

Lao People's Democratic Republic
Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity

Unofficial translation

Law on Tourism (Amended)

2025

Lao People's Democratic Republic
Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity

National Assembly No.: 131/NA
Vientiane Capital, dated: 1 July 2024

Resolutions of the National Assembly on the Approval of the Law on Tourism (amended)

- Pursuant to Item 1, Article 53 of the Constitution of the Lao People's Democratic Republic on the Rights and Duties of the National Assembly; and
- Pursuant to the Amendments of Certain Articles of the Law on the National Assembly and Item 1, Article 11 of Law 82/NA, dated 30 June 2020, on Provincial People's Councils;

Following the 7th Ordinary Session of the 9th Legislature of the National Assembly, [at which] broad and in-depth study and consideration took place into the content of the Law on Tourism (amended) during the morning session of 27 June 2024 and into the approval [thereof] during the morning session of 1 July 2024;

The meeting of the National Assembly agreed:

Article 1 To approve the Law on Tourism (amended) by majority vote amongst the members of the National Assembly in attendance at the meeting; and

Article 2 That these Resolutions shall enter into force on the date they are signed.

President of the National Assembly

[SEAL OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC AND SIGNATURE]

Dr. Saysomphone Phomvihane

Lao People's Democratic Republic
Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity

President's Office

No.: 125/PO
Vientiane Capital, dated: 12 August 2024

Presidential Decree on the Promulgation of the Law on Tourism (amended)

- Pursuant to Item 1, Article 67, Chapter VI of the Constitution of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (amended in 2015);
- Pursuant to Resolutions 131/NA, dated 1 July 2024, of the National Assembly on the Approval of the Law on Tourism (amended); and
- Pursuant to Request 25/SC, dated 29 July 2024, of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly;

The National President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic hereby issues the following Decree:

Article 1 The Law on Tourism (amended) is [hereby] promulgated.

Article 2 This Presidential Decree enters into force on the date it is signed.

The President of the Lao PDR

[SEAL OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE LAO PDR AND SIGNATURE]

Thongloun Sisoulith

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Lao People's Democratic Republic
Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity

National Assembly No.: 63/NA
Vientiane Capital, dated: 1 July 2024

Law
on Tourism
(Amended)

Part I
General Provisions

Article 1 (amended) Objectives

This Law specifies the principles, regulations, and measures concerning the management, monitoring, and inspection of tourism to ensure it takes place with quality, efficiently, and conserving, maintaining, and preserving the resources, attractions, and sites of tourism to ensure that the promotion and development of ecotourism, cultural tourism, and historical tourism leads to ongoing growth and expansion and to a modern Tourism Industry, fostering mutual understanding, peace, friendship, and regional and international connectivity and contributing to green and sustainable socio-economic development.

Article 2 (amended) Tourism

"**Tourism**" shall refer to activities associated with traveling from a given residence to a different locality or country to visit, go sightseeing, relax, have fun, exchange cultures, [engage in] sport, improve one's health, education, and research, [contribute to] exhibitions or exhibitions, [attend] meetings, and [to take part in] other [such] activities.

Article 3 (amended) Definition of Terminology

The terminology used herein is defined as follows:

1. A "**Hotel**" shall refer to a place to stay consisting of a building with fifteen rooms or more that have facilities, quality equipment, and services that meet standards.
2. A "**Boutique Hotel**" shall refer to a place to stay that has a system of [one or more] buildings with fifteen rooms or more and has its own distinctiveness in terms of historical themes and with services that meet standards, just as is the case with Hotels.
3. A "**Resort"** shall refer to a place to stay consisting of a building near a tourist site with facilities, quality equipment, and services that meet standards.
4. An "**Inn**" shall refer to some sort of place to stay that has a small-scale system of [one or more] buildings with facilities and administration, management, and services in the form of a business.
5. A "**Motel**" shall refer to some sort of place to stay that has a system of [one or more] buildings, parking, facilities, administration, management, and services in the form of a business.
6. "**Mobile Accommodation**" shall refer to some moveable sort of place to stay, comprising tourist boats, train passenger cars, tourist vehicles with sleeper compartments, and so forth, with facilities and administration, management, and services in the form of a business.

7. A "**Hostel**" shall refer to some sort of place to stay that has [one or more] buildings with bedrooms, bathrooms, and canteens for communal use and with facilities, administration, management, and services in the form of a business.

8. A "**Guesthouse**" shall refer to some sort of place to stay that has a small-scale system of [one or more] buildings with between five and fourteen bedrooms with facilities, administration, management, and services in the form of a business.

9. A "**Campsite**" shall refer to a place to stay out in the open in or near an ecotourist site that has a system of huts, tents, and/or a small restaurant and/or shop with facilities, administration, management, and services in the form of a business.

10. A "**Homestay**" shall refer to a place to stay that is the home of a member of the public and has rudimentary facilities and services in the way of living of the people of the locality.

11. The "**Tourism Industry**" shall refer to universal services for domestic and foreign tourists, comprising transportation businesses, tourist site businesses, tour businesses, accommodation businesses, food, souvenirs, exhibitions and exhibitions, special events, traditional events, festivals, and so forth, which use labor, investment, specialists, use modern techniques, planning, marketing, and systematic organization.

12. A "**Tourist Product**" shall refer to natural or manmade resources for Tourism that have been processed into finished products ready to be received, provided, and/or served to tourists.

13. A "**Special Event**" shall refer to a goods and products exhibition or activity of the public organized irregularly and not of a traditional nature at a given location that has been

officially authorized for the public to enjoy, trade, barter, and so forth.

14. A "**Traditional Event**" shall refer to the organization of a traditional and/or celebratory event of the nation or a locality.

15. An "**Amusement Park**" shall refer to a natural and/or cultural and/or historical site that combines tourist activities and/or Tourist Products to serve tourists and has a system for administration, management, and services in the form of a business.

16. A "**Franchise Restaurant**" shall refer to a restaurant that has a trademark legally protected as intellectual property ("**IP**") as concerns its brand, logo, and standards, which has a system for administration, management, and services in the form of a business.

17. A "**Café**" shall refer to a restaurant that serves finished foods, such as tea, coffee, milk, bread, snacks, cakes, noodles, salads, compressed meats, canned foods, or general finished foods.

18. A "**Spa**" shall refer to a wellness therapy using water, herbs, nutritional methods, or modern technologies, including exercise, such as steam and/or dry saunas, exfoliation, warm baths, and/or sunbathing to relax and relieve oneself of aches and/or strain and nurture the body.

19. A "**Tour Operator**" shall refer to an enterprise or business unit providing tour services that involve the facilitation of transportation, food, accommodation, sightseeing, and/or other services for tourists according to each package tour specified.

20. A "**Travel Agency**" shall refer to an enterprise or business unit that acts as a broker or agent in the sale of tickets for vehicles, tickets for entry to Tourism sites, tourist tickets for the viewing of Traditional Events, and food,

accommodation, and package tour reservations to cater to the needs of tourists who are interested [therein].

21. A **"Tour Program"** shall refer to a document verifying an [itinerary of] tourist activities and services, such as specified times, travel, food, accommodation, tourism sites, expenses, tour guides, and other activities.

22. A "**Discotheque**" shall refer to an entertainment venue for listening to music and dancing to the beat of the music, generally fast, at a specific entertainment room where food, whisky, cocktails, sweet beverages, and other beverages are served and which has a system for administration, management, and services in the form of a business.

23. A "**Night Club**" shall refer to an entertainment venue for listening to music, traditional and/or modern dance with a beat, generally slow, in a specific entertainment room and which has the same kinds of services as those available at Discotheques.

