

THE GOVERNMENT

THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
Independence - Freedom - Happiness

No: 19/NQ-CP

Hanoi, 12 March 2015

RESOLUTION

**On key duties and solutions to continuing to improve
business environment and national competitiveness
for two-year period of 2015 - 2016**

THE GOVERNMENT

Pursuant to the Law on the Organization of the Government dated December 25, 2001;

Pursuant to Resolution 10/2011/QH13 dated November 08, 2011 of the National Assembly on the 5-year socio-economic development plan for the 2011 – 2015 period;

Pursuant to Resolution 10/NQ-CP dated April 10, 2012 issuing the Government's Action Plan to implement the Socio-economic Development Strategy for the 2011 - 2020 period and the 5-year direction and duties of the national development in the 2011 – 2015 period;

Pursuant to Resolution 19/NQ-CP dated 18 March 2014 of the Government on key duties and solutions to improve business environment and national competitiveness;

Pursuant to discussions among members of the Government and pursuant to the Conclusions of the Prime Minister in the Government regular meeting in February 2015.

RESOLVES:

I. SITUATION ASSESSMENT

To improve business environment and national competitiveness, the Government has issued the Resolution 19/NQ-CP dated 18 March 2014 to instruct ministries, agencies and local authorities to focus on effectively taking 3 strategic break-through that link with economic restructuring and transformation of the growth model; in the 2014 - 2015 period, priority will be given to improving business environment and enhancing administrative reforms by shortening time for processing and completion of administrative procedures, reducing administrative costs, and strengthening transparency and accountability of state administrative agencies. The implementation of various solutions has been drastically instructed, particularly in reforms of administrative procedures for tax, customs, social insurance, granting of

construction permits, accessing to land, investment procedure, accessing to electricity; business establishment, dissolution, insolvency...The goal is to reach, by 2015, the average of the ASEAN-6 group.

The ministries, agencies and localities has actively implemented the resolution with clearly and concretely defined goals according to road maps for reforms of the regulations and procedures and responsibilities of responsible agencies in implementing the set duties and solutions. Many key tasks set out in the year 2014 - 2015 have been implemented effectively with positive results. Production and business environments have been improved, the competitiveness has gained a step up.

Various legal documents were issued, revised and the administrative procedure on tax has been simplified to remove difficulties for businesses and people . In 2014, the proportion of businesses using electronic tax declarations has increased from 65 % to 95 %; cut down 290 hours of tax paying time for businesses from 537 hours / year to 247 hours / year. The implementation of the law on amending some articles of the tax laws approved by the National Assembly, effective from 1 January 2015 will further reduce 80 hours, from from 247 hours / year to 167 hours / year (the average of the ASEAN - 6 group is 121 hours / year).

The procedure has been reviewed, simplified and the national one stop shop mechanism has officially launched at international ports, strive to 2015 customs clearance time reduced by an average of 21 days to 14 days for exports, 13 days for imports with a reduction of 10-20 % cost and 30 % of the time clearance of goods for import and export business.

The process of paying social insurance, business establishment and dissolution and access to electricity has been shortened. Time for paying social insurance has reduced by 100 hours from 335 hours / year to 235 hours / year. Time to deal with administrative procedures for business start up, reorganization, dissolution has decreased by 50%, in which time to deal with business start up formalities has reduced from 34 days to 17 days. Time to access to electricity has reduced from 115 days to 70 days.

According to the report on the business environment of the World Bank (data up to June 2014), the business environment in Viet Nam has significantly improved. According to the Report of the World Economic Forum (WEF), published in September 2014, the competitiveness index of Vietnam increses 2 ranks, from 70 to 68/148 economies.

The international credit rating agencies raised their ratings of Vietnam (Moody upgraded Vietnam from B2 to B, Fitch raised from B + to BB- and they considered it is a stable outlook).

However , some ministries, agencies and localities have not really actively deployed or stuck to the targets, or improved the business environment in accordance with international practice. Many tasks, solutions has not been implemented at the required levels, therefore the actual impact of the Resolution on the production and life is still slow. A number of commitments by some ministries, agencies and localities on improvement of business environment has been slowly deployed in grassroots levels and businesses.

According to the assessment of international organizations, although the business environment and competitiveness have gained some improvements, Vietnam is still rated lower than other regional countries. Legal framework, mechanisms and policies, administrative procedures, duty performance ... are still seen with many shortcomings and problems, causing difficulties , troubles, time consuming, more costs for businesses and people. Some ministries and localities have not paid adequate attention, not considered to improve the investment environment and enhance business competitiveness is the key and urgent tasks for their sectors or localities. According to the World Economic Forum on competitiveness, Singapore ranked 2nd , Malaysia - 20th, Thailand - 31st, Indonesia - 34th, The Philippines - 52nd and Vietnam was ranked 68th. According to the World Bank's assessment on business environment , Singapore ranked 1st, Malaysia - 18th, Thailand - 26th , Vietnam - 78th, the Philippines - 95th and Indonesia - 114 th.

In 3-5 coming years, after completion of the negotiations and start of free trade agreements (FTAs) implementation with major partners, completion of the implementation of economic commitments in the framework of WTO and finalisation of roadmap for creation of the ASEAN Economic Community, will mean a very important and critical element in the process of international integration and for the national socio-economy. The improvement of the business environment and enhancement of national competitiveness is critical requirement in order to make effective the opportunities and benefits of the integration commitments.

