

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

August through October 2015

OIL & GAS

NEW HYDROCARBONS LAW ENACTED

A new Hydrocarbons Law (Law No. 15/012, of 1 August 2015), setting forth the general legal framework governing hydrocarbons, was recently enacted. The new law repealed the former rules applicable to the oil & gas sector, contained in Ordinance-Law No. 81-013, of 2 April 1981. The newly enacted law covers both upstream and downstream activities and applies to future contracts and/or renewal of existing rights. Certain provisions on environmental protection, safety and hygiene are immediately applicable to existing contracts. The Hydrocarbons Law entered into force on 1 August 2015. Regulations on its implementation should be adopted in the coming months.

AUDIOVISUAL

DRC GOES DIGITAL

The enactment of Joint Ministerial Orders No. 002/TNT/CAB/MCM/LMO/2015 and No. 002/TNT/CAB/MCM/LMO/2015, both dated 25 April 2015, determined the DRC's official switch to Digital Terrestrial Television ("DTT"), putting into motion the phasing out of analogue broadcasting. Despite practical issues delaying effective implementation of the relevant provisions, the new Joint Ministerial Orders define the players of the new Congolese audiovisual landscape, adapted to the features of DTT, whilst also determining the recovery by the State of analogue frequencies assigned to TV networks. The new regulations also impose a ban on the importation of analogue receivers.

PROCEDURE FOR OBTAINING DTT OPERATION LICENSE ADOPTED

Pursuant to Ministerial Order No. CAB/M-CM/LMO/006/2015, of 25 April 2015, the Coordinating Body of the National Committee for DTT Migration called for bids for the provision of DTT services through the public network, both at a national and regional level. This is also the competent body to examine applications from bidders wishing to operate through private networks. Applications for licenses should be addressed to the National Committee for DTT Migration, along with all supporting documentation. Applications are subject to the payment of a fee, the amount of which will vary in accordance with the specific service.

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