

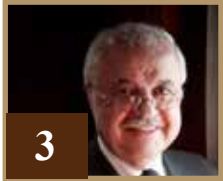
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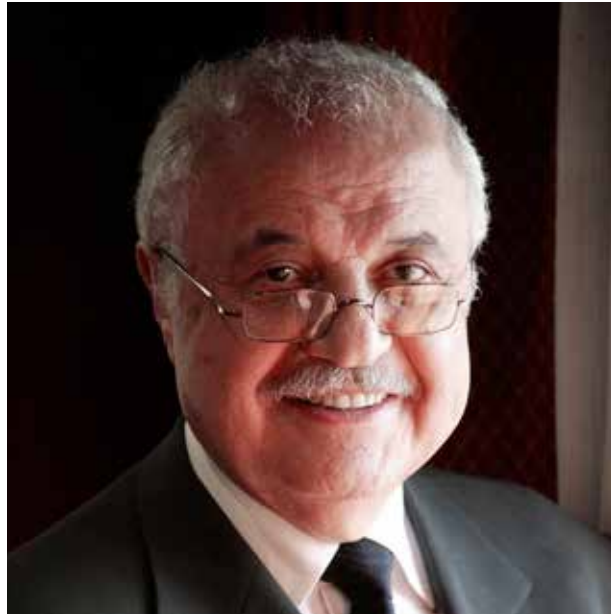


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# Abu-Ghazaleh: Corona Epidemic Enforces Jordanian Economy to Adopt ‘Self-reliance’ Slogan



**AMMAN** – International economic expert, HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, founder and chairman of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Global (TAG.Global), affirmed that Jordan, unlike in other countries where prompt measures were tardy, managed to deal with the Coronavirus pandemic effectively and successfully. He pointed out that Jordan adhered to the World Health Organization (WHO) commitments by fully implementing the precautionary measures outlined in the Organization’s Protocol including ‘Quarantine and Social Distancing’.

Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh’s remarks were part of his participation in a virtual dialogue session with the American University in Cairo (AUC) Alumni, organized by the President of the AUC-Alumni Chapter in Jordan, Eng. Mahmoud Obeid on the occasion of the University’s 75th Anniversary. The dialogue theme was the Corona epidemic and its economic and political consequences, in addition to reviewing possible strategies for overcoming the crisis in light of the many political global repercussions.

Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh stated that this epidemic, which took the whole world by surprise without any prior warning will unquestionably be defeated, and a vaccine will undoubtedly be developed. But he further pointed out that “we have to expect the global economy to shrink and global monetary and financial issues to remain in turmoil, and that would force governments to think about the post-corona era with the aim of fixing economic tracks, imposing additional responsibilities and enacting laws to fill the gaps that the Corona crisis has revealed, particularly in the existing provisions of public law.

Regarding the impact of the Corona crisis on the economic situation Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh tackled the challenges imposed by this stage and how to benefit from the opportunities such challenges may create. Referring to the Jordanian economy as an example he said that Jordan’s national income relies on inflow of direct foreign aid and remittances of Jordanian expatriates at a percentage that reaches 10% which was utilized in creating job opportunities

and providing various services. He noted that the unemployment rate in the public sector, (that constitute 42% of the country's labor force), has reached 19% as a whole, but it reached 30% among the youth.

With the oil price fall to less than \$30 in 2016, and [today] to probably \$25 after Corona crisis, Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh believes that Jordan would not get any foreign aid to support its budget. Thus, the crisis would add additional negative repercussions to an already deteriorating economic situation. He indicated that the public debt to gross domestic product rate has almost reached 100% which is dangerous , therefore, 'self-reliance' should be our slogan in the upcoming phases.

Furthermore, Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh stressed that since we are encountering a set of economic burdens, though with limited capabilities and resources, we are required to build a medium-term economic plan towards economic recovery, even if this necessitates increasing government spending on the most affected sectors and individuals; and even if it results in a temporary increase in public debt. Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh also emphasized the need for restoring citizens' trust in their governments to work together in setting plans that are acceptable by all for the reason of sharing and bearing their economic consequences, if any.

It's worth mentioning that HM Queen Rania Al Abdullah II is the Honorary President of the American University in Cairo – Alumni Forum in Jordan and HE Dr. Jawad Anani, is the President of its Board of Trustees. The Forum that includes more than 200 political, national, economic social and intellectual figures, hosts national personalities to discuss important issues on the international, regional and Arab scene.