To improve business environment and national competitiveness, in the period 2015 – 2016, the Government has instructed ministries, agencies and local authorities to focus their leadership for effective implementation of the following consistent duties and solutions:

II. MAJOR OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS OF IMPROVING BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT AND COMPETITIVENESS IN TWO YEARS 2015 – 2016

1. Overall Objectives

To focus on effectively taking 3 strategic break-through that link with

economic restructuring and transformation of the growth model, improvement of productivity, quality, effectiveness and competitiveness; strive to improve business environment score and ranking (according to the World Bank's ranking system) and national competitiveness (according to the World Economic Forum's ranking system) .

To ensure the commodity, labor securities, real estate, science and technology markets at full and smooth functions and increasingly becoming decisive factors in the mobilization and allocation of resources force for development. To promote application of information technology in all sectors, production, business and life, as a new development method for improving management process, production and trade... to enhance the competitiveness for products, businesses and the nation.

Promote the application of information technology in various business production sectors and life as the means of innovating management and production processes and enhancing the competitiveness of the products, enterprises, and nation.

2. Main targets:

During 2015-2016, focus on improving business environment and promoting the reform of administrative procedures by shortening processing time, decreasing cases, simplifying dossier requirements, and reducing both time and cost of processing the procedures. Ensure the disclosure, transparency, and accountability of state administrative agencies. Improve overall regulations on business conditions and specialized management of merchandises and export/import services in compliance with international practices with a shift to post-check.

a) In 2015, endeavor to accomplish business environment targets of the country and exceed those of ASEAN-6 member states:

- Shorten tax payment period to no more than 121.5 h/y; social insurance payment period of no more than 49.5 h/y; percentage of enterprises with online declaration of tax is over 95%; percentage of enterprises with only payment of tax is at least 90%; develop and disclose the database on tax remission with at least 90% of the cases within the schedule.

- Continue rapidly decreasing processing time for entry and exit of exported/imported products to equal those of ASEAN-6 member states, to make sure that Vietnam Customs can satisfy latest customs standards; processing time for cross-border export/import is no more than 13 days for export and 14 days for import. Complete basically and operate effectively one-stop customs services, and connect the Ministry of Finance (General

Department of Customs) with the Ministries: Industry and Trade, Transport, National Defense (Border Guards), Public Security (Department of Immigration), Agriculture and Rural Development, Health, Natural Resources and Environment, Information and Communication, Science and Technology, etc.

- Processing time for business start-up procedures is no more than 6 days.
- Processing time for access to middle-voltage mains is no more than 36 days.
- Processing time for bankruptcy procedures is decreased from 60 months to no more than 30 months.

b) In 2016, endeavor to improve Vietnamese business environment index to reach the average level of ASEAN-4 member states based on certain key targets under international practices, specifically:

- Foster and maintain achieved results of business start-up, access to power, protection of investors, customs duty and tax payment, and compulsory insurance. Some specific targets are: for start-up business, reach the level of Top 60 countries; processing time for access to middle-voltage power is no more than 35 days; for protection of investors, reach the level of Top 50 countries; processing time for payment of taxes and compulsory insurance is no more than 168 h/y.

- Simplify the procedures and reduce processing time for granting construction permits in the manners as determined by World Bank in no more than 77 days (including the time to consult opinions of relevant agencies on electricity, water, environment, fire control, clearance, etc.).

- Simplify the procedures and reduce processing time for registering property ownership and use rights in no more than 14 days (57 days currently).

- By 2016, credit access index reach those of Top 30 countries among those ranked by World Economy Forum.

- Reach the level of ASEAN-4 in terms of tax administration reform with 03 new targets: pre-remission check; risk control in tax inspection; and processing time and result of the settlement of tax complaints.

- Specify the list of the goods and services for quarantine, standard and quality check prior to customs clearance to make sure that the products, services, standards and quality comply with international commitments and practices. Simplify the process, dossiers and procedures for export/import and customs declaration. Enhance the qualification of state management agencies in the quarantine, standard and quality check for products and services at

national key border gates; establish a system for effective coordination between the Customs and relevant state management agencies; reduce processing time to less than 10 days for export and 12 days for import.

- The ministries and agencies, subject to their assigned functions and roles, coordinate with the Supreme People's Court in improving legal documents on commercial disputes and business bankruptcy with view to simplify the procedures and process, and reduce processing time for commercial disputes to no more than 200 days (400 days currently) and 24 months (60 months currently), especially for minor cases involving small and medium-scale enterprises through court method.

III. KEY TASKS AND SOLUTIONS

1. The ministries, agencies, and localities, subject to their assigned functions and tasks, guide the synchronous and effective implementation of Government' schemes and plans on resolutions of the Party and National Assembly, especially regarding strategic breakthrough, economy restructure, and innovation of growth model, with focus on following tasks and solutions:

a) Improve the uniform and modern market economic system on the basis of fully complying with rules of the market economy and intensive and extensive international integration.

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Develop strategies and plans, allocate resources for production activities, and control prices on the basis of market mechanisms; Diversify and enhance the performance of the markets; continue improving legal framework and synchronously implement solutions to develop and streamline effective operation of the markets, particularly merchandise, labour, finance, real property, and science and technology ones, to protect fair and transparent competition.

