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Legal News

March 2020

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Highlights

1. Four more sectors and industries to have access to investment incentives

On March 30, 2020, the Government promulgates Decree No. 37/2020/ND-CP updating the List of sectors and industries having access to investment incentives which is annexed to Decree No. 118/2015/ND-CP dated 12 November 2015, providing guidelines for the Law on Investment ("Decree 118").

The new Decree adds business and investment activities provided in the Law on Support for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises to the List of sectors and industries having access to investment incentives in Appendix I to Decree 118, including:

(a) Investment in supply chains of small and medium-sized enterprises;
(b) Investment in business of incubation of small and medium-sized enterprises;
(c) Investment in business of technical infrastructure supporting small and medium-sized enterprises;
(d) Investment in business of co-working area for small and medium-sized startup enterprises.

These regulations have been modified to ensure adherence to the regulations laid down in Article 33.1.a of the Law on Support for Small and Medium Enterprises 2017.

This Decree shall enter into force on 15 May 2020.

2. Fines for discharge of wastewater containing hazardous chemicals into sources of water

This is the highlight of Decree No. 36/2020/ND-CP prescribing administrative fines for violations arising in the water and natural resource industry.

The new Decree provides that discharge of not greater than 5 m^3/full day of wastewater containing toxic chemicals or radioactive substances into sources of water will be fined from VND60 million to VND90 million.
(the current fine is from VND20 million to VND30 million).

In addition, the violating entity is obliged to take remedial actions to mitigate pollution and depletion of water sources, if any.

Notes: The aforesaid fines are only imposed on individuals (including business households) while fines imposed on entities will be doubled.

This Decree shall take effect on 10 May 2020.

3. Payment during a furlough due to Covid-19 epidemic

On 25 March 2020, the Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs issues Official Dispatch No. 1064/LDTBXH-QHLDTL providing guidelines for paying wages and salaries during a furlough due to Covid-19, including the followings:

(a) The payment for furloughed employees will conform to Article 98 of Labour Code 2012 ("**Labour Code**"), taking into account whether the furlough is due to the fault of an employer or employee, or any other objective reasons.

(b) If any employee falls into one of the following situations, paying him/her wage or salary during a furlough will comply with Article 98.3 of the Labour Code (the pay rate shall be negotiated between parties provided that it is not lower than the region-based minimum wage rate):

  (i) Employee is a foreign national who cannot get back to work during a period of time required by competent authorities;
  (ii) Employee is on furlough due to a mandatory quarantine required by competent authorities;
  (iii) Employee is on furlough because the company or the company's division where he/she is working cannot run as usual due to his/her employer or his/her other coworker(s) is(are) quarantined or not allowed to return to work.

(c) If any enterprise gets input material or market difficulties leading to insufficient work for employees, its employer may temporarily transfer their employees other jobs than their employment contracts as provided in Article 31 of the Labour Code as follows:

  (i) If the furlough is extended, affecting its wage payment, then employer and employee may agree on temporary suspension of employment contract as provided in Article 32 of the Labour Code.
  (ii) If any enterprise has to downsize, leading to job loss, placement of employees will be subject to Article 38 or Article 44 of the Labour Code.

4. Compulsory quarantine for all entering Vietnam from 21 March 2020

On 20 March 2020, the National Steering Committee for COVID-19 Prevention and Control issued Official Letter No. 1440/CV-BCD on quarantine of people entering into Vietnam to prevent and combat COVID-19 epidemic.

Accordingly, the said Steering Committee proposed the relevant ministries and People's Committees of provinces and cities to implement the contents for self-isolation and quarantine for COVID-19 epidemic prevention and control as follows:

(a) Organization of concentrated quarantine applicable to all people from other countries and territories entering Vietnam from 00:00 on 21 March 2020.

(b) In case of entering person with signs of fever, cough or shortness of breath, he/she must be immediately taken to a medical facility for isolation, treatment and testing of COVID-19.

(c) In case entering diplomatic or official duty passport holders are healthy, have no signs of illness and are guaranteed by their representative organizations to ensure absolute isolation conditions, they may be self-isolated at their representative organizations or at home for 14-day period from the date of their entry into Vietnam.

(d) Continue implementing Official Letter No. 1338/CV-BCD of 2020 of the National Steering Committee on quarantine and testing for COVID-19 prevention and control

5. Extended deadline for payment of union fees by enterprises affected by COVID-19

On 18 March 2020, Vietnam General Federation of Labour has issued Official Dispatch No. 245/TLD on extension of the deadline for payment of union dues for enterprises affected by Covid-19.

According to this document, production and business entities affected by Covid-19 will be granted an extension of the deadline for payment of union dues for the first 6 months to 30 June 2020.

Enterprises affected by Covid-19 are defined as those whose employees participating in the social insurance program have to furlough their employees at least 50% of those subject to compulsory participation in the social insurance program.

If the enterprises continue to have difficulty due to Covid-19 after the aforesaid deadline, then the deadline will be extended to 31 December 2020.

Confederations of Labour at cities and provinces; Trade Unions of central sectors; and Trade Unions of Incorporations within the remit of Confederations

of Labour, must strictly comply with this direction and report by the 10th day each month to Confederations of Labour.