24. A "**Pub**" shall refer to a small entertainment venue for listening to music in a specific entertainment room where food is served in addition to the same kinds of services as those available at Night Clubs.

25. A "**Snack Bar**" shall refer to a small entertainment venue for listening to music in a specific entertainment room where food is served in addition to the same kinds of services as those available at Night Clubs.

26. A "**Bar**" shall refer to a small entertainment venue for listening to music in a specific entertainment room where food is served in addition to the same kinds of services as those available at Snack Bars.

27. A "**Karaoke Venue**" shall refer to a small entertainment venue for listening to songs and karaoke-style singing, which has tools and equipment for providing the service of karaoke-style singing to the melody of songs along with the music and with the lyrics of the songs appearing on

the screen in "karaoke language" specifically in an entertainment venue where food is served in addition to the same kinds of services as those available at Bars.

28. A "**Concert**" shall refer to the performance of music and traditional and/or modern singing and/or dance as a group or on one's own with various melodies at an inside or outdoor entertainment venue that has a system for administration, management, and services in the form of a business.

Article 4 (amended) State Policy on Tourism

The state ("**State**") considers Tourism a priority for socio-economic development. It implements policies, provides budgets, and contributes personnel and vehicles to boost the production of goods and services, the creation of jobs, the generation of revenues, and improvements to the lives and well-being of the multiethnic people.

The State promotes ecotourism, cultural Tourism, and historical Tourism to be vivacious, impressive, and enticing, to move towards green sustainability, and to become a modern tourist industry.

The State supports, promotes, facilitates, and protects the rights and interests of domestic and foreign natural and juridical persons and organizations investing in the development and promotion of Tourism through advertising, the provision of information, the organization of Special Events and Traditional Events, fashion shows, and festivals associated with arts, culture, and the fine traditional customs of the nation and of ethnic groups, and traditional heroism of the multiethnic people.

Article 5 (amended) Principles associated with Tourism

Tourism operations must take place in accordance with the following principles:

1. Consistency with the policies, Constitution, laws, strategic plans, national socio-economic development plans ("**NSEDPs**"), and Tourism Development Plans ("**TDPs**");

2. Ensuring peace, safety, order, sustainability, convenience, speed, equitability, and justice;

3. Ensuring the protection of the socio-economic interests of the nation, the legitimate rights and interests of tourists, natural and juridical persons, and organizations associated with Tourism;

4. Ensuring the development of Tourism hand-in-hand with the preservation of the environment, nature, culture, traditions, and history of the nation and promoting traditional knowledge;

5. Ensuring that Tourism is of quality, meets standards, and is able to link up with foreign countries, the region, and the world; and

6. Ensuing coordination and cooperation with other sectors and parties concerned in addition to public participation.

Article 6 (amended) Obligations of Natural and Juridical Persons and Organizations

Domestic natural and juridical persons and organizations have an obligation to contribute to the conservation, preservation, cultural development, and promotion of unique traditional customs, arts, literature, handicrafts, tourism resources, and the rich, abundant, and magnificent environment of the nation.

Foreign natural and juridical persons and organizations entering the Lao People's Democratic Republic ("**Lao PDR**") have an obligation to contribute to the development and promotion of Tourism, the preservation of tourism sites and attractions, tourism resources, and Tourist Products to be sustainable while also maintaining respect for and compliance

with the law and revering the fine traditional customs of the Lao PDR.

Article 7 (amended) Scope of This Law

This Law applies to both domestic and foreign natural and juridical persons and organizations operating and/or involved in touristic activities in the Lao PDR.

Article 8 (amended) International Cooperation (amended)

The State promotes interaction and cooperation with foreign countries, the region, and the world regarding Tourism through the exchange of lessons learned, data, and information, enhancing specialized knowledge and skills to develop Tourism that is quality and stable, achieves international standards, and complies with the conventions to which the Lao PDR is party and other international agreements.

Part II
Tourism Resources
Chapter 1
Tourism Resources

Article 9 (amended) Tourism Resources

Tourism resources refer to those that are of natural or manmade origin and have potential and value for tourism.

Article 10 Types of Tourism Resources

Tourism resources can be divided into two types:

1. Natural tourism resources; and
2. Manmade tourism resources.

Article 11 (amended) Natural Tourism Resources

Natural tourism resources comprise scenery, cliffs, caves, hills, mountains, forests, flatlands, forests, flora, wildlife, aquatic life, insects, flowers, rivers, islands, sandbanks, lakes, ponds, waterfalls, rapids, hot springs, natural phenomena, and so forth.

Article 12 (amended) Manmade Tourism Resources

Manmade Tourism resources comprise:

1. Cultural Tourism resources, such as art, architectural sites, sacred places, ancient artifacts, ancient places, temples, buildings, houses, art, literature, Special Events and Traditional Events, festivals, customs, ways of living, shopping malls, exhibitions, parks, and so forth;

2. Historical Tourism resources, such as halls, structures, birthplaces, residences, and work of people of significance, sites of historic battles, traditional halls, museums, libraries, and so forth; and

3. Manmade tourism resources resembling nature, such as natural theme parks.

Chapter 2
Tourist Attractions

Article 13 (new) Tourist Attractions

Tourist attractions are places with tourism resources that have been surveyed and registered but have not yet been developed into tourism sites.

Article 14 (amended) Surveying and Registering Tourist Attractions

The information, culture, and tourism sector is proactively responsible for conducting surveys through data collection and compilation on locations, the specification of

areas, studies, and writing about historical tourist attractions nationwide before registering them as tourism sites through coordination with [other] sectors, local authorities, and other parties concerned in accordance with the law.

Article 15 Classification into Tourist Attraction Hierarchies

Tourist attractions in the Lao PDR are divided into two levels, as follows:

1. National level; and
2. Local level.

Article 16 (amended) National-Level Tourist Attractions

National-level tourist attractions are tourist attractions that involve national, regional, or global heritage or tourist attractions that do not involve heritage but have a diversity of tourism resources that have potential and are popular, interesting, and able to attract domestic and foreign tourists in large numbers, are widely known, and/or are important to the generation of tourist revenues.

Article 17 (amended) Local-Level Tourist Attractions

Local-level tourist attractions are tourist attractions that involve local-level heritage or tourist attractions that do not involve heritage in provinces, the capital district, municipalities, towns, and villages. They are interesting and attract mostly domestic tourists, have an area that can be developed, and, importantly, generate revenues for localities.

Chapter 3
Tourism Sites

Article 18 (new) Tourism Sites

Tourism sites refer to tourist attractions that have been developed for approval, provide services and attract tourists,

have amenities, basic infrastructure, management, and quality services, are clean, meet standards, are safe, have an area of land, and have accurate tourist information.

Article 19 (new) Types of Tourism Sites

The three types of tourism sites are as follows:

1. Nature Tourism;
2. Cultural Tourism; and
3. Historical Tourism.

Article 20 (new) Nature Tourism Sites

Nature tourism sites refer to tourist attractions that have been developed to attract tourists to relax and study, such as waterfalls, hot springs, agricultural tourism sites, parks, zoological gardens, botanical gardens, retreats, and places with beautiful scenery, whether natural or manmade, but with a natural environment.

Article 21 (new) Cultural Tourism Sites

Cultural Tourism sites refer to tourist attractions that have been developed to attract tourists to view and/or study [interesting items and places], relax, and/or have fun. These sites include ancient sites, places of worship, architectural sites, temples, shrines, buildings, houses, cultural parks, artistic and cultural product exhibitions, and sites for organizing touristic activities associated with cultural tourism resources.

Article 22 (new) Historical Tourism Sites

Historical Tourism sites refer to tourist attractions that have been developed to attract tourists to view and/or study [interesting items and places], such as museums, monuments, relics, the birthplaces, residences, and workplaces of historical people, halls, structures, traces of historical battlefields,

historical theme parks, and sites for organizing touristic activities associated with historical tourism resources.

