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Given the situation created by the outbreak of COVID-19 virus, the Albanian Council of Ministers has approved the Normative Act No.3, dated 15.03.2020, “*On special administrative measures during the period of the infection caused by COVID-19*” (herein referred to as the “*Normative Act*”). It was published in the Official Journal No.37, dated 15.03.2020.

The Normative Act aims at defining special measures to be taken against natural/legal persons or individuals, Albanian or foreign, regardless of their domicile, who violate the rules, decisions, orders and instructions issued by the competent authorities, during the entire duration of the infection period caused by COVID-19.

Additionally, the Normative Act aims at defining and strengthening the implementation of the rules, decisions, orders and instructions issued by the competent authorities, throughout the territory of the Republic of Albania, to prevent and combat the spread of infection caused by COVID-19.

The Normative Act provides the following:

Special Administrative Measures

Subjects exporting medicines and medical equipment from the Republic of Albania, without the special authorization of the Minister of Health and Social Protection, for the performance of this activity, shall be punished by a fine of 5,000,000 (five million) ALL and seized the entire amount of medicines/medical equipment. In the event of a recurrence, the prohibition on the export of medicines/medical equipment may be added for a period up to 6 months.

Subjects or individuals organizing the development of public and non-public activities, such as sports, cultural and conferences, or mass gatherings indoors or

outdoors, such as concerts, gatherings and public hearings, are fined with 5,000,000 (five million) ALL for the organizers and prohibition of activity.

Access of patients' companions and/or family members to emergency medical facilities, health care facilities, hospital service facilities where patients are receiving inpatient treatment, except where such request comes from the hospital directorate, shall be punished by a fine of 500,000 (five hundred thousand) ALL for the patient's companion and/or family member and for the person responsible for the enforcement of this rule.

Shall be punished by a fine of 700,000 (seven hundred thousand) ALL:

- a) The citizen who enters the territory of the Republic of Albania and does not declare his/her arrival from the areas affected by the COVID-19 infection declared by the competent authorities, domestic or foreign or international;
- b) The citizen, who enters the affected areas in the territory of the Republic of Albania, which is not self-quarantined for a period of 14 days in the premises of his residence, as a preventive measure for the non-spread of the infection caused by COVID-19;
- c) The citizen coming from the affected areas and failing to comply with an order issued by the competent authorities for compulsory self-quarantine;
- ç) The citizen who has proved positive and does not comply with the order issued by the competent authorities for compulsory self-quarantine.



Public and non-public educational institutions, nurseries and kindergartens, which do not close their activities for the period specified by the competent authorities, shall be punished by a fine of ALL 5,000,000 (five million) for educational institutions, public/non-public, and to the extent of 1 000 000 (one million) ALL for

nurseries and kindergartens, public/non-public. In case of repetition, the activity is terminated for a period of 6 months.

Subjects or individuals, public or private, who engage in indoor recreation activities for children and young people, gyms, sports centers, swimming pools, internet centers, cultural centers that do not comply with the order of the competent authority for their closure, are punished with a fine in the amount of ALL 1,000,000 (one million), and in case of recurrence, the activity is terminated for a period of 6 months.

Subjects or individuals who fail to comply with orders issued by the competent authorities for the non-closure of bars, premises, restaurants and clubs shall be punished by a fine of up to 1,000,000 (one million) ALL and in the event of a recurrence, is added the suspension of the activity for a 6-month period.

Subjects and individuals, public or private, who, contrary to the orders of the competent authorities, allow the development of sports, social, cultural, educational excursions organized by educational institutions, public and private, at home and abroad, are fined with an amount of 1 000 000 (one million) ALL and in case of recurrence, is added the termination of the activity for a period of 6 months.

The postal service authorities should ensure continuity of service and devise a plan of measures to limit employee contact with the public and avoid crowding at counters or other indoor facilities. Failure to comply with this obligation shall be punishable by a fine of ALL 1,000,000 (one million) and in the event of a recurrence, it shall be added the termination of the activity for a period of six months.

Immediate measures should be taken to stop the crowding of patients in indoor or special structures of health care institutions, polyclinics, hospitals, public and non-public, where outpatient visits and consultations are conducted. Failure to comply with this obligation shall be punishable by a fine of ALL 1,000,000 (one million) and in the event of a recurrence, it shall be added the termination of the activity for a period of six months.

Drivers who fail to comply with the prohibition of circulation of public and private vehicles, including private vehicles, in the zones and times specified by the competent authorities shall be punished by revocation of the driving license for a period of three years and by blocking the vehicle. This rule excludes persons authorized by the competent authorities.

Increase in the selling price of all foodstuffs, medicines, medical devices and services, as compared to their regular sale price, traded in the preceding months from the date of entry into force of this normative act, and for seasonal products, according to the price traded in the same period in the preceding year from the date of entry into force of this normative act, when it does not result from the increase of the price from their import, shall be fined with 5 000 000 (five million) ALL for wholesalers and 100 000 (one hundred thousand) ALL for retailers. In case of repetition, it is added the termination of the activity for a period of 6 months.

All audiovisual broadcasts with more than two persons in the same television studio are fined up to 1 000 000 (one million) ALL and in case of repetition the blocking, partially or completely, of broadcasting by the audiovisual media is added, as well as blocking and/or stopping the operation of the equipment after a decision is taken by the

ministry responsible for health and implemented by the competent authority.



