
General – COVID-19

New Notice from Prime Minister's Office on COVID-19 Reinforcement Measures

On 31 August 2020, the Prime Minister's Office issued the Notice on the Reinforcement Measures on Containment, Prevention and Full Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic ("**Notice**"). Pursuant to the Order of the Prime Minister No. 06/PM dated 29 March 2020 referred to in the Notice, and the report and instruction of the Prime Minister on 28 August 2020 ("**Instruction**"), the Prime Minister's Office made known the restrictions on movement and gatherings which must be implemented from 1 to 30 September 2020 to contain the COVID-19 pandemic in Laos. The Prime Minister's Office has announced the following:

1. Strictly reinforce the measures relating to containment and prevention of COVID-19 as set out in the Notice of Prime Minister's Office No. 806/PMO dated 29 July 2020 and the Notice of Prime Minister's Office No. 838/PMO dated 7 August 2020. They are as follows:
 - (i) Entertainment store businesses, karaoke facilities and gaming facilities will remain closed. Entertainment store businesses and karaoke facilities are monitored by the relevant authorities for compliance with the relevant Government Order. A first time violation of the relevant Order warrants a warning, with a temporary suspension of operating licence thereafter for repeat violations.
 - (ii) All customary and local border checkpoints for the entry and exit of individuals and goods transportation will remain closed. This will not apply to customary and local border checkpoints authorised by the government for the transport of goods to and from Laos.

Moreover, international border checkpoints will remain closed for the entry and exit of individuals, except for Lao citizens and foreigners who urgently need to enter or exit Laos. Such entry or exit must be approved by the National Task Force Committee for Prevention and Control of COVID-19 ("**Task Force**"). The transport of goods through the international checkpoint (i.e. entry-exit) can also be done normally.

- (iii) The issuance of tourist and visit visas to individuals who traveled from or passed through countries with a COVID-19 outbreak will continue to be suspended. Ambassadors, staff members of international organisations, experts, investors, business travellers, technicians and foreign labourers who need to come to Laos to carry out their diplomatic and international duties, business activities or work on their projects may do so with the prior agreement/consent of the Task Force.

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- (iv) International charter flights will continue to be temporarily suspended. Operators may resume operations provided they liaise with the Task Force, the Department of Civil Aviation and relevant authorities for the issuance of safety measures in relation to their operations, and obtain government permission prior to their operations.
- 2. Impose 23:00 as the closure time of food and beverage outlets nationwide in accordance with the Decree on Entertainment No. 315/GOV dated 2 October 2017. The Task Force shall provide additional opinions on the inconsistent implementation of the measures on COVID-19 containment and prevention in relation to the food and beverage sector, as well as its full response to the queries/clarifications from the stakeholders in relevant areas.
- 3. The Ministry of Public Security will liaise with the local authorities to continue to carry out strict inspections in relation to immigration. Illegal immigrants will be tested for COVID-19 and required to self-quarantine in accordance with the law and relevant regulations.
- 4. The Task Force is the central authority mandated to liaise with relevant sectors to continue to carry out strict inspections on the implementation of the measures on containment and prevention of COVID-19. They must also provide full response to queries on the COVID-19 pandemic that the relevant sectors may have. The Task Force should resolve any new COVID-19-related issues in a timely manner, and update the Government for the issuance of any instruction or directive (if necessary).

Visit our [COVID-19 Resource Centre](#) for views from our lawyers across the region on common issues and legal implications brought about by COVID-19. For specific inquiries, please reach out to your relationship partner or send an email to our [COVID-19 Legal Team](#).

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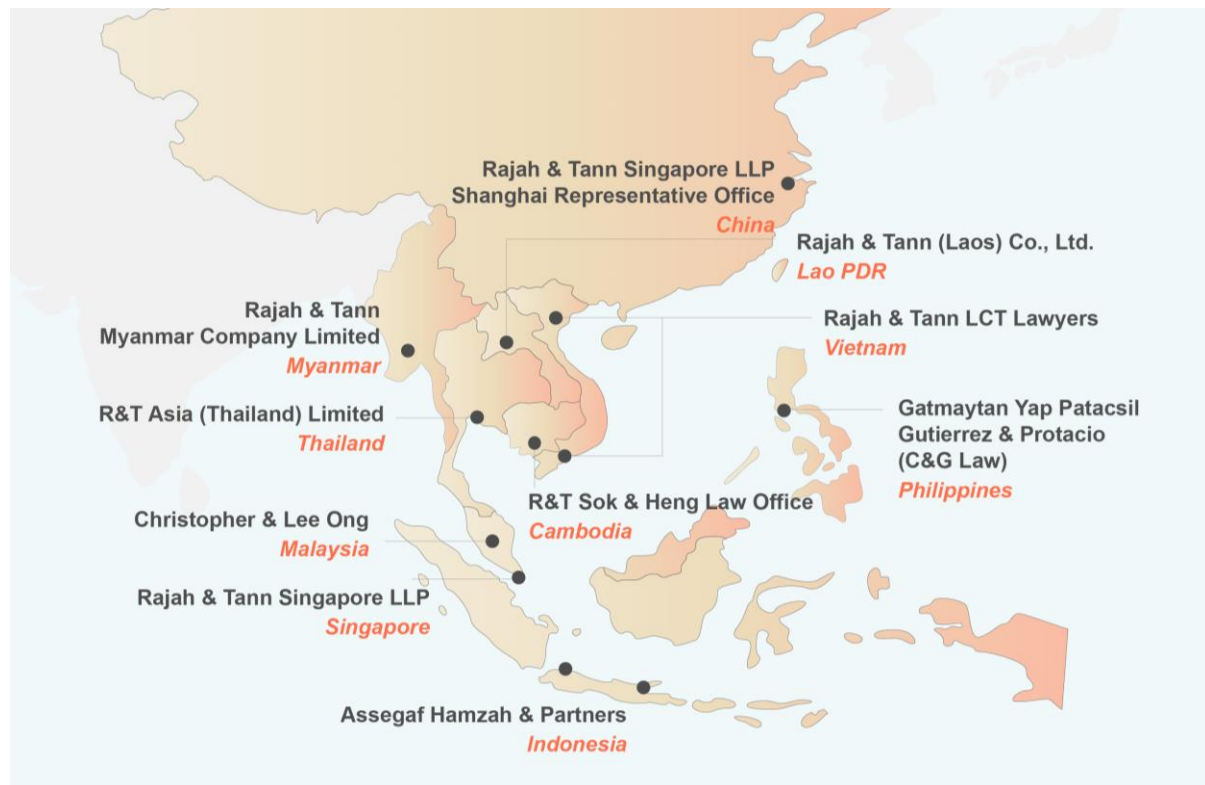
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