Article 23 (new) Standards for Tourism Sites

Standards for tourism sites refer to the specific nature of products, goods, services, procedures, environments, safety, and other relevant issues to assess, prioritize, and specify the quality of a given tourist site.

The regulations concerning standards for tourism sites are specified separately.

Article 24 (new) Levels of Tourism Sites

Tourism sites have multiple levels and must be evaluated and assessed, and their quality is specified based on the standards for tourism sites specified in regulations, conditions, and their accuracy with respect to the techniques and science concerned.

The information, culture, and tourism sector manages tourism sites at each level in accordance with the laws and regulations concerned and in coordination with [other] sectors, local authorities, tourist business operators, and other parties concerned.

Part III
Tourism Activities
Chapter 1
Tourism Advertisement

Article 25 (amended) Tourism Advertisement

Tourism advertisement aims to help the public understand its importance and contribute to its management, preservation, development, and promotion. This will encourage domestic tourists to take pride in traveling around to see their country, foreign tourists to come to know the Lao

PDR and want to see and learn about it, and gradually open up the Lao Tourism market.

Article 26 Content of Advertisement

Tourism publicity must emphasize important content, such as tourism sites, [the county's] beauty, outstanding tourism resources and products unique to the nation, natural, cultural, and historical value, and desirable services that create an impression on tourists.

Article 27 (amended) Forms and Means of Advertisement

Tourism advertisement [is of] the following kinds and utilizes the following methods:

1. Through domestic and foreign electronic and printed media;
2. [Through] the organization of Special Events and Traditional Events, festivals, contests, and exhibitions associated with tourist businesses at local, national, regional, and global levels;
3. Through tourist businesses, the [Lao] Association of Travel Agents ("**LATA**"), civil society organizations ("**CSOs**"), and representative offices;
4. Through information on festivals and activities promoting Tourism;
5. [Through] the organization of visits to tourism sites and organize Tourism publicity campaigns overseas; and
6. [Through] the use of other kinds and methods which promote Lao Tourism.

Chapter 2
Tourism Communications

Article 28 (amended) Tourism Communications

Tourism communications refer to the provision of [tourist] information facilities for tourists to gain access to tourist information.

Domestic and foreign natural and juridical persons, organizations, and tourists conveniently access communications, data collection, and learning new things about Tourism in the Lao PDR and overseas.

Article 29 (amended) Provision of Tourist Data and Information

The sectors and parties concerned shall provide accurate, clear, systematic, and up-to-date tourist data via electronic media, printed media, information centers or rooms associated with tourism sites, travel, accommodation, restaurants, permitted or prohibited practices, and others.

Article 30 (amended) Safety Advice and Hazard Warnings for Tourists

The information, culture, and tourism sectors must coordinate with other sectors concerned with advice and warnings for tourists, such as the design, production, installation, and maintenance of signs along roads and important spots to keep tourists aware of the locations and areas of hazards and accessing tourism sites safely.

The sectors, officials, natural and juridical persons, and organizations concerned must provide data and information, explain about emergencies arising or which might occur in future, which has an impact or might have an effect in the future on tourists, tourism sites, and Tourist Products, the image of [Lao] Tourism while also advising on the preventive and safety measures [being taken], such as earthquakes,

flooding, fire, storms, disease outbreaks, accidents, injuries, casualties, and so forth.

Chapter 3
Transportation Services for Tourists

Article 31 (amended) Transportation Services for Tourists

Transportation services for tourists must take place in accordance with the plan, itinerary, and transportation conditions agreed in the contract unless the contracting parties agree otherwise. Transportation services for tourists must ensure safety, cleanliness, good services, honesty, punctuality, open and accurate notification of reasonable passenger fees, tourist insurance, and a tourist vehicle. In the event that tourist transportation fails to take place in accordance with the plan, tour itinerary, or contract, the consent of the contracting parties must be given, the police and parties concerned must be notified, and the transportation must be facilitated.

Service employees carrying tourists must be in good health, possess good manners, have received basic training in Tourism, be highly responsible, and respect and strictly comply with the law.

Article 32 (amended) Vehicles for Transporting Tourists

Vehicles for transporting tourists comprise airplanes, [road] vehicles, trains, boats, and other passenger vehicles that belong to the enterprise, or the enterprise has the right to use them.

Article 33 (amended) Tourist Vehicle Standards

Tourist vehicles must be of high quality and meet standards, and their useful life is specified in the vehicle technical standards regulations and standards of tourist

vehicles for each period. They must ensure safety, [be] clean, [come with] good services, and have insurance.

Chapter 4
Accommodation

Article 34 (amended) Accommodation

Accommodation refers to where tourists, travelers, and general individuals stay to relax during the night or day and have a system of buildings, a restaurant and/or shop, rooms, huts, and other places to stay with a system of management and services as a business, which might or might not serve food and beverages.

Article 35 (new) Types of Accommodation

The types of accommodation are as follows:

1. Hotels;
2. Boutique Hotels;
3. Resorts;
4. Inns;
5. Motels;
6. Mobile Accommodation;
7. Hostels;
8. Guesthouses;
9. Campsites;
10. Homestays; and
11. Other places to stay.

Each type of accommodation is provided for in separate regulations.

Article 36 (new) Accommodation Standards

Accommodation standards are specified according to the specific nature of the products, goods, services, processes, environment, and other issues associated with the

accommodation to assess, attribute it to a level, and specify its quality.

The regulations regarding accommodation standards are specified separately.

Article 37 (amended) Level of Accommodation

Multiple levels of accommodation are available, with a symbol representing [each] level to certify the standards and quality of the accommodation and provide tourists with multiple options.

The attribution of a level for accommodation is specified in separate regulations.

Article 38 (amended) Accommodation Services

Accommodation services must ensure quality, standards, cleanliness, convenience, comfort, and safety.

Persons providing services at accommodation facilities must have received specialized training in hospitality at a definite level, possess good interpersonal skills and manners, be honest and cheerful, and so forth.

Article 39 (amended) Specification of Accommodation Prices

Entrepreneurs engaging in accommodation of all types and levels must specify their accommodation prices in kip and notify the information, culture, and tourism thereof to be approved for each period in coordination with the industry and commerce sector and other sectors and parties concerned.

Accommodation prices must be clearly specified, reasonable, and appropriate to the level or standards of the accommodation facility, and customers must be informed openly.

Chapter 5
Restaurants

Article 40 (new) Restaurants

Restaurants ("**Restaurants**") comprise good service facilities with a system of buildings, rooms, al fresco dining gardens, banquet halls, or Restaurants on rafts, [road] vehicles, or other vehicles decorated attractively according to the latest trends, of a variety of different styles and levels, with administration, management, and services in the form of a business, with convenient facilities for the serving of high-quality food, which meet hygiene and safety standards.

Article 41 (new) Types of Restaurants

There are two types of Restaurants, as follows:

1. General Restaurants, which comprise buildings, dining areas, shops, rooms, al fresco dining gardens, convention hall restaurants, floating restaurants on rafts, Franchise Restaurants, Cafés, and other forms of Restaurants that are registered and licensed for business operations in accordance with the law;

2. Restaurants that form part of a network of tourist activities, comprising restaurants at accommodation facilities, entertainment venues, tourism sites, and other places where they are under the authority of an established venue or integral parts of or organizations of a tourist business.

Article 42 (new) Restaurant Standards

Restaurant standards specify the nature of a product, goods, services, processes, modus operandi, environment, and other issues associated with the Restaurant in order to assess and attribute a level to it and specify the quality of the Restaurant.

