



LEGAL UPDATE

VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONAL RESTRUCTURING: CENTRAL AND LOCAL STREAMLINING BEFORE AND AFTER THE 2025 REFORM

1. Introduction

In December 2024, the Vietnamese government issued Plan No. 141/KH-BCĐTKNQ18 (“**Plan 141**”) and related reports aimed at restructuring and streamlining its organizational apparatus. Key points include:

1.1. Objective

Create a more streamlining and effective governmental structure.¹

1.2. Approach

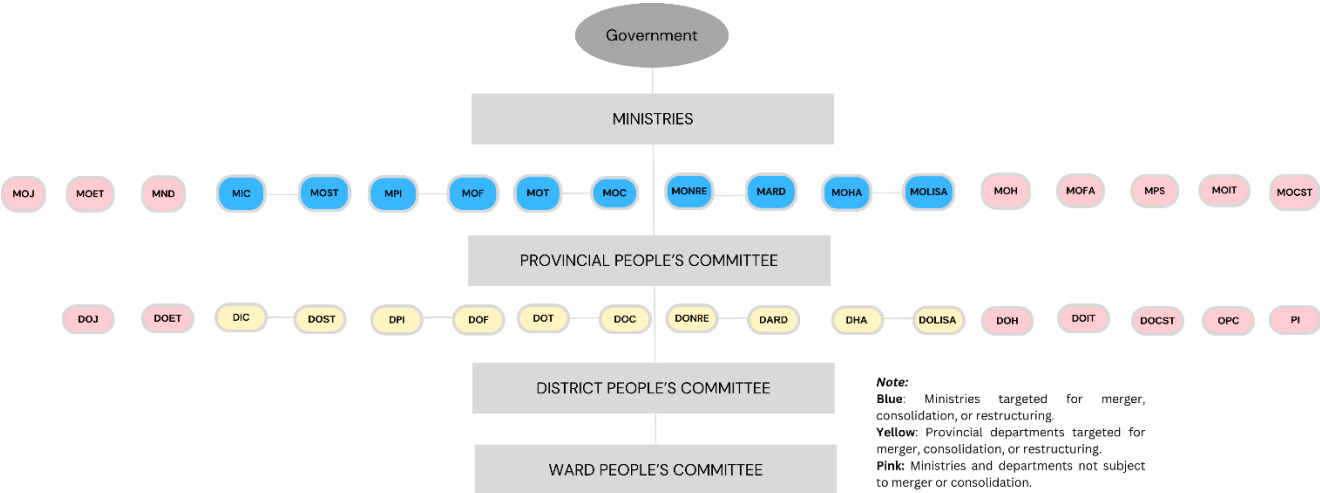
- Organize multi-sector ministries to handle diverse tasks while assigning specific lead agencies to take charge of these tasks.
- Reduce internal units within ministries and ministerial-level agencies by 15-20%, phasing out the general department model.²

1.3. Legal basis

- At the governmental level: Plan 141 dated 6 December 2024 and Report No. 219/BC-BNV dated 11 January 2025 on Supplementing and Finalizing the Plan for Restructuring and Streamlining the Government's Organizational Apparatus issued on 11 Jan 2025 by Ministry of Home Affairs.
- At the provincial level: Official Dispatch No. 24/CV-BCĐTKNQ18 dated 18 December 2024 regarding Directions and Suggestions on Arranging and Organizing Specialized Agencies under Provincial and District People's Committees and Official Dispatch No. 05/CV-BCĐTKNQ18 dated 12 January 2025 regarding Supplementation and Finalization of the Plan for Arranging and Organizing Specialized Agencies under Provincial and District People's Committees.

