

Environmental protection tax on jet fuel to be halved

HÀ NỘI All National Assembly (NA) deputies yesterday agreed to reduce the environmental protection tax on jet fuel by half starting from today as the aviation sector has been severely hit by COVID-19.

The legislators voted on the resolution during the meeting of NA Standing Committee yesterday.

The tax will be set at VNĐ1,500 per litre from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022 and increase to VNĐ3,000 from January 1, 2023.

This aims to increase State support levels for aviation enterprises seriously affected by the pandemic.

NA deputies agreed that the domestic aviation sector will be able to recover step by step in 2022 in spite of the challenges and unexpected development of the pandemic. The international aviation market will need a longer time to recover.



National Assembly Standing Committee held its sixth meeting yesterday in Hà Nội. VNA/VNS Photo

From July 2020 until the end of 2021, the environmental protection tax on jet fuel has been cut down by 30 per cent.

Finance minister Hồ Đức Phúc

said cutting the tax by half was a proper solution in relevance with the State policies of supporting COVID-affected businesses, contributing to the post-pandemic so-

cio-economic recovery and development.

The reduction will also contribute to encouraging the growth of other spearhead economic sectors such as trade, tourism, and services.

The same day, legislators gave feedback for the second time on fiscal and monetary policies for the implementation of the socio-economic recovery and development programme.

At the opening session of the 6th NA Standing Committee session earlier last month, NA Chairman Vương Đình Huệ said that the project on building mechanisms, fiscal and monetary policies to support the implementation of the socio-economic recovery and development would be discussed at the first extraordinary session of the 15th NA in January.

He said these mechanisms and

policies were separate and not part of five-year plans approved by the NA such as socio-economic development plan, medium-term State budget financial plan, public investment plan.

During a press conference on Thursday on the first extraordinary session of the 15th NA, which is to open on January 4 and close on January 11, NA Secretary General and Chairman of the NA Office Bùi Văn Cường said if the fiscal and monetary policy package is adopted in early 2022, economic growth will be bolstered during 2022-23 and the entire tenure. However, if it is left to be approved by the NA at the May session.

He affirmed that the matters to be considered at the extraordinary session were both necessary and urgent in the service of national socio-economic development. VNS

Police arrest father of eight-year-old girl as accomplice to fatal abuse

HÀ NỘI HCM City's Binh Thanh District Police arrested Nguyễn Trung Kim Thái on Thursday night to investigate his behaviour relating to his eight-year-old daughter's death on December 22.

The girl was allegedly abused to death on December 22 by Võ Nguyễn Quỳnh Trang, Thái's fiancée. The case has provoked outrage across the country.

According to the investigation, at 2pm on December 22, Trang instructed the child to do her homework but she failed to do so, and Trang loudly scolded the child and used a wooden stick to beat her, causing the girl to vomit.

Trang then made a phone call to Thái to return home to take the child to hospital, but she had died before arriving.

Authorities determined that the child died from acute pulmonary edema, and her body had many bruises and haematomas.

According to police, the three had been living together at an apartment in Binh Thanh District since June 2020.

It was also reported that the young girl's biological mother had

not been allowed to meet her for over a year since the couple divorced.

Trang was arrested on December 23 and prosecuted on Tuesday for "abusing others."

Strict punishment

In a related move, on Thursday night Deputy Prime Minister Phạm Bình Minh ordered the Ministry of Public Security and the People's Committee of HCM City to urgently investigate and strictly deal with all violations and violators pertaining to child abuse.

Minh tasked the Ministry of Education and Training, the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs as well as ministries and sectors to strengthen measures to protect children, measures against child abuse, domestic violence and school violence.

"All individuals who cover-up behaviour or delay handling of violations of child abuse will be severely punished," Minh said.

Minh required the Supreme People's Court and the Supreme People's Procuratorcy to direct the People's Court and People's Procuratorcy at all

levels to closely coordinate with investigative agencies in investigating and strictly handling violations related to child abuse. Parents, caregivers and family members have to uphold the responsibility of caring for, nurturing, educating and protecting children, he added.

Changing the charge

In the meantime, the Việt Nam Association for the Protection of Children's Rights has sent a document to Binh Thanh District to ask the police to change the charge for Trang from "abusing others" to "intentionally causing injury, causing fatal consequences."

The association said the charge of "abusing others" was not appropriate according to the law.

According to the association, Trang's violent behaviour occurred many times over a long period. The behaviour was violent in nature and caused fatal consequences.

Trang admitted to the police that during the time they lived together, to "teach the child" she ordered a rattan rod to beat her. After the rod was broken, Trang used a wooden stick to beat the child.

There were many old wounds and stitches on key body parts of the girls, such as the head and armpit.

The right side of her second, third and fourth ribs were also broken and showed signs of slight haematoma. Besides, haematoma was also found under the skin of her right frontal forehead and she also suffered from mild cerebral edema, the association said. Therefore, the association believes that Trang's behaviour is indicative of "intentionally causing injury and causing fatal consequences," according to Clause 4, Article 134 of the 2015 Penal Code.

Protecting children

Government Decree 56/2017/ND-CP stipulates clearly that organisations and individuals that discover or have information about acts of abuse on children or children at risk of being abused should immediately notify the National Child Protection Hotline 111, or the labour, invalids and social affairs agency, or police, or the People's Committee of the commune where the incident occurred.

Đặng Hoa Nam, head of the Child Department under Ministry of Labour, War, Invalids and Social Affairs, said: "If people and neighbours had denounced Trang's violent behaviour to the authorities sooner, the heartbreaking incident would not have happened."

"Any act of child abuse, whether it is a threat or a reality, cannot be a 'private matter' of any parent or family."

The Law on Children 2016 clearly stipulates that organisations and individuals have the responsibility to inform, notify and denounce acts of child abuse or children at risk of violence to the competent authority, he said.

"Information providers are protected by law," Nam said. "Therefore, the information and identity of whistleblowers will be completely confidential, and people will not be afraid of retaliation."

"If there is a suspected case of child abuse, the simplest thing to do is to call the National Child Protection Hotline 111. The agency will receive and implement all necessary measures to protect children." VNS

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ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT CORRECTION OF INVITATION FOR BIDS

Package: Package XL-01: Construction of Song Truong & Nuoc Oa bridges, Rehabilitation and Improvement of Bridges on National Highways (Phase I), using EDCF Loan of Korean Government.

The Invitation for Bids was published on page 13, "Việt Nam News" on 30 December, 2021.

Corrected content: Correcting the bid closing and bid opening times as below.

- **Bid closing time:** 10:00 a.m on 18 February, 2022
- **Bid opening time:** 10:00 a.m on 18 February, 2022

Other information remains unchanged./.