

# **COVID-19 Pandemic**

Institutional and Financial Measures Adopted by the Dominican Republic as of April 13, 2020

April 13, 2020

## Dear client,

As a follow up on our previous Newsletter, our team has prepared this third edition to keep you up to date on all new measures implemented by different institutions, in light of the novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak.

It is essential to emphasize that we are facing an unprecedented and rapidly evolving legal situation. Therefore, the content of this Newsletter may be slightly or significantly altered in the coming days.

This Newsletter is divided into the following sections:

**Updated Timeline of Events** 

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Tax Measures

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## **Updated Timeline of Events**

Since our last Newsletter, circulated this past Wednesday, April 1, several events of national interest have occurred, including the pronouncement of speeches, as well as the issuing of decrees and resolutions. Please find below an update to the timeline of measures adopted in the past few days:

Date	Measure	Disposition
March 27	Speech by the COVID-19 High Level Presidential Commission (the Commission).  Access: <a href="https://bit.ly/2UzqUIU">https://bit.ly/2UzqUIU</a>	The Minister of the Presidency, speaking as president of the COVID-19 High Level Presidential Commission, referred to new measures for the agricultural sector and the contracting of private health centers to care for COVID-19 patients.
March 31	Speech by the COVID-19 the Commission.  Access: <a href="https://bit.ly/2wWT80W">https://bit.ly/2wWT80W</a>	The Minister of the Presidency, speaking as president of the COVID-19 High Level Presidential Commission, referred to the new incentives that would be granted to health professionals, the Armed Forces and the National Police during the months of April and May for the work carried out during the COVID-19 crisis. He also warned about an increase in cybercrime.
March 31	Presidential Decree No. 140-20.  Access: <a href="https://bit.ly/2R8tgGl">https://bit.ly/2R8tgGl</a>	Decree appointing Amado Alejandro Báez as advisor to the Executive Branch on public health and mass emergencies.
April 1	Presidential Decree No. 141-20. Access: <a href="https://bit.ly/2UV0gTw">https://bit.ly/2UV0gTw</a>	Decree forming the COVID-19 Emergency and Health Management Committee.
April 2	Presidential Decree No. 142-20. Access: <a href="https://bit.ly/2X3PKMd">https://bit.ly/2X3PKMd</a>	Decree declaring the continuation and the extension for an additional 15 days of the national application of the curfew, so that it continues to be applied during the hours from 5 p.m. to 6 a.m. All transit and free movement of persons is prohibited during those hours, except for the cases mentioned in Presidential Decrees Nos. 135-20 and 136-20.
April 2	Presidential Decree No. 143-20. Access: <a href="https://bit.ly/2Rh8UdS">https://bit.ly/2Rh8UdS</a>	Decree creating the Employee Solidarity Assistance Fund (FASE).  This Decree stipulates that its creation be aimed at assisting formal employees in the private sector.
April 2	Presidential Decree No. 144-20. Access: <a href="https://bit.ly/2x9k8dx">https://bit.ly/2x9k8dx</a>	Modification to Decree 133-20, to include institutions to the emergency public purchase dispositions.
April 2	Presidential Request for State of Emergency Extension.  Access: <a href="https://bit.ly/3e5tM1N">https://bit.ly/3e5tM1N</a>	The President asked the National Congress to approve the extension of the State of Emergency, scheduled to last until April 13, for an additional 25 days.
April 4	Registration instructions for FASE.  Access: <a href="https://bit.ly/3e2jqPQ">https://bit.ly/3e2jqPQ</a>	The Minister of Labor announced the issuance of an instruction guide to aid employers in the application of employees to benefit from FASE.
April 5	Presidential Decree No. 145-20. Access: <a href="https://bit.ly/2RgscjE">https://bit.ly/2RgscjE</a>	Decree creating the Citizens' Monitoring Committee COVID-19 for the supervision and surveillance of emergency purchases provided for in Decree No. 133-20.
April 6	Senate Approval of the Request for Extension of the State of Emergency.  Access: https://bit.ly/2XcVp2D	The Senate approved the extension of the State of Emergency for an additional 25 days.
April 9	Chamber of Deputies Approval of the Request for Extension of the State of Emergency.  Access: <a href="https://bit.ly/2RpOPCn">https://bit.ly/2RpOPCn</a>	The Chamber of Deputies approved the extension of the State of Emergency for an additional 17 days, contrary to the Senate's approval for 25 days.
April 11	Second Senate's Approval of the Request for Extension of the State of Emergency.  Access: <a href="https://bit.ly/2Ka3TQF">https://bit.ly/2Ka3TQF</a>	The Senate approved the extension of the State of Emergency for an additional 17 days, according to the Chamber of Deputies' proposal.
April 13	Presidential Decree No. 148-20. Access: <a href="https://bit.ly/2RA66IY">https://bit.ly/2RA66IY</a>	Decree that approved the extension of the State of Emergency for an additional 17 days, starting April 14.