# Jordan Grants Extension to Legal Deadlines Concerning IP Transactions



**AMMAN** – The Registrar of Trademarks, Patents and Industrial Designs at the Industrial Property Protection Directorate (IPPD), Ministry of Industry and Trade in Jordan decided to provide extension to legal deadlines for some Intellectual Property (IP) transactions as follows:

- Completion of the filing procedures or responses related to grant, registration, change or extension and payment of publication or renewal fees; in addition to priorities and receiving original certified documents related to trademarks, patents (local and international) and industrial designs and models for two months starting May 31, 2020.
- Extension period of patent applications filed during the lockdown entered into force starting May 31, 2020.
- Fines for delay of patents due for renewal during the period (March 18 - May 30) will not be issued. An extension period of two months has been granted, starting May 31, 2020.
- Priority right will be extended in conformity with the afore-mentioned extensions, adding a two-month period to the priority date as appropriate.
- Legal periods for litigation that were suspended on March 18, 2020 started on May 31, 2020, bearing in mind that the legal periods falling between these two dates have not been calculated within the granted legal periods. Attorney will be duly notified of the date of sessions.
- Original applications and documents shall be retained, until duly claimed by the registrar.

For more information, please contact AGIP Jordan office at [jordan@agip.com](mailto:jordan@agip.com)

# Oman to Allow Expats Change Jobs without Two-year Ban



**MUSCAT** - Expatriate employees in Oman will be allowed to change their jobs as per the new decision issued by the Royal Oman Police (ROP). The decision will be implemented starting January 2021.

His Excellency Lieutenant-General Hassan bin Mohsen al Shariqi, Inspector General of Police and Customs, has issued Decree 157/2020 amending some provisions of the executive regulations of the Residence of Foreigners Law, which was published in the Official Gazette.

The ROP decision amended some provisions of the executive regulations of the Foreigners Residence Law, issued by Royal Decree 40/15.

**Article 1** replaces the text of Article (14) of the executive regulations of the aforementioned residence law for foreigners.

The expatriate resident visa may be transferred from one employer to another who has a license to recruit workers, provided the evidence of the expiry of

contract or termination of the employment contract is presented with proof.

There should be an approval of the competent government authority on the second employer's contract with the expatriate, as per the rules.

The transfer of the resident permit of the family members of the expatriates to the new employer will be allowed.

Article 2 states that until the necessary conditions for their residency transfer are met and the transfer procedures are made, the responsibility of the first employer remains valid in everything related to the residence of the expatriate.

Anything that violates this decision is canceled or contradicts its provisions.

Article 3 This decision shall be published in the Official Gazette and will be implemented starting the first of January 2021.

*Source: Oman Observer*

# Sheikh Mohammed Enacts New Data Protection Law for Dubai International Financial Center



**DUBAI** - Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, has enacted the Dubai International Financial Center (DIFC) Data Protection Law No. 5 of 2020.

The law which will come into effect from July 1, 2020, will give businesses a three-month grace period until October 1, to comply with the regulations within it.

It will replace the Data Protection Law DIFC Law No. 1 of 2007 which would remain in effect until the time that the new law comes into effect.

The Board of Directors of the DIFC Authority also issued a new Data Protection Regulations that sets out the procedures for notifications to the Commissioner of Data Protection, accountability, record keeping, fines and adequate jurisdictions for cross-border transfers of personal data, according to a press statement.

The new law combines the best practices from global regulations including the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), and the California Consumer Privacy Act, among others.

The statement added that the Data Protection Law and Regulations provide a framework that will support DIFC's bid for adequacy recognition by the European Commission, the United Kingdom and other jurisdictions, easing data transfer compliance requirements for DIFC businesses.”

“DIFC continues to develop its robust regulatory ecosystem built on the principles of compliance, integrity and security. The enhanced Data Protection Law combines the best practices from world-class data protection laws. By setting out the regulation, DIFC also sets a clear requirement for all organisations to follow global best practice relating to data and privacy,” said Essa Kazim, governor of DIFC.

The new law will also legislate for accountability of Controllers and Processors through compliance programmes, appointing data protection officers, conducting data protection impact assessments and imposing contractual obligations that protect individuals and their personal data.

Enhanced rights of individuals are clarified in terms of data usage by entities that collect and manage personal data, including contractual clarity of such rights when engaging with vendors of emerging technologies such as Blockchain and Artificial Intelligence.

Permit options for cross-border data transfers and special category personal data processing has been removed, and it also promotes appropriate data sharing structures between government authorities.

General fines for serious breaches, administrative fines and maximum fines under the new law have also been outlined.

*Source: Gulf Business*



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