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ESSA AL SULAITI LAW FIRM

DOING BUSINESS IN QATAR

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01

ABOUT ESSA AL SULAITI LAW FIRM

Essa Al Sulaiti Law Firm is a full service, reputable institute based in Doha, Qatar. The Law Firm offers a multitude of services in the areas of Corporate, Commercial, Investments, Finance, Construction, Sports, Labour and Criminal. 

Our professional body is composed of an extensive network of motivated and talented Lawyers with more than 30 years of experience at a domestic and international level. We establish, implement and maintain an efficient and effective quality system that meets our objectives.

Our vision is to offer informed advice and a professional legal representation that allows policy makers and boards to achieve their goals while minimizing risks associated with the law. Our firm practices its professional conduct with integrity and fulfils its duty in representing the clients vigorously. We are mindful to our obligations to the administration of justice and resolve problems in a rational, peaceful and efficient manner.



02

INTRODUCTION

Behold our guide to doing business in Qatar, a helpful overview to the main considerations for founding and undertaking a business in the ever-developing State of Qatar. This guide has been prepared by a team of legal experts and aims to provide answers to questions investors face when they decide to think about investing or establishing in Qatar.

Qatar is one of the fastest progressing countries in the world, with a power economy, an abundance of private and public projects, newly developed regulations and laws, which help instigate newly founded companies/investors to establish and prosper.

Essa Al Sulaiti, is a relatively new law firm, but one of the fastest growing Law Firms in the State of Qatar. As a Law firm specialized in Sports law, it is also looking forward to the upcoming 2022 World Cup, where many investors will be seeking to find opportunities in the State of Qatar.

We hope this guide provides you with a clearer understanding of the legal and business side of Qatar.



MR. ESSA MOHAMMED AL SULAITI
FOUNDER & CHAIRMAN



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03

ABOUT QATAR

Qatar is ranked 77th globally on the Ease of Doing Business 2020 index, according to a World Bank report in October 2019. If you are looking at company formation in Qatar, you'll need expert advice in order to make sure that you meet your legal responsibilities and start your business in Qatar on the right foot.

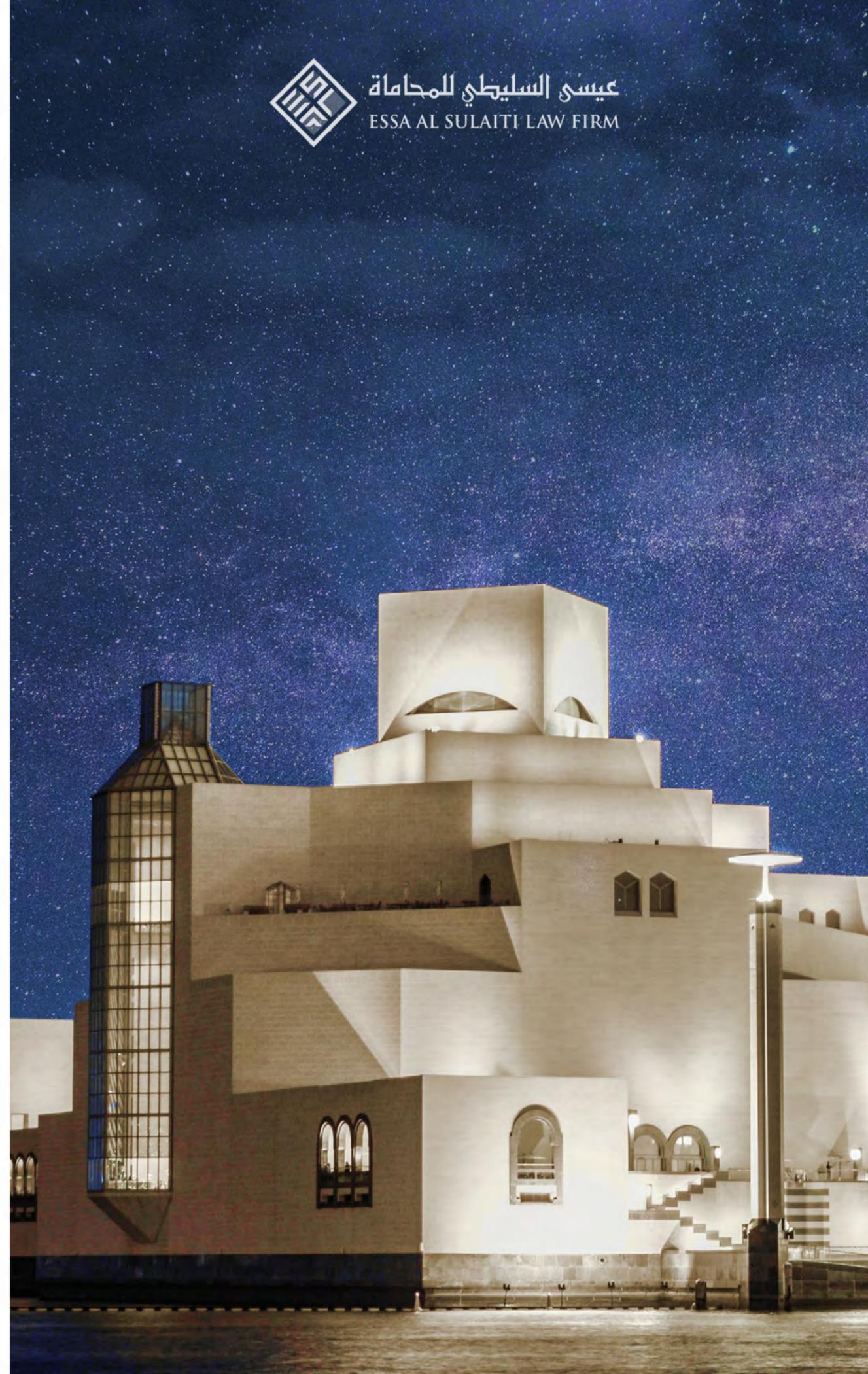
Essa Al Sulaiti's legal team is always all hands-on deck to offer expert advice and help you through every stage of the process. Due to Qatar's economic growth, its government has an encouraging attitude towards foreign business start-ups. There has never been a better time to expand your existing business or to embark on a company formation in Qatar. Conversely, when taking business abroad, the various legal requirements can seem a little overwhelming. However, with our company formation services, advice and solutions, we can ensure that your new business start-up runs smoothly.