The regulations concerning Restaurant standards are specified separately.

Article 43 (amended) Levels of Restaurants

Restaurants have multiple levels with a symbol representing [each] level, for which it must undergo an assessment and be attributed a level to verify the standards and quality of the Restaurant within nine days of the date on which it was authorized to operate as a business. Every two years, it must be assessed and a level attributed according to its standards, counting from the last date it was certified and attributed a level.

The attribution of a level for a Restaurant is specified in separate regulations.

Article 44 (amended) Food Services

Food services for tourists must ensure quality, standards, safety, cleanliness, and consistency with the principles of hygiene as specified in the Law on Food.

Food served to tourists must be diverse so that they will have many options and services at a suitable place.

Persons serving food must have received specialized training in services, safety, and food hygiene at a definite level, possess good interpersonal skills and manners, be honest, cheerful, and bright, and possess other such qualities.

Article 45 (amended) Specification of Food Prices

Entrepreneurs with restaurants of all types and levels must clearly specify reasonable food pricing in kip appropriate to the types of food and level of service and inform their customers openly and clearly.

Restaurants must have menus specifying the price of each dish clearly.

Chapter 6
Entertainment

Article 46 (amended) Entertainment

Entertainment refers to the provision of fun, amusement, and enjoyment from music, dance, traditional singing, stand-up comedy, traditional dance, theatrical performances, and so forth.

Entertainment comprises the exhibition or performance of arts, literature, traditional music, international music, traditional dance, singing, traditional singing, and so forth, which shows the cultural identity and fine traditional customs of the nation, ethnic groups, amazing spectacles, and global advancements.

Article 47 (amended) Types of Entertainment Services

The types of entertainment services are as follows:

1. Discotheques;
2. Night Clubs;
3. Pubs;
4. Snack Bars;
5. Bars;
6. Karaoke Venues;
7. Concerts; and
8. Other entertainment services.

Each type of entertainment service must have a valid business operating license in accordance with the law, except for Concerts.

To arrange a Concert, permission must be requested from the information, culture, and tourism sector, public security sector, and local authorities concerned.

Article 48 (amended) Entertainment Venues

An entertainment service can be set up at the following locations:

1. A specific entertainment venue;
2. An accommodation facility, Restaurant, banquet hall, or al fresco dining garden; or
3. An outdoor entertainment site;

But entertainment venues are provided for in separate regulations.

Article 49 (amended) Entertainment Services

An entertainment venue must ensure quality, safety, convenience, comfort, cleanliness, and a soundproof room, and must not create noise disturbance for others outside or in proximity to the entertainment venue except for outdoor Concerts.

Entertainment service providers must have received specialized training in entertainment services, have good interpersonal skills and manners, and be honest, cheerful, bright, and in good health.

Article 50 (new) Standards for Entertainment Services

Standards for entertainment venues specify the specific nature of the product, goods, services, processes, environment, and other issues associated with entertainment services for assessment, the attribution of the level, and the specification of the quality of the entertainment service.

Regulations concerning standards for entertainment services are specified separately.

Article 51 (amended) Level of Entertainment Services

There are multiple levels of entertainment services with a symbol representing [each] level to certify the standards and

quality of the entertainment service and provide tourists with multiple options.

The attribution of levels for entertainment services is specified in separate regulations.

Chapter 7
Health Promotion

Article 52 Health Promotion

Health promotion comprises the practice of physical culture, traditional massage, traditional saunas, baths, sunbathing, Spas, and so forth as appropriate.

Health promotion could take place at an accommodation facility or a specific facility.

Article 53 (amended) Health Promotion Services

Health promotion services must ensure quality, cleanliness, safety, convenience, comfort, and relaxation for the customer.

Health promotion service employees must have received specialized training in health promotion services, possess good interpersonal skills, dress modestly and neatly, and be honest, cheerful, bright, and in good health.

Chapter 8
Souvenirs

Article 54 (amended) Souvenirs

A souvenir refers to a domestic product or good meticulously and enchantingly crafted by the multiethnic Lao people. It is associated with fine arts, art, culture, history, and the fine traditional customs of the nation or ethnic groups,

which create positive memories for tourists and people in general.

Article 55 (amended) Types of Souvenirs

There are multiple types of souvenirs, such as silver and gold accessories or ornaments, basketry, woven tapestry, ikat tapestry, embroidery, accessories or decorations, carvings, pictures, sculptures, musical instruments, and other souvenirs finely crafted and that embody the traditional customs, fine cultures, and ways of living of the Lao ethnic groups.

Souvenirs are supported and promoted for domestic production and to be traded widely in compliance with the law.

Article 56 (amended) Display and the Sale of Souvenirs

Souvenirs can be displayed and sold at accommodation facilities, markets, shops, and other places frequented by tourists in a way that provides suitable decoration and is pleasant to the eye.

Chapter 9
Safety

Article 57 (amended) Safety

Tourist businesses must ensure the safety of tourists' lives, health, and property. Tourism entrepreneurs must have fundamental knowledge, methods, and technical standards concerning safety and maintain safety in accordance with the laws and regulations concerned.

In the event of a problem or emergency, the Tourism entrepreneur or person who witnessed the event must aid the tourist and coordinate with the parties concerned forthwith.

Article 58 (amended) Tourist Police

The tourist police are officers of the public security sector appointed and assigned to keep the peace, security, and order, facilitate Tourism, assist tourists and Tourism business operators, and monitor large groups of tourists at the request of tourist business operators as specified in separate regulations.

The tourist police must provide data and information on tourists' safety by coordinating with the parties concerned to eliminate and counter offenses related to Tourism and resolve disputes arising according to their respective jurisdictions.

The rights and duties of the tourist police are specified in separate regulations.

Article 59 (new) Emergency Assistance

In the event of an accident or emergency, the Tourism business operator, their staff, or witnesses must come to the tourist's aid and administer CPR and/or first aid, depending on the situation, and inform the tourist police, rescue volunteers, or relevant officers in time.

Article 60 (amended) Insurance

To ensure that compensation for damages is paid in the event of losses, the tourist business operator must have insurance as specified in the Law on Insurance.

Chapter 10
Tour Services

Article 61 (new) Forms of Tour Services

There are three forms of tour services, as follows:

1. Land tourism services, such as forest trekking, rock climbing, ziplining, and caving;

2. Water tourism services, such as boating, rafting, tubing, land diving, and zipline diving; and

3. Air tourism services, such as ballooning, paramotoring, and paragliding.

Each type of tour service is provided for in separate regulations.

Article 62 Types of Tour Services

Tour services are divided into the following three types:

1. International tours;
2. Domestic tours; and
3. Tours of a specific area.

Article 63 International Tour Services

International tour services are services that take tourists into or out of the country for Tourism purposes.

Article 64 Domestic Tour Services

Domestic tour services take tourists in the Lao PDR around the country for Tourism purposes.

Article 65 Tour Services to a Specific Location

Tour services to a specific location are services that take tourists to see a given domestic tourist site in the Lao PDR.

Article 66 (amended) Management of Tour Services

The management of tour services must take place according to a specified plan, Package Tour, schedule, and standards and with quality.

The date, time, travel, tourism sites, and destinations or roads agreed upon can be changed by agreement in writing or discussion between the tour service enterprise or service provider and tourists.

In the event that foreign tourists are traveling as a group and change their destination or roads for the tour the tour services enterprise must inform the tourist police.

Article 67 (amended) Specification of Tour Service Prices

Tour service enterprises must specify reasonable prices for their Package Tours in Kip accompanied by a schedule, standards, and quality for the tour and must inform the tourists [thereof] openly.

The tourists must be informed at least three days in advance of their tour of any changes to the price or Package Tour.