2. Government Apparatus Before & After Streamlining

2.1 Before the Reform



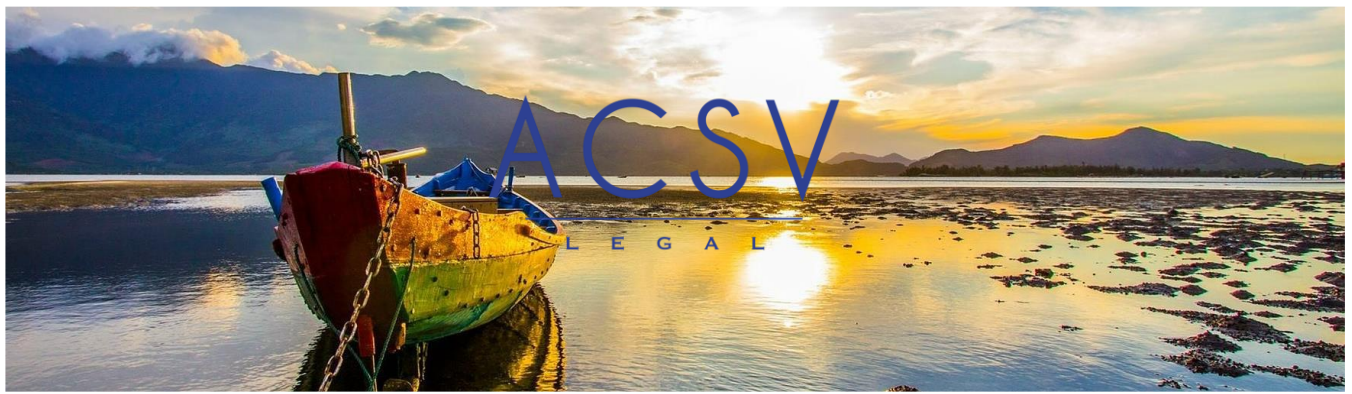
Graphic 1: Government Ministries and Provincial Departments Before Restructuring

¹ Section I.1 of Plan 141.

² "Government Policy Planning for Streamlining and Organizing the Administrative Apparatus of the Government." *Government Policy*

Development Portal. Accessed in February 2025.

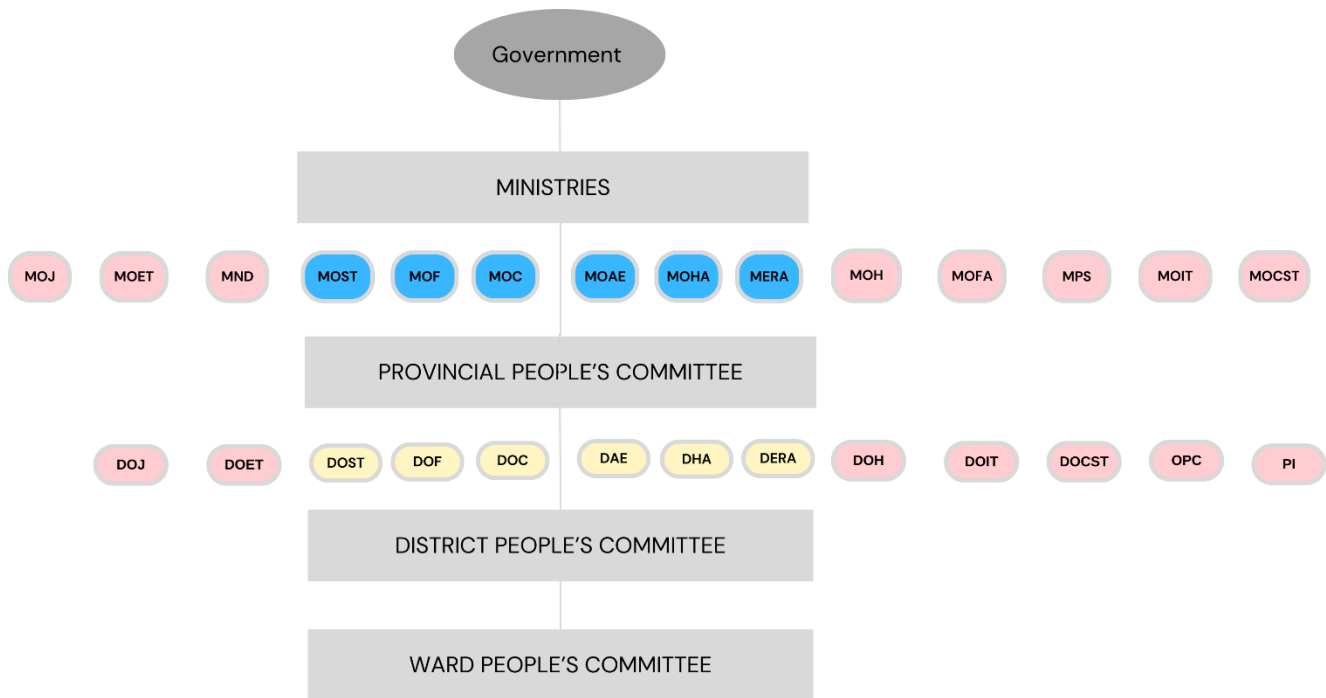
<https://xaydungchinhhsach.chinhphu.vn/ke-hoach-dinh-huong-sap-xep-tinh-gon-to-chuc-bo-may-cua-chinh-phu-119241207085647441.htm>.



