



LEGAL NEWS

Timor-Leste

March through May 2020

CUSTOMS

[Timor-Leste Customs Tarif Schedule Enacted](#)

The Timor-Leste Customs Tariff schedule recently came into force through Ministerial Diploma No. 12/2020, of 11 March 2020. This statute aims to adapt the customs system, and notably the tariff nomenclature, to the requirements of modern international trade, including its adaptation to the rules of the International Convention on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System. The statute, which is effective as of 12 April, is an important step in the implementation of the Customs Code, which was enacted by Decree-Law No. 14/2017, of 5 April 2017.

HEALTH

[International Health Regulations](#)

The Government recently enacted the International Health Regulation (IHR) by means of Government Resolution No. 6/2020, of 11 March 2020. The IHR was approved by the World Health Organization during its 58th General Assembly that took place in Geneva in 2005 and currently binds 196 countries all over the world. Its main purpose

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is to help the international community in the prevention and response to severe health risks with the potential to cross international borders. The three main obligations imposed by the IHR are the early detection of acute public health events by putting in place adequate surveillance systems, reporting any events that represent a risk to international public health to the WHO, and implementing efficient response plans.

OIL & GAS

Regulation of Onshore Petroleum Operations

The Onshore Petroleum Operations Regulations have been enacted by means of Decree-Law No. 18/2020, of 13 May, and will enter into force on 14 August 2020. The new statute applies to all petroleum operations carried out in respect of onshore resources under the Petroleum Activities Law (Law No. 13/2005, of 2 September 2005), and foresees rules for all activities from exploration, appraisal, development and production to abandonment. It also applies to the transport, processing and storage of crude oil and natural gas included in upstream operations, and to facilities located onshore but used in relation to offshore operations.

Besides the specific rules on the operations, including safety and local content, the new framework also includes provisions on access to land, relationship with local communities, and installation and abandonment of pipelines and facilities.

STATE

First Amendment to the VIII Constitutional Government's Framework

Decree-Law No. 20/2020, of 28 May 2020, sets forth the first amendments to the Framework of the VIII Constitutional Government, which had been approved by Decree-Law No. 14/2018, of 17 August 2018. The Framework creates the positions of two Deputy Prime-Ministers, a Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Media, a Minister for Territorial Planning and Management, a Vice Minister for Cultural and Community Tourism, a Vice Minister of Commerce and Industry, and a Vice Minister for Interior Affairs. The former Ministries of Legislative Reform and Parliamentary Affairs, of Strategic Planning and Investment, and the position of Minister of State are extinguished.

New Rules for the Assignment of Public Contracts

Decree-Law no. 14/2020, of 22 April, which came into force on 23 April, governs the assignment of the contractual position held by a public legal person under a public contract with reciprocal benefits to another person of the same nature, establishing the mandatory formalities therefor.

Timor-Leste Ratifies the G7+ Charter

The G7+ Charter was ratified through National Parliament Resolution No. 4/2020, of 22 April 2020. The G7+ is an intergovernmental organization created in 2010 by 20 States - including Timor-Leste – which due to present or past conflicts are in a particularly fragile situation, with a view to ensuring the adoption of practical measures to reverse that fragility. The main goals foreseen in the G7+ Charter are (i) sharing lessons and good practices for the consolidation of peace; (ii) promoting aid management policies; (iii) promoting good governance and effective institutions; and (iv) promoting more stable and peaceful societies.

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