Chapter 11
Tour Guides

Article 68 (new) Tour Guides

Tour Guides are individuals who perform the duty of taking and traveling with tourists to visit tourism sites according to their Package Tour and provide tourists with information and explanations about them and their history or Tourist Products accurately.

Article 69 (amended) Types of Tour Guides

There are two types of tour guides, as follows:

1. Tour guides working for a tour service enterprise; and
2. Tour guides not working for a tour service enterprise.

Article 70 (amended) Levels of Tour Guides

There are three levels of tour guides, as follows:

1. National-level tour guides;
2. Provincial-level tour guides; and
3. Tour guides at a level for a specific area.

Article 71 (new) National-Level Tour Guides

National-level tour guides are tour guides who work for or do not work for a tour service enterprise, have completed a training course for national-level tour guides, and have been licensed by the Ministry of Information, Culture, and Tourism ("**MICT**") to act as a tour guide nationwide and lead groups of tourists domestically, going overseas depending on the Package Tour.

Article 72 (new) Provincial-Level Tour Guides

Provincial-level tour guides are tour guides who work for or do not work for a tour service enterprise, have completed a training course for provincial-level tour guides, and have been licensed by the Provincial or [Vientiane] Capital Department of Information, Culture, and Tourism ("**DICT**") to act as a tour guide within the province or [Vientiane] Capital according to the Package Tour.

Article 73 (new) Tour Guides at a Level for a Specific Area

Tour guides at a level for a specific area are tour guides who work for or do not work for a tour service enterprise and have completed a training course for tour guides and been licensed by the Provincial or [Vientiane] Capital DICT to act as a tour guide in a specific area.

Article 74 Standards and Conditions for Tour Guides

The general standards and conditions for tour guides are as follows:

1. Be a Lao national aged eighteen years or more residing in the Lao PDR;

2. Never have been sentenced by a court to deprivation of freedom[1] for an offense taken with intent;

3. Possess ethics, morality, qualities, good interpersonal skills, and a high level of responsibility with respect to their tour guide services;

4. Have completed a course or training in the specialization of tour guides domestically or overseas;

5. Have a tour guide card issued by the information, culture, and tourism sector in accordance with regulations;

6. Possess the relevant knowledge, competencies, and skills, such as geography, history, culture, the fine traditional customs of the nation, a foreign language, and basic first aid; and

7. Be in good health.

The specific standards and conditions for tour guides of each level are specified in separate regulations.

Article 75 (new) Rights of Tour Guides

Tour guides have the following rights according to their scope of responsibility:

1. To receive payment for their services from the tour service enterprise according to the contract or as agreed;

2. To take groups of tourists on domestic tours and travel overseas as hired by the tour service enterprise as specified in the Package Tour;

3. To warn tourists and drivers transporting tourists against behavior that would violate the law, culture, or any fine traditional customs or behavior that is impolite or creates a risk of losses or dangers;

[1] This essentially refers to a custodial sentence but the wording means that it could technically refer to sentences such as house arrest.

4. To warn drivers transporting tourists to drive according to the schedule and sites in the Package Tour when they see that they are not driving according to plan;

5. To stop or suspend a journey or tour when seeing an accident and/or an emergency situation or when they deem there could be danger ahead [which would] affect the lives, health, and possessions of the tourists while also notifying the tour service enterprise concerned;

6. To make a claim against an organization or party when they have been taken advantage of; and

7. To exercise other rights as specified by law.

Article 76 (new) Obligations of Tour Guides

Tour guides have the following obligations within the scope of their responsibility:

1. To respect and comply with the laws and regulations concerned, culture, and the fine traditional customs of a locality which they are viewing;

2. To dress, appear, and speak politely and with courtesy, give respect and due regard to tourists; be cooperative, coordinate well with organizations, local authorities, and individuals concerned;

3. To take the tourists to see the tourism sites and give them information and explanations concerning the history and background thereof;

4. To lead the tourists according to the Package Tour unless agreed otherwise bilaterally between the tourists and tourist service enterprise;

5. To lead groups of tourists within the country, traveling overseas according to the Package Tour, and lead the tourists back to the country safely and in full;

6. To provide information on, introduce, and explain the journey, food, accommodation, tourist activities, or Tourist Products correctly;

7. To lead and monitor the tourists traveling to their tourist destination and take them back at the time specified in the Package Tour;

8. To ensure safety, comfort, and convenience and provide care and assistance to the tourists when needed or when they fall ill, suffer an injury, and/or are involved in an accident or other emergency while also notifying the tour service enterprise and tourist police in accordance with regulations;

9. To wear their tour guide license at all times when performing their duties as a guide;

10. To pay income tax, fees, and service charges in accordance with the laws and regulations concerned; and

11. To perform other obligations as specified by law.

Chapter 12
Tour Leaders

Article 77 (new) Tour Leaders

Tour leaders are individuals who accompany and lead foreign tourists coming into the Lao PDR to help facilitate matters, point things out, translate, and coordinate with tour guides when leading tours to tourism sites in accordance with the Package Tour.

Tour leaders must be able to communicate at a certain level in English, Lao, or another language with which they communicate with the tour guides while also being appointed and certified in writing by the tour service enterprise concerned.

Article 78 (new) Rights of Tour Leaders

1. To lead, monitor, and facilitate matters for tour groups;

2. To warn tourists acting in violation of the law, culture, or any fine traditional customs, or exhibiting behavior which is impolite and discourteous and/or may lead to a risk of losses or danger;

3. To request that the tour guides halt or suspend the journey or tour when seeing an accident, a sudden emergency situation, or when they deem there could be danger ahead [which would] affect the lives, health, and possessions of the tourists;

4. To ensure safety, facilitation, care, and the provision of assistance to tour groups in the event of sickness, injury, involvement in an accident, or other emergency; and

5. To perform other obligations as specified by law.

Article 79 (new) Obligations of Tour Leaders

Tour guides have the following obligations within the scope of their responsibility:

1. To respect and comply with the laws and regulations concerned, the culture, and the fine traditional customs of a locality that they are viewing;

2. To dress, appear, and speak politely and with courtesy, give respect and due regard to tourists; be cooperative, coordinate well with organizations, local authorities, and individuals concerned;

3. To lead and monitor tourists in their travels to destinations and return to their home countries as planned in the itinerary;

4. To ensure safety, convenience, and provide care and assistance to the tourists when needed or when they fall ill, suffer an injury, and/or are involved in an accident or other emergency;

5. To perform other obligations as specified by law.

Part IV
Tourists and Entering and Leaving the Lao PDR
Chapter 1
Tourists

Article 80 (new) Tourists

Tourists refer to individuals traveling from their place of residence to another locality or country for Tourism, visits, sightseeing, relaxation, fun, culture exchanges, sports, health promotion, research, exhibitions, meetings, pilgrimages, and other activities without the intent to stay permanently, look for work, or work to earn an income in various ways.

Article 81 (amended) Types of Tourists

The two types of tourists are as follows:

1. Domestic tourists; and
2. International tourists.

Article 82 Domestic Tourists

Domestic tourists are Lao nationals, aliens, stateless persons, or foreigners residing in the Lao PDR traveling domestically.

Article 83 (amended) International Tourists

International tourists are foreign nationals, stateless persons, or Lao nationals residing overseas who travel to the Lao PDR for Tourism purposes.