#### **Labor Measures**

In recent days, there have been certain developments that affect the section on labor measures in our previous Newsletter, specifically in the application and registration of the program that creates the FASE. The picture, so far, is as follows:

Decree 143-20 formalized the creation of the FASE program with the aim of addressing the COVID-19 pandemic. This Decree clarifies several aspects of the program, changes some previously announced aspects and generates new uncertainties about the application of the program.

Primarily, FASE is designed to benefit formal employees in the private sector whose employment contracts have been suspended because of the effects of the pandemic. These employees may receive financial assistance from FASE if:

- Employees are registered with the Social Security Treasury (SST)
- The employer is up to date with its SST contributions
- The employment contracts to be registered in FASE are suspended before the Ministry of Labor

It is important to emphasize that the Decree excludes certain sectors from benefiting from FASE. These prevented sectors are the same sectors that have been authorized to continue operating during the State of Emergency, including supermarkets, pharmacies, health service centers and energy generators, among others.

Under the program's provisions, suspended employees who are duly registered will receive a portion of their salary as a government-subsidized payment. The subsidy is intended to cover up to 70% of the employee's salary. However, the minimum payment is RD\$5,000 and the maximum payment to be made by the government is RD\$8,500. Considering the range of the subsidized payments, regardless of what actually represents 70% of the employee's salary, the employee will only receive a maximum payment of RD\$8,500. For the purposes of this Bulletin, we will refer to this payment as "FASE 1".

It is not mandatory for employers to make an additional contribution to the subsidized payment, although the government has recommended that the employers contribute in the form of a partial wage payment.



Another doubt that was clarified by Decree 143-20 was whether companies that continue to operate can benefit from the FASE. The indications to date are as follows:

# Manufacturing Companies and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MIPYMES)

Companies that have continued with their operations (receiving government authorization) and have not suspended any employees can apply to receive a special payment within FASE. This payment will be for RD\$5,000.00 for each registered employee.

This payment will be considered an advanced salary payment and it will be the employer's responsibility to complete the rest of the employee's ordinary salary. For the purposes of this Newsletter, we refer to this payment as "FASE 2".

To apply for this Benefit B, it is important to emphasize that the employer cannot have suspended any of its employees.

## **Companies that Have Closed Their Operations**

According to Decree 143-20, companies that have "closed" their operations, but have not suspended any of their employees, continue to pay their payroll in full and contribute to the SST, can also apply to FASE.

It is important to emphasize that Decree 143-20 does not include a definition of what is considered a "closed company".

So far, this definition could cover companies that continue to operate through telework. That is, companies that have closed their offices, but their employees continue to work from home. For the purposes of this Bulletin, we refer to this assistance as "FASE 2.A".

In order to receive FASE 2.A, the company must meet the following requirements:

- Companies must have closed their operations
- All employees must be receiving their full salary
- The employer must be contributing to the SST

Unlike the benefits applicable to FASE 1 and FASE 2, the Decree does not specify the amount of contribution that will apply in these cases. It is possible that the amount will be the same as for the other Benefits: a minimum of RD\$5,000 and a maximum of RD\$ 8.500.

