

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.

For any related inquiries, contact us at info@dmethiolawyers.com

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RESPONDING TO CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

By Dagnachew Tesfaye, Partner at DMLF The Alternative Child Care and Support Directive Number 976/2023 by Ministry of Women and Social Affairs, October 2023, incorporates a section namely Responding to Child Abuse and Neglect. The State is given the responsibility to respond to child abuse and neglect. The procedure of reporting, assessment, court approval, emergency...

June 30, 2024

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Gold Purchase Price Adjustment

By DMLF The National Bank of Ethiopia has introduced an amendment Directive namely NBE Amendment Procedure on Price of Gold Purchase No 1/2024, effective as of June 17/2024. This Directive is an amendment to a similar Directive number 3/2023. The amendment Directive encompasses price adjustment for provision of gold in terms of its weight and...

June 23, 2024

- ## [The New Public Holidays Proclamation](#)

By DMLF The House of Peoples' Representative in its session on June 11/2024 enacted the Proclamation to Determine Public Holidays and Celebration of Public Holiday Proclamation Number 1334/2024. The Proclamation identifies 12 celebrated public holidays that governmental and non-governmental institutions shall be closed for public services. These public holidays and rest days are salaried days....

June 16, 2024

- ## [Membership to American Bar Association \(ABA\)](#)

Partners to DMLF namely Mr.Dagnachew Tesfaye Abetew and Mrs.Mahlet Mesganaw Getu are proud to announce the membership to the American Bar Association (ABA). We hope the ABA membership will provide us with professional advantages in building networks for rendering life changing legal services for our communities.

June 9, 2024

- ## [The Madrid System for the International Registration of Marks](#)

By DMLF The Madrid System for the International Registration of Marks is a centralized

system that simplifies the process of registering trademarks in multiple countries. It's administered by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). Under this system, trademark owners can file a single application with WIPO to protect their mark in multiple member countries. This...

June 9, 2024

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Ethiopian National Dialogue

By DMLF The Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission (hereafter the Commission) was established by Proclamation 1265 /2021(hereafter the Proclamation). The Proclamation was done as of 13th of January 2022. The term of office of the Commission is three (3) years.The term of the Commission shall begin from the time Commissioners have been appointed in accordance...

June 2, 2024

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