Promote domestic markets and synchronous, effective development of distribution system, and domestic production and consumption; Strengthen and enhance the efficiency of trade promotion as well as the expansion and diversification of foreign markets; robustly develop financial, debt purchase, derivative financial instrument, property lease markets, and so on; Facilitate conditions for sustainable development of real property and land use right markets, especially for agricultural land, to promote the acquisition and centralization of farm lands; develop labour market to ensure the interconnection, transparency, and favorable conditions for free transfer of labour, and strengthen the management and enhance the performance of

workers overseas; Promote the commercialization of science and technology products; strengthen the transfer of technology and protection of intellectual property.

Review, amend, and supplement legal documents and policies to resolve any problem or difficulty and create a favorable, fair and transparent investment environment for enterprises and individuals; the State should protect lawful property ownership and liberty of doing business for individuals and enterprises in accordance with provisions of law; create a safe and favorable investment environment, and maintain an adequate control over business monopoly; Place state enterprises within market mechanisms.

Continue improving the system of security transactions and registration of security transactions in two following ways:

Improving regulations and measures in the preparation of Civil Code (revised) to protect legitimate rights and interests of the securing and secured parties.

Make timely amendment and supplementation to regulations on registration of security transactions with real properties in compliance with provisions of Land Law.

Continue reviewing, amending, and simplifying administrative procedures related to the registration and provision of information on security transactions.

Study and develop legal norms and documents on online registration of security transactions with real properties.

Prepare guiding documents on the Law on Bankruptcy to ensure the resolution of bankruptcy cases in a quick and professional manner, and handle the assets in a public and transparent manner.

b) Accomplish strategic breakthrough effectively to promote the restructuring of the economy in association with the growth model to improve productivity, quality, performance, and competitiveness of the products, enterprises, and economy.

Promote active restructuring of agriculture toward a large-scale merchandise agriculture; strengthen the application of science and technology advances; enhance the quality, performance, and competitiveness; ensure sustainable development and security of national food and food safety and sanitation.

Robustly develop industries with high contents of science and

technology, national value, and added value with competitive advantages and involvement in global production and value chain.

Focus on developing services with advantages in terms of knowledge, technologies and added value, such as finance, banking, insurance, information communication, business support services, logistics, petroleum production and processing, seaports, shipbuilding and ship repairing, ship operation, marginal product exploitation and processing, fishery logistic services, island tourism services, etc., in association with protecting national sovereignty and improving living conditions of island and coastal residents.

Perform the measures synchronously to restructure and improve the performance of state enterprises under market mechanisms; Facilitate all favorable conditions for rapid development of private enterprise and offer incentives to promote competitiveness of the economy; improve legal system and policies for private enterprises to have equal access to resources, especially capital, land, and natural resources; Promote the socialization of ownership and business production and encourage the development of public enterprise form; develop small and medium-scale enterprises rapidly; encourage the establishment of large-scale enterprises with powerful brands. Support enterprises in investing in the research and development, application of science and technology, and improving competitiveness.

c) Promote rapid socialization of the provision of public services. Restructure public non-business entities, empower, and maintain the operations based on business principles; quickly enact legal norms and documents (Decrees and Circulars) to provide for the autonomous regime in terms of finance, expertise, personnel, and structure in non-business units, especially in education, health, and science and technology sectors.

Promote risk investment activities; implement the pilot of equitization of public non-business units; apply the models of publicly managed non-business units and public non-business units as utility providers; lease the facilities and properties of the State for public service business.

d) Focus on directing to promote the reform of administrative procedures and enhancement of responsibilities and duties of public officers and civil servants; review, simplify, and nullify unnecessary administrative procedures to facilitate and reduce costs and time for enterprises and individuals, especially procedures relevant to the indexes of business environment and competition as ranked by World Bank.

Continue reducing the time and costs for administrative procedures related to tax, customs, social insurance, land, construction, investment, access to power, enterprise incorporation, dissolution and bankruptcy,

change of technologies, protection of intellectual property, application for product quality standards, etc. in a public and transparent manner in accordance with regulations, which is considered as a regular key task of management.

Review and revise information in the list of conditions for business investment for conditional business activities as published on the National Portal of business registration before July 01th, 2015 in accordance with Clause 5 Article 7 of the Law on Investment 2014.

Make administrative procedures and time frame for resolution publicly and transparently on the Internet and post at the head offices of the agencies in charge of handling the procedures; allocate and assign competent and responsible officers and civil servants to give instructions on the preparation of dossiers, receive applications, and process administrative procedures.

d) Organize the implementation of the plan to simplify core administrative procedures in 2015 under Decision No. 08/QĐ-TTg dated January 06th, 2015 of the Prime Minister, as well as make sure that at least 25% of the costs of compliance with relevant regulations and administrative procedures is reduced; review and standardize administrative procedures within the managerial functions and authorities of the ministries, departments, and localities to make sure that 100% of administrative procedures are standardized and published in a timely manner on national database on administrative procedures, as well as consistently posted at the premises where the applications are received and procedures are processed.

e) Organize the implementation and setup of information system to receive and process complaints and proposals related to administrative procedures and the progress of any procedure at the underlying governmental agencies under the instruction of the Ministry of Justice, to strengthen the discipline and order and facilitate conditions for the people to supervise the progress and results of administrative procedures at governmental agencies.

g) Promote the innovation and application of information technology in state management, especially in processing administrative procedures and provide public services online for essential sectors in relation to the individuals and enterprises; Step by step implement the setup of national database system with first emphasis on developing national databases on the population, land, and enterprises, etc.; review, amend, and supplement tax preference policies to encourage investment and attract investors to promote the development and application of information technology in Vietnam.

h) Implement synchronously and effectively the one-stop shop and interconnected one-stop shop mechanisms and apply ISO quality management system in the operations of agencies and organizations as part of the state administrative system.

i) Improve the quality of the staff of officers, civil servants and promote the combat against corruption and wasteful practices; raise the morale and service attitude toward the people; strengthen the discipline, order, coordination, inspection and examination of the performance of administrative procedures and ensure the publicity and transparency in local agencies, organizations, and units of all levels; identify and impose strict judgments upon officers, civil servants that abuse their authorities and cause difficulties to organizations and individuals in discharging their duties.