<i>Abbreviation</i>	<i>Full Name / Explanation</i>
Ministries	
MND	Ministry of National Defence
MPS	Ministry of Public Security
MOFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MOJ	Ministry of Justice
MOF	Ministry of Finance
MOIT	Ministry of Industry and Trade
MOLISA	Ministry of Labour, War invalids and Social Affairs
MOT	Ministry of Transport
MOC	Ministry of Construction
MIC	Ministry of Information and Communications
MOET	Ministry of Education and Training
MARD	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MPI	Ministry of Planning and Investment
MOHA	Ministry of Home Affairs
MOH	Ministry of Health
MOST	Ministry of Science and Technology
MOCST	Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism
MONRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
Departments	
DOJ	Department of Justice
DOET	Department of Education and Training
DIC	Department of Information and Communications
DOST	Department of Science and Technology
DPI	Department of Planning and Investment
DOF	Department of Finance
DOT	Department of Transport
DOC	Department of Construction
DONRE	Department of Natural Resources and Environment
DARD	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
DHA	Department of Home Affairs
DOLISA	Department of Labor, Invalids, and Social Affairs
DOH	Department of Health
DOIT	Department of Industry and Trade
DOCST	Department of Culture, Sports, and Tourism
OPC	Office of the Provincial Committee
PI	Provincial Inspectorate



2.2 After the Reform



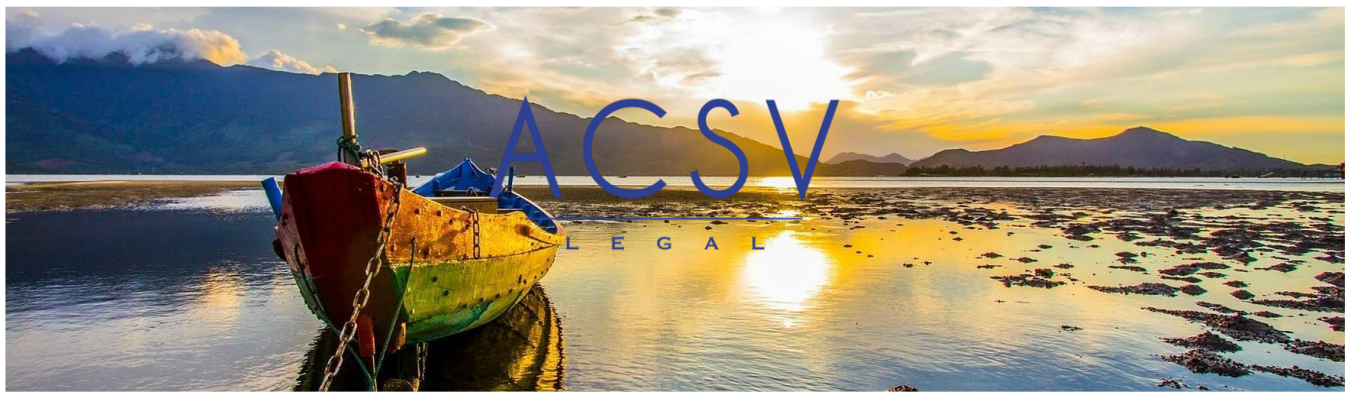
Graphic 2: Government Ministries and Provincial Departments After Restructuring

