

In South Africa, where over 30% of the population lives below the poverty line, poverty is still a major problem. The government has put in place a number of initiatives to reduce poverty, such as land reform laws, social grants, and housing subsidies. To address the underlying causes of poverty, such as limited access to opportunities for education and employment, more work must be done.

Two essential elements of socioeconomic development are healthcare and education. South Africa, which has a strong public healthcare system and a high literacy rate, has made great strides in enhancing access to healthcare and education. But there are still issues, such as insufficient money for healthcare and education and a lack of qualified medical personnel.

In summary, South Africa confronts formidable obstacles concerning both socio-political and socio-economic advancement. Nonetheless, the nation has advanced significantly in areas like economic expansion, political stability, and human rights. The government and civil society must keep collaborating to address these issues and guarantee sustainable development for all South Africans.

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LEGAL REGULATION OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY IN THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

Правовое регулирование экономической деятельности в Республике Беларусь

Economic activity is a set of actions at different levels of management in which people satisfy their needs through the production of tangible products and services. The subjects of economic activity are individuals, individual business owners, and the state. As a result of the production, distribution, exchange, and consumption of goods, as well as the interaction of subjects with each other, the sphere of economic relations must be regulated accordingly.

The methods by which the state influences economic entities are referred to as ways of controlling economic activity. The primary means are legal methods. The state establishes a normative framework in which all rules and procedures are regulated.

The purpose of our study is to consider the characteristics of the regulatory framework and examine the ways in which economic crimes are punished in practice.

Article 13 of the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus prescribes that the state controls economic activity in the interests of man and society; and provides direction and coordination of public and private economic activity for social goals. The state provides everyone with equal rights and opportunities to engage in entrepreneurship and other economic activities not prohibited by law.

As noted in article 2 of the Economic Procedural Code of the Republic of Belarus, justice in the sphere of entrepreneurial and other economic activities is carried out by courts, considering economic cases according to the rules established by law. Justice is served by resolving economic disputes arising from civil, administrative, land, financial, and other public legal relations.

The normative legal acts that form the basis of legal regulation of economic activity also include the Civil Code of the Republic of Belarus, the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus "On the Development of Entrepreneurship," and many other laws.

Regarding the practice of punishments for economic crimes, the Prosecutor General's Office reports that the number of such wrongdoings has increased. If in 2020 there were 895 crimes against the order of economic activity, in 2021 there were 973, and in 2022 there were 1051. The major category comprises tax evasion facts (according to the data, the number of registered instances has nearly doubled).

However, the number of individuals found guilty has declined. From 2017 to 2022, the number of persons convicted of illegal business activity decreased by 6 times (from 62 to 10). In 2022, only one person was convicted of evading repayment of accounts payable, while in 2017, the verdict was announced against 67 people. In addition, the number of persons convicted under article 243 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Belarus "Evasion of taxes and fees" has decreased from 268 to 82 over the past 5 years. This is due to the fact that business representatives try to prevent cases from reaching court or ending with an exemption from liability. Defendants in such circumstances nearly always try to find resources to avoid punishment after being detained.

Thus, the implementation of economic activity in the Republic of Belarus is regulated by the state through the regulatory framework, the activities of law enforcement agencies and courts considering economic cases, and other legal means.

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KENYA: POLITICAL TRANSFORMATIONS AND CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES

Кения: политические преобразования и современные вызовы

Purpose: To identify development trends, key characteristics and challenges of Kenya's social and political situation

The Kenyan state system with a strong executive and legislature is a legacy of the past and due to a weak party culture is vulnerable to lobbying by interest groups.