

ANGOLA

August 2016

CORPORATE

IMMEDIATE BY-ATTENDANCE AND ONLINE INCORPORATION OF COMPANIES

Presidential Decree No. 153/16, of 5 August 2016 adopted special procedures enabling the immediate by-attendance and online incorporation of companies, applicable to companies that are not incorporated under the Private Investment Law and whose capital is not paid up by contributions in kind. These procedures entail the use of pre-approved by-laws' templates and corporate names and are aimed at promoting a swift incorporation process.

NEW INDUSTRIAL LICENSING FEES

Joint Executive Decree No. 348/16, of 10 of August 2016, updated the amounts due for the industrial licensing procedure. This Decree revokes Joint Executive Decree No. 27/01, of 11 May 2001.

LABOR

LABOR FINES INCREASED

Presidential Decree No. 154/16, of 5 August 2016, updated the fines applicable to companies for breaches of labor provisions in force. The new statute entails a significant increase in the fines applicable to non-complying companies and establishes a new statute of limitations period which used to be two years and is now five years.

RULES FOR DOMESTIC EMPLOYEES CONTRACTS AND THEIR SOCIAL PROTECTION APPROVED

At long last Presidential Decree No. 155/16, of 9 August 2016, established the rules for domestic employment contract and the temporary assignment of domestic services employees, simultaneously defining the regime for their social protection. Among other formalities, the domestic employment contract may be entered into full or part-time, for a fixed or unlimited term, and provide for a probation period of up to 60 days.

AGREEMENT ON FACILITATION OF VISAS BETWEEN ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE

By means of Letter of Approval No. 1/16, of 4 August 2016, the President of the Republic of Angola approved and confirmed the Agreement Aimed at Facilitating the Issuance of Ordinary Visas between the Governments of the Republic of Angola and the Republic of Mozambique and ensures that it shall be strictly complied with.

ENVIRONMENT

RATIFICATION OF INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS

Following the approval by the National Assembly, by means of Instruments of Accession No. 1/16, 2/16, 3/16 and 4/16, of 23 August 2016, the President of the Republic ratified the accession of Angola, respectively, to the following Conventions: (i) the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import Into Africa of Hazardous Waste and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes Within Africa; (ii) the Convention for Co-operation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region; (iii) the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal; and (iv) the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance. These instruments of accession embody the firm commitment of Angola to strictly comply with these Conventions, which upon completion of the relevant deposit procedures will formally bind the Angolan state.

ARBITRATION, MEDIATION AND ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION LAW APPROVED

By means of Law No. 12/16, of 12 August 2016, the National Assembly approved the legal regime applicable to both mediation and conciliation as alternative conflict-resolution mechanisms. The statute aims to meet the need to assure the speed and efficiency of said conflict resolution mechanisms, as well as the decongestion of courts. This Law entered into force 30 days after the date of its publication and is supposed to be regulated within 180 days of its entry into force.

ACCESSION TO THE CONVENTION ON THE RECOGNITION AND ENFORCEMENT OF FOREIGN ARBITRAL AWARDS

The Angolan National Assembly has approved the accession of the country to the New York Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards (the New York Convention) by means of Resolution No. 38/2016, of 12 August 2016. Under the principle of reciprocity set forth in Article I.(3) of the New York Convention, the Republic of Angola made the reservation pursuant to which the Convention will only apply to the recognition and enforcement of awards issued in the territory of another Contracting State.

AMNESTY LAW APPROVED

By means of Law No. 11/16, of 12 August 2016, the National Assembly approved the Amnesty Law. This statute grants amnesty to crimes punishable with a prison sentence of up to 12 years, committed until 11 November 2015. Crimes committed with violence that resulted in death are not covered by the amnesty. The Amnesty Law also provides that agents of crimes who are not covered by the amnesty will have their sentences reduced by one quarter of their original sentence, provided that no reprieve had been previously granted. This Law entered into force on the date of its gazetting.

FISHERIES

NEW PERMIT MODELS FOR AQUACULTURE ACTIVITIES

Executive Decree No. 345/16, of 4 August 2016, approved the permit models for the carrying out of aquaculture activities, so as to ensure the sustainable use of fish resources.

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