In addition to this business start-up and company formation services, Essa al Sulaiti Law Firm also provides consultation services in order to help you establish the most appropriate business type for your offering.

Lastly, it is important to note that during the trade political embargo imposed on Qatar in 2017, Qatar's GDP was forecasted to grow by approximately 2.2% on average until 2021. The country's central bank stated foreign capital inflows "have returned" and "banking liquidity has improved" since the embargo started. This goes to show the resilience and strength of the Qatari economy in relation to doing business.



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3.1 Background

Qatar is situated on the east coast of the Arabian Peninsula. It is bordered by Saudi Arabia to the south and by the Persian Gulf to the north, east, and west. It consists of seven cities, with Doha as the capital. The official language of Qatar is Arabic, and the currency is the Qatari Riyal (QAR). Qatar has been ruled by the Al-Thani family since the early 1900s when it became a British colony. At the time, Qatar's primary industry was pearling and fishing. In 1939, oil was discovered at Dukhan. Qatar gained its independence in 1971 after Great Britain declared that it was removing all of its military obligations east of the Suez Canal. Qatar altered itself into an independent state with a substantial amount of oil and natural gas revenues. The main economic sector in Qatar is oil and gas. Oil and natural gas revenues have placed Qatar as one of the highest per capita income countries, as well as one of the fastest growing economies.

3.2 Why do business in Qatar?

The State of Qatar remains one of the fastest growing economies in the world and presents an extensive and substantiated variety of investment prospects. Although oil and gas are the main suppliers and components of the GDP, Qatar encourages and would like to encourage investments in different sectors, which include financial, real estate, franchising, industrial sectors, International investment and promotes innovation, free trade, open competition and access to the resources that will continue to bring long-term economic development to Qatar.



04

ESTABLISHMENT & STRUCTURE OF BUSINESS

4.1 Types of Companies

Investors in Qatar have numerous choices when selecting the type of business entity, they wish to incorporate. The choice is contingent on the number of shareholders/founders, the accessible capital and, in some cases, on the plans to expand said capital. The available business structures meet numerous business demands, from small legal entities to larger businesses that can also trade their stocks. The below is the different types of companies most commonly used in Qatar and supported by the Companies Law¹ and the Ministerial Decree².

¹ Qatar Law No. 11/2015 Promulgating the Commercial Companies Law

² Qatar Ministerial Decision No. 72/2019 On the Procedures for the Incorporation of Companies According to the Provisions of the Commercial Companies Law Issued by virtue of Qatar Law No. 11/2015

4.2 Limited Liability Company

The Limited Liability Company ("LLC") is the most popular option for incorporating a company in the State of Qatar. ("LLC") is a company that consists of one person or more, and in which the number of partners does not exceed fifty people, whose owners are legally responsible for its debts only to the extent of the amount of capital they invested.

