

Legal Update Week 29 - 30
(18 – 31 July 2022)

Thailand Legal News

World Health Organization (WHO) declares “Monkey Pox” as a global health emergency (23 July 2022)

- Due to the rapid spread of monkey pox in more than 75 nations, the WHO declared Monkey Pox as a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC).

**Remark: The difference between a pandemic and PHEIC is: a pandemic refers to “a situation that necessitates a coordinated international response and where the outbreak is possibly too huge to contain”, while a PHEIC refers to “a situation that has not necessarily spiraled out of control, but has the potential to do so”.*

Sub-Committees of the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC) consider approval of DTAC-True merger (25 July 2022)

- The NBTC has appointed the sub-committees in the 4 areas Consumer Protection and Civil Rights, Economics, Technology, and Legal, in order to consider the proposed DTAC-True merger deal. Currently, the sub-committees are still in the process of gathering information, and their findings will be presented at the NBTC meeting on 3 August 2022. If the NBTC gives green light to this merger deal, the tender offer and the merger process are anticipated to be completed within this year.

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Cabinet Resolutions

26 July 2022

Tax measure to promote Electric Vehicles (EVs)

- The Cabinet has approved in principle the Draft Royal Decree re: the Reduction of the Annual Tax for pure EVs in accordance with the law in relation to vehicles. In detail, the Department of Land Transport will only collect 20% of the normal annual tax rate (as specified in the Vehicle Act B.E. 2522) for EVs registered between 1 October 2022 and 30 September 2025 for a period of 1 year from the date of registration. For instance, a private car with less than 7 passengers and a maximum weight of 500 kilograms will be subject to an annual tax of THB 30 (from the normal rate of THB 150).

This measure aims to incentivize the adoption of environmentally friendly EVs, lower carbon dioxide emissions, and stimulate the EV manufacturing industry.

<https://www.thaigov.go.th/news/contents/details/57304> (item no. 1)

Min. Reg. on Annual Fee Exemption for Factory Operator

- Factory operators will be exempted from annual fee payment for 1 year (from 10 June 2022 to 9 June 2023). In detail, the annual fee will only be waived for factory operators who operate Group 2 (factories with less than 75 horsepower and less than 75 workers) or Group 3 (factories with more than 75 horsepower and/or at least 75 workers) factories. The horsepower of the machines utilised in the factory determines the annual fee payment amount. For example, the factory operator would be exempted from paying THB 13,500 for the period as specified above if the factory used machines with more than 3000 horsepowers but not more than 4000 horsepowers.

http://www.ratchakitcha.soc.go.th/DATA/PDF/2565/A/045/T_0044.PDF

Corporate Income Tax (CIT) Exemption for the purchase of Antigen Test Kit (ATK)

- Royal Decree No.752 issued under the Revenue Code regarding tax exemption was published. The purpose is for **50% CIT exemption for the expenses paid for COVID-19 ATKs** purchased by the companies for their employees.

The exemption applies from 1 April 2022 to 31 December 2022.

http://www.ratchakitcha.soc.go.th/DATA/PDF/2565/A/044/T_0021.PDF