

As a follow up to our previous Newsletter, our team has prepared this fourth edition, to keep you up to date on all new measures implemented by different institutions, in light of the 2019 novel coronavirus outbreak (“**COVID-19**”), as well as to generally address certain legal issues that have become relevant in light of the effects of COVID-19.

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:

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I. Updated Timeline of Events

Since our last Newsletter, 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
April 14	Speech by the COVID-19 High Level Presidential Commission (the " Commission "). Access: https://bit.ly/2VYCB4T	The Minister of the Presidency, speaking in his capacity as president of the COVID-19 High Level Presidential Commission, referred to new measures to guarantee transparency in the processes of emergency public purchases and contracting
April 15	Speech by the COVID-19 High Level Presidential Commission (the " Commission "). Access: https://bit.ly/3bDjNyL	The Minister of the Presidency, speaking in his capacity as president of the COVID-19 High Level Presidential Commission, referred to a plan for commercial assistance of agricultural sectors for the production of chickens, cheeses, vegetables and greens.
April 17	Speech by President Medina as a follow-up to measures taken in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Access: https://bit.ly/2x6nZlq	The President addresses the nation and announces the continuation of social distancing measures.
April 17	Presidential Decree No. 151-20 Access: https://bit.ly/2zuy3fh	Decree that declares the continued enforcement and extension of the curfew on a national level until Thursday, April 30, to be applied from 5:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. All transit and free movement of people is prohibited during these hours, with the exception of the cases mentioned in Presidential Decrees No. 135-20 and 136-20.
April 21	Speech by the COVID-19 High Level Presidential Commission. Access: https://bit.ly/3bD4vtX	The Minister of the Presidency, speaking in his capacity as president of the COVID-19 High Level Presidential Commission, extended the plan for commercial assistance of agricultural sectors for the production of chickens, cheeses, vegetables and greens.
April 23	Central Bank and Monetary Board Press Conference on COVID-19 measures. Access: https://bit.ly/2x6otye	The Central Bank and the Monetary Board introduced new measures to increase the flow of resources to the productive sectors and households affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
April 24	Presidential Request to Extend State of Emergency Access: https://bit.ly/2VDz7Gm	The President asked the National Congress to approve the extension of the State of Emergency, scheduled until April 30, for a period of 25 additional days.
April 26	Senate approves Request for Extension of the State of Emergency Access: https://bit.ly/2VODePM	The Senate approved a second extension of the State of Emergency, for an additional 25-day period.
April 28	Chamber of Deputies approves Request for Extension of the State of Emergency Access: https://bit.ly/35eUcdn	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 29	Second approval by the Senate of the Request for Extension of the State of Emergency Access: https://bit.ly/2yalp3A	The Senate approved a second extension of the State of Emergency for an additional 17 days, in accordance with the Chamber of Deputies' approval.
April 30	Presidential Decree No. 153-20 Access: https://bit.ly/35U2s2R	Decree orders extension of State of Emergency for an additional 17 days, starting May 1.
April 30	Presidential Decree No. 154-20 Access: https://bit.ly/3bfjCJg	Decree that declares the continued existence and extension of the national application of a curfew until May 17, from 5:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. All transit and free movement of persons is prohibited during this time, except for the cases mentioned in Presidential Decrees Nos. 135-20 and 136-20.

II. Contractual Relations and the impact of Force Majeure

In view of the current COVID-19 pandemic, some contractual obligations will undoubtedly be difficult to fulfil. Under these circumstances, we would like to touch briefly on whether a breach of contract would make a party liable for damages, or whether this may be considered force majeure, in the context of the current situation. Force majeure is considered grounds for exemption from liability, under Dominican law.

For a situation to constitute force majeure, it must meet three criteria: externality, unpredictability and irresistibility. For more details, you can contact us directly or access our official publication on this matter (Access: <https://bit.ly/2WJYKZ>).