So far, Decree 143-20 leaves some doubts about the program, particularly regarding the benefit of FASE 2.A; namely:

- The way in which the work suspension and inclusion in FASE 1 is being carried out simultaneously is through the DGT-9 form on the Ministry of Labor's website. The DGT-9 form has been slightly modified in light of the COVID-19 pandemic to include lines in which employers can detail the information on the bank accounts of the employees to be suspended. It is important to note that so far the DGT-9 would serve to obtain FASE 1, but not FASE 2 and FASE 2.A.
- In this sense, the Ministry of Labor has generated a new form to apply to FASE 2, which does not imply suspension of employment contracts. However, in principle, this form has been created for manufacturing companies and MIPYMES covered by FASE 2. It is not clear then, if the companies that could apply to FASE 2.A. can or should use this form.
- Additionally, it has not been determined if the companies that continue to operate under the telework modality, but have their
  offices closed, apply to receive FASE 2.A.

The Ministry of Labor might clarify these concerns in the coming days and as the implementation of the FASE is extended to various companies. Should you require any particular assistance in relation to these new measures, we are at your disposal.

## Measures Implemented by the Judiciary

In order to update you on the complementary measures taken by different courts, we have prepared two tables, summarized as follows:

Judicial Branch	
March 30	The Judicial Branch issued a statement listing all email addresses of the Permanent Service Offices in each province of the country, through which users will be able to access virtual hearings.
April 2	The Judicial Branch announced that the real estate jurisdiction continues to work remotely and, therefore, users can: (i) make their requests and applications through electronic channels by accessing the <a href="website">website</a> ; and (ii) make their complaints or channel their concerns via

#### **Superior Electoral Court**

Administrative Resolution TSE-001-2020 issued on March 18, 2020 By means of this Resolution, the Superior Electoral Court provided the following:

- a. To hear as Council Chamber, the files that enter the Superior Electoral Court from March 18, 2020, related to:
  - Appeals, challenges, lawsuits and appeals against resolutions issued by the Electoral Boards on extraordinary municipal elections.
  - Proposals of candidates for ordinary presidential and congressional general elections.
  - Exceptions to this measure are those files, which, due to their special characteristics, must be heard in a public hearing.
- b. The public hearings exceptionally held will be transmitted by the institution's social networks and its YouTube channel.



#### **Superior Electoral Court**

#### Administrative Resolution TSE-002-2020 issued on March 18, 2020

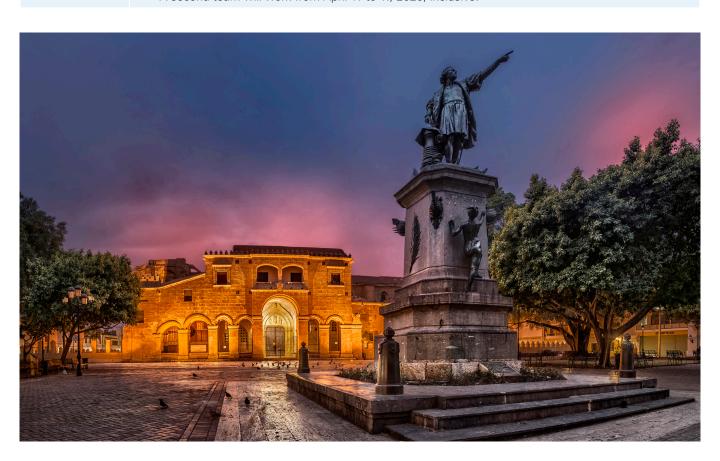
By means of this Resolution, the Superior Electoral Court ruled:

- a. Dispatch to their respective homes from Wednesday March 18 to April 3, 2020 Court servers with underlying illnesses, over 60 years of age, pregnant or nursing and the following areas:
  - Directorate for the Rectification of Marital Status Records
  - Directorate of Inspection
  - Directorate of Gender Equality
  - CICJED Division
  - Publications Division
  - Planning and Development Division
  - Quality Management System Area
  - Legal Consultancy
  - Directorate of International Relations
  - Directorate of Political Parties and Electoral Boards
  - Department of Public Relations
- b. Keep the other work areas running, in two eight-day shifts, respectively.
- c. Except for the measures described, the personnel working in the offices of the incumbent judges, the General Secretariat and the Electoral Contentious Office (the days and mode of work of these servers will be defined by their respective superior entities).

