

Timor-Leste - Legal News - June Through August 2015

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TAX

[COMMISSION FOR TAX REFORM](#)

Resolution No. 26/2015, of 5 August 2015, created the commission responsible for the tax reform. The tax reform goals are to improve tax sustainability, reduce tax evasion and fraud, as well as to protect the Petroleum Fund.

[AMENDMENT TO THE STATUTE ON PORTS TARIFFS](#)

Through Decree-Law No. 28/2015, of 19 August 2015, the Minister of Public Works, Transports and Communications was empowered to authorize the payment of port tariffs' debts in installments as well as to grant exemptions subject to the Minister of Finance's prior opinion.

LABOR

[DISCRIMINATION \(EMPLOYMENT AND OCCUPATION\) CONVENTION](#)

The National Parliament, by means of Resolution No. 11/2015, of 5 August 2015, ratified the Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention of the International Labor Organization. This Convention sets forth that any distinction based on race, color, sex, religion, political opinion, national extraction and social origin, which impair equality treatment in employment and occupation is deemed discrimination.

CONVENTION ON EQUAL REMUNERATION

The International Labor Organization Convention on Equal Remuneration has been ratified by the National Parliament, by means of Resolution No. 12/2015, of 5 August 2015. This Convention determines the application to all workers of the principle of equal remuneration for men and women workers for work of equal value.

EXEMPTION OF VISAS FOR SHORT-TERM STAYS

The National Parliament, by means of Resolution No. 10/2015, of 5 August 2015, approved an agreement between the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste and the European Union under which Timorese and European Union's citizens traveling to the territory of each contracting party are exempt from holding a visa, provided such stay does not exceed 90 days, for each 180-day period. Such exemption does not apply to European Union's citizens entering into Timor-Leste for work-related purposes.

ANTI-CORRUPTION

APPROVED THE INTERNAL STRUCTURE OF THE ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION

Decree-Law No. 23/2015, of 29 July 2015, created the internal structure of the Anti-Corruption Commission, which is an independent commission responsible for, amongst others, implementing and managing the policies for risk assessment, monitoring and transparency in the public sector. The Commission is made up of the Prevention and Public Awareness Department, the Investigation Department and the Support and Cooperation Department.

"SPECIALIST IN ANTI-CORRUPTION" DEFINED

By means of Decree-Law No. 24/2015, of 29 July 2015, the Government approved the rules applicable to the career of anti-corruption specialist. The new statute sets forth the career path, as well as the requirements for the specialist's appointment, progression, promotion, remuneration, rights and duties.

STATE ADMINISTRATION

CHANGES TO INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

By means of Decree-Law No. 10/2015, of 3 June 2015, the Infrastructure Fund's composition was changed, with its Board of Directors now permanently composed by the Minister of Planning and Strategic Investment (who acts as Chairman), the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Public Works, Transports and Communications.

JUDICIAL VACATIONS REGIME AMENDED

Decree-Law No. 15/2015, of 24 June 2015, sets forth a single period for judicial vacations, during which the courts' activity is suspended, and only urgent services are carried out.

RULES ON STATE BUDGET

Decree-Law No. 22/2015, of 8 July 2015, approved the rules applicable to the planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation of the State Budget. Under the new rules, (i) the Ministry of Finance keeps its central role in the design, implementation, coordination and evaluation of the policies defined by the Council of Ministers; (ii) and the Cabinet of the Prime-Minister is responsible for planning, monitoring and evaluating, and carrying out political control over the preparation of the State Budget process.

PRESS COUNCIL

Decree-Law No. 25/2015, of 5 August 2015, set up the Press Council and approved its By-laws. The Press Council is an independent body and is responsible for regulating and supervising the media and journalists with headquarters or residence in Timor-Leste or covering events in the country.

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