III. E-Signatures

In light of the COVID-19 outbreak, and the physical distancing guidelines put in place to contain it, e-signatures have become more relevant than ever, as a legally valid mechanism in the Dominican Republic, so long as they comply with the specifications contained in these regulations.

For more information regarding these nuances and potential ways to resolve them, please contact Miguel Cano and Awilda Alcántara, at their email addresses: miguel.cano@squirepb.com and awilda.alcantara@squirepb.com, respectively, or access our official publication on the subject (Access: <https://bit.ly/3fX9ng2>).

IV. Update on Measures Regarding Chambers of Commerce and Production

As of mid-March 2020, the country's Chambers of Commerce were totally closed to the public and only some, such as the Chamber of Commerce and Production of Santo Domingo, continued to provide certain services through their digital platform.

However, as of Monday, April 20, 2020, the Chambers of Commerce of Santo Domingo and of the Province of Santo Domingo resumed their face-to-face services and now offer users the possibility of filing requests for the modification of the Mercantile Registry and the registration of documents, which was previously suspended.

Both Chambers have established an appointment system that allows users to schedule the in-person deposit. These deposits are limited to three transactions per user per day. The use of a mask to enter the establishments of these Chambers of Commerce is mandatory.

In particular, the Santo Domingo Chamber of Commerce continues to offer the following services through its digital platform:

- Simple renovation of Mercantile Registry
- Duplicates
- Certifications
- Information updates
- Certified copies

V. Measures implemented by the Judicial Branch

In order to update you on the complementary measures taken by different courts, we have prepared the following table:

Date	Measure	Disposition
April 16	"APP JI Móvil" and the continuation of services through www.ji.gob.do	<p>Through the "APP JI Móvil", an application that is totally free and available for iOS and Android, users of the Real Estate Jurisdiction will be able to access the following services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Request Certifications of Legal Status of Properties</u>. This certification will be delivered by e-mail and will be legally valid for the corresponding uses. • <u>Follow up on requests</u> (e.g. consult the status of applications), by simply entering the number assigned at the time of deposit. • <u>Access and review the Catalog of Services of the Real Estate Jurisdiction</u> and the requirements for each procedure. <p>Users will have access to other services of the Real Estate Jurisdiction not available in the "APP JI Móvil" through the website: www.ji.gob.do.</p> <p>On this website users can, among other things:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Verify the authenticity of the products received by simply entering the serial number and registration number</u>. The products that can be validated are the following: Title Deeds, Annotated Certificates, Creditor Registration Certificates, Real Estate and Accessory Registration Certificates and Certificates of the Legal Status of Properties. • <u>Consult hearing rosters</u> (these describe the time, room, turn number, judge and date of hearings at the national level). This feature will become relevant once hearings are reactivated-whether virtually or in person.

