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## GOOD NEWS FOR INVESTORS: CAMBODIA MOVES MORE LICENSING PROCEDURES ONLINE

### Single online portal

As part of a wider enhancement of digital public services, and to improve the business and investment environment, the Royal Government of Cambodia launched Phase 2 of its online business registration platform, known as the “**Single Portal**,” on 1 September 2021.

The move comes a little over a year after Phase 1 of Single Portal went live on 15 June 2020, whereby manual entity registration processes with the following authorities were integrated into one online process:

- Ministry of Commerce (“**MOC**”)
- General Department of Taxation (“**GDT**”)
- Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training (“**MLVT**”)

As of August 2021, 7,715 companies have been registered through Single Portal, representing a total capital of approximately US\$3 billion among the top-five sectors, which are construction, automotive, real estate, manufacturing, and finance and insurance.

### Additional licensing processes available online

Under Phase 2, businesses can apply for operating licenses from the following four additional government authorities:

- Ministry of Industry, Sciences, Technologies and Innovation (“**MISTI**”)
- Ministry of Tourism (“**MOT**”)
- Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications (“**MPTC**”)
- Non-Bank Financial Services Authority (“**FSA**”)

Specialized operating licenses (see the table below) can be applied for via [www.registrationservices.gov.kh](http://www.registrationservices.gov.kh), the business registration website of the relevant government authority, or the CamDigiKey mobile application. It should be noted that payment of fees is also done online, and the license/approval is then issued in digital form.

As information is shared across Single Portal, entities that have already processed their business registration through Phase 1 of Single Portal with the MOC, GDT, and MLVT will not need to fill in all of their details again. They can simply log in using their company ID (their “**Single ID**”) obtained from Single Portal; the application form will then be populated automatically.

In addition, the turnaround time for review and issuance has significantly decreased for licenses and approvals that can be applied for through Phase 2 of Single Portal:

Government authority	License/Approval	Previous time estimate	New estimated timeframe (Single Portal phase 2)
MISTI	License to establish small and medium enterprises with active capital of less than US\$1 million	15 working days	3 working days
MOT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tour operator and travel agent tourism license</li> <li>Hotel and accommodation license</li> <li>Restaurant tourism license</li> </ul>	28 working days	7 working days
MPTC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>License/certificate/permit to operate in the information and communication technology sector</li> <li>License/certificate/permit to operate in the postal sector</li> </ul>	30 working days	7 working days
FSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>License for a pawnshop business (small size lending against asset security)</li> </ul>	30 working days	7 working days

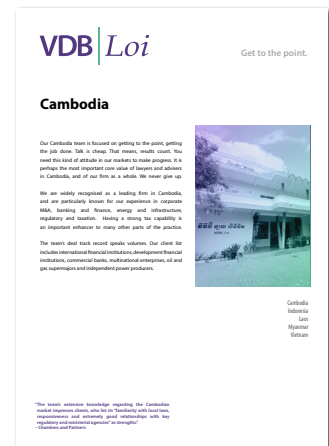
Following the progress made with Single Portal, expanding its use to other government authorities should be anticipated in the near future.



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