Article 84 (amended) Rights of Tourists

Tourists have the following rights:

1. To travel using a tour service enterprise or independently;

2. To select universal services or just part thereof directly from a tour service enterprise or via a representative tour agency;

3. To enjoy convenience when entering and leaving the Lao PDR and when traveling as a tourist;

4. To receive permission and exemptions from duties for their necessary personal effects when entering and leaving the Lao PDR in accordance with the laws and regulations concerned;

5. To lodge complaints for any improper actions of a tour service enterprise, tour guide, official, organization, or other individuals concerned when they have suffered losses; and

6. To exercise other rights as specified by law.

Article 85 (amended) Obligations of Tourists

Tourists have the following obligations:

1. To respect and comply with the laws and regulations concerned, culture, and/or the fine traditional customs of a locality they visit;

2. To pay service costs, the cost of goods, fees, and other service charges in accordance with the laws and regulations concerned;

3. To act in strict accordance with plans, schedules, and Package Tours;

4. To preserve tourism sites and natural and social environments;

5. To report to officials when witnessing a problem, accident, and/or emergency that could have social and/or environmental impact; and

6. To perform other obligations as specified by law.

Chapter 2
Tourists Entering and Leaving the Lao PDR

Article 86 (amended) Permission to Enter or Leave the Lao PDR

Tourists entering and leaving the Lao PDR must meet the conditions and act strictly as specified in the laws and regulations concerning the entry into and exit out of the Lao PDR.

Officials with the relevant responsibilities must facilitate matters, and provide compact and streamlined services in permitting entry and exit for tourists.

Article 87 International Border Checkpoints

Tourists traveling into and out of the Lao PDR must do so through the checkpoints specified.

Border checkpoint officials must manage, inspect, and coordinate with the parties concerned, allocate suitable locations to facilitate convenience, streamlined services, and provide services with kindness to tourists entering and exiting the country.

Article 88 Travel within the Country

Tourists traveling into the Lao PDR can travel to tourism sites within the country in accordance with regulations.

All parties concerned must facilitate matters for tourists traveling within the country, amend regulations which are inconsistent and cause difficulties for tourists traveling and visiting tourism sites.

Part V
Tourism Development
Chapter 1
Tourism Development Plans

Article 89 (amended) Level of Tourism Development Plans

Tourism development plans (TDPs) can be long-, medium-, and short-term, classified into the following order:

1. National TDPs;
2. Regional TDPs;
3. Provincial TDPs;
4. District TDPs; and
5. Village TDPs plans.

The creation, management, and implementation of TDPs of each level are provided for in separate regulations.

Article 90 (amended) Principles for the Creation of TDPs

The creation of TDPs must take place according to the following principles:

1. Being based on hidden potential and consistency with the NSEDP and local socio-economic development plans;
2. Following the directions of ecotourism and/or cultural and/or historical Tourism with the participation of and for the benefit of the public;
3. Ensuring sustainability with respect to the preservation of the environment, culture, and the fine traditional customs of the nation and of ethnic groups;
4. Promoting microenterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises ("**SMEs**") associated with Tourism and with local participation;
5. Support for and promotion of domestic production to cater to the needs of tourists;

6. Promotion of domestic tourists in combination with foreign, regional, and international Tourism;

7. Emphasis on outstanding target areas, including the creation of new Tourist Products that are able to compete with the region and the world; and

8. Development, the creation of facilities, and the training of Tourism personnel.

Article 91 (amended) Content of TDPs

TDPs must specify important content, objectives, expectations, development targets, the assessment and analysis of hidden potential, the status of the tourist market, gains earned, economic, cultural, and environmental impacts, and the methods, measures, regulations, and sources of capital for implementation.

Chapter 2
Tourist Attraction Development

Article 92 (new) Tourist Attraction Development

Tourist attraction development refers to the development of tourism resources which have been surveyed and registered to become a tourist site to provide services and attract tourists to come sightseeing, visit, conduct research, relax, and have fun.

Article 93 Processes in Tourist Attraction Development

1. Survey;
2. Creation of a development plan;
3. Area demarcation;

4. Creation of an economic-technical feasibility study ("**FS**") and environmental impact assessment ("**EIA**");

5. Entry into a concession agreement ("**CA**") to develop a tourist attraction;

6. Design; and

7. Implementation of the tourist attraction development;

The development of each process is provided for in separate regulations.

Chapter 3
Tourism Cities

Article 94 (amended) Conditions for Tourism Cities

The conditions for tourism cities are as follows:

1. Being a district popular with and frequented by tourists in great numbers;

2. Having tourism resources for ecotourism and/or cultural and/or historical Tourism within or in the area surrounding the town which attracts tourists;

3. Having order, peace, safety, and cleanliness;

4. Having the basic infrastructure and potential for further development; and

5. Considering Tourism businesses as important parties in the economic structure of districts which generate the majority of their income from Tourism.

The approval and declaration of a tourism city are provided for in separate regulations.

Article 95 Developing Tourism Cities

The development of a tourism city must emphasize the promotion of investment, the construction of basic infrastructure and facilities, human resource development, the

raising of awareness about Tourism amongst the public and the use of land, and the development of towns to be clean, attractive, and tidy so as to attract tourists.

The socio-economic development of a tourism city must consider Tourism as its first priority.

Article 96 Tourism City Management

A tourism city must have specific regulations for management so as to preserve, conserve, and develop ecotourism and/or cultural and/or historical tourism resources.

Part VI
Tourism Fund

Article 97 (amended) Tourism Fund

The Tourism Fund is a State Fund established to accumulate and mobilize capital for use in the development, promotion, and management of tourists, such as the development of tourist facilities for tourists, database systems on tourists, the creation of regulations, Tourism publicity, and the training of specialized Tourism employees.

Article 98 (amended) Sources for the Tourism Fund

The Tourism Fund will come from:

1. The State Budget;
2. The obligations of domestic tourists when traveling overseas and foreign tourists traveling to the Lao PDR;
3. Contributions from domestic and foreign natural and juridical persons and organizations;
4. The implementation of tourist activities, such as food festivals and Tourism exhibitions; and

5. Other legal income.

Article 99 (amended) Management and Use of the Tourism Fund

The management and use of the Tourism Fund must ensure transparency, accountability, and consistency with the Law on the State Budget and other laws and regulations concerned.

The management and use of the Tourism Fund are specified in separate regulations.

Part VII
Tourism Businesses

Article 100 (new) Requests for Licensing to Operate a Tourism Business

Natural and juridical persons and organizations wishing to operate a Tourism business on the controlled list must submit a request to apply for enterprise registration with the industry and commerce sector as specified in the Law on Enterprises and request an investment license from the planning and investment sector as specified in the Law on Investment Promotion. After having received enterprise registration and the investment license, a request must be submitted to the information, culture, and tourism sector for a business operating license in person or electronically.

Operating a Tourism business not under the controlled list requires enterprise registration from the industry and commerce sector as specified in the Law on Enterprises and a request for a business operating license from the information, culture, and tourism sector.

To operate a tourist site business or tourist business in a conservation, protection, and production forest, the

information, culture, and tourism sector must coordinate with the agriculture and forestry sector and natural resources and the environment sector for a business operating license in accordance herewith.

To open a tourist business in a special or specific economic zone, the relevant laws and regulations must be followed.

Requesting the operation of a tourist business electronically is provided for in separate regulations.

Article 101 (amended) Tourism Businesses

Tourist businesses comprise:

1. Tourist site businesses;
2. Accommodation businesses;
3. Restaurant businesses;
4. Entertainment businesses;
5. Health promotion businesses;
6. Souvenir businesses;
7. Tour Operators;
8. Travel Agencies; and
9. Other tourist businesses.

Article 102 (new) Conditions for Requesting a Business Operating [License]

To request a business operating [license], the following conditions are as follows:

1. Having already registered as an enterprise or [received] an investment license in accordance with the law;
2. Having a registered capital appropriate for the type and scale of the business;
3. Having head offices; and
4. Other conditions according to the type of business.

