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In an effort to simplify the regulations on business activities and administrative reforms, the government of Vietnam is considering establishing a portal for search and consultation on regulations in relation to business activities (the “**Portal**”). The Portal is intended to display all business-related regulations and provide an interactive platform between state agencies and the public in an official, comprehensive and centralised manner.

A draft Prime Minister’s decision on the Portal was proposed and published for public comment in July 2022. Based on the proposal, the government aspires to operate the Portal as a one-stop solution for most legal references and consultations in respect of business activities. Some notable points are as follows.

1. Function

Designated bodies would be responsible for timely and accurate uploads to the Portal of all legal instruments issued by ministry-level agencies. General users would be able to search for general business-related regulations and seek specific consultation and guidance from the responsible state agencies.

2. Scale

The scope of business-related regulations that would be published, and the related consultations that would take place on, the Portal would be vast and open-ended. They would include all regulations issued by state agencies and authorised persons that are legally binding on organisations and individuals participating in business activities. That means, at a minimum, the Portal would cover regulations on administrative procedures, technical standards and requirements, export, import and domestic circulation, reporting regimes, and prohibitions on business activities. In addition, not only effective regulations would be published, but repealed and draft regulations would also be made available on the Portal.

3. Legal Validity of Information

All information published on the Portal would be official and have the same validity as if published in any other written form. Information about effective regulations published on the Portal would have legal validity and enforceability, while responses and comments given by ministries or other agencies would be deemed as their official opinions.

4. Schedule

The government has held discussion sessions on the Portal and seems determined to launch the Portal officially as soon as possible.

While it may take a significant amount of time to build up the database and to standardise the interaction process between state agencies and general users, operation of the Portal will be greatly welcomed. Over time, the Portal should simplify and expedite the consultation and implementation of legal instruments for investors and companies in Vietnam.

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