

This NL is based on the legislative framework in force on the date of its publication. TTA will update the information in this NL when necessary and if additional regulations are published on the measures to contain the spread of the new Coronavirus that is responsible for the COVID-19 pandemic.

MOZAMBIQUE

Global Vision, Local Experience.

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CORONAVIRUS: SITUATION OF PUBLIC CALAMITY

This newsletter takes a comparative approach by focusing only on the issues changed by Decree 62/2021 of 27 August with reference to Decree 56/2021 of 13 August.

I. BACKGROUND:

Decree 62/2021 of 27 August came into force on 28 August of this year. Like several others before it, including Decree 50/2021 of 16 July, it maintained the Situation of Calamity and revised the measures to contain the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic while the situation of calamity lasts.

This newsletter takes a comparative approach by focusing only on the issues changed by Decree 62/2021 of 27 August with reference to Decree 56/2021 of 13 August.

II. CHANGES TO THE RULES:

■ Classes:

This is the first change that has been made. Under Decree 56/2021, of 13 August, in-person classes were suspended in primary, secondary, technical training, teacher training, vocational training and higher education institutions. This applied to the cities of Maputo, Matola, Xai-Xai, Inhambane, Maxixe, Chimoio, Tete, Beira and Dondo, the district of Boane and the villages of Moamba, Marracuene, Manhiça, Massinga and Vilanculos. Under the above Decree, as an exception, exams could be held in person, subject to observance of all the measures of the protocol issued by the health authorities to prevent the spread of Covid-19. Care has also been taken to safeguard the situation of students unable to attend classes given remotely. To achieve this, when classes resume, the syllabus will go back to the date when classes were suspended. Under the current Decree 62/2021 of 27 August, the resumption of classes in person was authorised in the same educational institutions and throughout the country.

Both Decrees established that, depending on the development of the epidemiological situation and the capacity to comply with the prevention measures recommended by the authorities, some teaching institutions or regions of the country could interrupt their teaching activities or start them at a later date. However, the Decree now in force has added that this may only be done with the proper authorisation from the supervisory body at central level, that is, the Ministry or Secretary of State, in conjunction with the health sector.

■ Public and private events and commercial leisure and similar establishments:

Under Decree 56/2021 of 13 August, casinos, museums, cinemas, galleries and similar establishments were all closed. Under the current decree, only casinos have been reopened, and these must observe the health protocol issued by the health authorities.

The shopping centres operate from 9 am to 6 pm from Mondays to Saturdays, and from 9 am to 5 pm on Sundays and public holidays and other occasional non-working days. The opening hours of the other commercial and services establishments are from 9 am to 6 pm, and they are closed on Sundays, public holidays and other occasional non-working days.

Regarding gyms, Decree 56/2021 of 13 August ordered the closure of the gyms for multi-purpose, large and medium-sized classes. However, the current decree authorises them to open, but they must respect a maximum capacity of 25% and 10%, respectively.

The opening hours of shopping centres have also been changed. Under Decree 56/2021 of 13 July, shopping centres operated from 9 am to 4 pm from Monday to Saturday and from 9 am to 3 pm on Sundays, public holidays and other occasional non-working days. However, under Decree 62/2021 of 27 August, shopping centres operate from 9 am to 6 pm from Mondays to Saturdays, and from 9 am to 5 pm on Sundays and public holidays and other occasional non-working days. The opening hours of the other commercial and services establishments are from 9 am to 6 pm, and they are closed on Sundays, public holidays and other occasional non-working days.

Restaurant, take away and home delivery services must operate in strict compliance with the measures to prevent and combat the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic. They can open from 6 am to 8 pm. The maximum capacity per table in restaurants must not exceed four people per table at a distance of 1.5 metres. In contrast, under Decree 56/2021 of 13 August, restaurants could only stay open until 6 pm.

Finally, while bakeries and pastry shops, including convenience stores, could only operate from 5 am to 6 pm, the current Decree has determined that they can now operate from 6 am to 7 pm.

■ The compulsory curfew, state meetings and events and the functioning of public and private institutions:

A change has been made to the scope and period of the curfew. Under Decree 56/2021 of 13 August, the curfew was in force from 9 pm to 4 am. In contrast, the subsequent Decree 62/2021 of 27 August changed the start of the curfew to 10 pm, so it will now be in force from 10 pm to 4 am.

Regarding meetings in public and private institutions, Decree 56/2021 of 13 August authorised a maximum of 15 and 30 people in closed and open spaces, respectively, while not exceeding 20% of the venue's capacity. However, under the current decree, the numbers are 25 and 50 people in closed and open spaces, respectively, and they also may not exceed 20% of the venue's capacity.

The last change is to the opening hours of public and private institutions. Under the previous law, opening hours were from 8 am to 2 pm, but the current decree has restored the normal public service opening hours, which are from 7:30 am to 3 pm.