CM ADVOCATES LLP



EXTENSION OF THE TRANSITION PERIOD UNDER THE PUBLIC BENEFITS ORGANIZATIONS ACT

INTRODUCTION

The Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration has extended the transition period under the Public Benefits Organizations Act, 2013 (PBO Act) by a further one (1) year through Gazette Notice No. 6255. The PBO Act, which governs the registration and regulation of public benefits organizations (formerly referred to as NGOs), is yet to be fully implemented.

EXTENSION OF COMPLIANCE DEADLINE FOR PBOS

The new transition period runs from 14th May 2025 to 13th May 2026. PBOs that have not yet registered under the PBO Act now have until 13th May 2026 to comply with the registration requirements. This extension provides affected entities additional time to align their operations with the provisions of the Act. The regulations necessary to implement the PBO Act are currently being developed and have not yet been released. As part of the regulatory process, the government is expected to commence county-level public participation forums between June and July 2025 to gather stakeholder input before finalising the draft regulations.

CONCLUSION

The extension of the transition period provides PBOs with additional time to align with the requirements of the PBO Act. At CM Advocates LLP, we are well-positioned to support organizations through this transition by providing strategic guidance on compliance obligations, reviewing governance structures and assisting with the registration process once the regulations come into effect. We also encourage organizations to stay engaged in the upcoming public participation forums to ensure their perspectives are considered in the final regulatory framework.

HOW WE CAN ASSIST YOU

At CM Advocates, we have an experienced team of lawyers attached to the Charities and Not-for-Profit Organizations practice. We specialize in registration, compliance, tax and governance of charitable institutions, including charitable trusts, foundations and public benefit organizations. We assist in both local and international registrations and advise on related matters such as immigration and global mobility considerations.

Should you have any questions on this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact ***commercial@cmadvocates.com*** or the contributor, **Maureen Odongo** at ***modongo@cmadvocates.com***.

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