Strictly implement the Directive No. 35-CT/TW dated May 26th, 2014 of the Political Bureau, Resolution No. 39/2012/QH13 dated November 23rd, 2012 of the National Assembly and instructions of the Government on reception of citizens and settlement of complaints and denunciations of citizens in accordance with provisions of the Law on Complaint, Law on Denunciation, Law on Reception of Citizen, Directive No. 33/CT-TW dated January 03rd, 2014 of the Political Bureau on strengthening the leadership of the Party on the declaration and inventory of assets, and regulations on the publicity and transparency of the Law on Anti-Corruption.

k) Identify and conduct timely investigation, and strictly and adequately settle the complaints about any violation of competition contributing to the establishment of a fair and just competitive environment.

2. Ministries: Planning and Investment, Finance, Justice, and other relevant ministries and agencies by functions and roles are assigned to:

- Actively and positively prepare legal norms and documents on the details and implementation of the laws within the assigned scope while ensuring the progress and quality.

- Continue promoting the improvement of the system of socialist-oriented market economy under the Conclusion No. 103-KL/TW dated September 29th, 2014 of the Political Bureau; make sure the compliance with rules of the market economy, particularly in the allocation of resources, fair competition, and transparent and effective operation of the markets.

- Focus on improving the systems in relation to property ownership and use of assets, intellectual property, restriction of unofficial expenses, reduction of the burden of administrative procedures, transparency of policy making process, audit and reporting standards, protection of minority

shareholders, and protection of investors.

3. Ministries of: Finance, Industry and Trade, Science and Technology, Agriculture and Rural Development, Transport, Public Security, Health, Information and Communications, Natural Resources and Environment, Construction and other related ministries and authorities are entrusted with the following tasks:

- Review and evaluate legal regulations on the management of importing and exporting special goods (issuance of import and export quota; quarantine and evaluation of standard, quality and service); Amend and supplement import and export directory; regulate the targets, methods of quarantine and quality evaluation; invest relevant equipment and human resources; mobilise socialisation of resources to implement legal regulations and follow international practices; publicize the targets to be applied, evaluation authorities, evaluation time and fees for each type of goods.

- Instruct the approval of evaluation certificates offered by other countries and regions that have high standards; and manufacturers that have internationally recognised brands.

4. The Ministry of Planning and Investment coordinates with other ministries, authorities and localities pursuant to its assigned functions and scope of work:

- Develop and submit the guidance on Enterprise Law Implementation at the soonest time; instruct and guide the full implementation of all legal regulations, especially on business start-up and investor protection.

- Publish all regulate business regulations and provisions on the national enterprises' electronic portal; review, evaluate and propose to remove unnecessary business terms.

- Cooperate with Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs and Vietnam Social Insurance to develop a connection mechanism to share information among enterprises, supporting enterprises in register labour and social insurance pursuant to legal regulation.

- Implement the regulation of using unique tax code for enterprises, using digital signatures in all transactions between enterprises and state's authorities (Planning and Investment, Tax, Customs, Social Insurance, Natural Resource and Environment, Construction, etc.) and in all activities of enterprises.

- Research and propose options to simplify and reduce processing time for bankruptcy procedure to less than 30 months in 2015 and 24 months in 2016.

5. The Ministry of Finance is in charge of coordinating and collaborating

with other Ministries, authorities and localities pursuant to its assigned functions and scope of work:

- Continue guiding and instructing the full implementation of regulations on tax payment; bring into play the achievements in 2014 on administration innovation in the field of tax and customs; improve the procedures, documents, processes and reduce time for tax declaration and payment (including value-added tax, enterprise income tax) to less than 119 hours.

- Promulgate the risk management mechanism for enterprises which are the targets for tax evaluation (prior to 30 June 2015); develop and publicise the tax refund database, ensuring at least 90% are refunded tax in time and in term of processing petitions of tax payers, ensuring at least 90% documents are processed in time pursuant to legal regulations; promulgate the regulations and guidance on consultation activities (members consists of representatives from relevant authorities, representatives from enterprise societies and sectoral societies) to consult tax authorities during processing the evaluation and petitions of tax payers pursuant to legal regulations.

- Collaborate with Ministry of Planning and Investment to develop the automatic tax code issuance for enterprises, reducing the time for establishing enterprises to 03 days pursuant to legal regulations.

- Review and amend the Circular 131/2010/TT-BTC on guiding the regulation on foreign investors' contribution of capital to and purchase of shares from Vietnamese enterprises; abort the regulations on criminal records with foreign investors when purchase of shares from Vietnamese enterprises.

- Promote the administration innovation in customs; instruct the implementation of Customs' Law 2014; effectively manage and electronic customs' system (VNACCS/VCIS); continue implementing risk management basing on categorising enterprises and customs declarers.

- Collaborate with Ministries, authorities and management bodies to develop the unified information system; apply information technology in managing goods, import and export services; ensuring the connection among Ministries, authorities, management bodies and General Department of Vietnam Customs and National One-door portal.