6. Guidelines for COVID-19 prevention and control measures

On 18 March 2020, the Ministry of Health issued Decision No. 963/QD-BYT on "Temporary guidelines for monitoring and preventing & controlling COVID-19".

Accordingly, at present, no specific treatment drugs and vaccines are available.

Accordingly, people should apply the following preventive measures:

(a) Not going to epidemic-affected areas, refrain from gathering in crowded places;
(b) Limiting direct contact with people with acute respiratory illness (fever, cough, shortness of breath); When in contact, properly wear a medical mask and keep a distance of at least 2 meters away from each other;
(c) Persons with signs of fever, cough or shortness of breath should stay at home, wear a mask, and immediately notify the nearest medical facility for timely consultation, examination and treatment;
(d) Pupils, students, and employees who show suspected of disease infection do not go to school and work, and immediately notify the health agencies;
(e) Maintaining personal hygiene, washing hands frequently under running water with soap or regular antiseptic solution for at least 20 seconds; gargling mouth and throat with mouthwash, avoiding touching eyes, nose and mouth;
(f) Keeping the body warm; improving the health by eating, resting, reasonable activities, exercising, etc.

This Decision shall take effect on 18 March 2020.

7. Bank's new interest rate ceilings applied from 17 March 2020

The State Bank of Vietnam promulgated Decision No. 419/QD-NHNN on interest rates applied to deposits in Vietnamese Dong of entities and individuals at credit institutions and foreign banks' branches according to Circular No. 07/2014/TT-NHNN dated 17 March 2014.

According to the new Circular, the following regulations come into force on 17 March 2020:

(a) The maximum interest rate applied to demand deposits and deposits of less than 1 month term will be 0.5%/year (previously 0.8%/year).

(b) The maximum interest rate applied to deposits of at least 1 month to less than 6-month term will be 4.75%/year (previously 5%/year);

In particular, people's credit funds and microfinance institutions will apply the maximum interest rate of 5.25%/year (previously 5.5%/year) to deposits of at least 1 month- to less than 6 month-term.

Notes: Maximum interest rates arising before 17 March 2020 will be applied till the agreed maturity; if the agreed maturity expires and customers do not withdraw their deposits, credit institutions and foreign banks' branches can apply new interest rate ceilings.

This Decision shall take effect on 17 March 2020, replacing Decision No. 2415/QD-NHNN dated 18 November 2019.

8. Relief for borrowers affected by Covid-19

On 13 March 2020, the State Bank of Vietnam has promulgated Circular No. 01/2020/TT-NHNN, regulating reschedule of debt repayment, interest or fee exemption, reduction or unchanged classification of debt by credit institutions and foreign banks' branches due to Covid-19.

According to the new Circular, credit institutions and foreign banks' branches may decide to apply exemption or reduction of interest or fees prescribed in internal rules and regulations to outstanding liabilities arising from credit facilities (except for purchases of or investments in corporate bonds) with respect to the following borrowers:

(a) Borrowers whose obligations to repay principal and/or interest due during the period from 23 January 2020 to the day immediately following the ending date of the period of 3 months starting from the date of the Prime Minister's announcement of the end of Covid-19 pandemic; and

(b) Borrowers who are incapable of repaying principal and/or interest by maturity dates under terms and conditions of loan contracts or agreements due to decreases in their revenue and income caused by Covid-19.

This Circular shall take effect on 13 March 2020.

9. Antibacterial cloth masks must have at least 3 layers

On 12 March 2020, the Ministry of Health issued Decision No. 870/QD-BYT on temporary technical guidelines for anti-droplet and antibacterial cloth masks.

Accordingly, the structure required for anti-droplet and antibacterial masks must have at least 3 layers:

(a) The outer layer is the layer of water resistance, respiratory droplet resistance or combined with antibacterial nature;
(b) The remaining is filter and antibacterial layers (in which antibacterial layer is made of antibacterial fabric, nano silver, activated carbon or equivalent).

In addition, the general technical requirements for antibacterial cloth masks include:

(a) Not causing skin allergies to the wearer;
(b) The surface must be clean, free from lint and visible defects;
(c) secured straps;
(d) The shape and size must ensure to fully cover the nose and mouth, the facepieces need to fit to the wearer's face without gaps.

This Decision took effect on the signing date.

10. The head of the social insurance agency receives people in 3 unexpected cases

On 11 March 2020, Vietnam Social Insurance issued Decision No.378/QD-BHXH on the process of receiving citizens, settling complaints, denunciations and recommendations of Vietnam Social Insurance.

Accordingly, the head of the social insurance agency shall receive citizens in the following unexpected cases:

(a) Serious or complicated case involving many people, involving many agencies, organizations and units or different opinions of agencies, organizations and units;
(b) Failure to direct and timely review the case may cause serious consequences or may lead to the destruction of the state or collective property, and harm to people's lives and property, affecting security, politics, social order and safety;
(c) At the urgent request of the Director of the Inspection - Inspection Department/ Head of Inspection - Inspection Department/ officer who is assigned to receive citizens.

This Decision took effect on the signing date and replaces Decision No.868/QD-BHXH dated 8 June 2016.

11. Temporarily suspending issuance of work permits to people from the Covid-19 epidemic area

This is a remarkable content in Resolution No. 28/NQ-CP, issued by the Government on 10 March 2020, on the Government's regular meeting of February 2020.