2.2.1 Responsibilities of Ministries and Agencies after Restructuring

No	Merged Ministries	New Ministry Name	Responsibilities After Consolidation	Notes
1.	Ministry of Planning and Investment AND Ministry of Finance	Ministry of Finance (MOF) ³	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manages state finances, budgeting, and economic development. Takes over management of 18 state-owned enterprises previously under the Commission for the Management of State Capital at Enterprises (CMSC). The CMSC will be dissolved, with its functions transferred to this ministry. Oversees Vietnam Social Security as an independent agency within the ministry. 	N/A
2.	Ministry of Transport AND Ministry of Construction	Ministry of Construction (MOC) ⁴	Oversees state management functions previously handled by both ministries.	N/A

³ Item I.1 of Report 219/BC-BNV

⁴ Item I.3 of Report 219/BC-BNV



3.	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment AND Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	Ministry of Agriculture and Environment (MOAE) ⁵	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Oversees agriculture, forestry, fisheries, rural development, natural resources, and environmental protection. - Takes over the State management poverty reduction from the Ministry of Labor, War Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA). 	N/A
4.	Ministry of Information and Communications AND Ministry of Science and Technology	Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) ⁶	Oversees state management functions previously handled by both ministries.	N/A
5.	Ministry of Labor, War Invalids, and Social Affairs AND Ministry of Home Affairs	Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA) ⁷	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Performs the current functions and tasks of the Ministry of Home Affairs. - Manages labor, wages, employment, meritorious people, occupational safety and hygiene, social insurance, and gender equality of the MOLISA. - Transfers the State management on vocational education to Ministry of Education and Training (MOET). 	N/A
6.	N/A	Ministry of Ethnic and Religious Affairs (MERA) ⁸	MERA will be established on the foundation of the current Committee for Ethnic Minority Affairs (CEMA), which also takes over the state management tasks related to religious affairs.	Take over these responsibilities from MOHA.

Transfer of Responsibilities

No	Current Responsible Agency	Function/Task Transferred	New Responsible Agency	Notes
1.	Ministry of Transport (MOT)	Testing and granting of road motor vehicle driving licenses ⁹	Ministry of Public Security (MPS)	N/A

⁵ Please refer: <https://english.thesaigontimes.vn/government-to-have-14-ministries-and-three-agencies-after-restructuring/>

⁶ Item I.4 of Report 219/BC-BNV

⁷ Item I.2 of Report 219/BC-BNV

⁸ Item I.6 of Report 219/BC-BNV

⁹ Item II.2.(2.1).(c) of Report 219/BC-BNV



2.	Ministry of Information and Communications (MIC)	State management of press and publishing ¹⁰	Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Tourism (MOCST)	N/A
3.	Department of Justice (DOJ)	Management of criminal records and public services for issuing criminal records ¹¹	Ministry of Public Security (MPS)	N/A

2.2.2 Implementation Process and Timeline

Step	Description	Deadline
Submission of Restructuring Proposals ¹²	Ministries, ministerial-level agencies, and government agencies to complete restructuring proposals, including draft decrees, and send them to the Ministry of Home Affairs.	Before 15 January 2025
Submission of draft decrees on organizational restructuring in relation to 6 Agencies ¹³	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agencies: Government Office, Vietnam Television, Vietnam News Agency, Voice of Vietnam, Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences, Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology. - Submit draft decrees on functions, tasks, and structures directly to the Government or the governing ministries. 	Before 20 January 2025
Central Executive Committee Meeting ¹⁴	The Central Executive Committee shall hold a discussion upon the request from the Ministry of National Defence to implement the Restructuring Proposals.	23-24 January 2025
National Assembly Meeting ¹⁵	The National Assembly Meeting Session is expected to discuss and approve various legislative matters regarding the Restructuring Proposals from the National Assembly.	12-17 February 2025
Submission of draft decrees on organizational restructuring in relation to 14 Ministries and Branches ¹⁶	14 Ministries and Branches include: Ministry of Finance (after merger); Ministry of Construction (after merger), Ministry of Agriculture and Environment; Ministry of Science and Technology (after merger); Ministry of Home Affairs (after merger); Ministry of Ethnic Minorities and Religions; Ministry of Industry and Trade; Ministry of Justice; Ministry of Culture, Sports and	After 24 January 2025

