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February through April 2015

INVESTMENT

ECONOMIC ZONE PROMOTION AGENCY

Decree no. 2015/178, of 6 April 2015, defines the organization and functioning of the Economic Zone Promotion Agency ("EZPA"), which was created with the goal of developing and supervising the economic zones in Cameroon. The new law places the EZPA under the joint authority of the Ministry of Economy and the Ministry of Finance.

EZPA is notably tasked with:

- Receiving and processing applications for the creation of economic zones;
- Granting approvals to companies;
- Submitting bills to the government for the creation of economic zones;
- Establishing specifications for sponsors and authorized companies; and
- Mediating the amicable resolution of disputes between sponsors, companies, local government and the local communities.

REGULATORY

AUDIOVISUAL MEDIA

The recently enacted law on audiovisual media (Law no. 2015/007, of 20 April 2015) establishes (i) the audiovisual media legal framework; (ii) the rights and obligations of operators; and (iii) the provision of audiovisual media services.

The statute establishes the principles of audiovisual media freedom and promotion of national works by the State, and states that the principles of public order, pluralism of expression and human dignity must also be observed.

The statute also creates a control system, a schedule of penalties and four specific regimes for the audiovisual industry stakeholders:

- Concession for broadcast of audiovisual media signals and storage and conservation of audiovisual contents;
- Licensing of publishers, aggregators, distributors and conditional access system operators;
- Time and space-limited accreditation for the production and supply of audiovisual programs (including coverage of festivals, trade fairs and exhibitions); and
- Approval for the marketing of products, services or equipment, installation of equipment, operation of audiovisual production resource centers and the provision of added-value services in connection with the digital television environment.

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