro, a MMX, sua companhia de mineração(mining), disse que tinha sido entregue (a ela) uma conta(multa) relacionada com suas atividades em 2007, de 3,8 bilhões de reais por imposto de renda corporativo e previdência social (contribuições sociais), acréscimos de juros e multas.

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A MMX disse que ele estará lutando contra esses encargos "totalmente sem base". Ela acrescentou que está crescendo a lista de firmas brasileiras que batalham contra as autoridades tributárias sobre altas somas. No dia anterior, a Natura, uma firma de venda direta de cosméticos, disse que estava disputando 630 milhões de reais em impostos federais sobre vendas. Em dezembro, a Fibria, uma firma de papel e celulose, e Santos Brasil, um operador portuário, disseram que eles estavam sendo gravados em 1,7 bilhões de reais e 330 milhões de reais, respectivamente, no imposto de renda corporativo e previdência social. Nenhuma das quatro companhias tinha feito provisões de perdas; todas disseram que elas consideram o risco de ter pagar como remoto.

Fonte: www.economist.com