

Legal Update Week 33 - 34  
(15 – 28 August 2022)

## Thailand Legal News

### **Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) plans to increase tax on vacant lands, disguised as agricultural lands (15 August 2022)**

According to the current regulations, the Land and Buildings Tax for lands used for agricultural purpose is collected at the rate of 0.01 – 0.1%, compared to rate of 0.3 – 0.7% for vacant lands. As a result, many people have tried to avoid paying the heftier tax by planting agricultural crops on their vacant lands, especially in the metropolitan area where the appraisal price is remarkably high. To deal with this, the BMA proposed the solution by increasing the tax to 0.15%, the maximum rate allowed by the law, on the lands used for agricultural purpose in commercial, industrial, and warehouse zones. The BMA has already drafted and submitted the draft regulation to the Bangkok City Council for approval.

<https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/2363431/bangkok-metropolitan-administration-to-levy-land-taxes-in-full>

### **Cabinet approves over THB 2.9 billion subsidy for battery electric vehicle (BEV) (23 August 2022)**

The Cabinet approved THB 2.9 billion subsidy on BEV. The selected types of vehicles (e.g. BEV priced under THB 2 million, pick-up truck, or motorcycle) may be eligible to up to THB 150,000 subsidy on excise tax. The subsidy is aimed at promoting the

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country's EV industry with the goal of making Thailand the base for EV manufacturing. The subsidies are as in the table below.

<https://www.nationthailand.com/specials/ev-mobility/40019260>

Type of BEV *Must cost under THB 2 million*	Subsidy Amount (THB/unit)
Cars with over 10 kWh but less than 30 kWh battery	70,000
Cars with over 30 kWh battery	150,000
Pickup with over 30 kWh battery	150,000
Motorcycle	18,000

### **THB 500 million support for SME online cross-border sales (23 August 2022)**

- The Cabinet approved the fund for the SME Pro-active Project, aiming to boost the country's exports via online cross-border commerce platforms and to encourage Thai entrepreneurs in entering online platforms. Under this project, SMEs are eligible for up to six times of THB 100,000 (max. THB 600,000) support fund to help pay for the registration and marketing on online platforms.

<https://www.prachachat.net/politics/news-1024559>

### **Extension of visa-on-arrival for foreigners to up to 45 days (19 August 2022)**

- The CCSA has approved the extension of visa-on-arrival for foreigners visiting Thailand from the maximum stay of 15 days to 45 days. The scheme will begin from 1 October 2022 for the period of 6 months. The measure is aimed to boost economic recovery as the pandemic eases.

<https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2372468/thailand-to-allow-foreign-tourists-to-extend-stay-as-covid-eases>


### **Amended Copyright Act comes into force**

- The amended Copyright Act came into force on 22 August 2022. The amendment creates a new mechanism against copyright infringement material on online platforms. Moreover, it also extends the protection period for copyrighted photographs.

<https://www.nationtv.tv/news/economy-business/378884018>

## Change of the Office of the BOI organization (23 August 2022)

- The Cabinet has approved the internal reorganization of the Office of the BOI, as listed in the table below:

Disbanded	Established new dept.	Added new functions
	<p><b>Expatriate Service Dept.</b> Helps in operation of stimulating the economy, and attracting foreign investors</p>	<p><b>Thai Enterprise Development Dept.</b> Studies investor potentials and encourages them to invest in the targeted industries</p>
	<p><b>Competitiveness Enhancement Dept.</b> Plans strategies to increase the competitive potential of the country</p>	<p><b>Investment Strategy and Policy Dept.</b> Analyzes and develops a better investing environment, especially on regulations</p>
		<p><b>Investment Service Center Dept.</b> Provides troubleshooting services for investors by coordinating with relevant agencies/organization</p>

Government Gazette

## Extra tax deduction for purchase of biodegradable plastic products (18 August 2022)

- The Revenue Department issued an announcement allowing the purchase of biodegradable plastic goods to be used for tax deduction to up to 25% of the value of the purchase. Therefore, the purchase of biodegradable plastic goods is entitled to up to 125% of the purchase value (100% for normal expense deduction + 25% for the extra tax reduction under this announcement). Examples of biodegradable plastic goods under this announcement are plastic bags, single use plastic, plastic straws, and plastic cup lids. [http://www.ratchakitcha.soc.go.th/DATA/PDF/2565/D/063/T\\_0116.PDF](http://www.ratchakitcha.soc.go.th/DATA/PDF/2565/D/063/T_0116.PDF)

## Zero tax rate on diesel and fuel oil (23 August 2022)

- The Excise Department imposed 0% tax rate on diesel and fuel oil for electricity productions sold to the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT) in an attempt to help aid the rising energy cost. [http://www.ratchakitcha.soc.go.th/DATA/PDF/2565/E/191/T\\_0023.PDF](http://www.ratchakitcha.soc.go.th/DATA/PDF/2565/E/191/T_0023.PDF)