#### Administrative Resolution TSE-003-2020 issued on April 3, 2020

By means of this Resolution, the Superior Electoral Court:

- a. Extended for a period of 15 days the aforementioned measures adopted in Resolution 002-2020, starting on April 3, 2020.
- b. It was established that in the areas where the work will continue, the servers will be divided into two shifts, under the following modality:
  - A first work team will work until April 10, 2020, inclusive.
  - A second team will work from April 11 to 17, 2020, inclusive.



#### **Tax Measures**

The General Directorate of Internal Taxes (DGII) and the General Directorate of Customs (DGA) have expanded their catalog of measures to address the impact of COVID-19 in the Dominican Republic. In conjunction with the measures outlined in our previous Newsletters, below is an updated list of measures:

Tax or Duty Obligation	Measure
Exemption from the payment of advances on	<ul> <li>Individuals and legal entities are exempted from the Advance Payment on their income tax for the March 2020 tax period that expires on April 15, 2020.</li> </ul>
Income Tax (ISR)	• This does not apply to Large Taxpayers, except for those unable to operate according to Presidential Decree No. 134-20.
Deferral of payment agreements	<ul> <li>The installments of payment agreements due in the months of April, May and June 2020 have been deferred.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>This measure is complementary to the notice issued March 19, where half reduce the values of the quotas of the payment agreements.</li> </ul>
	• This deferral does not apply to February 2020 ITBIS payment agreements or to payment agreements for IR-2 Affidavits with a December 31 closing date.
Deconsolidation of cargo	Dispatches will be made with electronic seals.
and container transfers to fiscal warehouses, special	• The cost is US\$20.00 per placement and withdrawal.
and commercial free zone parks of greater Santo Domingo and national	• DGA will allow the removal of the cargo by the transport's personnel, so long as it is carried out in front of DGA administrative personnel.
district from Haina and Caucedo administrations	
Extensions until May 29,	IR-2 declaration with closure on December 31
2020	Income tax returns for individuals with sole proprietorships
	• First installment of the tax on assets of individuals with sole proprietorships
	Informative Affidavit of non-profit institutions with closing on December 31

## **Public Purchasing and Contracting of Goods and Services for National Emergency**

Pursuant to Presidential Decrees No. 87-20 and 133-20, the acquisition and contracting of products and services to confront the COVID-19 pandemic by certain government entities and state entities was declared an emergency. Subsequently, Presidential Decree No. 144-20 expanded the list of authorized institutions, currently allowing the following entities to procure emergency goods and services:

- 1. Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance (MISPAS)
- 2. National Health Service (SNS)
- 3. Essential Drugs Program Central Logistical Support (PROMESE/CAL)
- 4. Ministry of Public Works and Communications (MOPC)
- 5. Ministry of Defense
- 6. Office of Engineer Supervisors of State Works (OISOE)
- 7. Presidential Social Assistance Plan (PASP)
- 8. Dominican State-run Economic Dining Rooms (CEED)
- 9. National Institute for Comprehensive Care of Early Childhood (INAIPI)

In order to materialize the process of public purchase of emergency products and services, the corresponding calls for bids are published daily on the platforms of the institutions indicated above, as well as on the platform of the General Directorate of Public Procurement (DGCP).

Among the products and services urgently required by the Dominican State, we can highlight:

- Medical equipment
- Lab tests
- Hospital expendable material
- Disposable protective clothing (gowns, masks and gloves)
- Disinfection products
- Cleaning products
- · Beds and bedding accessories
- Nonperishable food
- Specialized foods for the elderly
- Specialized foods for early childhood

Additionally, the DGCP has enabled a registry of national or foreign companies that have the availability to sell to the Dominican State and immediately deliver the products and services that are necessary to face the health crisis of COVID-19. This registry is independent from the State Suppliers Registry (RPE), so companies that do not yet have an RPE may register.

Lastly, we must highlight that through Decree No. 145-20, the President created the Citizen Oversight Commission COVID-19 in order to oversee, follow up, and monitor the purchasing and contracting processes carried out under the emergency purchasing scheme to face the current pandemic.

