



VIII CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT

Decree-Law nº 17/2020

Of April 30

Creates a remuneration supplement for officials, agents and public administration workers who provide their professional activity in covid-19 prevention or control services or under conditions of direct exposure to the SARS-Cov2 virus

Through the Decree of the President of the Republic No. 29/2020, of March 27, a state of emergency was declared in the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, based on the existence of a situation of public calamity.

The situation of public calamity that served as the basis for the declaration of a state of emergency was based on the risk posed to public health the covid-19 pandemic, diagnosed to more than two million people worldwide and which caused the death of more than one hundred and sixty-five thousand people.

Aware of the need to prevent and control opportunities for the transmission of this disease in national territory, the Government imposed a set of measures aimed not only at limiting the entry of SARS-Cov2 in Timor-Leste, but also to prevent its spread among the population residing in our territory.

Among the measures to mitigate the risk of spread of COVID-19 among residents in the national territory, we highlight the reduction in the number of employees, agents and workers of the public administration who remain in the facilities where they usually provide their professional activity and the reduction of public sector services.

Nevertheless, it must be acknowledged that several public administration professionals will have to continue to provide their professional activity in person and exposed to contact with the public.

Among the various officials, agents and public administration workers who will have to continue to provide their professional activity in contact with the public are health professionals, military personnel, security agents, food and economic safety authority agents, technical and logistical support staff and personnel responsible for the collection and transport of solid waste and municipal market management that have been executing the measures enacted by the Government for the prevention and control of COVID-19.

These professionals, due to the activities they have specifically been developing, are exposed to an increased risk of being infected by SARS-Cov-2-and of suffering from COVID-19. The Government, due to moral and ethical imperatives, must therefore recognize the specificity of the risks these public administration professionals incur and determine their fair economic compensation, even if conditioned by the scarcity of financial resources.

Thus, the Government decrees, pursuant to nº 2 of Article 67 of Law 8/2004 of June 16, amended and republished by Law 5/2009, of July 15, to be valid as law, the following:

Article 1

Object

This diploma establishes a remuneration supplement for officials, agents and public administration workers who provide their professional activity in covid-19 disease prevention or control services or under conditions of direct exposure to the SARS-Cov2 virus.

Article 2

Remuneration supplement

1. Officials, agents and public administration workers who provide their professional activity in covid-19 disease prevention or control services are entitled to receive a remuneration supplement the amount of which is fixed by a Government resolution, based on a proposal from the Prime Minister and the member of the Government responsible for finance.
2. The amount of the remuneration supplement to be paid to officials, agents and public administration workers referred to in the preceding paragraph may vary depending on the degree of risk to which they are exposed.
3. Those eligible to receive the remuneration supplement for the provision of professional activity in COVID-19 prevention or control services are:

- a) medical personnel who work at border posts, at isolation, prophylaxis or therapeutic centres or in health facilities where health care is provided to patients with COVID-19;
- b) nursing staff who work at border posts, at isolation, prophylaxis or therapeutic centres or in health facilities where health care is provided to patients with COVID-19;
- c) auxiliary medical action personnel who work at border posts, at isolation, prophylaxis or therapeutic centres or in health facilities where health care is provided to patients with COVID-19;
- d) Laboratory analysis or complementary diagnostic technicians involved in covid-19 diagnostic activities;
- e) Public health technicians (surveillance, epidemiological and health) who work at border posts;
- f) Radiology technicians involved in covid-19 diagnostic activities;
- g) Drivers of vehicles responsible for the transport of persons subject to compulsory isolation and individuals suspected of being infected with SARS-Cov-2 or to whom COVID-19 has been diagnosed;
- h) The members of the Armed Forces involved in covid-19 prevention and control operations;
- i) The agents of the Timor-Leste National Police involved in covid-19 prevention and control operations;
- j) The staff of the Agency for Investigation and Supervision of Economic, Sanitary and Food Activity involved in covid-19 prevention and control operations;
- k) Personnel of the National Directorate of Quarantine and Biosecurity, the Migration Services and the Customs Authority who perform functions at airports, seaports or land border posts;
- l) The staff of the Directorate-General for Water and Sanitation and the Directorate General of Electricity whose activity involves risk of infection by SARS-Cov-2;
- m) Civil protection service personnel, including firefighters, whose activity involves risk of infection by SARS-Cov-2;
- n) The personnel of the National Directorate for Security and Protection of Public Patrimony, whose activity involves risk of infection by SARS-Cov-2;

- o) Staff of the municipal authorities or administrations responsible for the collection, transport and disposal of municipal solid waste;
 - p) Staff of the municipal authorities or administrations responsible for public policy and market management.
4. The Council of Ministers, in duly substantiated cases, may assign the remuneration supplement provided for in n° 1, through a resolution to which the same paragraph refers, to other professional groups not included in the preceding paragraph and whose professional activity is provided under conditions of direct exposure to the SARS-Cov-2.

Article 3. °

Financing

The remuneration supplement provided for in the previous article is financed through the COVID-19 Fund.

Article 4. °

Effect production

This diploma applied since 28 March 2020.

Article 5.°

Entry into force

This diploma shall enter into force on the day following its publication.

Approved in the Council of Ministers on 22 December 2020.

The Prime Minister,

Taur Matan Ruak

The Interim Minister of Finance,

Sara Lobo Brites

Promulgated in

To be published.

The President of the Republic,

Dr. Francisco Guterres Lú Olo