¹⁰ Item II.1.(1.1) of Report 219/BC-BNV

¹¹ Item II.2.(2.1).(b) of Report 219/BC-BNV

¹² Item IV.1 of Report 219/BC-BNV

¹³ Item IV.2 of Report 219/BC-BNV

¹⁴ Item IV of Report 219/BC-BNV

¹⁵ Item IV.3 of Report 219/BC-BNV

¹⁶ Item IV.3 of Report 219/BC-BNV



	Tourism; Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Education and Training; Ministry of Health; State Bank of Vietnam; Government Inspectorate.	
Issuance of decrees on organizational restructuring in relation to 14 Ministries and Branches ¹⁷	14 Ministries and Branches include: Ministry of Finance (after merger); Ministry of Construction (after merger), Ministry of Agriculture and Environment; Ministry of Science and Technology (after merger),; Ministry of Home Affairs (after merger); Ministry of Ethnic Minorities and Religions; Ministry of Industry and Trade; Ministry of Justice; Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism; Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Education and Training; Ministry of Health; State Bank of Vietnam; Government Inspectorate.	After 17 February 2025
Issuance of decrees on organizational restructuring in relation to Ministry of Public Security and Ministry of National Defense ¹⁸	Implementation as per specific directions from the Politburo.	As per Politburo's decision
Ministry of Finance - Legal amendments ¹⁹	Finalize amendments to the Law on Management and Use of State Capital Invested in Production and Business at Enterprises for the National Assembly to discuss and pass.	12-17 February 2025

2.2.3 Responsibilities of Departments at the Provincial Level after the Restructuring

No	Merged Departments	New Departments Name	Responsibilities Consolidation After	Notes
1.	Department of Planning and Investment AND Ministry of Finance ²⁰	Department of Finance (DOF) ²¹	Performs the original functions and tasks of both departments.	N/A
2.	Department of Transport AND	Department of Construction (DOC) ²³	Performs the original functions and tasks of both departments.	N/A