#### **Conclusions**

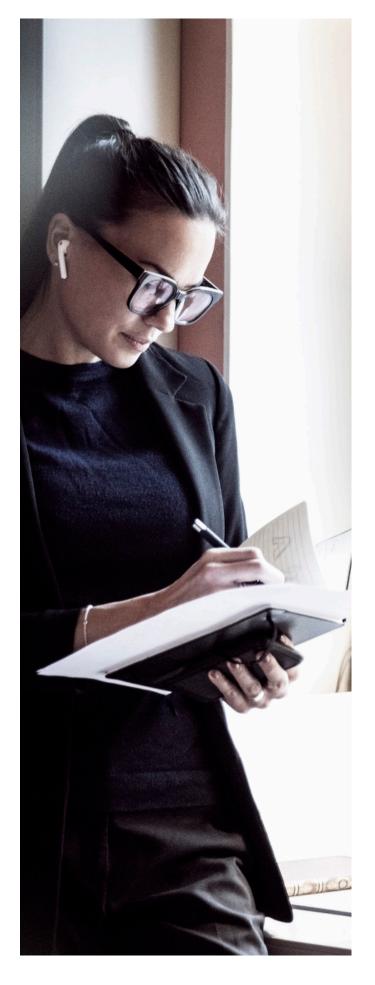
For the time being, among the most relevant novelties are the clarification and formalization of the FASE program to temporarily assist employees during the present crisis. This program began last Thursday, April 2, so during the next few days more clarifications may arise. Additionally, the State of Emergency was extended until the end of the month, but in the following weeks, there could be an additional extension of the State of Emergency and the limitations of transit, depending on the outbreak development. We understand that the new measures adopted by the Dominican government are generally correct, although due to the extension of the State of Emergency, it is highly probable that April will be accompanied by new measures that are proportionally drastic to the development of the current health crisis in the country.

Please note that not all official directives are written, and those that are, are sometimes vague and contradictory. We will do everything possible to keep you informed of any news that may affect the content of this Third Newsletter. If you require specific guidelines, or need us to discuss any additional work risks, considerations or strategies, we will be happy to assist you.

We remain at your disposal.

Kind regards,

Squire Patton Boggs, Peña Prieto Gamundi



### **Annexes**

## a. Timeline of Events, From March 14, 2020 to March 27, 2020.

The first case of COVID-19 in the Dominican Republic was confirmed on March 1, 2020. Since that date, the competent authorities, especially the Ministry of Public Health (MISPAS or Public Health), have been issuing a series of statements and resolutions to confront the present pandemic. Please find below, the chronological table included in our first and second Newsletters:

Date	Measure	Disposition
March 14	Suspension of certain flights and cruise ships for 30 days.	The Ministry of the Presidency reported that commercial flights from Europe, China, Korea and Iran, in addition to all cruises, were suspended for 30 days.
	Access: <a href="https://bit.ly/3ag5xLL">https://bit.ly/3ag5xLL</a>	Tor 30 days.
March 17	The President addresses the nation.  Access: https://bit.ly/33HpVmC	The President addresses the nation and announces several measures, including the following: "Commercial activities are suspended for the next 15 days, with the exception of businesses that carry out basic activities for the population: supermarkets, grocery stores, gas stations, pharmacies and commercial establishments dedicated to selling raw or cooked food, among others. Public and private medical service centers and medical laboratories are also authorized to operate normally.
		Any other type of company or business whose activity may be considered vital in the current circumstances can contact the Presidential High Level Commission and we will seek the appropriate solution. The Presidential High Level Commission will be announcing in the coming days additional measures to be adopted during this exceptional 15-day period that we have declared. []
		We also request that all productive sectors, whenever possible, implement remote work for at least 15 days. In cases where this is not possible, flexible working hours will be implemented and it is recommended that they limit the attendance of their employees to the minimum necessary, considering implementing shifts to avoid the influx of many people [].
		Likewise, we have decided to close the country's borders by land, sea, and air, for the next 15 days []"
		These measures came into effect on Thursday, March 19.