Incorporating in the form of LLC is allowed in nearly all segments of the economy. The liability of the shareholders is limited to the sum of their individual percentage of ownership in the LLC's capital.

In Qatar an individual with a non-Qatari nationality, may invest only through the medium of a company incorporated in Qatar, in which one or more Qatari nationals or 100% Qatari national owned company, hold no less than 51% of the share capital. Foreign investors can therefore, not own more than 49%.

Nevertheless, even though the law only permits the foreign shareholder to hold up to 49% of the shares, they can still have an alternative distribution of profits. This means that it is between the Local Qatari Partner and the Foreign Partner, to discuss the terms and conditions as to how the profits will be allocated between each other.

An LLC is recognised by virtue of Articles of Association (AoA), which sets forth its terms of governance and related matters. The AoA must be drawn up in Arabic, with or without a parallel English version and accordingly must be approved by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) and legalized before the Ministry of Justice. An LLC does not have the capability to raise capital by public subscription and is not capable to issue transferable shares freely. Existing shareholders enjoy pre-emptive rights to buy and secure any shares presented for sale except if the right is explicitly renounced.

4.3 Public and Private Shareholding Company

A public shareholding company is comprised of at least five members. The minimum capital required is QAR 10 million and QAR 40 million for listing requirements for a public shareholding company. The capital is divided into equal nominal shares of not less than QAR1 and not exceeding QAR100. Public shareholding companies are usually used for the following reasons: possibility of listing in the Qatar Stock Exchange; possibility of having many shareholders; suitable for implementing major projects.

A private shareholding company is comprised of at least five members. The minimum capital required is QAR 2 million. The capital is divided into equal nominal shares of no less than QAR1 and not exceeding QAR 100. These shares shall not be offered for public subscription.

Private shareholding companies are usually used for the following reasons: possibility of having many shareholders; suitable for implementing major projects.

4.4 Branch

A Branch is a part of the foreign mother company, but it will be registered in the State of Qatar and does not require a Qatari National and/or a Qatari National owned company as a Local Partner. The branches are not to be considered as separate legal entities from the principal company. Qatar regulation allows a foreign company to set up a branch in Qatar when that company has a legal Government contract for performing a specific project.

The Government of Qatar does not consider the branch as a permanent establishment. A foreign business can set up its branch in Qatar given they follow the regulations set by the Ministry of

Commerce and Industry, including that on the completion of the contract the Branch will close, unless a concurrent contract has been secured. Branch Offices are taxable unless granted a special exemption.

There are no share capital requirements for a Branch Office. Branch Offices cannot undertake any other commercial activity in Qatar outside the scope of the contract and the life of the branch is in effect, linked to the life of the contract. Therefore, the company cannot work or accept opportunities within the Private sector and must close the branch on completion of the last contract.

4.5 QFC

The QFC was set up in 2005 According to Law No. 7 of 2005 and its amendments according to Law No. 2 of 2009, the QFC has the power to conclude contracts and litigation in its capacity as a plaintiff or defendant, own and lease assets of all kinds, and assume responsibilities and obligations arising from carrying out its activities (with due regard to the provisions of Article (16) of this law) without any state responsibility.

It's role to entice international financial institutions and firms to establish business operations in a 'best-in-class' international environment. The Qatar Financial Centre (QFC) is a prime authority from which to carry on business in Qatar with 100% foreign ownership permitted. The QFC is an onshore business and financial centre located in Doha, providing a platform for firms to incorporate and do business within the State of Qatar and the region. As mentioned above the advantage of establishing in the QFC are that firms are subject to a separate legal, regulatory, tax and business environment, which allow 100% foreign ownership and 100% repatriation of profits and only 10% corporate tax on locally sourced profits.

Several different type of legal structures may be incorporated under the QFC umbrella, namely holding companies, special purpose companies, limited liability companies mainly for professional business to business services (for instance, it is not possible incorporate a construction company in the QFC) and Financial activities.

There are currently more than 650 local and international companies in the QFC, comprising investment and private banking, (re)insurance and asset management firms and consultancy service providers and financial services recruitment firms. An applicant's business must fall within one of the permitted activities, and must be a strategic fit with the aims of the QFC. Initial submissions will lead to a decision on whether an applicant's business is permitted within the QFC legal environment.

The QFC operates a regulatory environment operated in accordance with best international standards for financial centres of a similar kind. The QFC Regulatory Authority is responsible for developing, managing and enforcing the regulatory environment based on the principles of efficiency, transparency and integrity.

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Premises need to be secured by an applicant firm in a building which has been designated for these purposes by the QFC. The application process involves the preparation of local business plans, the preparation or review of policies on such things as data protection and anti-money laundering, and ensuring that employment contracts are compliant with the relevant rules and regulations.