<p>April 21</p>	<p>Ordinary Session 014-2020 of the Council of the Judicial Branch (the "Session")</p>	<p>In this session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of electronic signatures in jurisdictional and administrative processes of the Judicial Branch (e.g. rulings, resolutions, and certifications) was approved. • The conditions applicable to electronically signed documents, their legal value, as well as the mechanisms available for the verification of the legitimacy of these documents by third parties were established. <p>All electronically signed documents will remain in PDF format and will be verified by the signature functions included in the PDF reader. With this tool, the user will be able to check the qualified electronic seal, the validity of the signatory's identity and that of the responsible body, as well as the absence of subsequent modifications.</p> <p>The digitally signed document will be considered the original, and any printouts will be considered copies. Please note that the implementation of the electronic signature will not replace the procedures established in the existing regulations.</p>
<p>April 21</p>	<p>Service Requests</p>	<p>The Judicial Branch announced that by accessing the website www.ovjp.gob.do, users would be able to: (i) request simple copies of rulings; and (ii) follow up on cases or administrative procedures, online.</p> <p>It is important to point out that this website is presenting problems when trying to access it.</p>
<p>April 22</p>	<p>Strategic Plan of the Judicial Branch 20/24-Judicial Branch Service Model (the "Plan") and Webinar held by the Judicial Branch regarding said Plan.</p>	<p>Among the most innovative and relevant aspects described in the Plan and the Webinar are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital processing of judicial files (e.g. complaints, documentary evidence, briefs, petitions, appeals) and documents corresponding to administrative procedures (e.g. certifications, user requests) of all courts in the country, from their entry into the system to the notification of rulings or issuance of the requested documents. <p>As announced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The goal is for all documents to be filed with the courts and delivered/ notified to the parties digitally, via a platform created for this purpose. Exceptionally, the deposit of originals in physical form would be allowed for those cases in which such document- by law or special provision- must be kept and/or valued by the court or jurisdictional authorities. – Original documents may be physically filed by couriers, at the departments/offices that the Judicial Branch creates for such purposes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holding of digital hearings in all jurisdictions and subjects. • Notifications of judgments, resolutions and other documents in digital form, through a dedicated e-mail. To this end, the parties in the process and/or those requesting documents must register in the system created for this purpose and acquire a user name and password. <p>The referred emails will have a system that will allow courts and public servants to confirm the exact moment when the user opened the notified document. This will make it possible to determine the start of the applicable procedural deadlines.</p> <p>So far, it has been announced that the following will be able to register as users:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals who are not lawyers. • Individuals in their condition as lawyers – these will be able to associate third parties with their accounts, so that these may have direct access to it (e.g. paralegals and law clerks). • Legal entities – through corporate accounts.

		<p>The above cited measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Were announced in an abstract manner and do not have a fixed implementation start date. • Would apparently continue to be implemented even after the crisis generated by the COVID-19 pandemic subsides or ends. <p>The need for legislative and regulatory amendments to implement some of the measures provided for in the Plan is being assessed.</p> <p>We expect that the Judicial Branch will announce concrete actions regarding these measures before the end of this month.</p>
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VI. Labor measures

In accordance with the rules of application of the Employee Solidarity Fund (“FASE”), employers who register their suspended employees as beneficiaries of said fund—under FASE 1—may choose to make voluntary contributions as supplementary payments to the salary of such workers. Recently, additional clarifications have been made regarding the tax treatment of such co-payments.

A. Co-payments made by employers in addition to payments made under the Employee Solidarity Fund (“FASE-1”)

Income Tax (ISR)

The Directorate-General for Internal Taxes (DGII) issued a communication by which it established:

- **Supplementary payments** made by employers under the FASE program, provided that they have complied with the requirements of the Ministry of Labor and the Ministry of the Treasury, **shall be deductible from income tax (ISR)**, in accordance with the provisions of Article 287 of the Tax Code.
- **Supplementary payments will enjoy a treatment similar to wages paid**, because the company makes them as an employer, since the suspension of the work contract does not imply its termination.
- These payments are to be recorded in the Income Tax Declaration (IR-2) in the “*other personnel expenses*” account of annex B-1 of the referred to Declaration.
- For the Tax Administration’s control, taxpayers must pay these contributions in the same account where the employee receives FASE and keep all the documents that support these payments.

Reports to the Social Security Treasury (“TSS”)

Regarding suspended employees, the DGII issued a communication establishing the following

- Taxpayers who make contributions to suspended employees—whether they are enrolled in FASE or no— may present and remit the amounts paid, as well as the Income Tax (“ISR”) deductions made to these personnel, through the SUIRPLUS platform of the TSS, using the box “other remunerations” and completing the salary box applicable to Social Security as 0.00.
- The referred remission, together with the presentation of the IR-3 declaration, will be part of the documents that will support the expense incurred for this concept and must be presented for Income Tax (ISR) purposes.

In view of the foregoing, payments made by employers to suspended employees shall present zero contribution to the TSS.