¹⁷ Item IV.3 of Report 219/BC-BNV

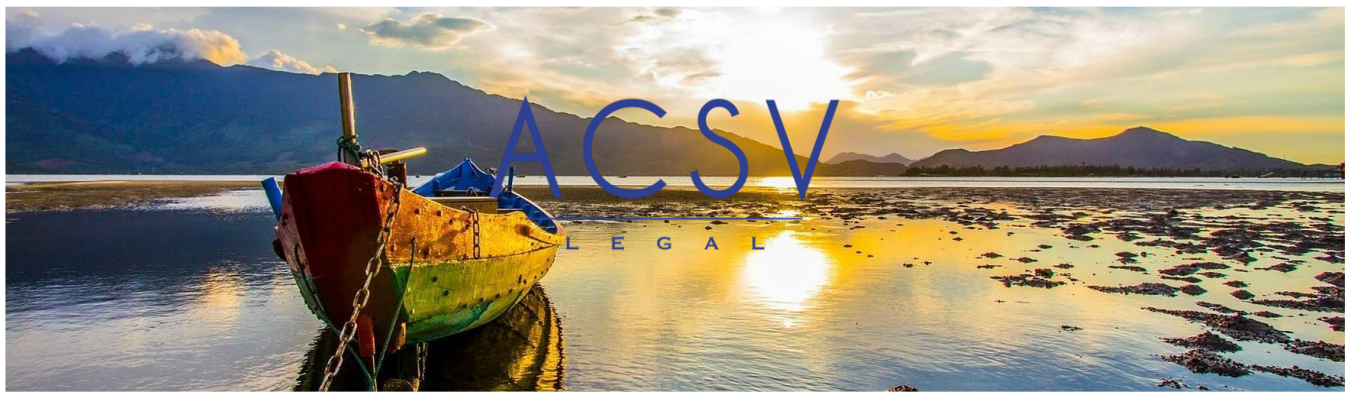
¹⁸ Item IV.4 of Report 219/BC-BNV

¹⁹ Item IV.5 of Report 219/BC-BNV

²⁰ Item II.(1.2).(1) of Official Dispatch No. 24/CV-BCĐTKNQ18

²¹ Item I.1.(1.1) of Official Dispatch No. 05/CV-BCĐTKNQ18

²³ Item I.1.(1.3) of Official Dispatch No. 05/CV-BCĐTKNQ18



	Department of Construction ²²			
3.	Department of Natural Resources and Environment AND Department of Agriculture and Rural Development ²⁴	Department of Agriculture and Environment (DAE) ²⁵	Performs the original functions and tasks of both departments.	N/A
4.	Department of Information and Communications AND Department of Science and Technology ²⁶	Department of Science and Technology (DOST) ²⁷	Performs the original functions and tasks of both departments.	N/A
5.	Department of Labor, War Invalids and Social Affairs AND Department of Home Affairs ²⁸	Department of Home Affairs (DHA) ²⁹	Manage and advise on home affairs and manages labor, wages, employment, meritorious people, occupational safety and hygiene, social insurance, and gender equality.	Combines governance and labor management under one unified department
6.	N/A	Department of Ethnic and Religious Affairs (DERA) ³⁰	Manages state functions for ethnic and religious affairs which are transferred from the Department of Home Affairs.	N/A

Transfer of Responsibilities

No	Current Responsible Agency	Function/Task Transferred	New Responsible Agency	Notes
1.	Ministry of Industry and Trade	The Department of Market Management under the Ministry of Industry and Trade will be reorganized into the Branch of Market Management under the	Department of Industry and Trade	N/A

²² Item II.(1.2).(2) of Official Dispatch No. 24/CV-BCDTKNQ18

²⁴ Item II.(1.2).(3) of Official Dispatch No. 24/CV-BCDTKNQ18

²⁵ Item I.1.(1.7) of Official Dispatch No. 05/CV-BCDTKNQ18

²⁶ Item II.(1.2).(4) of Official Dispatch No. 24/CV-BCDTKNQ18

²⁷ Item I.1.(1.4) of Official Dispatch No. 05/CV-BCDTKNQ18

²⁸ Item II.(1.2).(5) of Official Dispatch No. 24/CV-BCDTKNQ18

²⁹ Item I.1.(1.2) of Official Dispatch No. 05/CV-BCDTKNQ18

³⁰ Item I.1.(1.6) of Official Dispatch No. 05/CV-BCDTKNQ18



		Department of Industry and Trade ³¹		
2.	Department of Information and Communications	State management of press and publishing ³²	Department of Culture, Sports and Tourism	N/A
	Department of Labor, War Invalids and Social Affairs	State management of poverty reduction ³³	Department of Agriculture and Environment	At the district level, state management of poverty reduction would be transferred to the Department of Agriculture and Environment or Natural Resources.
		State management of social protection, children, and prevention of social evils ³⁴	Department of Health	Excludes drug addiction treatment, which is transferred to the provincial Public Security Department.
3.	Department of Justice	State management of criminal records and public services for issuing criminal records ³⁵	Public Security of the province/centrally run cities	N/A
4.	Department of Transport	Testing and issuing road motor vehicle driving licenses ³⁶	Public Security of the province/centrally-run cities	N/A

3. Changes in the In-Charge Governing Authorities for Common Licensing Work

License/Approval/Consent	Current Responsible Authority	New Responsible Authority
Investment Registration Certificate (IRC)	Department of Planning and Investment (DPI) ³⁷	Department of Finance (DOF) ³⁸

