

STATE

Approved new Support Mechanisms for the Private Sector

By means of Ministerial Diploma No. 47/2022, of 9 November 2022, the Government approved a new monetary support mechanism for the private sector. This support will be granted to projects in the following priority sectors and activities: agriculture, fisheries, livestock, industry, training and human resources capacity development, and activities developed or implemented in rural areas. Each proposal may obtain a maximum funding of US\$ 100.000 per year.

State-owned company for the management of industrial parks created

The Government has created Gestão de Parques Industriais, S.A ("GESPIN") through Decree-Law No. 70/2022, of 28 September 2022. GESPIN is a joint stock company, in which the State is currently the sole shareholder, and its purpose is to manage industrial parks to be created throughout Timor-Leste territory.

Ratification of the Millennium Challenge Compact Agreement

The National Parliament has ratified, by means of Resolution No. 42/2022, of 19 October 2022, the Compact Agreement entered into between the Millenium Challenge Corporation, on behalf of the USA, and Timor-Leste.

This programme aims at promoting economic growth and eliminating poverty, and the Timor-Leste Compact is specifically comprised of two distinct projects: one concerning water, sanitation and drainage and another aimed at improving the school environment, creating opportunities for women in teaching and leadership positions and training teachers in information and communication technologies. Tenders for each of these projects are already ongoing.

Delegation of Competences in the Minister of Public Works

Through Order No. 109/PM/XI/2022, of 25 November 2022 the Prime Minister has delegated, in the Minister of Public Works the powers to authorize and approve public tender procedures of a value between 1 Million US dollars and 5 Million US dollars, regarding public contracts whose expense is financed by General State Budget appropriations, and which execution is the responsibility of the said Minister.

CUSTOMS

Customs Office at Tibar Port Implemented

By means of Order No. 22/VIII/GM-MF/2022-09 of 23 September 2022, the Minister of Finance has designated the Tibar Port as an official Customs office.

TRANSPORT

Prohibition of circulation of heavy container transport vehicles

Considering the continued congestion of road traffic in central Dili and that the circulation of heavy container transport vehicles significantly compromises the infrastructure of urban roads, the Prime Minister, the Minister of Interior and the Minister of Transport and Communications, established, through Joint Order No. 01/MI/MTC/IX/2022, of 30 September 2022, the prohibition of circulation of heavy container transport vehicles in the city.

OIL AND GAS

Regulation on the quality of fuels, biofuels and lubricants

By means of Regulation No. 1/2022 of 15 September 2022, ANPM has amended Annexes III and V of Regulation 1/2014, concerning Quality Standards and Specifications of Fuels, Biofuels and Lubricants, and more specifically, the specifications of Gasoline and Automotive Diesel that can be sold and used in the country.

Regulation on the installation and operation of fuel filling stations

ANPM has amended the rules applicable to the licensing and operation of fuel filling stations through Regulation No. 1/2022, of 15 September 2022. The new rules pertain to extinction of licenses, spacing between fuel filling stations and suspension of operations.

Fees due under the Mining Code

The Minister of Petroleum and Minerals has approved Ministerial Diploma No. 55/2022, of 16 November 2022, establishing the fees to be charged for services provided by any public institution under Article 152 of the Mining Code regarding the access to and exercise of mining rights, extension of Concession Areas, extension of rights, access to information or documents inherent to mining activities and other administrative acts performed under the Mining Code.

REAL ESTATE

Approval of Land Documentation Models

The Minister of Justice has approved the models to be used for the land registry certificate (Ministerial Diploma No. 50/2022, of 9 November 2022) and the Property Right Certificate Model (Ministerial Diploma No. 48/2022, of 9 November 2022).

The Unique Property Identification Number has also been defined through Ministerial Diploma No. 49/2022, of 9 November 2022. The Unique Property Identification Number is based on the cadastral map sheet, municipality code, cadastral plan number and title certificate number and is automatically generated and attributed by the cadastral information system.

BUSINESS

Licensing of economic activities

With the purpose of streamlining the licensing process, the Government has approved Decree-Law No. 83/2022, of 23 November 2022, which amends existing rules on general business licensing. Amongst others, it creates an online platform for SERVE, the distinction between low, medium and high-risk activities is eliminated with corresponding changes to the licensing procedure, and renewal of licenses should be requested 30 days prior to their expiry. This statute enters into force 180 days after its publication.

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