Accordingly, as the Covid-19 pandemic is forecasted to be still complicated and unpredictable, affecting many sectors and fields of the country, needs to be strictly monitored in order to have effective response, the Government directs:

(a) Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs:

(i) To instruct enterprises to handle workers' rights in case of insufficient work, furlough, or job loss due to the impact of the epidemic in accordance with the regulations;

(ii) To temporarily suspend the issuance of new work permits to foreign workers from countries or territories affected by Covid-19; etc.

(b) The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism promotes tourism advertisement and tourism, showing that Vietnam is a safe destination which has well controlled Covid-19;

Ministries promptly review and propose exemption and reduction of fees and charges to support and reduce difficulties for those affected by Covid-19 pandemic, and send them to the Ministry of Finance.

12. No bond for vehicles subject to seizure and impoundment in four cases

This is the content in Decree No. 31/2020/ND-CP dated 5 March 2020 ("Decree 31"), amending a number of articles of Decree No.115/2013/ND-CP, on management and storage of material evidences and/or means of administrative violations, which are temporarily seized and impounded according to administrative procedures ("Decree 115").

Accordingly, Decree 31 stipulates 4 cases in which no bond can be posted for releasing violating vehicles to the owner of record:

- The vehicle of the violation is evidence of a criminal case;
- The vehicle has been used for street racing, against law enforcement officials, causing public disorder or traffic accidents;
- Certificate of vehicle registration is forged or illegally amended;
- Number plate is counterfeit, the vehicle has its number of chassis and engine numbers illegally changed or removed.

(Decree 115 also regulates cases of vehicles which are being registered for secured transactions).

In addition, Decree 31 provides for discounting the bond money for temporarily seized vehicles according to administrative procedures:

Within 10 days after the expiry of the time limit for organization or individual to comply with the administrative penalty, the persons of authority to impose it shall issue decisions on discounting the bond money posted.

This Decree shall take effect on 1 May 2020.

13. Signature for issuing administrative documents must be in blue ink

This is a notable content in Decree No. 30/2020/ND-CP dated 5 March 2020 of the Government, on administration ("Decree 30").

Accordingly, the new Decree clearly stated that when signing and issuing administrative documents in paper, the signatory must use pen with blue ink, fading ink is not allowed.

(Meanwhile, Decree No. 110/2004/ND-CP dated 8 April 2004 only stipulates that when signing, no pencil, no red ink or fading ink is allowed, then black ink can be used for signing the document, etc.).

For electronic documents, the authorized person will digitally sign.

In addition, Decree 30 also amended regulations on administrative documents, specifically removing the following types of documents from the list of administrative documents: commitments, certificates, travel documents, document receipts.

This Decree took effect on the signing date.

14. Writing comments in personal history forms is banned and power of attorney only be authenticated in 4 cases

This is the noteworthy matters specified in Circular No. 01/2020/TT-BTP of the Ministry of Justice ("Circular 01"), providing guidelines for implementation of the Decree No. 23/2015/ND-CP regarding issuance of extracts from registers, certification of true copies, signature validation and contract or transaction validation ("Decree 23").

According to this Circular, validation of signatures in personal history statement forms will be subject to the following requirements:

(a) Validating person are not allowed to write any comments in personal history statement forms, except attestation in the form provided by Decree 23.

(b) If otherwise provided by specialized laws, writing comments in personal history statement forms will be subject to these laws.
(c) Applicants for validation must be responsible for all information given in their personal history statement forms.
(d) Any blank field or section of a personal history statement form must be diagonally crossed out before validation.

In addition, authorization that satisfies all conditions such as no remuneration, no compensation obligation of the authorized party and it is not related to the transfer of ownership of property and the right to use real estate shall be processed in the form of authentication of signatures on a power of attorney in the following 4 cases:

(a) Authorizing the submission and receipt of documents, unless otherwise not allowed by law;
(b) Authorizing to receive pension, postal parcel, subsidy, allowance;
(c) Authorizing housekeeping;
(d) Authorizing household members to borrow loan from the Social Policy Bank.

For authorization not falling in one of the above cases, authentication of signatures on the power of attorney may not be requested; requesters for authentication must carry out procedures according to regulations on authentication of contracts and transactions.

Circular 01 also provides for attestation samples to be used in the case where there are two or more persons claiming bequests or refusing to receive bequests.

This Circular will enter into force on 20 April 2020, replacing Circular No. 20/2015/TT-BTP dated 29 December 2015.

15. Increased fines for labour-related administrative violations

On 1 March 2020, the Government has promulgated Decree No.28/2020/ND-CP regulating fines for administrative violations related to labour, social insurance or sending of Vietnamese workers abroad ("Decree 28").

This Decree regulates violations, sanctioning types, sanctioning levels, remedies, sanctioning authority, authority to make records, and procedures for sanctioning administrative violations in the field of labour and social insurance (SI) and sending Vietnamese workers to work abroad under contracts.

Organizations and individuals that commit administrative violations in the fields of labour, social insurance and sending Vietnamese workers to work abroad under contracts shall be sanctioned mostly in the form of warning or

fine. Depending on the nature and severity of the violation, organizations and individuals of administrative violations may also be subject to one or more of additional types of sanctioning.

