



EST. 2008 · AUSTRALIA · LAO PDR

CAPABILITY STATEMENT

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McDonald Patafta
& Associates Lawyers

2026

enquiries@mpalawyers.com

mpalawyers.com

01 — ABOUT THE FIRM

A specialist corporate & commercial firm built for the Lao market.

McDonald Patafta & Associates Lawyers (MPA Lawyers) is a registered foreign law firm operating across Australia, Singapore and the Lao PDR since 2008 — and the only Australian law firm registered in the Lao PDR.

Our team has the skills to guide clients through the complexities of doing business across the Asia-Pacific — building strong relationships, understanding objectives and ensuring affairs are handled professionally and expeditiously.

We provide international-standard legal and tax advice to foreign investors operating in, or entering, the Lao market. Our senior and foreign advisors take a practical, problem-solving approach, with integrity in every dealing.

We have specialist expertise across mining and hydropower projects and other large-scale investments in the Lao PDR, having represented investors, lenders and the Government of Lao PDR.

“Most noted for handling projects and energy mandates, often acting as local counsel on hydropower and infrastructure projects, as well as concessions in mining, oil and gas.”

THE LEGAL 500 — LEADING FIRM

RECOGNISED BY



02 — CAPABILITIES

Full-service capability, dual-jurisdiction reach.

MPA Lawyers is uniquely positioned with dual capability across Australia and the Lao PDR. Our major services and capabilities extend to:

01 Energy, Mining & Infrastructure

Hydropower, mining, oil & gas concessions and project documentation.

02 Banking & Finance

Project, corporate and secured finance for on- and offshore lenders.

03 Corporate & Commercial

Contracts, joint ventures and cross-border transactions.

04 Mergers & Acquisitions

Due diligence, deal structuring and takeovers.

05 Capital Markets

IPOs and listings, including the Lao Securities Exchange.

06 Taxation

Structuring, treaties, compliance and customs.

07 Real Estate & Property

Land title, leases and property finance.

08 Employment & Labour

Lao labour law, agreements and secondments.

09 Intellectual Property

Protection, registration and enforcement.

10 Arbitration & Disputes

Lao economic disputes and resolution mechanisms.

03 — OUR PEOPLE

Senior, hands-on and international.

MPA Lawyers is led by director Kaz Patafta, supported by a talented Lao team led by deputy director Soulignasack Liemphrachanh, with senior advisors bringing deep government, regulatory and commercial experience.

**RECOGNITION**

Leading Lawyer, The Legal 500
Highly Regarded, IFLR1000 (2022)

Kaz Patafta

DIRECTOR

A barrister and solicitor admitted in the Australian Capital Territory and South Australia, Kaz advises on energy and infrastructure projects, M&A, project and capital-markets finance, cryptocurrency and blockchain, and corporate law. He has spent many years in Laos as an adviser to the Government of Lao PDR and to international and domestic clients.

Recent work includes a USD 80m non-recourse refinancing facility for Rabobank over the Sepon Gold Mine, a USD 48m factoring facility for China Construction Bank, and advising the developer of a 650MW hydropower project. Before MPA Lawyers he worked in-house for a multinational independent power producer in Laos and was an associate at Webb Henderson in Sydney.

+856 20 5559 9430 · kazpatafta@mpalawyers.com



Soulignasack Liemphrachanh

DEPUTY DIRECTOR

A Lao-qualified lawyer with deep experience liaising with Lao Government ministries and drafting, reviewing and translating complex finance documents for hydropower and mining projects. Soulignasack advises offshore lenders and project companies across numerous hydroelectric projects, and on Lao investment frameworks, corporate governance and regulatory compliance. He has acted for lenders on Electricité du Laos transmission and hydropower projects (2014–2017) and on BOT contracts for a water supply and treatment facility in a Lao special economic zone.

