Financial support to entrepreneurs affected by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic

On 4 April 2020, the Cabinet of the Ministers of Azerbaijan approved an Action Plan that serves to provide the state support to entrepreneurs and businesses affected by the outbreak of coronavirus. The Action Plan pursues the following 3 areas:

- Economic growth and support for entrepreneurship
- Support for employment and social welfare
- Macroeconomic and financial stability

The Action Plan specifies financial aid allocated for the implementation of measures; defines those responsible for the implementation and the timeframes.

These measures, inter alia, envisage the following:

- To partially compensate for the salaries of the employees working in areas affected by the pandemic
- To provide tax incentives to protect economic activity
- To provide credit guarantees support
- Freeze on rent fees until the end of 2020 for entrepreneurs leasing state property, state land and the so-called residents of industrial zones (parks).

Additional regulations are expected to be adopted to facilitate the implementation of measures stipulated by the Action Plan.

It’s also noted that in the post-pandemic period the following areas of economic activity are identified as key priorities:

- Construction sector;
- Mining industry;
- Petrochemical industry;
- Digital economy;
TRANSPORT, TRADE AND LOGISTICS;
TELECOMMUNICATIONS;
AGRICULTURE AND MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY;
DOMESTIC TOURISM.

Changes in the sequence of implementation of compulsory health insurance

Please be kindly informed that the Cabinet of the Ministers approved the new "Sequence of implementation of compulsory health insurance in the administrative territorial units of the country" by the Decree dated 10 April 2020 ("Decree"). According to the Decree, the sequence of implementation of compulsory health insurance in the administrative territorial units will be as follows:

- In the cities and regions of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, in Mingachevir, Gusar, Khachmaz, Guba, Shabran, Siyazan, Khizi, Gobustan, Ismayilli, Agsu, Shamakhi, Balakan, Zagatala, Gakh, Sheki, Ouz, Gabala, Goychay, Ujar, Zardab, Kurdamir, Yevlakh and Agdash - from January 2020;

- In Ganja, Nafqal and Shirvan, Gazakh, Agstafa, Tovuz, Shamkir, Sadabad, Dashkasan, Samuk, Goygol, Goranboy, Khojale, Beylagan, Khojavend, Agjabadi, Lachin, Barda, Fuzuli, Agdam, Tartar, Kalbajar, Astara, Lankaran, Lerik, Yardimli, Masali, Jalilabad, Neftchala, Bilasuvar, Jabrayil, Salyan, Imishli, Saatli, Sabirabad and Hajigalib - from January 2021;

- In Baku, Sumgayit, Khankendi, Absheron, Gubadi, Zangilan and Shusha - from April 2021.

It should be noted that previously, the last stage of compulsory health insurance (Baku, Sumgayit, etc.) was planned to be completed in October-December 2020.
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