- Study on issuing the tax risk management regulations for enterprises; develop and complete legal framework for tax agents; develop evaluation mechanism of civil societies, tax payers for tax administration policies and procedures; evaluate the management quality of tax agents and officers.

- Study and submit a proposal to the Government on promulgating enterprise inspection regulations on the principle of no overlap among state

administration agencies on inspection, examination; allow the use of inspection and examination results of authorized functional agencies in tax management and return.

- Review Tax Management Law regulations, procedures in inspection, complaints handling and VAT return to ensure clarity and transparency, simplify administrative procedures for tax payers, strengthen efficiency and effectiveness of legal documents related to these activities.

- Ensure that information technology will be applied at least 95% in application forms submission, tax payment, and tax return.

- Review and amend incentive tax policies for software enterprises, software products and services, IT business transactions to robustly encourage and attract IT development and application investors in Vietnam.

6. Vietnam Social Insurance takes the primary responsibilities and coordinates with related ministries, agencies and localities to continue to review and simplify application forms, procedures to list incomes and expenses from social and health; reduce the compulsory insurance payment completion time for enterprises to 49 hours. Apply the social and health insurance declaration assistance software in 63 provinces and centrally-administered cities. Research, propose, apply tax payment digital signatures in online social and health insurance payment and declaration. Submit to the Government for approval on the proposed project on IT, software and technical infrastructure development to enable network connection among social insurance agencies of 63 provinces and cities, creating a national social insurance database, preparing for the implementation of electronic transactions in social and health insurance fee declaration, payment, collection, and others according to social and health insurance policies.

7. Ministry of Industry and Trade takes prime responsibilities and coordinates with relevant ministries and sectors in its assigned and authorized functions, responsibilities and scope of work to :

- Review and develop guidelines on the implementation of Decree 187/2013/NĐ-CP for goods listed in the ministries and sectors' Management List in the direction of strengthening administrative reforms, simplifying procedures and creating favorable conditions for import – export enterprises.

- Amend and add to the Decree 108/2008/NĐ-CP, Decree 26/2011/NĐ-CP and Circular 40/2011/TT-BCT on chemical declaration procedure in the direction of enhancing electronic declaration and declaration certification on imported chemicals; amend the List of declarable chemicals; add to declaration-exemption cases.

- Continue to simplify the procedure of granting Certificate of Goods

Origin (C/O); implement C/O declaration electrically and connect to the National One-Stop Information Portal.

- Amend and add to the Circular 32/2009/TT-BCT on checking Formaldehyt content in garment & textile products in the direction of exempting the examination of production materials, intermediary products, small-discount products, familiar products which have been imported many times and had quality checked on those times, products imported from places that have higher technical standards or famous trademarks, products that have been certified (by authorized agencies and organizations in export countries or prestigious producers) on their high quality. Implement the Registration and Checking Results return via electronic networks.

- Amend and add to the Decision 11039/2014/QĐ-BCT in the direction of: nullifying previous documents issued by Ministry of Industry and Trade on the list of goods in need for examination on quality, technical standards and food safety; specify regulations for each type of goods according to Vietnam's Import & Export Goods List; specify regulations on management methods, appointing agencies and organizations in charge of appraising, certifying and verifying the goods in the list.

- Continue to lead and guide relevant agencies and bodies in adequately implementing the contents in the Circular 33/2014/TT-BCT in order to reduce the electricity access time for enterprises to 35 days.

8. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development takes the primary responsibilities and coordinates with other relevant ministries, sectors and agencies in their assigned and authorized functions, responsibilities and scope of work to lead the overcoming of difficulties in implementing the Circular 48/2013/TT-BNNPTNT on checking and certifying the food safety of export aquaculture products, including the regulation that the aquaculture materials to be imported for producing goods to be exported to EU market must be exploited and transported by fishing vessels with EU Code. Simplify the procedures and shorten the time of quarantine animals and products with animal origin; simplify procedures and shorten the time in examining Catch Certificate.

9. The Ministry of Science and Technology takes the primary responsibilities and coordinates with relevant ministries, agencies and localities in its assigned and authorized functions, responsibilities and scope of work to:

- Implement the Product and Goods Quality Law in the direction of simplifying administrative procedures, applying online public services in relevance to one-stop Custom mechanism; overcome the overlap of

requirements on product management and examination. Amend and add to the Decree 89/2006/NĐ-CP on labelling and recognizing the relevance of the countries possessing high technical standards and famous trademarks.

- Establish and develop a national creative innovation system, creative innovation centres and technology incubator to develop creativity of individuals, enterprises and organizations. Build the National Productivity Institute to meet the development need of the country.

- Enhance technology research and transfer in universities. Encourage and create favourable conditions for enterprises of all different economic components to research, develop and apply science and technology. Tremendously develop the scientific and technological risk investment fund into enterprises.

- Enhance the protection of intellectual property rights; review and amend regulations on intellectual properties to adjust new arising problems, ensure competitive environments are fair and open for investors. Encourage Vietnamese scientists overseas and foreign scientists to participate in scientific and technological activities in Vietnam.

10. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) takes the primary responsibilities and coordinates with relevant ministries and sectors in its assigned and authorized functions, responsibilities and scope of work to:

- Study to nullify the Environment Protection Plan certification requirements for investment owners of electricity projects connecting from grids to medium-voltage level.