+856 20 2822 9982 · soulignasack@mpalawyers.com



Khamkong

SENIOR LEGAL ADVISOR · HEAD OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Khamkong brings extensive experience in legislative and policy reform, having served as Director General of the Legislation Department, Ministry of Justice (1990–2010), advising the Government of Lao PDR on mining projects and concession agreements. He offers invaluable insight on regulatory compliance and practical, client-oriented perspectives suited to the Lao context, and maintains strong ministry relationships for prompt clarification of current practice. Khamkong speaks Lao, Thai, Russian, French and English.

+856 20 55 286 655 · khamkong.lpc@mpalawyers.com



Chintala Xayyaveth

LEGAL ADVISOR

A Lao legal advisor with a Master of Laws from the University of Toulouse I, France, Chintala specialises in client and government liaison, legal research, translation, and advising on judicial process and procedure in Lao PDR. She has worked on numerous small and large-scale due diligence investigations and advised project companies and offshore lenders across hydropower projects, including Nam Theun II (USD 1,430m) and Nam Sim (USD 18m).

+856 20 5859 8080 · mamchintala@mpalawyers.com



Mary B

SENIOR CONSULTANT · GENERAL MANAGER, LAO PDR

An award-winning, action-oriented entrepreneur with over ten years of business development and infrastructure project experience, Mary is General Manager of the McDonald Patafta Group's Lao PDR office, leading project management and operations. Formerly Trade Commissioner promoting Canadian trade and investment in Laos, she specialises in clean-tech and smart-city infrastructure and works closely with the ADB and World Bank. She holds dual bachelor degrees from the National University of Laos and an MSc in Management of Innovation from Goldsmiths, University of London.

+856 20 5999 9593 · mary.b@mpalawyers.com

04 — SERVICES IN DETAIL

Energy, Mining & Infrastructure

We act as local counsel on hydropower, infrastructure, mining, oil and gas projects, with deep connections across the Lao energy and mining sectors.

- Due diligence for M&A and project-finance loans across hydropower and mining companies
- MOUs, project development, lease, BOT, PPA and EPC documentation for developers and contractors
- Project financing documentation — loan, bond, security and escrow agreements
- Concession agreements across all phases of mining, plus licences and government approvals
- Joint venture agreements and optimal onshore / offshore investment structures
- Contractual disputes and Lao dispute-resolution mechanisms

Banking & Finance

Significant project-finance experience as local counsel for international firms and on- and offshore lenders on large-scale Lao projects — plus secured and unsecured lending, corporate finance, leasing and restructuring.

- Corporate financing, debt restructuring and project financing
- Debt and default enforcement procedures in Lao PDR
- Drafting, registering and translating security instruments — movable (SAMD) and immovable (MONRE)
- Financial lease agreements for equipment and vehicles

Corporate & Commercial

Extensive experience drafting commercial contracts and negotiating sophisticated transactions, with in-depth local knowledge — advising global and domestic corporations, banks, private equity and state enterprises.

- Drafting and reviewing commercial agreements and representing clients in negotiations
 - Concession, loan and land lease agreements with the Government
 - Listings on the Lao Securities Exchange — due diligence, prospectuses and IPO documentation
 - Shareholder, joint venture and business cooperation agreements
 - Special and Specific Economic Zone investment advice
 - Due diligence on Lao registered individuals, companies and related assets
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Taxation

A full range of tax advice, including complex analysis and structuring — working alongside our lawyers to deliver tax-efficient transactions.

- Lao tax laws, double-taxation treaties and bilateral agreements
- International and regional tax-optimisation structures
- Customs duties and procedures
- Tax exemptions and special benefits for concession projects
- Tax due diligence and compliance reviews

Real Estate & Property

Substantial experience across residential, commercial, state and industrial property and the complex Lao land-zone framework.

- Land title due diligence and title searches
- Land lease types and government arrangements
- Drafting, notarising and registering leases, sale & purchase and mortgage documentation
- Ownership rights and restrictions for local and foreign parties
- Mortgage and financing for movable and immovable property

Company Registration & Operation

Comprehensive proficiency across company registration and licensing for local and foreign investors.

- Licensing regulations and renewal of investment, business, tax and industry licences
- Business plans, feasibility studies and market-entry structuring
- Foreign contractor registration for concession projects
- Incorporation, Representative Offices and corporate governance documents
- Restructuring, equity participation and shareholder agreements

Labour & Employment

Quality expertise across all aspects of Lao labour and employment law.

