



TAMBULI Weekly Newsletter

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1. 40 days to go: FPI Business Summit 2025

FEDERATION OF PHILIPPINE INDUSTRIES, INC.
BUSINESS SUMMIT 2025

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The Voice of Industry

WEDNESDAY
08 OCTOBER '25
8AM-12NN

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THRIVING THRU TURBULENCE
ADVANCING PHILIPPINE MANUFACTURING
RESILIENCE & GROWTH



2. Federation of Philippine Industries (FPI) Statement on Flood Control Anomalies

The Federation of Philippine Industries (FPI) shares the alarm of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. over the massive anomalies uncovered in flood control projects. Reports of undocumented projects, identical contract amounts, and the use of substandard works are not just signs of corruption—they are threats to public safety, industry operations, and national resilience.

Flood control is too important to be compromised. Every failed or fraudulent project leaves Filipino communities and industries exposed to devastating floods that destroy homes, crops, factories, and supply chains.

FPI urges government to act decisively on four fronts:

1. **Accountability and Transparency** – Investigate all anomalous projects and hold both officials and contractors fully responsible.
2. **Higher Technical Standards** – Ensure all flood control systems are designed and built to global benchmarks of durability and effectiveness.

3. **Strict Monitoring and Enforcement** – Institutionalize independent inspections, audits, and performance checks, with sanctions and blacklisting for non-compliant contractors.

4. **Compliance with Philippine National Standards (PNS)** – Require all construction materials—steel, cement, aggregates, pipes, geosynthetics, and others—to meet PNS specifications. Random checks and strict enforcement must prevent substandard and uncertified products from entering projects.

We commend the creation of the “Sumbong sa Pangulo” platform and urge industry and citizens alike to report irregularities. Corruption and negligence in flood control projects are not just wastes of taxpayer money—they endanger lives and undermine confidence in government programs.

Flood control must be anchored on accountability, strict monitoring, and uncompromising compliance with PNS. Only then can infrastructure truly protect our people, our industries, and our future.

3. Appeal to PBBM: Time to make ‘Buy Pinoy’ mandatory in government procurement – By: FPI CE, Dr. Jesus Lim Arranza

Government procurement is not just about ensuring transparency and avoiding corruption. It should also be about maximizing the benefits of the country’s P6-trillion annual budget for the local economy. After all, the Philippine government is the single biggest customer in the country.

Imagine the multiplier effect if a significant portion of this budget is used to buy locally made goods instead of imported ones.

The benefits are clear: domestic industries will flourish, jobs will be created, and tax revenues will increase as industries expand and employ more workers. A stronger tax base means more funds for government programs and services. It is a cycle of benefits that sustains itself—if only government agencies would consistently

prioritize local products.

In fact, the laws already exist. Republic Act 12009, or the “Revised Government Procurement Reform Act,” mandates preference for locally produced goods in government procurement. This law is aligned with Administrative Order 227, issued by then-President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, which institutionalized the “Buy Pinoy, Buy Local” campaign launched by the Federation of Philippine Industries (FPI) and the Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry. A much-older law, the Commonwealth Act No. 138, also mandated a “Buy Filipino” policy for government procurement, requiring government entities to prioritize locally manufactured goods even if they are up to 15 percent to 20 percent more expensive than their foreign counterparts.

(To continue reading, follow this link:
<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2025/08/27/app>

[eal-to-pbbm-time-to-make-buy-pinoy-mandatory-in-government-procurement/](https://businessmirror.com.ph/2025/08/27/app)

4. Competence and compassion needed in rice tariffication - By: Ernesto M. Ordoñez



MANILA, Philippines — What is causing our rice crisis today is a lack of competence and compassion (malasakit), much more than corruption. This surfaced at the hearing of the Senate Committee on Agriculture last Aug. 20. It was chaired by Sen. Francis Pangilinan, with Senators Imee Marcos and Rodante Marcoleta participating.

On corruption, we appreciate Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel, Jr.'s courage and honesty when he commented on an incomplete Department of Agriculture (DA) project. He stopped it because "it was a racket." We hope this will characterize a new wave of transparency and accountability, starting with the massive flood control anomalies.

On tariffs, when I served as the technical committee chair of the Cabinet Committee on Tariff and Related Matters, I used a certain methodology to guide our decisions. I successfully used this same methodology when, as president of the Cement Manufacturers Association of the Philippines and the Asean Federation of Cement Manufacturers, we won cement safeguard measures (equivalent to additional tariffs) that prevented the downfall of the cement industry from unfair trade developments. (To continue reading, follow this link: <https://business.inquirer.net/542567/competence-and-compassion-needed-in-rice-tariffication>)

5. D&L to proceed with second biodiesel plant

LISTED food ingredients and oleochemicals producer D&L Industries, Inc. will proceed with its planned second biodiesel plant to increase capacity despite the recent suspension of the government-

mandated blend increase.

"Even if the (blend) increase was postponed, it was not canceled. It will only be done at a later date. It would still make

sense to proceed with more capacity for biodiesel,” D&L President and Chief Executive Officer Alvin D. Lao told reporters recently.

“It’s still in the planning stages. I would say it’s probably a matter of when, not if. There’s a high probability we will make a second plant. In terms of when, how big, or how much we’ll spend, we’re not there yet,” he added.

The Department of Energy issued an

advisory last month announcing the suspension of the planned increase in the coco methyl ester (CME) component of biodiesel amid high coconut oil prices that could impact pump prices.