For acts of administrative violations in the fields of labour, social insurance, and sending Vietnamese labourers to work abroad under contracts committed before 15 April 2020, and subsequently discovered or under review; the violations shall be handled in accordance with the Decree 28 if it does not provide for legal liability or provide less severe ones, to violating individuals and organizations.

The following are notable contents of Decree 28:

(a) First of all, this Decree expressly prescribes the fine level when the employer violates the regulations on payment to employees. Specifically,

Article 16.2 of Decree 28 stipulates a fine of 5 million to 50 million VND depending on the number of violated employees for employers who commit one of the following acts: Failure to pay wages on time; failure to pay or failure to pay fully salaries to employees as agreed in the labour contracts; failure to pay or inadequate payment to labourers doing heavy, hazardous or dangerous works, or extremely heavy, hazardous or dangerous works, jobs requiring training and apprenticeship by law; paying lower than the levels prescribed in the wage scales and payrolls sent to the district-level labour management authority; failure to pay or insufficient payment for overtime, night work, furlough as prescribed by law; deducting salaries of labourers in contravention of law; improper payment to employees during temporary transfer to jobs other than those specified in labour contracts, during work suspension, during a strike or unused days of the annual leave.

Article 16.3 of Decree 28 also provides that employers who pay labourers wages lower than the minimum region-based wage level prescribed by the Government may be subject to a fine of 20 million to 75 million VND, depending on the number of violated employees.

However, the aforementioned fine level is applicable to an individual employer, unless otherwise specified. According to Article 5 of Decree 28, the fine level for institutional employers is doubled. Thus, institutional employers may be fined up to 100 million VND for late payment of wages to employees, and up to 150 million VND for paying employees wages lower than the minimum region-based wage level prescribed by the Government.

(b) The new Decree also provides for specific penalties for individuals and organizations that violate the regulations on compulsory insurance for labourers, whereby,

(i) Article 40.4 of Decree 28 provides that a fine of 2 million to 4 million VND shall be imposed for each employee but the maximum shall not exceed 75 million VND against an employer who commits any of the following violations:

- Failure to make a dossier to participate in compulsory social insurance or unemployment insurance for employees within 30 days from the date of executing labour contracts or employment contracts, or the date of recruitment.
- Failure to make a dossier or written request within the deadline specified in Article 102.2, Article 103.1, Article 110.1, and Article 112.2 of the Law on Social Insurance.
- Not referring employees who are defined in Article 47 of the Law on Occupational Safety and Hygiene and Article 55 of the Law on Social Insurance to examination of working capacity impairment at the Medical Assessment Council.
- Failure to return social insurance books to employees as stipulated in Article 21.5 of the Law on Social Insurance.

Thus, for the above-mentioned violations, institutional employers may be subject to a fine of up to VND 150 million.

(ii) A fine of between 10 million and 15 million VND shall be imposed on employers who fail to pay domestic workers the social insurance and health insurance amount as prescribed by law for these workers to pay for them by themselves (Article 29.2.b);

(iii) A fine from 500,000 to 1 million VND shall be imposed upon any employer which fails to annually display publicly information on payment of social insurance for employees as provided by the social insurance agency in accordance with Article 23.7 of the Law on Social Insurance (Article 38.2.a).

(c) The new Decree also stipulates fines for breaches of regulations on contract execution and performance. Specifically:

(i) A fine of from 2 million to 25 million VND shall be imposed on employers who commit any of the following acts: Failure to

enter into written labour contracts for jobs of 3 or more full term; failure to enter into the right type of labour contract with employees; entering into a labour contract without fully covering all major contents of labour contract; entering into labour contracts to hire directors in the State-invested enterprises not according to the provisions of the law.

(ii) A fine of between 20 million and 25 million VND shall be imposed upon any employer that commits any of the following violations: Keeping the originals of employees' personal papers, diplomas and certificates upon executing or performing labour contract; forcing employees to enter into collateral arrangements using money or other property as security for the performance of labour contracts; entering into labour contracts with employees aged full 15 years old to under 18 years old without a written consent of the employee's legal representative.

(iii) A fine varying from 5 million to 10 million VND shall be imposed upon any employer that discriminates employees for age reason in labour management.

(iv) A fine of from 10 million to 15 million VND shall be imposed upon an employer that employs a person under the age of 15 years old to work overtime or work at night (Article 28.2.c);

(v) A fine of 1 million to 3 million VND shall be imposed upon an employer who temporarily transfer an employee to do jobs other than those specified in the labour contract without a 03 working day prior notice, or with failure to notify clearly the period of temporary transfer or temporarily transfers the employee to do a job which is not suitable to the employee's health and gender;

(vi) A fine of from 10 million to 15 million VND shall be imposed upon any employer which impose many labour discipline measures upon 1 act of violation of labour discipline (Article 18.3.d);

(vii) In particular, employers who commit acts of forced labour or mistreatment to employees but not to the extent of prosecution for penal liability will be subject to a fine of 50 million to 75 million VND.

This Decree shall take effect on 15 April 2020.

16. Notifications of the Intellectual Property Office of Vietnam on extension of deadlines for applicant due to COVID-19 outbreak

Coronavirus disease (Covid-19) caused by a novel coronavirus has spread globally and severely affected all aspects of social-economic life around the world in general, and IP registration activities as well as normal operation of the Intellectual Property Office of Vietnam ("IP Vietnam") in particular.

