

Classified Information in Ethiopia

Description

By Dagnachew Tesfaye, Managing Partner at DMLF



There was a legislative need for classification, declassification and handling of national security information generated by the Ethiopian government and its employees and contractors as well as information received from other governments. Hence the Council of Ministers on September 6, 2023 has issued '**Government Secret Information Classification and Protection Regulation No 539/2023** (hereafter the **Regulation**). The National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS) is entrusted with oversight of the implementation of classification and protection of information carried out by government bodies.

Ethiopia has **four levels** of classification: Top Secret, Secret, Confidential and Restricted. Each level of classification indicates a decrease in degree of sensitivity.

The classification of information shall be done by the government body whom the information generates or obtained in the course of performing its duty. However NISS may classify top secret information.

Classified information shall be accessible only to persons with security clearance to the extent necessary to perform their duties.

Declassification or revision of classified information shall be done by the government body that classified the information. As an exception, declassification for top secret information shall be done by NISS. As a rule any information cannot be kept classified for more than 30 years. However the government may request non-declassification with reasonable grounds and make the information remain classified. On the other hand classified information shall be reviewed every 10 years with a possible extension for force majeure up to a period not exceeding two years.

Thus Ethiopia has embarked up on a system that enables the classification of government secret information with clear, uniform and accountable legislative rules. Such measures shall ensure the country to be protected from threats posed on national security and interest.

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Retirement Visa: A Need for Incorporation into the Immigration Laws of Ethiopia

By DMLF in collaboration with Geda Yosef Introduction A retirement visa is a special type of visa issued by some nations that allows people with adequate financial resources to live in a specific foreign country for an extended period of time. Retirement visas bring several advantages for developing countries like Ethiopia in terms of socio-economic...

May 5, 2024

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Electric Vehicles (EVs) in Ethiopia: Legal and Regulatory Implications

By Geda Yoseph, Associate at DMLF Introduction In recent years, Ethiopia has undergone several reforms in different sectors; among these, transport and logistics. The State has taken several reforms for the effective utilization of its resources, mainly by

focusing on renewable energy and the introduction of electric vehicles. In order to achieve this plan, the...

April 29, 2024

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Ethiopia's Liberalization of Export, Import, Wholesale and Retail Trade for Foreign Investors

By Mahlet Mesganaw, Partner at DMLF Introduction The Ethiopian Investment Board by Directive Number 1001/2024, issued the "Directive to Regulate Foreign Investors' Participation in Restricted Export, Import, Wholesale and Retail Trade Investments"(the Directive). The Directive shall come into force as of the date when it is posted on the web pages of the Ministry of...

April 21, 2024

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Income Generating Business Activities for Civil Society Organizations

By Dagnachew Tesfaye, Managing Partner at DMLF The Ethiopian Civil Society Organization Proclamation Number 1113/2019(the Proclamation), done as of March 12,2019, is enacted to regulate civil society organization. This Proclamation has allowed civil society organizations to engage in income generating business activities. To regulate in detail the business engagement of civil society organizations, the Authority...

April 14, 2024

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Cassation Decision on Requirements of an Agreement made in an Irregular Union

By Geda Yoseph, Associate at DMLF Introduction The Federal Supreme Court

Cassation Division on Cassation on File No. 185895 dated 24/02/2021, passed a binding decision as to whether an agreement on property of the man and woman made during an irregular union that lasted more than three years is required to be presented to court...

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Irregular Union under Federal Family Law

By Geda Yoseph, Associate at DMLF Irregular union is a relationship that is similar to marriage but actually it is not a marriage. Irregular union also produces legal effects. Ethiopian Federal Family Law recognizes the existence of irregular unions and as a result attached some legal consequences to the union. Some of these effects are...

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