B. New FASE Facilities

After the implementation and initial operation of the FASE program, the Ministry of Labor has announced the creation of a special website (Access: <http://fase.mt.gob.do/web/>) for the FASE program with the aim of providing employers with information such as:

- Disbursement of Government Contributions
- Operation of funds
- Ways and means of applying to FASE

It is important to emphasize that the FASE program is valid for 60 days as of April 2, according to Decree No. 143-20. Taking into account the State of Emergency has been extended until mid-May, should it be extended further, it is likely that the program will be reviewed once again to consider its extension until after the end of May. In case there is any significant change, we will be informing you through the most effective means.

VII. Financial and Tax Measures

The Directorate General of Internal Taxes, the Central Bank (the “**BC**”) and the Monetary Board (the “**JM**”) have expanded their catalogue 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 to date:

Institution	Measure
DGII	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional payments made by employers to their employees registered in the FASE program may be deducted from their Income Tax, by registering the expense in the Income Tax Declaration for Legal Entities (“IR-2”) as “other personnel expenses”, and the additional payment must have been made in the same bank account registered in FASE.
BC & JM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On April 16, 2020, the JM relaxed the category of possible recipients of the 30,133.4 million Dominican pesos of the legal reserve in national currency to be released in order to be channeled in the form of loans to the productive sectors most affected by COVID-19 and households at interest rates not exceeding 8.0% per year, to allow financial intermediaries to allocate all these resources in the form of loans for all productive sectors, mainly the export, tourism, construction and agricultural sectors. In addition, the term of the loans to be granted with these resources was extended from 1 year to 4 years. Release of some RD\$5.681 billion of the legal reserve for new loans, refinancing and consolidation of debts to medium and small businesses (MIPYMES) and personal loans with terms of less than four years. <p>Cont...</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of a three (3) year liquidity facility for up to RD\$15 billion to be channeled into loans to small and medium businesses (MIPYMES) and personal loans for smaller amounts through Banco de Reservas, who will act as the intermediary bank for these operations. Banco de Reservas will have access to these resources through repurchase agreements with terms of up to 1 year and at an annual interest rate of 3.50%. These funds will be channeled by the Banco de Reservas into loans to small and medium businesses (MIPYMES) and personal loans of smaller amounts, as well as to other financial intermediation entities specialized in these segments (ADOPEM, ADEMI, BANFONDESA, Banco Agrícola, Banca Solidaria, Promipyme, Fondo para el Desarrollo Agropecuario, among others). Increase the provision of liquidity in foreign currency for a total of USD 400.0 million through 90-day dollar repurchase agreements, renewable for up to 1 year, noting that the interest rate on these repurchase agreements was recently reduced from 1.80% to 0.90% per year. Remuneration of excess legal reserve in dollars up to 0.45% annually for deposits made by financial intermediaries in the Central Bank. The Central Bank requested access to the International Monetary Fund’s Rapid Financing Facility for an amount of US\$650 million, which is equivalent to 100% of the country’s quota with this multilateral organization. The financing would be for a term of between 3 and 5 years, at an annual interest rate of 1.5%. The Central Bank requested approval from the United States Federal Reserve-whose request was approved-to access short-term credit facilities of between US\$1 billion and US\$3 billion, renewable for six (6) months, using the resources of the international reserves that are invested in United States Treasury bonds as collateral. Elimination of fees, commissions and charges, in any form or means, for inactivity in savings, checking and other accounts with financial intermediaries.

VIII. Corporate Restructuring

Should your company be facing serious financial deficiencies - despite the economic measures adopted by the BC and the JM to stimulate the economy and alleviate the negative economic effects caused by COVID-19-, Law No. 141-15 on the Restructuring and Liquidation of Businesses and Natural Persons (the "Restructuring Law") can serve as a legal tool to preserve your company and avoid insolvency, or failing that, to collectively satisfy the pending claims against your company through formal legal proceedings that resolve all obligations simultaneously.