In order to minimize disadvantages caused by Covid-19 to IP owners, the IP Vietnam issued Notification 5277/TB-SHTT on 31 March 2020, Notification 5387/TB-SHTT on 3 April 2020, and Notification 5294/TV-SHTT on 9 April 2020 in relation to the extension of deadlines in respect of IP procedures as well as transactions between the IP Vietnam and applicants. Details are as follows.

1. Transactions between the IP Vietnam and applicants

According to Notification 5277/TB-SHTT, as of 1 April 2020, all transactions between the IP Vietnam (including Headquarter in Hanoi, Representative Offices in Da Nang City and Ho Chi Minh City) and applicants will be conducted only via the postal service or e-filing system until further notice.

According to Notification 5387/TB-SHTT, due to a positive Covid-19 case at the Headquarter in Hanoi, as of 3 April 2020, this office has stopped all transactions with applicants until further notice. At present, transactions can be made via the postal service or e-filing portal with the IP Vietnam's Representative Offices in Da Nang and Ho Chi Minh City only.

However, according to a recent Notification 5294/TB-SHTT dated 9 April 2020, based on the actual situation, as of 13 April 2020, the Headquarter of the IP Vietnam in Hanoi will resume its transactions with applicants via the portal service and e-filing system along with the IP Vietnam's Representative Offices in Da Nang and Ho Chi Minh City.

2. Extension of time limits

Deadlines falling on the period from 30 March 2020 to 30 April 2020 in respect of procedures for establishing IP rights for all IP matters (i.e., claiming priority, submitting documents, responding to Decisions/Notifications of the IP Vietnam, paying annuity and renewal fees, making payment of relevant fees, filing appeals) are automatically extended to 30 May 2020.

In other cases, if the applicants are still affected by the Covid-19 epidemic so that they could not exercise their rights and obligations on establishing IP rights at the IP Vietnam, they are entitled to request for applying provisions on objective obstacles and force majeure events as stipulated in the amended Circular 01/2007/TT-BKHCN (Rules 9.4 &

9.5) (amended and supplemented by Circular 16/2016/TT-BKHCN), particularly as follows:

> *The time limits shall be exclusive of the duration of force majeure events or objective obstacles by which organizations or individuals fail to perform their rights and obligations within the provided time limits if they make requests and have sufficient evidences to prove those circumstances. If the requests are accepted, the IP Vietnam shall issue decisions or notices on withdrawing the decisions or notifications which have been issued on the grounds that those organizations or individuals fail to exercise their rights and obligations within the time limits, and restoring the application process to the status before the expiry of the time limits (Rule 9.4).*
>
> *Force majeure is an unforeseeable event (such as natural disasters, war, etc.) and cannot be overcome although applicants have taken necessary measures in their capacities. Objective obstacles are obstacles caused by objective circumstances (e.g., sickness, business trips, etc.) that make persons having rights and obligations impossible to know that their legitimate rights or interests are being infringed upon, or unable to exercise their rights and obligations (Rule 9.5).*

Regarding the time to resume receiving PPH requests under the PPH program between the IP Vietnam and the Japan Patent Office (JPO), due to the Covid-19 epidemic, the time to resume receiving such PPH requests will start on 4 May 2020 instead of 1 April 2020 as previously announced.

Other sectors:

Finance

- Decision No. 452/QD-BTC dated 31 March 2020 of the Minister of Finance, amending the price list for calculation of registration fees applicable to automobiles and motorbikes.
- Decision No. 384/QD-BTC dated 23 March 2020 of the Ministry of Finance, publishing amended administrative procedures in the fields of accounting and independent auditing within the scope of the State management functions of the Ministry of Finance.
- Decision No. 345/QD-BTC dated 16 March 2020 of the Ministry of Finance, approving the Scheme for application of financial reporting standards in Vietnam.

Banking

- Decision No. 421/QD-NHNN dated 16 March 2020 of the State Bank of Vietnam, on interest rates of compulsory reserve deposits and deposits in excess of compulsory reserves of credit institutions and foreign banks' branches at the State Bank of Vietnam.
- Decision No. 420/QD-NHNN dated 16 March 2020 of the State Bank of Vietnam, on the maximum interest rates for short-term loans in Vietnam Dong provided by credit institutions and foreign banks' branches to customers' loans to meet their capital demands for a number of economic sectors and industries under the provisions of Circular No. 39/2016/TT-NHNN.
- Decision No. 418/QD-NHNN dated 16 March 2020 of the State Bank of Vietnam, on refinancing interest rate, rediscount interest rate, overnight lending interest rate in inter-bank electronic payments and capital shortage offset loans in the set-off payment by the State Bank of Vietnam for banks.
- Circular No. 04/2020/TT-NHNN dated 31 March 2020 of the State Bank of Vietnam, amending Circular No. 26/2013/TT-NHNN on the Table of service charges paid through the State Bank of Vietnam.
- Circular No. 03/2020/TT-NHNN dated 31 March 2020 of the State Bank of Vietnam, providing for the destruction of money.
- Circular No. 02/2020/TT-NHNN dated 30 March 2020 of the State Bank of Vietnam, providing guidelines for payment and money transfer activities related to

goods transhipment business.

