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

On 30 September 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 September 2020, the Prime Minister's Office announced the following restrictions on movement and gatherings which must be implemented from 1 to 31 October 2020 to contain the COVID-19 pandemic in Laos:

1. The following 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, shall be strictly enforced:

- (i) All customary and local border checkpoints for the entry and exit of individuals and goods transportation will remain closed, except for customary and local border checkpoints authorised by the government for the transport of goods to and from Laos.

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 be done normally.

- (ii) The issuance of tourist and visit visas to individuals who travelled 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. The actual process for the application and issuance of visa as set out in the instruction of the Task Force No. 2336/NTC dated 31 July 2020 ("**Task Force Instruction No. 2336**") must be strictly followed. The instruction applies to persons who enter or exit Laos within the period of 1 to 30 October 2020.

- (iii) Karaoke facilities and entertainment stores will remain closed.

2. The celebration of the End of Buddhist Lent Day 2020 shall be approved. The Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism will liaise with the relevant departments/agencies in order to expedite the issuance of instructions relating to the traditional festivals and weddings that will take place in the future.
3. In order to cushion the economic impact brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, international travel by tourists in groups from countries with no COVID-19 outbreak may be allowed. The Task Force shall liaise with the relevant government sections/agencies to implement the necessary measures in relation to this.

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4. Individuals who undergo COVID-19 tests will bear the basic costs of such tests. The Task Force shall liaise with the relevant sections/agencies to ensure that the basic costs of the tests are properly determined and this specific measure is implemented.
 5. The Government will continue its discussion with Vietnam and China on the implementation of the Fast Track programme.
 6. International charter flights may be opened for the countries with no COVID-19 outbreak in order to spur economic growth. This will also prepare the Government to implement its policies on the containment and prevention of the COVID-19 pandemic with Japan. The Task Force will strictly implement these measures to contain COVID-19 outbreak in Laos.
 7. Persons who travelled from the countries with no COVID-19 outbreak shall be tested for COVID-19 and shall self-quarantine for 14 days pursuant to Task Force Instruction No. 2336. They must wait for 48 hours for the result of the COVID-19 test. If they are not found to be infected with COVID-19, they shall continue to self-quarantine at their workplace, or at their respective homes (for Lao citizens), in accordance with the proposal of the Task Force. The Task Force shall liaise with the relevant sections/agencies to study the matter and issue the necessary instructions.

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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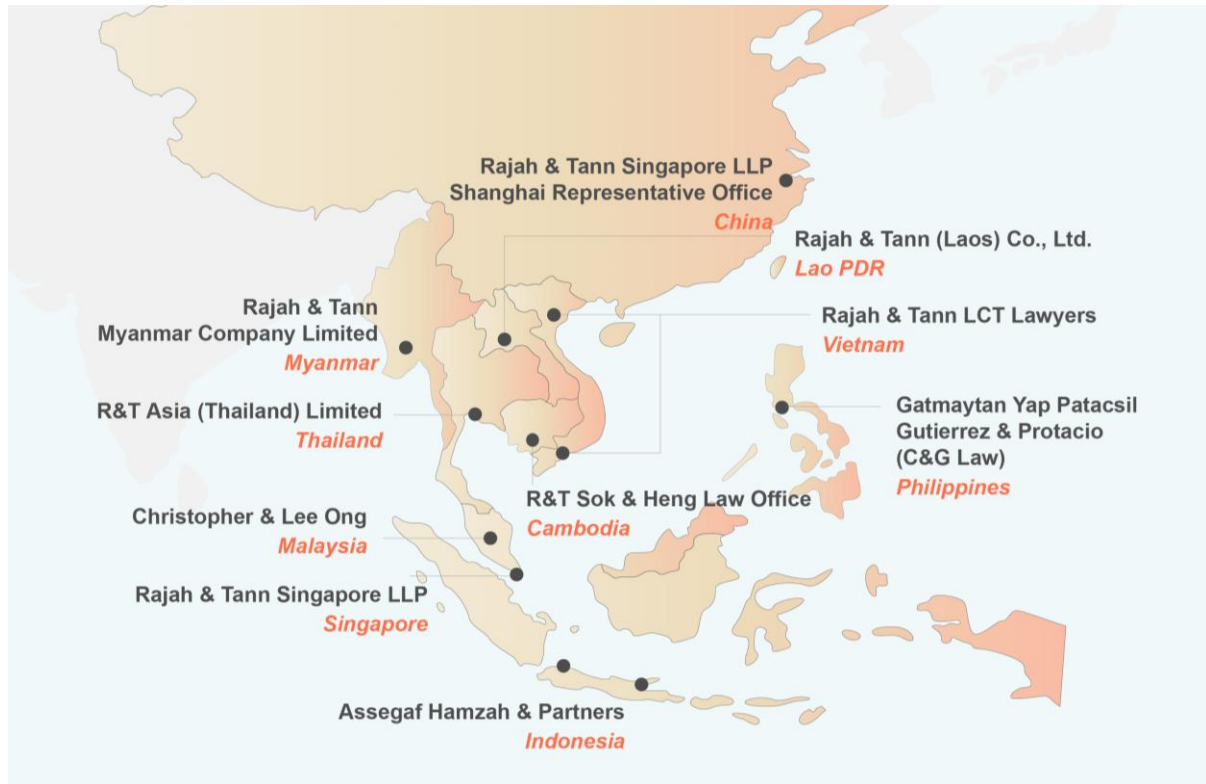
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