For creditors of companies that are experiencing financial difficulties, the Restructuring Law seeks to protect their rights in the face of the financial deficiencies of their debtor by granting them equal treatment (without detriment to the rules on privileges, priority of claims and preferences established by law), as well as to maximize the value of the company's assets in a scenario of judicial liquidation with the objective of satisfying the greatest number of claims.

For further information on the benefits of the Restructuring Law, please contact Pedro O. Gamundi and Miguel Cano, at the following e-mail addresses: pedro.gamundi@squirepb.com and miguel.cano@squirepb.com, or access our official publication on the matter (Access: <https://bit.ly/2WHLth4>).

IX. Conclusions

For the time being, among the most relevant novelties are the extension of the social distancing measures and the second extension of the State of Emergency, until mid-May. Within the next few days, there may be a third renewal of the distancing measures and the curfew, depending on how the virus continues to develop. We understand that the new measures adopted by the Dominican Government are generally sound, although due to the possible third extension of the State of Emergency it is highly probable that the month of May 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 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

X. Annexes

a. Timeline of events, from March 14 2020 to April 13, 2020.

The first case of COVID-19 in the Dominican Republic was confirmed on March 1, 2020. Since that date, the competent authorities have issued a series of statements and resolutions to address the present pandemic. The following is a compilation of the timelines circulated in our past Newsletters:

Date	Measure	Disposition
March 14	Suspension of certain flights and cruise ships for 30 days. Access: https://bit.ly/3ag5xLL	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.
March 17	The President addresses the nation. Access: https://bit.ly/33HpVmC	<p>The President addresses the nation and announces several measures, including the following: <i>Commercial activities are suspended for the next 15 days</i>, 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.</p> <p><i>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.</i> 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. [...]</p> <p><i>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 [...].</i></p> <p><i>Likewise, we have decided to close the country's borders by land, sea, and air, for the next 15 days [...]</i></p> <p>These measures came into effect on Thursday, March 19.</p>
March 18	President of the High Level Commission on COVID-19 (the "Commission") addresses the Nation. Access: https://bit.ly/2Ueg58M	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: 1) businesses which provide basic necessities for the population, grocery stores, supermarkets, pharmacies, gas stations, and commercial establishments which sell raw or cooked foods; 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 [...].

<p>March 18</p>	<p>Resolution No. 007/2020 issued by the Ministry of Labor.</p> <p>Access: https://bit.ly/2Jb86mo</p>	<p>Ministry of Labor issues Resolution No. 007/2020, which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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; • 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); • 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; • Strongly recommends isolation measures for vulnerable employees; • Urges employees to assume a collaborative attitude in order to facilitate reasonable understandings with employers regarding the implementation of this resolution; • Recommends flexible measures that do not interfere with a businesses’ production nor its employees’ salaries.
<p>March 19</p>	<p>Congress issues resolution authorizing the President of the Republic to declare a State of Emergency throughout the Dominican territory.</p> <p>Access: https://bit.ly/3bwPERB</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>March 19</p>	<p>Presidential Decree No. 132-20</p> <p>Access: https://bit.ly/33HwHc2</p>	<p>President issues Decree No. 132-20, which confirms the High Level Commission for the Prevention and Control of COVID-19.</p>
<p>March 19</p>	<p>Presidential Decree No. 134-20</p> <p>Access: https://bit.ly/2xjle58</p>	<p>President issues Decree No. 134-20, which declares a state of national emergency for 25 days.</p>
<p>March 20</p>	<p>Presidential Decree No. 135-20</p> <p>Access: https://bit.ly/2WEITKo</p>	<p>President issues Decree No. 135-20, which declares the application of a nationwide curfew from 8:00 P.M. to 6:00 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.</p>

March 20	Resolution No. 058-2020 issued by the Ministry of Public Administration. Access: https://bit.ly/2UusOTv	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: https://bit.ly/2UusOTv	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: https://bit.ly/2xfxXHb	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: https://bit.ly/2JbweW8	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: https://bit.ly/2UusOTv	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	<p>The President addresses the nation and announces the following measures: <i>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.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>These measures, as well as those in the "Stay at Home" program, will remain in effect, as of now, from April 1st, to May 31st [...].</i></p>
March 26	Presidential Decree No. 138-20 Access: https://bit.ly/3bumsud	This decree modifies the application of a nationwide curfew, so that the new schedule is from 5:00pm to 6:00am. 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.

