

2022 Legal Update Week 51 – 52 (19 December 2022 – 31 December 2022)

Thailand Legal News

NBTC demands World Cup royalties back (27 December)

The National Broadcast and Telecommunications Committee (NBTC) unanimously voted to file a legal case to the Central Administrative Court against the Sports Authority of Thailand (SAT). This claim will demand the SAT to pay back THB 600 million (approx. USD 17 million) which was paid for the 2022 World Cup royalties. The ground for this allegation is that the SAT breached the Must-Carry rule when receiving the fund from the NBTC because the Internet Protocol Televisions (IPTV) were unable to air several tournament matches.

<https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/general/40022886>

**The must-carry rule states that broadcasters must allow the programs under the rule, including the World Cup and 6 other Sporting events to be aired on free televisions, which must be freely accessible on all platforms.*

Cabinet Resolutions

Trillion-Baht project in the EEC (21 December)

The Cabinet approved the THB 1.35 trillion (approx. USD 400 billion) plan to turn the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) into a business hub and the world's top 10 smart city by 2037. The government estimates that this project will create at least 200,000 jobs worth at least THB 1.2 trillion (approx. USD 360 billion) and will attract investment of over 1.35 trillion (approx. USD 400 billion) to the EEC.

<https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/policies/40023297>

** Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC), officially the Eastern Special Development Zone (ESDZ), is a special economic zone comprising three eastern Thai provinces, including Rayong, Chonburi, and Chachoengsao. These provinces cover a total area of 13,266 km² (5,122 sq mi) and had a population of approximately 2.8 million.*

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Specific Tax exemption for the Office of SMEs Promotion (27 December)

The cabinet approved specific tax exemptions on interest that the Office of SMEs Promotion receives, for lending money to SMEs (bank-like business which is subject to Specific Tax). The total available credit line of the Office of SMEs Promotion is THB 10 billion (approx. USD 290 million) with an aim of increasing liquidity for business, elevating service standards, and developing the potential of SMEs.

<https://www.prachachat.net/politics/news-1160581>

Regulations of the Energy Regulatory Commission on anti-competition activity (19 December)

The Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) enacted several regulations on enforcing and monitoring anti-competition activity in the energy industry:

1. Regulations defining the market and its scope;
2. Regulations on the criteria and procedures for merger and cross-shareholding;
3. Regulations on criteria for considering the dominant business in the market;
4. Regulations on criteria and procedures for anti-competition behavior mitigation.

https://www.ratchakitcha.soc.go.th/DATA/PDF/2565/E/295/T_0009.PDF

https://www.ratchakitcha.soc.go.th/DATA/PDF/2565/E/295/T_0001.PDF

https://www.ratchakitcha.soc.go.th/DATA/PDF/2565/E/295/T_0012.PDF

https://www.ratchakitcha.soc.go.th/DATA/PDF/2565/E/295/T_0017.PDF