Trade

- Decree No. 35/2020/ND-CP dated 24 March 2020, providing guidelines for the Competition Law.
- Decision No. 195/QD-BCD389 dated 23 March 2020 of the National Steering Committee against smuggling, trade frauds and counterfeit goods on the Regulation on reception and processing of information of smuggling, trade frauds and counterfeit goods.
- Decision No. 731/QD-BCT dated 4 March 2020 of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, on the correction of Circular No. 04/2020/TT-BCT dated 22 January 2020 of the Minister of Industry and Trade, providing for used car import quotas under the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership.
- Decision No. 316/QD-TTg dated 1 March 2020 of the Prime Minister, approving the Scheme for "Building and efficiently operating the Early Warning System on Trade Remedies".
- Circular No. 07/2020/TT-BCT dated 30 March 2020 of the Minister of Industry and Trade, on amendments to Circular No. 31/2015/TT-BCT, on implementation of the Rules of Origin in the Agreement for Establishment of ASEAN - Australia - New Zealand free trade region.
- Circular No. 06/2020/TT-BCT dated 24 March 2020 of the Minister of Industry and Trade, on amendments to Circular No. 03/2019/TT-BCT, on the Rules of Origin of Goods in the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement.
- Circular No. 15/2020/TT-BTC dated 23 March 2020 of the Minister of Industry and Trade, providing guidelines for the printing, issuance, management and use of stamps for alcoholic drinks produced for domestic consumption and imported.
- Circular No. 13/2020/TT-BTC dated 6 March 2020 of the Ministry of Finance, on amendments to a number of articles of Circular No. 13/2015/TT-BTC dated 30 January 2015, on inspection, supervision and temporary suspension of customs procedures for exported or imported goods that require protection of intellectual property rights; control of counterfeit goods and goods infringing intellectual property rights.

Labour

- Decision No. 12/2020/QD-TTg dated 31 March 2020 of the Prime Minister, on pilot application of deposit to workers working in the Republic of Korea under its Employment Permit Program for foreign employees.
- Decision No. 352/QD-BHXH dated 6 March 2020 of Vietnam Social Insurance, promulgating the Regulation on operations of Public Service Portal and “one-stop shop” information system of Social Insurance branch.

Health

- Resolution No. 37/NQ-CP dated 29 March 2020 of the Government, on the special regime in the prevention and control of COVID-19.
- Decision No. 1462/QD-BYT dated 30 March 2020 of the Ministry of Health, providing “Temporary guidelines for quarantine at hotels for health workers in the prevention and control of COVID-19”.
- Decision No. 1344/QD-BYT dated 25 March 2020 of the Ministry of Health, on Guidelines for diagnosis and treatment of acute respiratory infections caused by SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19).
- Decision No. 1282/QD-BYT dated 21 March 2020 of the Ministry of Health, on "Temporary guidelines for testing of COVID-19".
- Decision No. 1271/QD-BYT dated 21 March 2020 of the Minister of Health, on temporary guidelines for prevention and treatment of acute respiratory infections caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus strain (COVID-19) in pregnant women and infants.
- Decision No. 1259/QD-BYT dated 20 March 2020 of the Minister of Health, on the List of essential personal protective equipment for one isolation treatment area for COVID-19 patients.
- Decision No. 1246/QD-BYT dated 20 March 2020 of the Ministry of Health, on "Temporary guidelines for concentrated medical isolation at hotels voluntarily paid by quarantined people in the prevention and control of COVID-19 epidemic".
- Decision No. 904/QD-BYT dated 16 March 2020 of the Minister of Health, on "Manual for organizing implementation of medical isolation in areas affected by COVID-19".
- Decision No. 878/QD-BYT dated 12 March 2020 of the Ministry of Health, on "Guidelines for medical isolation in concentrated isolation facilities for prevention

of COVID-19".

- Decision No. 868/QD-BYT dated 11 March 2020 of the Ministry of Health providing for licensing for export of medical masks in the stage of COVID-19 prevention and control.
- Consolidated Document No. 02/VBHN-BYT dated 18 March 2020 of the Ministry of Health, combining the Circulars on guidelines for prenatal and neonatal consultation, screening, diagnosis and treatment.
- Directive No. 16/CT-TTg dated 31 March 2020 of the Prime Minister, on the implementation of urgent measures for COVID-19 prevention and control.

Education

- Decision No. 436/QD-TTg dated 30 March 2020 of the Prime Minister, on the Plan of Implementation of Vietnam's National Qualifications Framework for the university level during 2020-2025 period.
- Decision No. 821/QD-BGDDT dated 24 March 2020 of the Ministry of Education and Training, regulating printing and issuance of formats for junior high school diploma and high school diploma and for certificates of the national education system at the Ministry of Education and Training agencies.
- Decision No. 736/QD-BGDĐT dated 13 March 2020 of the Minister of Education and Training, amending Clauses 3, 4 and 5, Article 1; and Point b, Clause 2, Article 4 of Decision No. 2071/QD-BGDDT on the school year planning framework for preschools, and general education and regular education facilities to be applied from the 2017-2018 school year.
- Circular No. 04/2020/TT-BGDDT dated 18 March 2020 of the Ministry of Education and Training, detailing a number of articles of Decree No.86/2018/ND-CP dated 6 June 2018, providing for foreign cooperation and investment in Education sector.