<p>March 26</p>	<p>Address by the High Level Presidential Commission on COVID-19 (the "Commission").</p> <p>Access: https://bit.ly/3bwkucV</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>March 26</p>	<p>Address by the High Level Presidential Commission on COVID-19 (the "Commission").</p> <p>Access: https://bit.ly/2Uohzx8</p>	<p>The Minister of the Treasury, speaking as coordinator of the High Level Presidential Commission on COVID-19, referred to the #StayAtHome and FASE programs: <i>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.</i></p> <p><i>[...] 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.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p>
<p>March 27</p>	<p>Press Conference with the Central Bank and the Monetary Board on COVID-19 measures.</p> <p>Access: https://bit.ly/2QMT0Yn</p>	<p>The Central Bank and Monetary Board laid out new measures aimed at increasing the flow of resources to homes.</p>
<p>March 27</p>	<p>Speech by the COVID-19 High Level Presidential Commission (the "Commission").</p> <p>Access: https://bit.ly/2UzqUIU</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>March 31</p>	<p>Speech by the COVID-19 High Level Presidential Commission (the "Commission").</p> <p>Access: https://bit.ly/2wWT80W</p>	<p>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 cyber-crime.</p>
<p>March 31</p>	<p>Presidential Decree No. 140-20</p> <p>Access: https://bit.ly/2R8tgGl</p>	<p>Decree appointing Amado Alejandro Báez as advisor to the Executive Branch on public health and mass emergencies.</p>
<p>April 1</p>	<p>Presidential Decree No. 141-20</p> <p>Access: https://bit.ly/2UV0gTw</p>	<p>Decree forming the COVID-19 Emergency and Health Management Committee.</p>

April 2	<p>Presidential Decree No. 142-20</p> <p>Access: https://bit.ly/2X3PKMd</p>	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 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 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	<p>Presidential Decree No. 143-20</p> <p>Access: https://bit.ly/2Rh8UdS</p>	Decree creating the Employee Solidarity Assistance Fund ("FASE"). This Decree stipulates that its creation is aimed at assisting formal employees in the private sector.
April 2	<p>Presidential Decree No. 144-20</p> <p>Access: https://bit.ly/2x9k8dx</p>	Modification to Decree 133-20, to include institutions to the emergency public purchase dispositions.
April 2	<p>Presidential Request for State of Emergency Extension</p> <p>Access: https://bit.ly/3e5tM1N</p>	The President asked the National Congress to approve the extension of the State of Emergency, scheduled to last until 13 April, for an additional 25 days.
April 4	<p>Registration instructions for FASE</p> <p>Access: https://bit.ly/3e2jqPO</p>	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	<p>Presidential Decree No. 145-20</p> <p>Access: https://bit.ly/2RgscjE</p>	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	<p>Senate Approval of the Request for Extension of the State of Emergency</p> <p>Access: https://bit.ly/2XcVp2D</p>	The Senate approved the extension of the State of Emergency for an additional 25 days.
April 9	<p>Chamber of Deputies Approval of the Request for Extension of the State of Emergency</p> <p>Access: https://bit.ly/2RpOPCn</p>	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	<p>Second Senate's Approval of the Request for Extension of the State of Emergency</p> <p>Access: https://bit.ly/2Ka3TQF</p>	The Senate approved the extension of the State of Emergency for an additional 17 days, according to the Chamber of Deputies' proposal.