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By virtue of Article 88, subsection 2, of the Constitution of the Republic of Montenegro I enact a

DECREE
ON PROCLAMATION OF THE LAW ON REAL ESTATE TAX

The Law on Real Estate Tax, adopted by the Parliament of the Republic of Montenegro on December 27 at its second regular session in 2001, is hereby proclaimed.

Number: 01-3875/2

Podgorica, December 28, 2001

President of the Republic of Montenegro

Milo Djukanovic, (personal signature)

LAW ON REAL ESTATE TAX

General provisions

Article 1

- (1) This law regulates basic elements of the real estate tax.
- (2) A local self-government unit introduces the real estate tax by own regulation.

Article 2

Revenues from real estate tax belong to the local self-government unit on whose territory the real estate is located.

Subject to Taxation

Article 3

- (1) The real estate in the territory of the Republic of Montenegro, which is not specifically exempted by this law, is subject to the real estate tax.
- (2) The real estate, from paragraph 1 of this Article, includes land, buildings, units of buildings, and other construction structures.
- (3) Buildings and other construction structures owned separately from land and separately owned units of buildings may be taxed separately.

Taxpayers

Article 4

- (1) The real estate taxpayer is any person (legal or physical) who owns the real estate on January 1 of the year the tax is determined for.
- (2) When the owner of real estate is unknown or it has not been determined, the user of the real estate is the real estate taxpayer.
- (3) If several persons have partial ownership or joint ownership on the same real estate, a real estate taxpayer is each of those persons in proportion to own share. Taxpayers are jointly and severally liable for the real estate tax.
- (4) In the case of use of building rights, the taxpayer for land (plot) is owner of that real estate, and owner of the structure is the taxpayer for the structure.

Tax Basis

Article 5

- (1) The market value of the real estate is the real estate tax base.
- (2) Market value of the real estate is the value of the real estate on January 1 of the year tax is determined for.

Criteria for Determination of Real Estate Market Value

Article 6

- (1) Basic criteria to determine real estate market value are:
 - 1) Purpose of real estate;
 - 2) Size of real estate;
 - 3) Location of real estate;
 - 4) Quality of real estate;
 - 5) Other elements that might have influence on real estate market value.
- (2) More precise criteria and methodology for determining the real estate market value are prescribed by the Government of the Republic of Montenegro on proposal by the Minister of finance.
- (3) The methodology from paragraph 2 of this Article is synchronized with market conditions, and at least once in three years.

Inception of Tax Liability

Article 7

- (1) The real estate tax liability comes into force on January 1 of the year the tax is determined for.

- (2) The real estate market value from paragraph 1 of this Article is determined by the authorized taxation body of a local self-government unit.

Article 8

In the case of real estate being damaged as a result of Acts of God (droughts, floods, fires, earthquakes...) a local self-government unit may, independently or at a taxpayer's request, carry out a reassessment of the real estate market value from Article 7 of this law.

Tax Rates

Article 9

- (1) The real estate tax rate is proportional.
- (2) The real estate tax rate can range from 0.08% to 0.80% of the real estate market value.
- (3) Local self-government units can determine the real estate tax rates according to types of real estate.
- (4) A local self-government unit can increase the tax rate for agricultural land which is not cultivated to 50% in relation to the tax rate for agricultural land which is cultivated.
- (5) More detailed regulations defining what land should be considered as cultivated agricultural land shall be prescribed by the Agriculture Minister.

Tax Exemptions

Article 10

- (1) The real estate tax shall not be paid for the following:
 - 1) State-owned real estate used by state bodies, organizations and services, and local self-government bodies and organizations that discharge public service functions they were established for;
 - 2) Real Estate owned by the Central Bank;
 - 3) Real estate owned or occupied by accredited, diplomatic or consular offices if the real estate is used for such purposes and on condition of reciprocity;
 - 4) Real estate owned by international organizations if such is stipulated by a treaty;
 - 5) Real estate declared, in compliance with law, to be cultural monuments;

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- 6) Real estate owned by religious organizations that are used for religious services or as housing for their clergy;
 - 7) Real estate owned by NGOs used for functions they are established for;
 - 8) Public roads, streets, squares, and parks, ports, railroads, and airports, protected and protection forests, and national parks.
- (2) Exemptions from paragraph 1 of this Article come into force on condition that the real estate is not used for making profit.
 - (3) The real estate tax shall not be paid in the case when total tax basis, for entire real estate belonging to a specific taxpayer, does not exceed 5.000 EURO and if the real estate is not used for making profit.