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The QFC has established a world class legal environment supported by an independent judiciary consisting of the Civil and Commercial Court and the QFC Regulatory Tribunal.¹ The legal environment includes: its own QFC law, QFC Regulations and a transparent, accessible and predictable operating environment based on English common law, Being one of the most recognized legal systems globally, and with it we strengthen our commitment to operate in accordance with a transparent and clear legal framework in relation to taxation and dispute resolution. The legal and commercial environment offered by QFC is familiar to most companies operating in the well-known financial centers around the world and access to an independent judiciary.

The QFC tax regime incorporates the following key features: corporate tax at 10% on locally sourced profits no withholding taxes on the payment of dividends, interest and royalties no tax on capital gains in respect of most disposals of shares, an advance tax ruling service, access to Qatar's network of over 60 double tax agreements, special tax regime.

¹The QFC Authority is the commercial arm of the QFC. The QFC Authority is responsible for leading the expansion of Qatar's financial services sector and for developing relationships with the regional and global financial community. The QFC Authority is committed to attracting quality financial service institutions and corporates, to recruit a highly competent and effective team and to ensure that its rules and guidance are up to date to meet the needs of the business customers of the QFC.

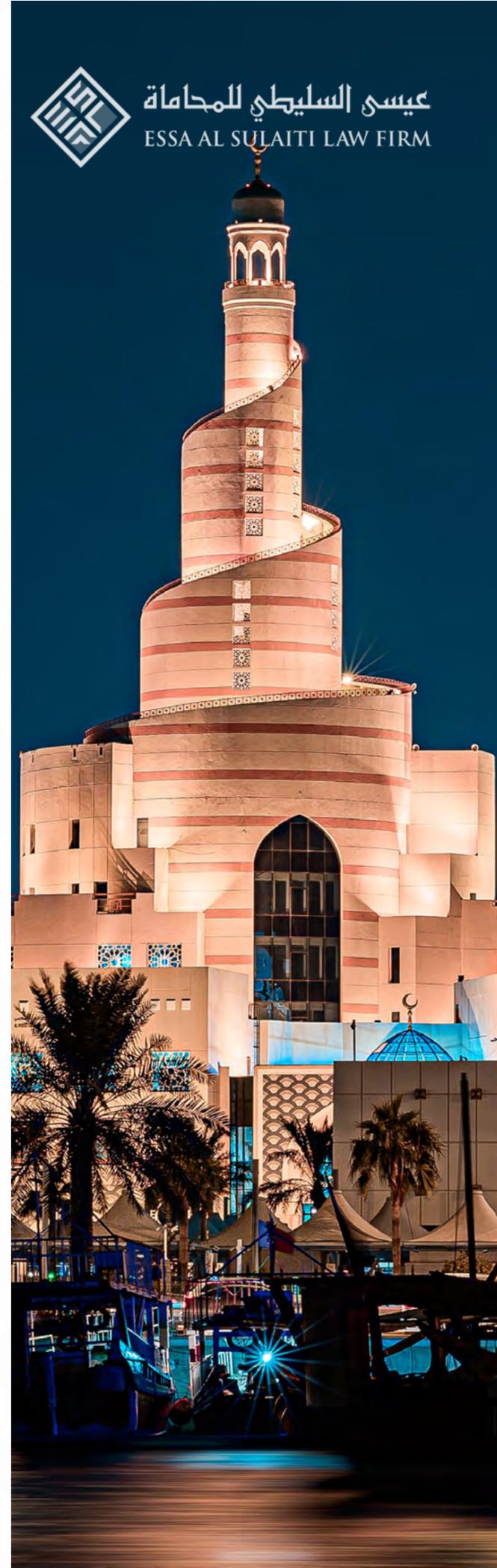
4.6 Qatar Investment Free Zone

The QFZ was established to tailor to the logistics, trading, and chemicals that emerged from the technology sector industries. The Qatar Free Zones Authority (QFZ) is an independent authority created in 2018 to oversee and regulate world-class free zones in Qatar.

It offers phenomenal prospects, benefits and profits for businesses seeking to expand globally, providing quality infrastructure, a skilled workforce, 100% foreign ownership, access to investment funds and partnership opportunities. It advances and adjusts world-class free zones in Qatar, delivering long-term solutions for businesses while supporting Qatar's continued growth and diversification. Qatar's free zones offer an idyllic platform for companies to grow across the region and world.

They are attentive to raise awareness of Qatar as a great place to live and work. The QFZ aims to be the world's best free zones by presenting and offering a contemporary setup and unequalled international connectivity, backed by an assurance to sustainability and the comfort of doing business with ease.