Article 103 (new) Documents for Requesting a Business Operating [License]

The documents for requesting a business operating [license] are as follows:

A. Documentation for general businesses:

1. A request to operate a business made using the form specified by the Department of Tourism Business Management, MICT;

2. A copy of an enterprise registration certificate or investment license;

3. Other documents according to the documentation [needed] for each type of business;

B. Documentation for concessionary businesses

1. The documents specified in Items A (1 and 2) of this Article;

2. An economic-technical feasibility study;

3. An economic impact analysis; and

4. A concession agreement.

Article 104 (new) Considering the Issuance of a Business Operating License

The information, culture, and tourism sector must consider the issuance of a tourist business operating license within seven working days for general businesses and within fifteen working days for concessionary businesses counting from the date the request and correct and complete accompanying documentation are received in coordination with the sectors, organizations, local authorities, and other parties concerned.

If a tourist business operating license cannot be issued, the person who made the request must be notified in writing of the reason within the aforementioned time specified.

Article 105 (new) Business Operating Licenses

Tourist business operating licenses for tourist businesses are valid for a period depending on the type of business and can be extended in accordance with the regulations concerned.

Tourist business operating licenses cannot be transferred to another person to use [instead].

Article 106 (amended) Rights and Obligations of Business Operators

Tourist business operators have the following rights and obligations:

1. To operate their business in accordance with their license and the laws and regulations concerned;
2. To receive data and information concerning Tourism affairs;
3. To collect service charges correctly and in actuality;
4. To receive protection for their legitimate rights and interests;
5. To hold ownership rights for the assets, structures, materials, and equipment used in their business;
6. To profit from business operations and transfer, use, buy, and sell their assets;
7. To contribute in capital or in labor to Tourism development;
8. To cooperate with, provide data and information to, and facilitate matters for Tourism management organizations and [their] officials;

9. To be a member of the Lao Association of Travel Agents;

10. To pay fees, service charges, and [perform] other financial obligations in accordance with the law;

11. To make a claim against a given organizations when deemed that they have been disadvantaged; and

12. To exercise other rights and perform other obligations as specified by law.

Article 107 (new) Suspension of Business Operations

Tourist business operating licenses will be suspended under the following circumstances:

1. At the request of the business operator;
2. The business is being operated inconsistently with the purposes and goals for which it was licensed; or
3. There is a violation of the laws and regulations concerned.

In the event that the business operator fails to rectify or improve the matter as stated in the warning, the information, culture, and tourism sector will order a suspension of business operations.

Article 108 (new) Revocation of Business Operating Licenses

A business operating license will be revoked under the following circumstances:

1. The matter for a suspension is not rectified or improved; or
2. There has been a severe violation of the laws and regulations.

After having revoked a business operating license, the information, culture, and tourism body concerned must notify the industry and commerce body concerned within five

working days of the date on which the business operating license was revoked.

Article 109 (new) Reserved Businesses and Specialist Employees

Businesses reserved exclusively for Lao nationals comprise the production of products or goods such as Lao souvenirs, domestic Tour Operators and Tour Operators for a specific place, Guesthouses, inns, small Restaurants, and other businesses as specified by the government ("**GOL**") for each period.

Special occupations reserved exclusively for Lao nationals include tour guiding and other special occupations specified by GOL for each period.

Part VIII
The Lao Association of Travel Agents and the Lao Tourism Marketing Promotion Board

Article 110 (amended) The Lao Association of Travel Agents

The Lao Association of Travel Agents (LATA) is a civil society organization founded voluntarily and operates as a non-profit [organization] aiming to bring together tourist businesses, with the role of meeting Tourism management organizations, and providing assistance, consulting, advice, exchanging lessons learned, and protecting the legitimate rights and interests of the association and its members.

LATA must operate based on the principles and regulations specified in the laws and regulations concerned.

Article 111 (amended) Rights and Duties of LATA

LATA has the following rights and duties:

1. To study and create its own articles of association, disseminate laws and regulations concerning Tourism amongst its members and the public for them to be understood and recognized widely and uniformly for their effective implementation and enforcement;

2. To create and improve itself to grow, strengthen, and apply modern science, techniques, and technologies in its Tourism operations;

3. To encourage tourist businesses to become a member of itself;

4. To assist and promote members in their employment, advancement, and management and to protect the legitimate rights and interests of its members in accordance with the law.

5. To represent tourist business operators through coordination and cooperation, attending meetings, requesting the opinions of the information, culture, and Tourism sector on domestic and overseas Tourism;

6. To monitor operations, provide advice, and resolve disputes of its members in the implementation of their tourist operations according to its scope of responsibility;

7. To provide data and information to its members concerning Tourism and the domestic and overseas Tourism markets;

8. To provide cooperation and coordinate with the sectors concerned for discussions to exchange ideas and opinions on Tourism development, publicity, and management;

9. To organize the dissemination of policies and training to upgrade areas of specialization for its members;

10. To summarize and report on its operations, including its statistics, to the information, culture, and Tourism sector on a regular basis; and

11. To exercise other rights and perform other duties as specified by law.

Article 112 (new) The Lao Tourism Marketing Promotion Board

The Lao Tourism Marketing Promotion Board (LTMPB) is a joint organization between the business and State sectors, the establishment of which has been authorized by GOL, with the mandate to promote business operations and services, to study and propose policies, strategic plans, and publicize Lao Tourism marketing to create new market opportunities of high quality and value with its own identity, [to promote] safety and modernity, to meet standards, to be sustainable, and to attract domestic and foreign tourists and investors.

The organization, operations, rights, and duties of the LTMPB are specified in separate regulations.

Part IX
Prohibitions

Article 113 (amended) General Prohibitions

Natural and juridical persons and organizations are prohibited from the following behavior:

1. Damaging tourism resources, tourist attractions, tourism sites, the beauty of environments, the fine traditional customs of the nation and its ethnic groups in association with Tourism;

2. Creating obstacles, creating noise pollution, organizing events and activities in tourism sites or public places in whatever form without having received the permission of the organization concerned;

3. Encroachment, appropriation, or construction in prohibited areas or areas of tourism resources without having received permission;

4. Providing data or publicity that distorts the truth in such a way that constitutes defamation of a person or organization;

5. Paying or acting as a broker for the receiving or payment of bribes; and

6. Other behavior in violation of the law.

Article 114 (new) Prohibitions for Tourists

Tourists are prohibited from the following behavior:

1. Failing to respect and comply with the regulations of a tourist site;

2. Travel to prohibited areas;

3. Dressing, appearing, or behaving impolitely at sacred sites, temples, or religious sites for historical Tourism, ancient sites, and other such places;

4. Using Tourism as a guise for trafficking in persons ("**TIP**"), forcing others into the sex trade, sexual exploitation, sexual abuse, sexual child abuse, labor exploitation, child labor engaging in prohibited gambling, trading in, abusing, or distributing narcotics and addictive substances; and

5. Other behavior in violation of the law.

Article 115 (amended) Prohibitions for Tourist Business Operators

Tourist business operators are prohibited from the following behavior:

1. Operating an unlicensed tourist business;

2. Operating a business and providing tourist services inconsistently with a TDP or causing harm to tourist attractions, tourism sites, the environment, and scenery;

3. Providing services or leading tours to prohibited areas;

4. Seeking illegal benefits from tourists;

5. Using their business operations for TIP, forcing others into the sex trade, sexual exploitation, sexual abuse, sexual child abuse, labor exploitation, child labor, engaging in prohibited gambling, trading in, abusing, or distributing narcotics and addictive substances.