- Operate the real estate general information and data sharing system according to the Decision 2104/QĐ-TTg promulgated by the Prime Minister on 29/12/2012 approving “The Master Plan of the Development and Organization of Notarization Profession Practice until 2020” and Decision 1975/QĐ-TTg dated 30/10/2013 approving the “Developing the national land database” project.

- Coordinate with the Ministry of Construction to issue inter-Circular regulating legal documents on land to be needed for granting construction permits. While the inter-Circular has not been issued yet, the projects which have been allocated land by authorized State agencies or are using land legally in compliance with the issued land use plan are considered for construction permits; For non-construction land areas which cannot change the land use purposes (such as land for making advert signs, land for building mobile phone signal transmitting stations in non-urban areas...), construction permits shall be

granted based on the venue acceptance document issued by district people's committees.

11. The Ministry of Justice takes the primary roles and coordinates with relevant ministries, agencies, localities and General Assembly's authorized agencies in its assigned and authorized functions, responsibilities and scope of work to:

- Review documents related to guaranteed transaction registration to gather the guaranteed transaction regulations into one legal document. Specifically regulate the guaranteed properties registration for properties to be established in the future and rights of parties to these types of properties. Develop a uniform legislative regulations system on guaranteed properties registration, possible to register mortgage properties, real properties or personal properties. Apply the announcement registration principles in compliance with international norms for registration and provision of information on guaranteed transactions;

- Develop and promulgate in its authorized scope of work the inter-agency mechanism in the implementation of administrative procedures of notarization, land use right registration, properties attached to land and different types of taxes, fees, and related fees.

- Review, simplify procedures and processes, and shorten the commercial disputes solving time, especially small-scale disputes, disputes among SMEs, through lawcourts to maximum 200 days.

- Collect feedback and finalize the Civil Code (revised) in the direction of protecting and promoting socialist-oriented market economy development; coordinate the finalization of the Law on Legal Documents Promulgation, develop the Information Access Law with high quality as scheduled.

- Strictly evaluate the impacts of administrative procedures and strictly appraise these procedures in legal documents drafting projects, ensure to issue only essential, reasonable and low-compliance-cost administrative procedures; publicly and promptly declare newly-issued & amended administrative procedures; proactively review, promptly eliminate outdated and unsuitable administrative procedures that obstruct business and production activities and life of people; ensure the implementation of administrative procedures and regulations is proper, transparent, serious and timely.

- Develop the Plan to implement, establish the Information System to receive and process feedback and petition on administrative regulations and the progress, results of processing administrative procedures at all levels of authorities; propose to the Government for the promulgation of Decree(s) on managing, operating and exploiting the Information System to receive and process feedback and petition on administrative regulations and the progress,

results of processing administrative procedures at all levels of authorities.

12. The Ministry of Home Affairs takes the primary responsibilities and coordinates with relevant ministries, sectors and localities in effectively implementing the Master Programme on Public Administrative Reform (PAR) for 2011 – 2020 period. Identify and develop PAR Index for 2014 for ministries, ministerial agencies, provincial and centrally-administered cities' people's committees. Identify and declare administration satisfaction index for 2015. Focus on effectively implementing the Civil Service Reform Strengthening Project according to Decision 1557/QĐ-TTg dated 18/10/2012 by Prime Minister. Enhance the implementation of one-stop shop mechanism, inter-agency one-stop mechanism in state administrative agencies in localities. Strengthen inspection and examination, strictly apply legal regulations to bureaucratic and hindering behaviours towards the people and enterprises in processing administrative procedures.

13. The Ministry of Transport takes the primary roles and coordinates with ministries, agencies and localities in its assigned and authorized functions, responsibilities and scope of work to effectively implement Circular 54/2014/TT-BGTVT and Circular 55/2014/TT-BGTVT in the direction of simplifying administrative procedures, applying online public services in relevance to the one-stop Custom mechanism. Implement reasonable measures to control supplementary fee collection of shipping companies, prevent shipping companies from imposing arbitrary fees. Coordinate with the Ministry of Finance to review, amend and add to relevant legal documents, ensure transparency on charges and supplementary charges. Lead the handling of difficulties arising from the Circular 54/2014/TT-BGTVT on checking technical safety quality and environment protection in motor vehicle production and assembly.

14. The Ministry of Construction takes the primary roles and coordinates with relevant ministries, agencies and provincial and centrally-administered cities' people's committee localities in its assigned and authorized functions, responsibilities and scope of work to proactively implement measures, review, reduce the quantity of application forms, simplify procedures and shorten the construction permit application time to maximum 30 days. Continue implementing the regulations on exempting technical design examination on medium-voltage electricity projects and organize the examination and acceptance of projects before putting them in use. Enhance the application of IT in construction permit granting.

15. The Ministry of Education and Training takes the primary responsibilities and coordinates with relevant ministries, agencies and local authorities to review, and complete the procedures and the conditions for the establishment and operation of the educational institutions and training centers; encourage and create good conditions for international leading universities to

open educational institutions in Vietnam, especially the organisations that work for non-profit purposes; abolish unreasonable, unnecessary procedures or terms according to the Ministry's competence, or refer to other competent authorities; and complete, modify, and simplify, reduce the compliance costs of remaining procedures and terms towards encouragement and creation of good conditions for domestic and international private sectors, and social organizations to participate in providing educational and training services, expand the rights to autonomy, includes enrollment, financial, building training programs and curriculum, and testing facilities of the educational and training centers; create good conditions for the provision of educational and training services in accordance to the market mechanisms, and in association with strict quality and output control.