2. Qatar Law No. 34 of the Year 2005 and amended by Legislative Decree No. 21 of 2017



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05 INVESTING IN QATAR

5.1 Foreign Investment

Emir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani issued Qatar Law No. 1 of 2019¹, which opens to foreign companies and individuals the opportunity to invest in almost all the economic sectors in Qatar. Qatar's new foreign investment law is a game-changer as it allows non-Qataris to assume 100% ownership of a business in any sector; except banks, insurance companies, commercial agencies and any other fields specified by a cabinet decision unless they are exempted.²

The law stipulates that the non-Qatari investment projects shall be exempted from customs duties on their imports of machinery and necessary equipment they import for their establishments. Emir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani also issued Law No. 2 of 2019 on supporting the competitiveness of national products and combating harmful practices to them in international trade.

1 Qatar Law No. 1/2019 Regulation of the Investment of Non-Qatari Capital in the Economic Activity

2 Ibid - Article 4

Shaikh Ahmed Ben Jasim, the Economic and Trade Minister, said that the law pushes forward the cycle of economic development. "It boosts Qatar's status in global economic indicators as one among those countries which facilitate businesses."

5.2 Grants and/or incentives

The law offers many investment incentives including allocation of land to non-Qatari investors to establish investment through the use or rent in accordance with the applicable rules and regulations. Qatar is well known for giving autonomy and liberty to import and repatriate funds, transfer profits and assets, and exchange money at stable rates, benefits that come with a free market economy. Therefore, the entities who establish in Qatar have the right to import all materials and equipment required for the establishment, operation or expansion of projects.

Qatar also makes it possible that one may have a ten-year exemption from income tax effective from the date of commercial commissioning of projects, duty-free imports of equipment and machinery, which would otherwise be required for projects, duty-free imports of raw and semi-manufactured materials needed for industrial projects that are not available locally and lastly they can provide the appropriate land locations in the industrial estates for industrial projects at reasonable tenancy rates and long occupancy terms. The decision of accepting a company 100% owned by a Foreign Entity depends of the Ministry's internal³ criteria only, on a case-by-case basis.

3 Qatar Ministerial Decision No. 44/2020 - On the Implementing Regulation of Qatar Law No. 1/2019 On the Regulation of the Investment of Non-Qatari Capital in the Economic Activity

5.3 Partnership between Public and Private Sectors

In order for Qatar to reach their 2030 goals, on the 31st of May 2020, Law No. 12/2020 was issued, on the Regulation of the Partnership between Public and Private Sectors. This Law defines Private-Public Partnership (“PPP”) as an agreement between the government agency and the private sector, to implement and finance works or provide services, under a Partnership Contract in accordance with the provisions of the said Law and the general policy of any partnerships approved by the Council of Ministers upon the proposal of the Minister⁴. To know more about this Law and how it works please refer to our article (Legal Review of Private-Public Partnership (PPP) Law) available in our website (www.eslaa.com).



06 OTHER WAYS TO DO BUSINESS IN QATAR

If a foreign entity does not wish to establish a physical presence in Qatar, it may choose to enter the market with an alternative method. If a foreign entity wishes to sell goods or services in Qatar but does not wish to maintain a physical presence in the country, it may enter into a commercial agency relationship with a Qatari natural or legal person. A commercial agency contract should stipulate the products or services enclosed by the agreement, the area of the distribution and the duration of the relationship. Once registration is complete, the agent shall receive statutory protection relating to exclusivity, commission and termination. Doing business through franchise agreements is another prevalent substitute.



07

LEGAL SYSTEM & ENVIRONMENT

7.1 Dispute Resolution

7.1.1 Local Courts

The Local Courts are divided into the following classifications: The Civil Court, the Criminal Court, the Court of Appeal and the Court of Cassation. Qatar has been adamant on supporting and organizing its legal system to conform with the modern times, therefore its legal system is entrenched in the Napoleonic Code, which was approved for the Middle East by Egypt. Judges are independent and their decisions are in accordance with the law. Arabic is the official language in the court of law in Qatar, but the courts will also hear evidence given by non-Arabic speakers and witnesses through an interpreter, who are required to take an oath and obliged to observe all honesty, integrity and sincerity. Additionally, any documents, which happen to be in any other foreign language, will be accepted by the courts as long as they are officially translated into Arabic.

7.1.2 Qatar International Court and Dispute Resolution Centre

The Qatar International Court and Dispute Resolution Centre ("QICDRC") a Qatari court specializing in the resolution of civil and commercial disputes, and a Regulatory Tribunal, tasked with hearing appeals raised against decisions of the QFC

Authority, QFC Regulatory Authority and other QFC institutions.