Article 116 (new) Prohibitions for Relevant Employees, Civil Servants, and Officials

1. Abuse of their rights, duties, or position to threaten or make demands directly or indirectly from tourist business operators, tourists, and persons associated with tourist businesses;

2. Collusion with tourist business operators, persons developing tourist attractions into tourism sites, tourists, and persons associated with Tourism to seek personal gain or for their relatives or associates;

3. Delaying [processes] or acting with negligence with respect to their duties;

4. Disclosing secrets of the State or GOL, falsifying documents, or using falsified documents;

5. Receiving, requesting, or demanding bribes or illegal gains; and

6. Other behavior in violation of the law.

Part X
Management and Inspection of Tourism

Chapter 1
Tourism Management

Article 117 Tourism Management Organizations

GOL manages Tourism in a centralized and uniform manner nationwide, assigning the MICT direct responsibility to proactively coordinate with [other] ministries, organizations, local authorities, and [other] parties concerned.

Tourism management organizations comprise:

1. The MICT;
2. Provincial and [Vientiane] Capital PICTs;
3. District, municipal, and city offices of information, culture, and tourism; and
4. Village authorities.

Article 118 (amended) Rights and Duties of the MICT

In its management of Tourism, the MICT has the following rights and duties:

1. To study and create policies, laws, strategic plans, and regulations concerning Tourism to GOL for consideration;
2. To adopt policies, laws, strategic plans, and regulations concerning Tourism into plans, programs, and projects and implement them;
3. To publicize and disseminate policies, laws, strategic plans, regulations, plans, programs, and projects associated with Tourism;
4. To study, create, and approve the National TDP and regional TDPs;

5. To guide, support, and monitor the implementation of policies, laws, strategic plans, regulations, plans, programs, and projects associated with Tourism;

6. To specify standards for Tourism, lead and guide the classification of levels of Tourism standards to ensure that tourist business operators maintain quality, meet standards, and are legal;

7. To study and consider the issuance, suspension, or revocation of tourist business operating licenses in coordination with other parties concerned;

8. To train up, upgrade, and develop personnel working in Tourism;

9. To manage the Tourism Fund using plans efficiently and consistently with the targets for the use thereof;

10. To receive, consider, and resolve requests concerning Tourism in accordance with the law;

11. To coordinate with ministries, organizations, local authorities, and other parties concerned over the implementation of Tourism operations;

12. To liaise and cooperate with foreign countries, the region, and the world with respect to Tourism;

13. To summarize and report to GOL on the implementation of Tourism operations on a regular basis; and

14. To exercise other rights and perform other duties as specified by law.

Article 119 (amended) Rights and Duties of Provincial and [Vientiane] Capital DICTs

In their management of Tourism, Provincial, and [Vientiane] Capital DICTs have the following rights and duties within their respective scopes of responsibilities:

1. To implement policies, laws, strategic plans, regulations, plans, programs, and projects concerning Tourism operations;

2. To publicize and disseminate policies, laws, strategic plans, regulations, plans, programs, and projects associated with Tourism;

3. To study and create provincial TDPs to propose to the Provincial Administration Office for consideration;

4. To study and consider issuing, suspending, or revoking tourist business operating licenses in coordination with other parties concerned;

5. To train up and upgrade personnel associated with Tourism;

6. To manage the Tourism Fund in accordance with a plan, efficiently, and consistently with the targets for the use thereof;

7. To receive, consider, and resolve requests concerning Tourism in accordance with the law;

8. To coordinate with [provincial] departments, organizations equivalent to [provincial] departments, and other parties concerned over the implementation of Tourism operations;

9. To liaise with foreign countries concerning Tourism as assigned by superior levels;

10. To summarize and report to the MICT and Provincial Administration Office on the implementation of Tourism operations on a regular basis; and

11. To exercise other rights and perform other duties as specified by law.

Article 120 (amended) Rights and Duties of District, Municipal, and City Offices of Information, Culture, and Tourism

In their management of Tourism, District, Municipal, and City Offices of Information, Culture, and Tourism have the rights and duties according to their respective scopes of responsibilities:

1. To implement policies, laws, strategic plans, regulations, plans, programs, and projects associated with Tourism;

2. To publicize and disseminate policies, laws, strategic plans, regulations, plans, programs, and projects associated with Tourism;

3. To study and create district TDPs for proposal to the Provincial Administration Office for consideration while also studying the creation of village TDPs for proposal to the District Administration Office for consideration;

4. To study and consider the issuance, suspension, and revocation of tourist business operating licenses in coordination with other parties concerned;

5. To propose the training up and upgrading of personnel associated with Tourism;

6. To receive, consider, and resolve requests concerning Tourism in accordance with the law;

7. To coordinate with offices, organizations equivalent to District Administration Offices, and other parties concerned in the implementation of Tourism operations;

8. To summarize and report to the Provincial DICT and District Administration Office on the implementation of Tourism operations on a regular basis; and

9. To exercise other rights and perform other duties as specified by law.

Article 121 Rights and Duties of Village Administration Offices

In their management of Tourism, Village Administration Offices have the rights and duties to cooperate with, assist, and facilitate matters for District, Municipal, and City Information, Culture, and Tourism Offices in the management, monitoring, inspection, development, and promotion of Tourism within their respective scopes of responsibility.

Article 122 Rights and Duties of Ministries, Organizations, Local Authorities, and Other Parties Concerned

In their management of Tourism, ministries, organizations, local authorities, and other parties concerned have the rights and duties to cooperate and coordinate with MICT [with]—for example—the preservation, conservation, and maintenance of tourist attractions and tourism sites, the development and publicity of Tourism, and the management of Tourism prices and service charges in accordance with their respective mandates and responsibilities.

Chapter 2
Tourism Inspections

Article 123 (amended) Tourism Inspection Organizations

Tourism inspection organizations comprise:

1. Internal organizations, which are the same organizations as the Tourism managerial organizations specified in Article 117 hereof; and

2. External organizations such as the National Assembly, Provincial People's Councils, the State Inspection Organization at each level, the State Audit Organization at each level, the Lao Front for National Construction, the Lao Veterans Federation, mass organizations, the mass media, and the public.

Article 124 (amended) Content of Inspections

The content of inspections is as follows:

1. The implementation of policies, laws, regulations, plans, programs, and projects associated with Tourism;

2. The operations of tourist businesses, such as the inspection of documents and onsite inspection of operations;

3. Resolving the requests of natural and juridical persons and organizations concerning Tourism;

4. The implementation of measures against those acting in violation of laws associated with Tourism in coordination with other parties concerned; and

5. Other content as deemed necessary.

Article 125 (amended) Kinds of Inspections

The three kinds of inspections are as follows:

1. Regular systematic inspections, which take place as planned at a definite time;

2. Announced inspections, which are inspections deemed necessary where the person being inspected is given advance notice; and

3. Surprise inspections, which are urgent inspections where the person being inspected is not given advance notice.

In their inspection operations, the law must be strictly upheld.

Part XI
Policies for Outstanding Achievers and Measures for Violators

Article 126 Policies for Outstanding Achievers

Natural and juridical persons or organizations with outstanding achievements in the implementation and enforcement hereof will receive acclaim or [benefit from] some other policy in accordance with regulations.

Article 127 Policies for Violators

Natural and juridical persons or organizations acting in violation hereof will be subject to re-education, warnings, disciplinary measures, fines, civil compensation for their actions, or criminal punishment in accordance with the law.

Part XII
Final Provisions

Article 128 Implementation

The Government of the Lao PDR is responsible for the implementation hereof.

Article 129 Entry into Force

This Law will enter into force on 23 September 2024 after the President of the Lao PDR issues a Presidential Decree for its promulgation and publication in the Official Gazette.

This Law replaces Law 32/NA, dated 24 July 2013, on Tourism.

The President of the National Assembly

PhD, Xaysomphone Phomvihane

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