16. The Ministry of Labour - Invalids and Social Affairs takes the primary responsibilities and coordinates with relevant Ministries, agencies, and local authorities to:

- Review, evaluate and implement the necessary measures to create good conditions for employment and employers, ensuring consistency and flexibility of the labor market.

- Organize and implement the Law on Vocational Education; revise and complete the procedures and terms for the establishment and operation of the vocational training institutions outside of the public sectors; abolish unreasonable, unnecessary procedures or terms according to the Ministry's competence, or refer to other competent authorities; and complete, modify, and simplify, reduce the compliance costs of remaining procedures and conditions towards encouragement and creation of good conditions for domestic and international private sectors, and social organizations to participate in vocational training.

- Monitor closely the development to match with planning, to have appropriate mechanisms and policies to encourage improvement the quality of education and vocational training; expand enrollment autonomy, innovate financial mechanisms, and improve financial autonomy, autonomy of programs, contents, products and services of vocational training organizations outside of the public sectors, create good conditions for providing educational and training services towards market mechanism.

- Review, amend, and complete regulations, and licensing procedures for foreign laborers working in Vietnam; ensure good conditions for investors, and for the management of foreigners working in Vietnam .

17. The Ministry of Health takes the primary responsibilities and coordinates with relevant ministries, agencies and local authorities, according to their functions, duties and competences assigned, to amend and complete

the Circular No. 19/2012/TT-BYT of the Procedure to announce the publication of the Regulation and appropriate to the Regulation on Food Safety, in cases where only sizes and materials of the packagings are changed, and Decision No. 23/2007/QĐ-BYT to specify time for sampling and returning results in the quality control process of food additives that are imported for production.

18. The Ministry of Information and Communication takes the primary responsibilities and coordinates with relevant ministries, agencies and localities, according to their assigned functions, duties and competences, to effectively implement the Circular No. 18/2014/TT-BTTTT, navigate to simplify procedures, processes and reduce inspection time specialized for licenses to importing transmitter, and receiver - broadcast radio equipments; to coordinate with the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Planning and Investment to provide guideline in implementation of Decision No. 80/2014/QĐ-TTg dated December 30, 2014 of the Prime Minister on hiring information technology services in state agencies.

19. The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism takes the primary responsibilities and coordinates with Ministries, agencies and local authorities to strengthen the management of post-inspection of the projects invested in the fields of culture, sports and tourism; manage imports and exports of cultural products.

20. The Ministry of Public Security takes the primary responsibilities and coordinates with other Ministries, agencies and local authorities according to their assigned functions to strictly handle violations of the law related to the implementation of the tasks and measures to improve the investment and business environment, and improve competitiveness.

21. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs takes the primary responsibilities and coordinates with the Ministry of Industry and Trade, and relevant Ministries, agencies to promote political lobbies, and to foster diplomatic partners to promptly recognize the regulations of the market in Vietnam, contribute positively to domestic production, and protect the interests of Vietnam enterprises among international trade disputes; study and propose the solutions to create favorable conditions to giving visa and entry of investors, traders and tourists going to Vietnam.

22. The People's Committees of provinces and cities directly under the Central Government, according to their assigned functions and tasks, focus on:

- Quickly establish and approve detailed construction plans at a scale of 1/500 for new development projects. Management agencies of construction planning are not allowed to set out other detail planning requirements in the agreement with architectural plans, general ground plans for construction works in the areas where the detailed plans for construction have been approved.

For urban areas which are stabilized, if no detailed plans are in place, it should urge to establish the Regulation of planning - architecture management as a basis for giving building permits. Where no regulations of planning - architecture management are in place, construction licensing agencies shall base on zoning or functional plans, or detailed plans at the scale 1/500 which were designed by the project owners to decide on the building permits.

In the second quarter of 2015, the People's Committees of provinces and cities directly under the Central Government shall promulgate coordination regulations following the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) mechanism in licensing building permits under the provisions of the Building Act 2014.

- Direct the construction licensing authorities to quickly strengthen the organization, apparatus, and improve performance of staffs and officers in authorizing building permits. Direct the water supply companies to issue unified process on connecting the water supply to individual customers and organizations; publicize updated maps on current state of water distribution pipes; simplify procedures and time to connect water supply to customers.

- Actively implement the necessary measures to achieve the goal to shorten registration time on ownership and use of assets. Implement the inter-connected models for notary procedures, registration of land use rights and assets attached to land and tax.

Direct the agencies that handle procedures related to asset registration, including the Department of Justice, the Notary Office, the Department of Natural Resources and Environment, and the Office of the Register of Land Use to publicize relevant administrative procedures (including requirements, records, sequence, time, cost) on the websites of these agencies.

- Monitor, guide the Department of Trade to publicize the processes, procedures, and confirmation time appropriate to the planning and additional planning; the Department of Construction, or the Department of Architecture, the Department of Transportation publicize the processes, procedures and negotiating time on locations of electricity stations/poles and corridor grids; the People's Committees of districts or communes publicize the processes, procedures and licensing time on digging roads, sidewalks, reporting environmental impact assessment.

23. The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Vietnam, the Business Associations, and the Professional Associations shall:

- Conduct surveys, independent periodic research on assessment of the implementation quality of the administrative procedures, propose

recommendations to the Government. Coordinate with the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Justice to develop evaluation criteria on administrative reforming procedures of the ministries, agencies and local authorities; and periodically report to the Prime Minister and publicize to the business community and the people. Research the credit ratings of the business community to the ministries, sectors, and localities.

