



## LEGAL NEWS

# Republic of the Congo

May through July 2020

### COMMUNICATIONS

## Moving Towards a more Cybersecure Environment

The Congolese Government has enacted a new regulatory framework on the security of information systems and electronic communications networks, comprised of two statutes: (i) Law No. 26-2020 of 5 June 2020 on cybersecurity, laying down general cybersecurity principles, the system requirements, the networks operators' obligations, and a cryptology activities regime; and (ii) Law No. 27-2020 of 5 June 2020 on combatting cyber-criminality, which defines the sanctions applicable to offenses such as breaches to the confidentiality and integrity of information systems, the fraudulent entering of information in such systems, and infringements relating to personal data.

**FORESTRY SECTOR**

## Congo Seeks to Tackle Climate Change with New Forestry Code

The enactment of the new Forestry Code, approved by Law No. 33-2020 of 8 July 2020, was motivated by the increasing awareness of the seriousness of climate change and biodiversity erosion issues, and the need to implement fresh land use and development policies. Noteworthy is the institution of a production sharing regime applicable to State forestry domain operators, as are the new rules on deforestation and reforestation activities, carbon credits, and taxation in the sector.

**TAX AND FINANCE**

## 2020 Finance Law Amended to Address Covid-19 Repercussions

With a view to mitigating the economic setbacks brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, an Amended 2020 Finance Law was approved. Among others measures, Law No. 23-2020 of 13 May 2020 decreased the Corporate Income Tax (CIT) rate, allowed for the deductibility of donations to the State Solidarity Fund from the CIT tax base, exempted certain medical products from import duties and charges, and revamped the terms and conditions of the audits to the taxpayers' accounting records.

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