

## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

# ONAPI: MOVING FORWARD TO REOPENING



The Government of the Dominican Republic continues to adopt measures for the prevention and control of COVID-19. The President of the Dominican Republic has requested the National Congress to extend the state of emergency, which presently ends on April 30. Albeit the request was made to extend the State of Emergency until May 25, 2020 to enable that measures of "social distancing", restriction of movement and suspension of deadlines to continue, Congress only approved the same for 17 days, that is until May 17, 2020.

Along with the above measures, as of April 27, 2020 the Office of the President has instructed the controlled reopening of all government offices that have been closed since mid-March. Centralized and decentralized government institutions are to provide services, but only with minimum personnel attending physically and most continuing to work remotely.

The National Office of Industrial Property (ONAPI), closed until April 26, 2020, has informed its users that it will be offering services in person as from April 28 and by appointment only, without affecting the services already placed on the electronic platform. The services already provided online are the following:

- New applications of Trade Name, Label or Emblem, Trademark and Slogan.
- Application for Change of Address of the Registrant.
- Special Certifications.
- Duplicate Certificates of Registration.
- Payment for the Publication of Trademarks and Slogans.
- Trademark Renewal.
- Applications for Change of local representative
- Multi-Class Trademark Application
- Filing answers to office actions of applications initiated online through the E-SERPI platform.

ONAPI will be receiving users, by appointment only, especially for patent related matters which cannot be performed online.

All deadlines continue to be suspended in accordance to Decree No. 137-20 dated March 19, 2020, which initially declared the State of Emergency.

Headrick continues to work remotely. However, we are also handling certain matters in person, when required, with a reduced staff as instructed by the President of the Republic, and the Ministry of Labor, in order to avoid concentration of people as much as possible.

Please feel free to contact us, we remain here to assist you in these troubled times.