

ASSA RECOGNITION AWARDS

CATEGORY:	Innovation Recognition Award
ORGANISATION:	Lao Social Security Organization (LSSO)
CONTACT PERSON:	Mrs. Thianthong Keoboua Deputy Director of Planning and Cooperation Division, LSSO Email: laosso@lssso.gov.la ; thsati@yahoo.com
NAME OF PROJECT:	Responding to Covid-19
OBJECTIVE AND NATURE OF PROJECT:	To compensate loss of income for insured workers who are affected by Covid-19
WHY IT SHOULD BE RECOGNISED:	This special unemployment benefit is introduced during the pandemic of Covid-19 with a purpose of helping temporary unemployed workers due to Covid-19 by adapting some qualifying conditions that assort to the situation of affected workers.
SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT:	In response to second wave of Covid-19 pandemic, it's spread from late April 2021 in Lao PDR, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare of Lao PDR has issued the Notice Letter No. 1532/MLSW dated 5 May 2021 in order to support income security for those insured workers affected by the crisis starting from May 2021. The notice also advised the Lao Social Security Organization to allow employers and voluntary insured persons in postpone or suspended the payment of social security contributions. The provision of special policy includes: 1. Unemployment benefit: to insured workers who are temporary or partial unemployment due to Covid-19 crisis. The benefit equals to 60% of the averaged insured earning during the last 6 months, payable for number of days through the temporary unemployment period and base upon the government announce for the curfew. The insured person who receives unemployment benefit shall have accomplished a qualifying period of contributions to social security fund at least six months or longer. 2. Postpone or suspended the payment of contributions: • Companies or Enterprises that still paying wages to their employees have to pay contribution to the social security fund but if the companies have problem with the management expenses can submit the official letter to Lao Social Security Organization to postpone the contributions payment. • Companies or Enterprises that have temporarily stop business and not paying wages to employees can suspend their payment of contributions during the Covid-19 crisis base on duration of the government announce curfew.

	• Postpone or suspended the payment of contribution of the companies or enterprises have to pay the postpone amount of contribution to the social security fund at the end of the year (December 2021). • Voluntary insured persons can also postpone their payment of contributions in May 2021, during postpone the payment the insured persons still receive the short-term benefit and it's also counted the insured duration to the long-term benefit.
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