- Participate and coordinate closely with the investment community to understand the problems, difficulties and shortcomings in the implementation of administrative procedures, reflect to the competent authority to consider and promptly solve the arising problems.

- Coordinate with other ministries, agencies, and business associations to develop business supporting programs in building effectively competitive strategies; apply science and technology, improve productivity and branding, implement good corporate social responsibility in order to gradually improve the performance and competitiveness of the business community, contribute to improving national competitiveness.

- Coordinate with other ministries and agencies, business associations to assist businesses in developing and implementing the sustainable development program, enhance competitiveness and strengthen the international integration of Vietnam enterprises.

- Coordinate with the Ministry of Construction and relevant sectors to deploy capacity building programs for the business associations in Vietnam.

- Collect feedbacks from the enterprises to reviewing on the policies of ministries, sectors and localities publicly on the mass media, report to the National Council on Sustainable Development and Enhancement of Competitiveness, and the Government Office for the synthesis report to the Prime Minister.

24. The Advisory Council shall reform administrative procedures of the Prime Minister in collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Vietnam, the business associations, professional associations perform surveys, studies, periodically review the implementation of administrative reform in the ministries, sectors, and localities, and recommend to the Government.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION

1. Ministers, heads of ministerial-level agencies, government agencies, Chairmen of People's Committees of provinces and centrally-administered

cities in their assigned and authorized functions, responsibilities and scope of work shall:

- Study and understand methods, calculation and significance of the targets set out in the Resolution according to international norms. Focus on guidelines, efficiently and flexibly implement the tasks and solutions that are described in this Resolution and other relevant resolutions of the Party, National Assembly; and take responsibilities to the Government and the Prime Minister on the implementation of the tasks in the assigned areas.

Before April 30, 2015, promulgate the Action Plan on improving the business environment, increase the competitiveness of each ministry, agency and localities; clearly define the objectives, tasks, and implementation progresses, host institutions and the expected steps to improve the performance according to functions and tasks assigned; set detailed plans according to the current legislation, set timeline to achieve expected, and analyze clearly potential consequences.

Regularly inspect and monitor the progresses and results of the programs and action plans on improving the business environment, increase the competitiveness of ministries, agencies and localities; appropriately, promptly and flexibly solve new problems; give recommendations and proposed solutions to guide and implement the Resolution appropriately and efficiently.

- Review cross-sectoral indicators, clearly define tasks and specific targets of ministries and their agencies, and better coordinate with other relevant ministries, agencies and localities to effectively implement objectives and tasks set out in the Resolution; clearly define functions, tasks, responsibilities and authority of each of the agencies and individuals in the implementation.

- Quarterly, integrate reports, evaluate the implementation progresses and results of the implementation of this Resolution to the Ministry of Planning and Investment and the Government Office for the synthesis report to the Prime Minister.

Summarize, report on the implementation and results of the annual resolutions to the Ministry of Planning and Investment and the Government Office for integrating and building assessment report on the competitiveness of Vietnam, to report to the Government on the Government's regular meeting in December.

2. The Ministry of Information and Communications, Vietnam News Agency, Voice of Vietnam, Vietnam Television proactively coordinate with the Central Committee for Propaganda and Education and ministries, agencies

and local organizations to increase awareness and propagate to the broader sectors and levels, meaning of the Resolutions, the situation of competitiveness ranking, the meaning of the indexes used in the international competitiveness ranking. Direct the mass media to enhance information awareness, communication and advocacy for the business community and the people to understand and actively respond to and execute the Resolution. Promote the dissemination of administrative reform, create consensus in society and foster the reform of administrative procedures in the ministries, sectors and localities. The Government's electronic portal opens forums to receive critical feedback on Governmental policies from business corporates and the people.

1. The Vietnam Fatherland Front and political-social organizations coordinate with ministries, agencies and localities to supervise the implementation of this Resolution in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of 2013, and the Decision of the Political Bureau on the monitoring and social criticism functions of the Vietnam Fatherland Front and political-social organizations.

2. The Government Office coordinates with the Ministry of Planning and Investment, ministries, agencies and localities to implement the monitoring, supervision and review of the implementation of the Resolution, and report to the Chairman of the National Council on Sustainable Development and Enhancement of Competitiveness to report to the Government at the regular meeting every last month of every quarter. Results of the implementation of the Resolution shall be used in evaluating the performance of ministries, agencies and localities in the annual meeting sessions in December of the Government./.

Recipients:

- Secretariat of the Party Central Committee;
- Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Ministers;
- The ministries, ministerial-level agencies, government agencies;
- People's Councils and People's Committees of provinces and cities directly under the Central Government;
- Central Office and the Committee of the Party;
- Office of the Secretary;
- Office of the President;
- Ethnic Council and the Committee of the National Assembly;
- Office of the National Assembly;
- The Supreme People's Court;
- Supreme People's Procuratorate;
- National Financial Supervision Committee;
- State Auditor;
- Bank of Social Policy;
- Vietnam Development Bank;

**ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT
PRIME MINISTER**

Nguyen Tan Dung

- Central Committee of the Vietnam Fatherland Front;
- Central Authority of the mass;
- CIEM, Office of Sustainable Development (MPI);
- Office of the Government: Chairman, the Vice Chairman, Assistant to the Prime Minister, General Secretary of the National Council on Sustainable Development and Enhancement of Competitiveness, Director of the Information Portal, Departments, Bureaus;
- For filing: Office, KGVX (3 copies), HDC.