Transport

- Decision No. 450/QD-BGTVT dated 24 March 2020 of the Ministry of Transport, publishing amended administrative procedures in the registry field under the management functions of the Ministry of Transport.
- Decision 375/QD-BGTVT dated 13 March 2020 of the Ministry of Transport, publishing amended administrative procedures in the maritime field within the

scope of management functions of the Ministry of Transport.

- Decision No. 355/QD-BGTVT dated 10 March 2020 of the Ministry of Transport, publishing amended, replaced or cancelled administrative procedures in the field of land roads within the scope of management functions of the Ministry of Transport.
- Decision No. 336/QD-TTg dated 4 March 2020 of the Prime Minister, approving the task of formulating the Master Plan for the development of the national system of airports and airfields in the 2021-2030 period, with an orientation up to 2050.
- Circular No. 06/2020/TT-BGTVT dated 9 March 2020 of the Minister of Transport, on amendments to Circular No. 03/2017/TT-BGTVT, providing contents and training programs for crew members and drivers of inland watercrafts.

Natural Resources - Environment

- Decision No. 796/QD-BTNMT dated 27 March 2020 of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, on the non-stop process of handling administrative procedures in the field of environmental monitoring under the authority of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.
- Decision No. 09/2020/QD-TTg dated 18 March 2020 of the Prime Minister, on the Regulation on response to waste incidents.

Construction

- Consolidated Document No. 06/VBHN-BXD dated 11 March 2020 of the Ministry of Construction, combining the Circulars providing for granting certificates of real estate agent practice; guiding the training and retraining of real estate agents and operating real estate trading floors; establishing and organizing real estate trading floors.
- Consolidated Document No. 05/VBHN-BXD dated 9 March 2020 of the Ministry of Construction, combining the Circulars providing guidelines for the Law on Residential Housing and Decree No. 100/2015/ND-CP on social housing development and management.
- Consolidated Document No. 04/VBHN-BXD dated 5 March 2020 of the Ministry of Construction, combining the Decrees on management of construction materials.
- Consolidated Document No. 03/VBHN-BXD dated 4 March 2020 of the Ministry

of Construction, combining the Circulars providing guidelines for the Law on Residential Housing and Decree No. 99/2015/ND-CP, providing guidelines for the Law on Residential Housing issued by the Ministry of Construction.

- Consolidated Document No. 02/VBHN-BXD dated 4 March 2020 of the Ministry of Construction, combining the Circulars providing guidelines for management and use of public housing issued by the Ministry of Construction.

Land

- Resolution No. 27/NQ-CP dated 9 March 2020, on pilot application of specific mechanisms and processes to shorten the time for compensation, support, resettlement and handover for projects with land revocation in the area of Ho Chi Minh City.
- Resolution No. 22/NQ-CP dated 1 March 2020 of the Government, on stabilization of free migrants, and management and use of land from agriculture or forestry farms.
- Decision No. 04/2020/QD-UBND dated 2 March 2020 of the People's Committee of Hanoi, on land price adjustment coefficient in 2020 under the provisions of law to be taken as a basis for calculating: collection of land rents; determination of reserve prices for auction of the right to use leased land; collection of land use levies for households and individuals that have been recognized by the State as land use rights holders, allowing the change of land use purposes for residential land areas in excess of the limits in the area of Hanoi.
- Decision No. 03/2020/QD-UBND dated 2 March 2020 of the People's Committee of Hanoi, on land price adjustment coefficient in 2020 for cases where the coefficient is used for calculating: collection of land use levies when allocating land without auction; collection of land use levies when organizations are recognized as land use rights' holders, and changes of land use purposes; collection of land use levies when selling social houses; determination of the reserve price for auction of land use rights in the area of Hanoi.

Science - Technology

- Decree No. 27/2020/ND-CP dated 1 March 2020, on amendments to a number of articles of Decree No. 40/2014/ND-CP dated 12 May 2014, defining the use and employment of individuals in scientific and technological activities and Decree

No. 87/2014/ND-CP dated 22 September 2014, providing for attraction of individuals in scientific and technological activities who are overseas Vietnamese and foreign experts participating in scientific and technological activities in Vietnam.

- Decision No. 1061/QD-UBND dated 13 March 2020 of the People's Committee of Hanoi, on approving internal processes for handling administrative procedures in the field of Standards - Measurement - Quality and Scientific and Technological Activities under the authority of the Department of Science and Technology of Hanoi.
- Decision No. 587/QD-BKHCN of 9 March 2020 of the Ministry of Science and Technology, approving the internal process for handling administrative procedures according to the "one-stop shop" mechanism under the scope of implementation of the Ministry of Science and Technology.

Information - Communications

- Decision No. 485/QD-BTTTT dated 31 March 2020 of the Ministry of Information and Communications, temporarily providing criteria for the President and Members of the Vietnam Internet Centre's Management Council
- Decision No. 859/QD-UBND dated 11 March 2020 of the People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh City, approving the internal process for handling administrative procedures under the authority of the Department of Information and Communications of Ho Chi Minh City.
- Circular No. 05/2020/TT-BTTTT dated 5 March 2020 of the Minister of Information and Communications, providing for the rates of connection of voice calls between two nationwide terrestrial mobile telecommunications networks and between regional terrestrial fixed telecommunications network with nationwide terrestrial mobile telecommunications network.

