
Philippines Eases Stay-at-Home and Travel Restrictions

On October 15, 2020, the Philippines' Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (“**IATF**”) issued Resolution No. 79 amending the Omnibus Guidelines on the Implementation of Community Quarantine in the Philippines (“**Omnibus Guidelines**”).

The following are the key changes brought about by the amendments in the Omnibus Guidelines.

1. Age-based stay-at-home restrictions have been adjusted wherein only persons under fifteen (15) years of age and those over sixty-five (65) years shall remain inside their residences at all times, except when necessary for working in offices allowed to operate and for obtaining essential goods and services. This notwithstanding, local government units (“**LGU**”) are still authorized to impose higher age limits for minors depending on the COVID-19 situation in their respective jurisdictions. The restrictions imposed on the general population in areas placed under community quarantine shall remain.
2. Interzonal and intrazonal movement of persons not authorized outside of residences between or across areas: (a) placed under General Community Quarantine and Modified General Community Quarantine (“**MGCQ**”) and (b) placed under MGCQ and areas not placed under any form of community quarantine, shall now be allowed subject to reasonable regulations imposed by the LGUs concerned.
3. Effective 21 October 2020, non-essential outbound travel of Filipinos shall be allowed. For this purpose, the following requirements must be complied with before outbound travel is permitted, regardless of the purpose for the outbound travel:
 - i. Confirmed round-trip tickets and adequate travel and health insurance to cover travel disruptions and hospitalization in case of COVID-19 infections for persons travelling on tourist visas;
 - ii. Bureau of Immigration Declaration acknowledging the risks involved in the travel must be executed at the check-in counters of airlines;
 - iii. As a pre-boarding requirement, a negative Antigen test result taken within twenty-four (24) hours before departure must be obtained; and
 - iv. Upon return, they shall follow the National Task Force Guidelines for Returning Overseas Filipinos, steps of which include filling up an [e-Case Investigation Form](#) three (3) days before arrival, testing at the airport, and staying in a quarantine facility for 14 days, among others.

The foregoing provisions shall not affect the travel restrictions imposed by other countries for inbound passengers.

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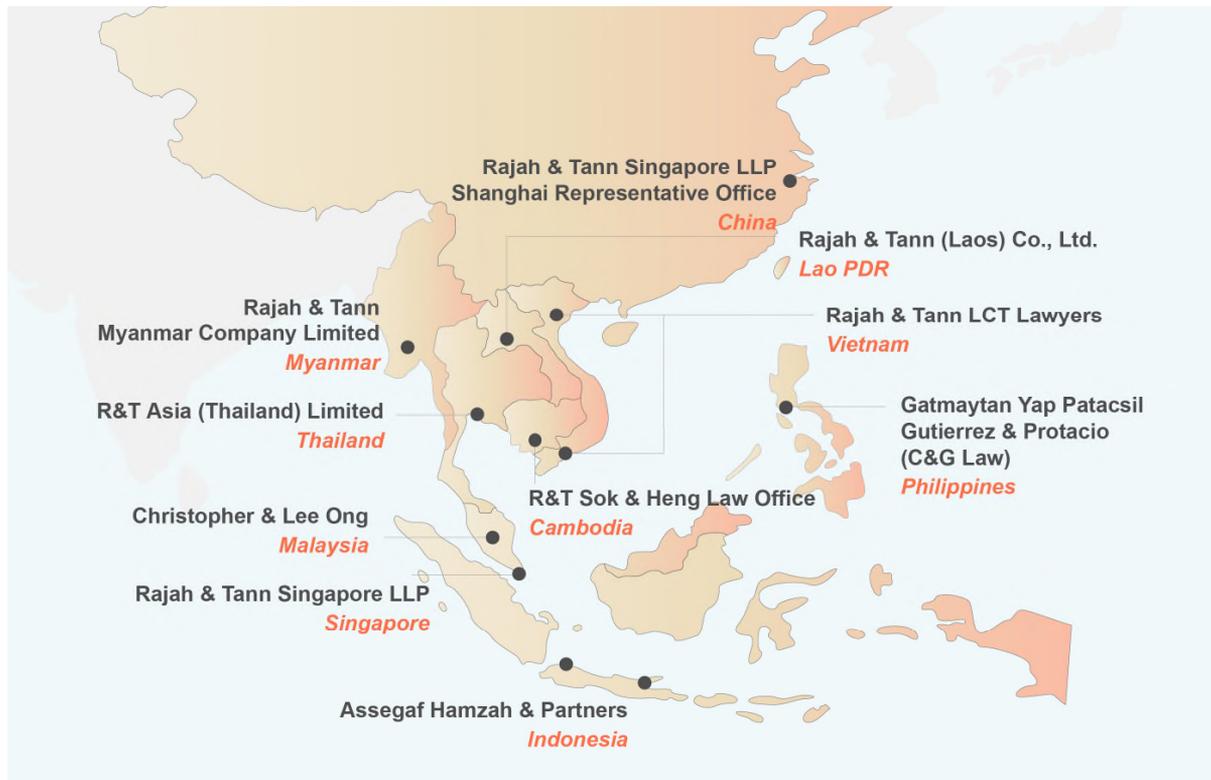
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