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Proposed New Regulation On Classification And Licensing Of Hospitals May Affect Foreign Direct Investment In Hospital Business

Foreign direct investment in hospital business in Indonesia is currently regulated by the Presidential Regulation No. 44 of 2016 on Lists of Business Fields that are Closed to and Business Fields that are Open with Conditions to Investment (the "**Negative List**") and Ministry of Health ("**MOH**") Regulation No. 56 of 2014 on Classification and Licensing of Hospitals ("**Regulation 56/2014**"). The Negative List allows up to 67% foreign investment in a hospital (or, 70% if the investor is domiciled in ASEAN countries) and foreign investment must also comply with the procedure under Regulation 56/2014 to establish, manage and classify a hospital.

Based on a confirmation received from an official of the Ministry of Health, the Government, through the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia is now planning to revise Regulation 56/2014 in order to increase foreign investment into classes A and B hospital, as the number of classes A and B hospitals is currently lower than classes C and D hospitals. The proposed revision will not only reflect the new licensing regime under the Online Single Submission system, but also establish a stricter limitation for foreign direct investment in hospital business. Under the proposed revision, foreign direct investment may only be made in general and specialized hospitals under classes A and B that operate a minimum of 200 beds. This is different from the current limitation of foreign direct investment under the Negative List, which only limits the amount of investment to 67% (or, 70% if the investor is domiciled in ASEAN countries) but does not limit the classes of hospital where such investment can be made. As of now, it is still unclear whether the proposed revision will replace or complement the current foreign ownership restriction under the Negative List.

The official at the Ministry of Health expects the revision to be issued by the end of 2018. Pending the issuance of the proposed revision, the foreign ownership restriction under the Negative List will continue to apply.

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Contacts



Ahmad Fikri Assegaf Partner

D +62 21 2555 7880 F +62 21 2555 7899 <u>ahmad.assegaf@ahp.id</u>



Tunggul P. Utomo Partner

D +62 21 2555 7822 F +62 21 2555 7899 tunggul.utomo@ahp.id



Mohammad Renaldi Zulkarnain Partner

D +62 21 2555 7803 F +62 21 2555 7899 mohammad.zulkarnain@ahp.id

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ASSEGAF HAMZAH & PARTNERS Client Update: Indonesia 2018 November



Our Regional Contacts

RAJAH & TANN | Singapore

Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP T +65 6535 3600 F +65 6225 9630 sg.rajahtannasia.com

R&T SOK & HENG | Cambodia

R&T Sok & Heng Law Office T +855 23 963 112 / 113 F +855 23 963 116 kh.rajahtannasia.com

RAJAH & TANN 立杰上海 SHANGHAI REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE | *China*

Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP Shanghai Representative Office T +86 21 6120 8818 F +86 21 6120 8820

cn.rajahtannasia.com

ASSEGAF HAMZAH & PARTNERS | Indonesia

Assegaf Hamzah & Partners

Jakarta Office T +62 21 2555 7800 F +62 21 2555 7899

Surabaya Office

T +62 31 5116 4550 F +62 31 5116 4560 www.ahp.co.id

RAJAH & TANN | Lao PDR

Rajah & Tann (Laos) Sole Co., Ltd. T +856 21 454 239 F +856 21 285 261 Ia.rajahtannasia.com

CHRISTOPHER & LEE ONG | Malaysia

Christopher & Lee Ong T +60 3 2273 1919 F +60 3 2273 8310 www.christopherleeong.com

RAJAH & TANN NK LEGAL | Myanmar

Rajah & Tann NK Legal Myanmar Company Limited T +95 9 7304 0763 / +95 1 9345 343 / +95 1 9345 346 F +95 1 9345 348 mm.rajahtannasia.com

GATMAYTAN YAP PATACSIL GUTIERREZ & PROTACIO (C&G LAW) | *Philippines*

Gatmaytan Yap Patacsil Gutierrez & Protacio (C&G Law) T +632 894 0377 to 79 / +632 894 4931 to 32 / +632 552 1977 F +632 552 1978 www.cagatlaw.com

RAJAH & TANN | Thailand

R&T Asia (Thailand) Limited T +66 2 656 1991 F +66 2 656 0833 th.rajahtannasia.com

RAJAH & TANN LCT LAWYERS | Vietnam

Rajah & Tann LCT Lawyers

Ho Chi Minh City Office

T +84 28 3821 2382 / +84 28 3821 2673 F +84 28 3520 8206

Hanoi Office

T +84 24 3267 6127 F +84 24 3267 6128 www.rajahtannlct.com

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