Energy

- Decision No. 08/2020/QD-TTg dated 5 March 2020 of the Prime Minister, amending Decision No. 24/2014/QD-TTg on the mechanism to support the development of biomass power projects in Vietnam.
- Circular No. 12/2020/TT-BTC dated 3 March 2020 of the Ministry of Finance, amending Section II, Part A, Table of payable charge rates accompanying Circular

No. 167/2016/TT-BTC dated 26 October 2016 of the Minister of Finance, providing for the collection rates and system for collection, submission, management and use of evaluation charges for granting licenses for electricity operation.

Administration - Judiciary

- Decree No. 33/2020/ND-CP dated 17 March 2020, on amendments to Decree No.62/2015/ND-CP, providing guidelines for the Law on Civil Judgment Enforcement.
- Decree No. 32/2020/ND-CP dated 5 March 2020, amending Decree No. 59/2012/ND-CP, on monitoring the implementation of laws.
- Decision No. 861/QD-UBND dated 11 March 2020, on approval for the internal process for handling administrative procedures under the authority of the Department of Home Affairs of Ho Chi Minh City.
- Decision No. 860/QD-UBND dated 11 March 202020, on approval for the internal process for handling administrative procedures within the scope of management functions of the Department of Justice of Ho Chi Minh City.
- Circular No. 10/2020/TT-BCA dated 6 March 2020 of the Minister of Public Security, providing for objects banned from bring into prison facilities and seizure and handling of prohibited objects.

Agriculture - Forestry - Fisheries

- Decision No. 1025/QD-BNN-KTHT dated 24 March 2020 of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, publishing cancelled administrative procedures in the agriculture and rural development fields under the management functions of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.
- Decision No. 823/QD-BNN-CN dated 16 March 2020 of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, publishing new, replaced or cancelled administrative procedures in the husbandry sector within the scope of management functions of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.
- Decision No. 778/QD-BNN-TT dated 12 March 2020 of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, on correcting the effective date of Circular No. 26/2019/TT-BNNPTNT dated 27 December 2019 of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, regulating the storage of plant variety

samples; assessment of seedling fields, sampling plant propagating materials; the State inspection on quality of imported plant varieties.

- Circular No. 04/2020/TT-BNNPTNT dated 9 March 2020 of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, promulgating the national technical regulations on animal feeds and materials for aquatic feed production.
- Circular No. 03/2020/TT-BNNPTNT dated 2 March 2020 of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, promulgating the National Technical Regulations on treatment products for aquaculture environment.

Investment

- Decision No. 10/2020/QD-TTg dated 18 March 2020 of the Prime Minister, providing for the functions, tasks, powers and organizational structure of the General Statistics Office directly under the Ministry of Planning and Investment.
- Decision No. 05/2020/QD-UBND dated 16 March 2020 of the People's Committee of Hanoi, providing for the functions, tasks, powers and organizational structure of Management Board of Industrial Zones and Export Processing Zones of Hanoi.
- Decision No. 299/QD-BKHDT dated 5 March 2020 of the Ministry of Planning and Investment, amending a number of articles on Establishment of Reception and Result Return Division under the inter-sectorial “one-stop shop” mechanism in processing administrative procedures at the Ministry of Planning and Investment.
- Circular No. 03/2020/TT-BKHDT dated 31 March 2020 of the Ministry of Planning and Investment, regulating the Process of checking the use of the State statistics and information.
- Circular No. 02/2020/TT-BKHDT dated 23 March 2020 of the Ministry of Planning and Investment, providing for classification of institutional areas applied in Vietnamese statistics.

Miscellaneous

- Decision No. 468/QD-BKHDT dated 26 March 2020 of the Ministry of Planning and Investment, providing for supervision over and evaluation of the implementation of Vietnam's sustainable development goals up to 2030.
- Resolution No. 30/NQ-CP dated 12 March 2020 of the Government, on the Action Program to implement Resolution No. 39-NQ/TW on improving the efficiency of

management, exploitation, use and promotion of resources of the economy.

- Resolution No. 26/NQ-CP dated 5 March 2020 of the Government, on the Overall Plan and the 5-year Plan for implementation of Resolution No. 36-NQ / TW on the Strategy for Sustainable Development of Vietnam's Marine Economy up to 2030, with an orientation to 2045.
- Decision No. 476/QD-BTTTT dated 31 March 2020 of the Minister of Information and Communications, on correcting Circular No. 01/2020/TT-BTTTT, providing guidelines for the Law on Publication and Decree No. 195/2013/ND-CP, providing guidelines for the Law Publication.
- Circular No. 14/2020/TT-BTC dated 18 March 2020 of the Ministry of Finance, on amendments to a number of articles of Circular No. 127/2018/TT-BTC dated 27 December 2018 of the Minister of the Ministry of Finance, providing for the service prices in the field of securities applied at the Vietnam Stock Exchange and Vietnam Securities Depository to support organizations and individuals affected by Covid-19 pandemic.

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