Established by the QFC Law No. 2 of 2009¹, QICDRC was founded to be the final piece of the State of Qatar's initiative to build a world-class international financial centre. It was designed to be part of the QFC strategy to advance Qatar's economic diversification efforts in line with the Qatar National Vision 2030 by attracting foreign direct investments and international businesses to Qatar. Litigants who choose to resort to the Court to resolve their disputes benefit from a quick and cost-effective dispute resolution process.

7.1.3 Arbitration

Qatari jurisprudence on domestic and international arbitration has in recent years entered a phase of important evolution. Arbitration in Qatar was created and largely based on the UNCITRAL Model Law 2006.

During the year, 2017 Qatar Law No. 2/2017 was issued on Arbitration Law in Civil and Commercial Matters.

Qatar Law No. 2/2017 abolished the Old Arbitration Regime Enshrined in Chapter 13 of the Qatari Civil and Commercial Procedures Code No. (13) of 1990 Arbitration Law it replaced the old articles that organized arbitration before the Arbitration Law came into force. However, some of the changes that came with the new law were revolutionary for the procedure in Qatar regarding Arbitration.

The legislator avoided most of the deficiencies that existed in the repealed articles, which were depriving the arbitration from its most important feature, which is the speed of settlement.

¹ QATAR FINANCIAL CENTRE REGULATIONS NO.2 OF 2005 QFC COMPANIES REGULATIONS

Paragraph No. 1 of Article 33 of the new law stipulates that an arbitral award may not be appealed by any method of appeal, except by way of "setting aside" (Invalidation of the judgment).

The judgment of the Competent Court shall be final and shall not be susceptible to appeal by any method of appeal as per Paragraph No. 6 of Article 33 of the new law.

Paragraph No. 3 of Article 7 of the new law stipulates that the Arbitration Agreement shall be in writing otherwise it shall be invalid.

The new arbitration law attracted and will keep on attracting more investment opportunities in the region and with the aforementioned amendments, has placed Qatar, on the map of international arbitration, even more so than before. The new Arbitration Law is an important part of the law in Qatar and indicates the correct method tackled by the Qatari officials in order for them to pave the way towards the creation of an innovative and efficient legal environment in the State of Qatar.

7.1.4 Enforcement of Foreign Awards²

It is important to note that based on the Qatar Decree No. 29/2003, Qatar approved of the Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards, signed in New York on 10 June 1958. This means that arbitration awards in different jurisdictions across the globe can be enforced in Qatar.

² Decree No. 29 of 2003 Ratifying the Accession of the State of Qatar to the Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards

08 TAXES

Qatar's tax system is straightforward; there is Company tax and no tax on personal income. Employees are legally allowed to take their wages and salaries home without any tax deductions.

Conversely, an individual who exercises any kind of commercial activity with the purpose of attaining revenue is compelled to pay tax according to the Companies Tax law.

As for Company tax, the rate of tax is 10% of a company's Total State Revenue, paid annually. In regards to Oil and Gas activities, the tax rate is 35%.

According to the Ministry of Finance, Qatar has double taxation treaties with 58 other states including Armenia, Azerbaijan, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, China, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, France,

Guernsey, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Italy (reciprocal exemption from port fees), Jordan, Korea, Lebanon, Macedonia, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Pakistan, Portugal, Russia, Romania, San Marino, Senegal, Seychelles, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Switzerland (Air Transport Exemption Agreement), Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, the UK, Ukraine, Venezuela and Yemen.

Circular No. (2) 2021, by the General Tax Authority (GTA) was implemented as a "simplified tax return" which was submitted by corporates and permanent establishments that are exempt from tax, owned by Qatari and GCC citizens, whose share capital is less than QR 1 million and annual revenue is less than QR 5 million. Qatar is trying to level the playing field, by making the corporate structure more fair by modernizing it. [🔗](#)

This is further proven by the newly founded Dhareeba System. Dhareeba System is an electronic system that connects the GTA and its partners from the relevant government agencies and taxpayers. It automatically calculates and process the various types of tax to assist taxpayers in managing their tax transactions, in accordance with the Qatari tax laws.

Qatar is one of the top-ranked economies in the world and has the lowest corporate tax rate in the world. Considering these facts, incorporating a company in Qatar can be more profitable than many other countries.