Date	Measure	Disposition
Commission on C Commission) add Nation.	President of the High Level Commission on COVID-19 (the Commission) addresses the	The Minister of the Presidency, speaking as president of the High Level Commission on COVID-19, reiterated that the businesses that may operate during the 15-day period of the quarantine, are the following:
	Access: https://bit.ly/2Ueg58M	<ol> <li>Businesses that provide basic necessities for the population, grocery stores, supermarkets, pharmacies, gas stations, and commercial establishments that sell raw or cooked foods.</li> </ol>
		2) Industrial Sector businesses, free zones, and agricultural businesses may continue operations, but must promote teleworking and flexible hours. It is important to avoid large groupings of personnel and apply standards for distancing in production areas [].
March 18	Resolution No. 007/2020 issued	Ministry of Labor issues Resolution No. 007/2020, which:
	by the Ministry of Labor.  Access: <a href="https://bit.ly/2Jb86mo">https://bit.ly/2Jb86mo</a>	a. Cites article 7.15 of Regulation 522-06 for Security and Health in the Workplace, which states that the employer has the ethical and moral duty, and the legal obligation, to take control of any measures in response to any health risk that has been identified at the workplace, independently of whether or not said risk is directly referenced in said resolution.
		b. Instructs all companies/employers that qualify to remain open to the public, to implement flexible work hours and, where possible, implement telework and avoid congestion at the work place. This includes supermarkets, gas stations, pharmacies and commercial establishments dedicated to the sale of food, companies in the industrial sector, free zones and agricultural businesses, among others. This measure was subject to later changes, with most free zones being ordered to close (with certain exceptions).
		c. Directs employers that must remain closed to grant paid vacations to all employees during the 15-day period following the Resolution's publication. Those employees that have sufficient vacation days accumulated must be ordered to take them, while those who do not have enough vacation days accumulated will be advanced one week of paid vacations and for the second week, their salaries will be borne by the employer. This has limited the ability of employers to suspend labor contracts.
		d. Strongly recommends isolation measures for vulnerable employees.
		e. Urges employees to assume a collaborative attitude in order to facilitate reasonable understandings with employers regarding the implementation of this resolution.
		f. Recommends flexible measures that do not interfere with a business's production nor its employees' salaries.
March 19	Congress issues resolution authorizing the President of the Republic to declare a State of Emergency throughout the Dominican territory.  Access: https://bit.ly/3bwPERB	Congress authorizes the President to declare a state of national emergency for up to 25 days (Resolution No. 62-20); this Resolution authorizes the President to: (i) restrict freedom of transit and freedom of association and assembly; (ii) adopt measures to guarantee medical services and provisions; and (iii) adopt measures to support the economic sector, as a way to protect employment and the income of workers.
March 19	Presidential Decree No. 132-20.	President issues Decree No. 132-20, which confirms the High Level
	Access: https://bit.ly/33HwHc2	Commission for the Prevention and Control of COVID-19.
March 19	Presidential Decree No. 134-20.  Access: <a href="https://bit.ly/2xjle58">https://bit.ly/2xjle58</a>	President issues Decree No. 134-20, which declares a state of national emergency for 25 days.