- Compliance with Lao Labour and Social Security law — conditions, accidents, termination, redundancy
- Internal rules and regulations and Ministry submission
- Drafting and negotiating employment agreements
- Secondment of foreign employees — approvals, quotas, visas, stay and work permits

05 — RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Selected matters.

MATTER	CLIENT	DESCRIPTION
Sepon Gold Mine refinancing	Rabobank	Lao counsel on a USD 80m non-recourse refinancing facility over the Sepon Gold Mine.
Sovereign financing facility	CSG-CIMB	USD 80m sovereign financing transaction for the Ministry of Finance, Lao PDR.
Sovereign USD repo transaction	Bank of the Lao PDR	Advised on a proposed USD treasury repurchase swap with a global top-tier investment bank.
London Stock Exchange listing	Olam International	Lao counsel on the listing and restructure of Lao operations for the purpose of listing.
Global separation & restructure	GlaxoSmithKline	Lao counsel to GSK (NYSE & LSE listed) on its global separation and restructure.
PanAust takeover	Guangdong Rising Assets Mgmt	Lao counsel and due diligence on the ~USD 950m acquisition of ASX-listed PanAust and Phu Bia Mining.
Telecoms tower acquisition	Axiata Group / edotco	Advised on the acquisition of a Lao telecommunications tower and infrastructure enterprise.
ASX initial public offering	Mekong Minerals	Due diligence and solicitors' report on tenements for the IPO prospectus.
Nam San 3A & 3B acquisition	BCPG Public Company	Advised the SET-listed company on its acquisition of the Nam San 3A and 3B hydropower projects.
Nam Ngiep 1 Hydropower	ADB, JBIC, Bangkok Bank, SMBC	Lao counsel for the finance parties on financing and security documentation.
Nam Theun 2 (1,070MW)	Sponsor	Acted for the sponsor in the development and implementation of the project.
Importation & supplier matters	BMW	Lao counsel on importation and distributor agreements for the sale of vehicles in Lao PDR.

06 — SELECTED MANDATES

Project & energy track record.

HYDROPOWER & ENERGY

Nam Theun II	US\$1,430m
Nam Ngiep 1	US\$900m
Nam Mo	US\$225m
Nam Phay	US\$224m
Nam Kong 2	US\$120m
Nam Sim	US\$18m
Nam Ou cascades (1-7)	Multi-project
Electricité du Laos	Transmission & hydro

CORPORATE, FINANCE & ADVISORY

China Development Bank — financing of EdL energy concessions and the Saysettha Development Zone (US\$2bn).

Finnfund & Norfund — project financing for the Nam Sim hydropower project.

Kunming Dianchi — BOT contracts for a water supply and treatment facility in a Lao SEZ.

Phonesack Group — aircraft purchase and servicing, and mining concession agreements.

Burapha Agroforestry — restructuring for capital investment by the majority Swedish shareholder.

Trafigura — back-to-back prepayment facility financing the Chifeng / MMG acquisition of Lanexang Minerals.

07 — CLIENTS

Trusted by global institutions.

			
			
			
			

OTHER CLIENTS INCLUDE

ANZ Laos · HK Express · Deuan Sawanh Group · Moneygram International · ItalThai · Dux Group · Stock Exchange of Thailand · Delivery Hero SE · Banque Franco-Lao · Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation · Mines Advisory Group · Halo Trust · Oxfam Novib & Oxfam Belgium · The Embassies of Singapore, Australia & the United Kingdom

Let's talk.

For international counsel, lenders and investors
operating in or entering the Lao PDR.

GENERAL ENQUIRIES

enquiries@mpalawyers.com

LAO PDR

Unit 10, House No. 245,
Saphanthong Road, Ban Saphanthong Kang,
Sisattanak District, P.O. Box 4154,
Vientiane 01030, Lao PDR

AUSTRALIA

Level 1, 349 Coronation Drive,
Milton QLD 4064,
Australia