



LEGAL NEWS

Republic of the Congo

May through July 2018

REAL ESTATE

REAL ESTATE OWNERS SEE THEIR STATUTORY RIGHTS STRENGTHENED

With a view to supplement the existing legal framework applicable to the acquisition and occupation of real estate, the Congolese Parliament approved Law No. 21-2018, of 13 June 2018. The law seeks to increase the level of legal protection afforded to owners of real estate, notably by defining (i) clear-cut rules on the scope of owners' rights, (ii) protective measures for the so-called "customary land", (iii) severe penalties for the illegal occupation of land, and (iv) certain restrictions on the acquisition of properties by foreigners. It is expected that this statute will decrease the number of disputes on property rights in Congo, which have been commonly attributed to the lack of an appropriate legal framework.

CORPORATE

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE SETS SCHEDULE OF FEES FOR COMMERCIAL PERMITS AND OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE FORMALITIES

In order to simplify the procedures and formalities relating to the setting-up and operation of companies, the Ministry of Commerce has approved (by means of Order No. 532, of 20 February 2018) a new schedule of fees applicable to the commercial and administrative formalities and acts. The formalities in question include the granting of permits for the permanent or temporary exercise of a commercial activity and other related acts, as well as other formalities related to authorizations to import, export and re-export certain goods.

For further information about the content of this Legal News, please contact::

Ana Pinelas Pinto

Ana.Pinto@mirandalawfirm.com

mirandaalliance
www.mirandaalliance.com

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