Date	Measure	Disposition
March 20	Presidential Decree No. 135-20.  Access: <a href="https://bit.ly/2WEITKo">https://bit.ly/2WEITKo</a>	President issues Decree No. 135-20, which declares the application of a nationwide curfew from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. All transit and free movement of people is forbidden between these hours, except in the following cases: persons dedicated to health services, such as doctors, nurses, bioanalysts, and paramedics; persons with medical emergencies that need to get to health centers; persons dedicated to private security, duly identified as such; members of the press and other means of communication duly accredited as such; personnel of electrical supply companies, exclusively when attending to emergencies.
March 20	Resolution No. 058-2020 issued by the Ministry of Public Administration.  Access: <a href="https://bit.ly/2UusOTv">https://bit.ly/2UusOTv</a>	The Ministry of Public Administration issues Resolution No. 058-2020 that indicates which Public Administrative Entities and Organs must close and which may remain open with limited activities to prevent and mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.
March 22	Resolution No. 059-2020 issued by the Ministry of Public Administration.  Access: <a href="https://bit.ly/2UusOTv">https://bit.ly/2UusOTv</a>	The Ministry of Public Administration issues Resolution No. 059-2020 that adds Public Administrative Entities and Organs to the list of institutions that must close and which may remain open with limited activities, to prevent the effects of COVID-19 pandemic.
March 23	Presidential Decree No. 136-20.  Access: <a href="https://bit.ly/2xfxXHb">https://bit.ly/2xfxXHb</a>	Decree No. 136-20 modifies decree No. 135-20, in order to allow circulation of persons and vehicles linked to the food industry, energy companies, water distribution, telecommunication companies, ports, airports, and others, during curfew hours.
March 23	Presidential Decree No. 137-20.  Access: <a href="https://bit.ly/2JbweW8">https://bit.ly/2JbweW8</a>	Decree suspends all deadlines and terms in administrative procedures before the Public Administration, both central and decentralized. This suspension applies retroactively from March 20, 2020, and through the duration of the State of Emergency. Terms and deadlines will resume three business days after the State of Emergency is lifted.
March 23	Resolution No. 060-2020, issued by the Ministry of Public Administration.  Access: <a href="https://bit.ly/2UusOTv">https://bit.ly/2UusOTv</a>	The Ministry of Public Administration forbids the suspension or destitution of public servants and suspends deadlines to begin procedures against public servants.
March 25	President Medina delivers speech issuing new measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.  Access: https://bit.ly/39rSTrH	The President addresses the nation and announces the following measures: "To the economic sectors where we have ordered a temporary cease of operations, I now announce that the government commits to pay up to RD\$8,500 pesos of the salaries of employees whose contracts have been suspended.  However, I also know there are several companies that, although we have not ordered they cease their operations, are having difficulties and reductions in their economic activity, which can affect their employees.  Because of this, I have ordered that the Economic Commission work directly with these companies, in order to cover a percentage of these salaries, up to RD\$8,500 pesos monthly, so that they may keep their workers on payroll, thus facilitating labor stability and the income of hundreds of thousands of families.  In this way, the government will contribute a percentage of the salary, and companies will only need to cover the difference to complete at least 70% of each worker's salary, in exchange for the preservation of their jobs.  These measures, as well as those in the "Stay at Home" program, will remain in effect, as of now, from April 1, to May 31 []."
March 26	Presidential Decree No. 138-20. Access: <a href="https://bit.ly/3bumsud">https://bit.ly/3bumsud</a>	This decree modifies the application of a nationwide curfew, so that the new schedule is from 5 p.m. to 6 a.m. All transit and free movement of people is forbidden during these hours, except for those cases mentioned in Presidential Decrees No. 135-20 and 136-20.

Date	Measure	Disposition
March 26	Address by the Commission on COVID-19.  Access: <a href="https://bit.ly/3bwkucV">https://bit.ly/3bwkucV</a>	The Minister of the Presidency, speaking as President of the High Level Presidential Commission on COVID-19, referred to new measures to provide free access to COVID-19 tests and called repeatedly on the Dominican people to stay home.
March 26	Address by the Commission on COVID-19.  Access: <a href="https://bit.ly/2Uohzx8">https://bit.ly/2Uohzx8</a>	The Minister of the Treasury, speaking as coordinator of the High Level Presidential Commission on COVID-19, referred to the #StayAtHome and FASE programs: "FASE is a program aimed at helping workers, transitionally, with an unconditional monetary transfer. Workers whose employers are contributing to the Social Security Treasury (SST), and who have closed their operations due to the social distancing measures ordered in this period, may receive support from FASE.
		[] The minimum that the government will be contributing for each worker that is registered in FASE is RD\$5,000 per month. Those workers with wages below RD\$5,000 per month will receive a minimum transfer of RD\$5,000 per month, which will be assumed 100% by the government.
		On their part, those workers that have salaries above RD\$5,000 pesos monthly, will receive a monthly contribution covered 70% by the government, and 30% by the employer. In this case, the state will contribute up to a maximum amount of RD\$8,500 pesos monthly per worker.
		It is established that FASE will not make contributions to the Christmas Bonus Salary or contributions to the SST and will not exceed 60 days. For companies interested in joining the program, from April 2 they can fill in the registration information that will be published on the website of the Ministry of the Treasury."
March 27	Press Conference with the Central Bank and the Monetary Board on COVID-19 measures.  Access: <a href="https://bit.ly/2QMT0Yn">https://bit.ly/2QMT0Yn</a>	The Central Bank and Monetary Board laid out new measures aimed at increasing the flow of resources to homes.