³¹ Item II.(1.3).(3) of Official Dispatch No. 24/CV-BCĐTKNQ18

³² Item II.1 of Official Dispatch No. 05/CV-BCĐTKNQ18

³³ Item II.2 of Official Dispatch No. 05/CV-BCĐTKNQ18

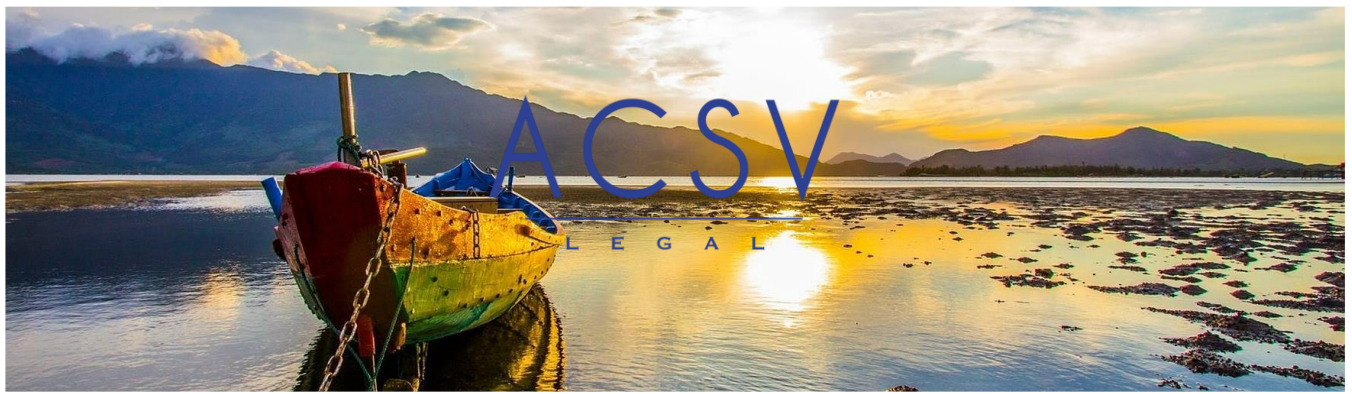
³⁴ Item II.3 of Official Dispatch No. 05/CV-BCĐTKNQ18

³⁵ Item II.5 of Official Dispatch No. 05/CV-BCĐTKNQ18

³⁶ Item II.6 of Official Dispatch No. 05/CV-BCĐTKNQ18

³⁷ Article 39 of Investment Law 2020 and Article 34 of Decree 31/2021

³⁸ Item I.1.(1.1) of Official Dispatch No. 05/CV-BCĐTKNQ18



Enterprise Registration Certificate (ERC)	DPI ³⁹	DOF ⁴⁰
Labor Internal Regulations	DOLISA ⁴¹	DHA ⁴²
Retail License	DOIT ⁴³	DOIT (unchanged) ⁴⁴

The effective date of the proposed changes to the organizational apparatus has not yet been specified, as the restructuring plan is still underway. Currently, no official regulations or legal documents have been issued by competent authorities to formalize the restructuring or reorganization. It is anticipated that the National Assembly Meeting, scheduled for **12-17 February 2025**, will provide comments and feedback to guide the finalization of this process.⁴⁵

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³⁹ Article 14, Decree 01/2021

⁴⁰ Item I.1.(1.1) of Official Dispatch No. 05/CV-BCĐTKNQ18

⁴¹ Article 119 of Labour Code 2019

⁴² Item I.1.(1.2) of Official Dispatch No. 05/CV-BCĐTKNQ18

⁴³ Article 8 of Decree 09/2018/ND-CP

⁴⁴ Item I.1.(1.7) of Official Dispatch No. 05/CV-BCĐTKNQ18

⁴⁵ Please refer: <https://vietnamnews.vn/politics-laws/1690553/internal-restructuring-plans-to-be-completed-for-review-within-january.html>