09

QATAR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Established in 1963, the Qatar Chamber of Commerce and Industry (QCCI) is one of the oldest Chambers of Commerce in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. It is a non-profitmaking and a non-governmental organisation. The Qatar Chamber exercises a wide range of activities commensurate with national, regional and international developments and serves the commercial, industrial and agricultural interests of its participants in the private sector. [↗](#)

The QCCI supports the business community in Qatar and highlights the available business opportunities within the various sectors and industries in Qatar. The QCCI regulates, represents, defends and promotes commercial, industrial and agricultural interests.



10

EMPLOYMENT REGULATIONS

Employment regulations deserve an attentive analysis when one decides to invest in another country. In Qatar is no exception, because some of the determinations are similar to the Western Europe laws others are different. Therefore, it is important to know well your rights and duties.

The standard form regarding the employment contract encompasses the requirements involving leave entitlements, severance pay and medical treatment that cannot be amended. The MADLSA also launched the E-Contract system, whereby it targets all the new labour contracts regardless whether the work force resides within the State of Qatar or abroad. This contract is generated entirely online and outlines the basic minimum legal rights in the mother tongue of the employee and Arabic. As the standard form contract merely covers the main terms of employment, employers may agree and enter with their employees into additional employment contracts containing additional terms, which must be approved and registered with Ministry of Administrative Development, Labour and Social Affairs. The employer must draw up three copies of any such supplemental employment contract (which should be in Arabic, although bi-lingual Arabic-English documents are also acceptable),

one for the employer, one for the employee and one for the employer to submit to Ministry for approval and authentication. This was designed to bridge the gaps between the various government entities and respective embassies through a unified database that registers the Labour as well as the Employers credentials as required under Article 38 of Law No. 14 of 2004.

10.1 Qatar Financial Centre Employment Regulations

The Qatar Financial Centre (QFC) employment provisions are set out in the QFC Employment Regulations No 10 of 2006 and apply to the employees of the QFC Authority and the employees of its licensed entities and institutions in addition to the employees of the QFC Regulatory Authority, the Civil and Commercial Court and the Regulatory Tribunal.

There are many differences between the Qatar Labour Law and the QFC employment regulations. Some of the most important difference relate to employment contracts.

A major difference is that there is no corresponding obligation in the QFC to provide any form of end of service gratuity, the provision of any such payment would be a contractual arrangement between the parties. Lastly, there is no corresponding obligation to comply with Wages Protection System (WPS) in the QFC. Salary and other payments due to the employee will be paid in the currency stated in the employment contract or any currency agreed between the employer and employee.

11

QATAR NATIONAL VISION 2030

The Qatar National Vision is the broad and wide spread development vision of the State of Qatar that has been adopted pursuant to the Amiri decision No. 44 of 2008. The development of Qatar is the fundamental objective for the realization of progress-full and prosperous nation.

The 2030 vision proves that Qatar is a forward-thinking state. Notwithstanding the many aspects of success that the country is enjoying, it is definitely not inactive due to its achievements and success. Qatar continues to push forward and set clear-cut goals for an even better tomorrow.

The 2030 vision is Qatar's primary vision for the country. By 2030, Qatar sees itself as an advanced country, providing all of its citizens with a high degree of comfort and wealth and being a country that is self-reliant and sustainable. With this long term vision, Qatar is able to have basis with which to pattern its current government policies after.

11.1 The Vision

The National Vision sets up the characteristics of the future setting out the following five challenges:

- ◆ Modernization with the preservation of traditions.
- ◆ The needs of the current generation as well as the needs of the future generations.
- ◆ Target growth and uncontrolled expansion.
- ◆ Development track, size and quality of targeted expatriate labour force.
- ◆ Economic growth, social development, and environmental management.

The Vision embodies the following most guiding principles:

- ◆ Protect public and personal freedoms.
- ◆ Protect moral and religious values and traditions.
- ◆ Ensure security, stability and equal opportunities.

The National Vision foresees development through four interconnected pillars:

- ◆ **Human Development:** The development of the Qatari people to enable them to promote a prosperous society
- ◆ **Social Development:** The development of a safe, just society founded on high moral standards and social capable of interacting with different societies playing a significant role in global partnerships for development
- ◆ **Economic Development:** The development of a national competitive and diversified economy capable of meeting the needs of the Qatari people both present and in the future and securing a high standard of living.
- ◆ **Environmental Development:** Management of environment with harmony and balance between economic, social development and environmental protection.

11.2 Four Pillars

Addressing challenges

Qatar aims that by 2030; the country can still keep up with a modernized world, but at the same time, keep its beloved traditions. In addition, the country understands that while there are problems that need to be addressed now, it must come up with solutions that do not harm the future.; As Qatar continues to grow, it aims to continue growing even by 2030, without compromising the environment and keeping a state of equilibrium with a large population of expats.