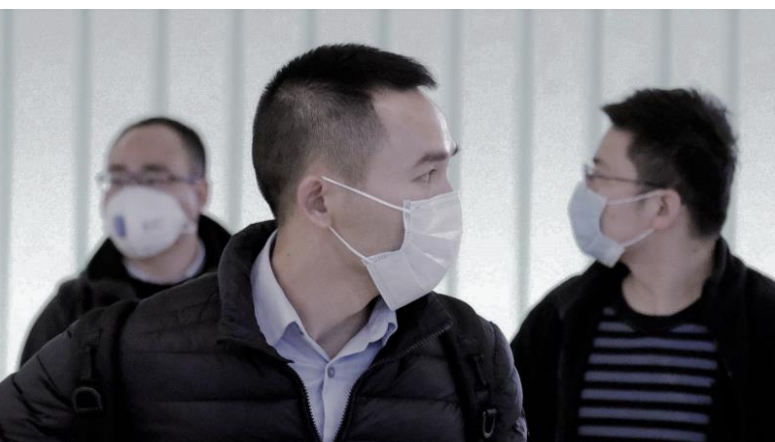
Failure to provide services by pharmacies, wholesalers and medicines manufacturers, by applying the safety criteria set by the competent authorities, is punishable by a fine of 10 000 000 (ten million) ALL to wholesalers and 50 000 (fifty thousand) ALL for retailers. In case of recurrence, with the blockage of the whole quantity of goods and termination of the activity for a period of three years.

Failure to provide services by subjects/individuals trading foodstuffs, wholesale or retail, by applying the safety criteria set by the competent authorities, is punishable by a fine of 10 000 000 (ten million) ALL to wholesalers and 50 000 (fifty thousand) ALL for retailers. In case of recurrence, with the blockage of the whole quantity of goods and termination of the activity for a period of three years.

Depending on the dynamics of hospitalization of those affected by COVID-19 infection, by the order of the Minister responsible for Health, private hospital structures are also available, outpatient, hotel,

ambulance and related personnel, health and support.

Failure to comply with this order is punishable by a fine of ALL 5,000,000 (five million) ALL and in the event of a recurrence, the activity is suspended, making the facility available to the public health service for the duration of the COVID-19 infection. In this case, the relevant personnel, health and support, are obliged to serve under the guidance of state health structures. Failure to comply with this obligation by the relevant health and support personnel shall be punishable by a fine of 100,000 (one hundred thousand) ALL and in case of recurrence, removal of the right to exercise the profession for a period of ten years shall be added.



Competent bodies

According to the provisions of the Normative Act, the competent body according to the area of responsibility and, in any case, the State Police has the right to issue administrative measures.

For the cases set out above, two or more competent bodies do not give the same administrative measure simultaneously. In

such cases, the measure given by the body, which first ascertained the violation, shall apply.

The fines given under the Normative Act constitute an executive title and their model is determined by the competent body according to the area of responsibility and, in each case, by the State Police.

The review and issuance of administrative measures shall be in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Administrative Procedure.

Decision making by collegial bodies

Collegial decision-making during the duration of the infection status caused by COVID-19 is also accomplished through electronic means of communication.

Duration and implementation

The Normative Act is of a provisional nature and applies as long as the period of infection caused by COVID-19 lasts.

Implementation of this normative act, for the duration of the infection period caused by COVID-19, takes precedence over the provisions of other acts concerning administrative measures.

In any case, the Normative Act shall not exclude the application of the legislation in force for the prevention and control of infectious diseases or other legal acts, as long as they are not contrary to the provisions of this act.

Entry into force

The Normative Act enters into force immediately.



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contact@mujalaw.com

Muja Law Office

Bulv. Gjergj Fishta, Pall. 36, Zyra 14, pranë Gjykatës së Rrethit Gjyqësor Tiranë

1001 Tirana

Albania

Mob: +355 69 28 28 562

Web: www.mujalaw.com

Muja Law is a family-run law office where we work hard for the success of our clients and to provide excellence in legal service. Our roots go back to 2001 when our Managing Partner, Krenare Muja (Sheqeraku), opened her law practice office in Tirana, Albania. Krenare's son Eno joined her in 2014, and the other son Adi entered the practice in 2019. What started in Tirana as a small, family-run law office has grown and flourished in the community for the last 20 years. The office consists of various respected and talented lawyers who possess outstanding educational and community service backgrounds and have a wealth of experience in representing a diverse client base in various areas of the law.

The office is full-service and advises clients on all areas of civil, commercial and administrative law. With significant industry expertise, we strive to provide our clients with practical business driven advice that is clear and straight to the point, constantly up to date, not only with the frequent legislative changes in Albania, but also the developments of international legal practice and domestic case law. The office delivers services to clients in major industries, banks and financial institutions, as well as to companies engaged in insurance, construction, energy and utilities, entertainment and media, mining, oil and gas, professional services, real estate, technology, telecommunications, tourism, transport, infrastructure and consumer goods. In our law office, we also like to help our clients with intermediary services, as an alternative dispute resolution method to their problems.

While we have grown over the past 20 years and become recognized as one of Albania's leading law offices, we are grounded in the essence of "who" we are and "where" we started. We understand the importance of family, hard-work, and dedication.

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