Tax Relief

Article 11

- (1) The real estate tax for buildings and apartments that serve to a taxpayer as a main residence is reduced for 20% for the taxpayer and 10% for each family member of his household respectively, to the maximum of 50% of determined tax.

Tax period

Article 12

The period for determining the real estate tax is the calendar year.

Determining and Paying the Tax

Article 13

- (1) The real estate tax is determined by the decision of local self-government authorized body until May 31 of the current year.
- (2) The real estate tax is paid in two equal installments of which the first is due on June 30 and the second on November 30 of the year the tax is determined for.

Tax Application

Article 14

- (1) Real estate owners are obliged, within 30 days from the day of acquiring the real estate, to submit a tax application to the authorized taxation body of a local self-government unit.
- (2) The tax authority prescribes the structure and contents of the tax application from paragraph 1 of this Article.

Duties of Bodies Authorized for Real Estate

Article 15

The Republican body authorized for the real estate is obliged to deliver to a local self-government unit data on real estate ownership that are kept within that authority, until end of November of the year that precedes the year tax is determined for.

Responsibilities of a local self-government unit

Article 16

- (1) A local self-government unit is in charge for the following:
 - 1) Determining the market value of real estate for taxation purposes;
 - 2) Establishing tax liability for taxpayers;
 - 3) Performs activities of control and collection of real estate tax;
 - 4) Keeping the real estate register;
 - 5) Harmonizing regularly the state of its real estate register with the real estate register kept by the Republican body in charge for real estate;
 - 6) Presenting data that refer to determining and collecting real estate tax to Finance Ministry when necessary, and at least once in a year.
- (2) Minister of Finance prescribes the structure and contents of the register from paragraph 1, item 6, of this Article.

Supervision

Article 17

The supervision over the implementation of this law is performed by the Finance Ministry.

Adequate Implementation of Provisions

Article 18

Provisions of the law defining tax procedure are accordingly implemented regarding the tax procedure and other issues not specifically regulated by this law (appeal procedure, enforcement, interests, guarantees...).

Regulations for Implementing the Law

Article 19

Regulations for implementing this law shall be enacted within nine (9) months from the day this law enters into force at the latest.

Temporary Provisions

Article 20

Taxation of real estate for 2002 shall be carried out in compliance with provisions of the Law on Property Tax ("Official Gazette of RoM", numbers 3/92, 30/93, 3/94, 42/94, 20/95, and 45/98) and regulations enacted on the basis of this law.

Article 21

Department for Real Estate and Department for Public Revenues are obliged to make all the data kept within those authorities available to a local self-government unit within six (6) months from the day this law comes into force.

Article 22

- (1) The property (real estate) taxpayers as defined by the Law on Property Tax ("Official Gazette of RoM", numbers 3/92, 30/93, 3/94, 42/94, 20/95, and 45/98) are obliged to submit a tax application to the authorized taxation body of a local self-government unit within nine (9) months from the day this law comes into force.
- (2) The structure and contents of the tax application shall be determined by the taxation body from paragraph 1 of this Article.

Article 23

Provisions from Article 11 of this law shall be in effect until 2002.

Final Provisions

Article 24

From the day this law enters into force, the provisions of the Law on Property Tax ("Official Gazette of RoM", numbers 3/92, 30/93, 3/94, 42/94, 20/95, and 45/98) and regulations passed on the basis of this law, which refer to taxation of real estate, shall be repealed.

Article 25

This law shall enter into force within eight (8) days from the day of its publishing in the "Official Gazette of RoM" and it shall be implemented from January 1, 2003.