1. Achievement Pillar: Human development

For people of Qatar to reach their utmost potential, the government aims to improve the workforce, health care and education of its citizens. The Qatar Foundation, a non-profit organization, is the primary lead in the country's aims to expand its educational system as well as usher in advancements in science technology, research, cultural awareness, and intellectual property.

2. Achievement Pillar: Social Development

This pillar addresses the challenge of upholding culture and tradition despite an ever changing, every dynamic world. Even as the country modernizes, social development ensures the country preserve its heritage and its identity as an Arab nation. It also includes women empowerment, openness, tolerance, safety and stability in the society.

3. Achievement Pillar: Economic development

The main reason why Qatar is the richest country today is its gas and oil sector. Qatar aims to continue to assert this sector until 2030, but it will now do so trying to achieve a balance with other ways to help the economy. This is known as economic diversification. Through this, Qatar aims to enhance non-energy sectors such as becoming a knowledge-based economy; one that supports ideas that precipitates technological advancement.

4. Achievement Pillar: Environmental Development

Qatar recognizes the importance of protecting the environment, and in particular, collaborating with other countries to take action. Locally, the government will continue to create laws and promote policies that prompt industries to preserve the environment. The country is also actively campaigning "think green," and the conservation of resources.



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12

LIFE IN QATAR

Living in Qatar, specifically Doha means living in a megalopolis in the Arabian Gulf region, which is constantly growing and evolving. Doha the capital of Qatar is a cosmopolitan hub with a large expat community of more than 85 nationalities living together. It is a vibrant, safe and welcoming place, well suited to raising a family as well as expanding a business. Life in Doha is influenced by a mixture of Arab customs and modernity.

Qatari's and Non-Qatari's can visit all kinds of different places such as Souqs for spices and traditional clothing and enjoy local food and drinks in the streets. Additionally, there are various modern malls and international hospitals.

Qatar boasts extremely low crime rates and one of the world's best healthcare systems, in addition to world-class schools teaching British, American and IB systems, cultural attractions and great recreational facilities. Museums, desert safaris, water sports and relaxing spa activities all play a part in Qatar's leisure and lifestyle activities.

Doha is also home to the most famous Arabian news channel in the world, Al Jazeera, which began broadcasting in 1996. Today, Al Jazeera also offers its program in English to cater to the needs of expats in Doha and its viewers worldwide.

Doha's tourism industry and real-estate sector enjoy many investments from the government as well as from businesspeople.

Qatar also has a rich maritime culture as fishing and pearl-diving were the main contributors to the country's economy before the rise of the petroleum sector. Today, the traditional boats (dhow) which were historically used for fishing and trading can still be seen in Doha's harbour. People living in Doha use them for sports and leisure.

Spacious housing

Accommodation is very spacious and well-proportioned in Doha. New apartments and condos are constantly being built. Additionally, most compounds and complexes come with quality of life amenities such as pools, gyms, dry cleaners and even cafes.

Social life and activities

Due to the population being small and the expat community generally being tight-knit, it is fairly easy to make friends by taking up extra-curricular activities such as sports. Qatar also has amazing museums, culture events, beautiful coastlines and phenomenal deserts to explore. Doha has also many restaurants, which are renowned worldwide and also have Michelin stars. All in all, Doha is a very social place for any individuals who happen to be social bees.

Mild winters

Unlike the extreme summer heat, winters in Qatar are enjoyable and usually tend to remain on a comfortable temperature throughout its entire duration. You can enjoy all outdoor activities; such as sports or going for picnics from November-April.

Lowest crime rate

Qatar has one of the lowest crime rates in the world. New residents in Qatar have nothing to stress or fear regarding personal security.

Welcoming expat community

Qatar is home to various expat communities exposing everyone to their culture, traditions and most importantly, cuisine. When you live in a multicultural society, you meet different people and experience their culture.

Education/private schools are very respectable

Qatar uses a substantial amount of resources for education, science and technology. Accordingly, many world-class institutions have set up branches in Doha. Doha is home to some of the best universities in the world. H.H. Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, mother of current Emir of Qatar, Qatar Emir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, founded Education City under Qatar Foundation in 1995 which constitutes 9 world renowned universities including Cornell; an Ivy League university. There are more than 330 schools operating in the country and their fees vary according to the school.

Healthcare

Most expats have health insurance provided by their employer. If they are not provided with health insurance then the resident can apply for a Hamad Health Card, which entitles them to subsidised healthcare at the Hamad Medical Corporation. Hamad Medical Corporation is the country's premier non-profit health care provider. It was established in 1979 and caters to more than a million people in outpatient alone, annually. All residents are eligible for HMC services by signing up for a health card and paying a mere QR 100 annually.





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