The increase to a 4% biodiesel blend was supposed to be implemented on Oct. 1, rising to 5% a year later. (To continue reading, follow this link: https://www.bworldonline.com/corporate/2025/08/22/693069/dl-to-proceed-with-second-biodiesel-plant/#google_vignette)

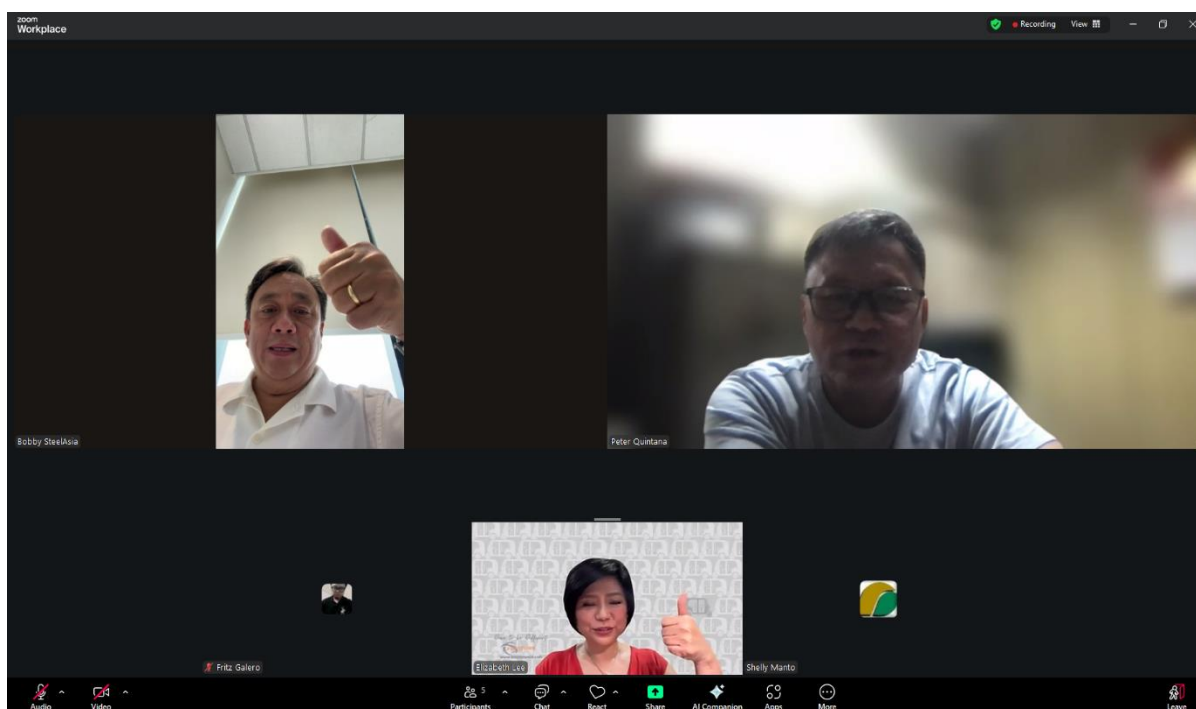
6. FPI Committees

Legislation and Policy Committee



Members of FPI’s Legislation and Policy Committee had the opportunity to meet with the DTI’s International Trade Group (ITG) in a Round Table Discussion (RTD) via Zoom last August 22, 2025 8:30am - 9:30am. ITG, headed by Usec. Allan B. Gepty, has been involved in trade negotiations, including multilateral, regional, and bilateral trade talks, and advocates for industrial development and trade competitiveness.

Labor and Productivity Committee



The Labor and Productivity Committee met via Zoom last August 22, 2025, 10AM, to discuss the Federation's position paper regarding the Senate measures on wage increase. The committee discussed the best approach: either participate in the hearing or focus on media engagement to get their message across. There was also an agreement to send a letter to the Senate Committee on Labor to ensure that FPI's stance is known. Furthermore, a detailed media release could be planned to coincide with Senate hearings as well as the possibility of using economic data and expert opinions (such as those from DTI, NEDA, and other agencies) to craft a compelling narrative was discussed.

7. Other news & announcements

PEZA Jan-Aug investment approvals surge 71.5% to P105.83B

To read/view the article: <https://insiderph.com/peza-jan-aug-investment-approvals-surge-715-to-p10583b>.

'Konektadong Pinoy' bill lapses into law without Marcos' signature

To read/view the article: <https://www.msn.com/en-ph/news/news/content/ar-AA1L6Rbh?ocid=sapphireappshare>.

Sotto: Private-sector employees should receive 14th-month pay

To read/view the article, kindly follow this link: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2096776/sotto-private-sector-employees-should-receive-14th-month-pay/amp>.

Philippines ranks 27th most technologically advanced country in 2025

To read more, please follow this link:

<https://www.bworldonline.com/infographics/2025/08/19/692343/philippines-ranks-27th-most-technologically-advanced-country-in-2025/>.

Report: Philippines ranks 11th most AI-ready country globally

To read more, please follow this link:

<https://www.bworldonline.com/infographics/2025/08/20/692550/report-philippines-ranks-11th-most-ai-ready-country-globally/>.

New taxes ruled out amid record debt

To read more, please follow this link: <https://www.bworldonline.com/top-stories/2025/08/20/692554/new-taxes-ruled-out-amid-record-debt/>.

BOC Halts Smuggling of P5.93 Million Worth of Illicit Cigarettes in North Cotabato

To read/view this media release, kindly follow this link: <https://customs.gov.ph/boc-halts-smuggling-of-p5-93-million-worth-of-illicit-cigarettes-in-north-cotabato/>.

BOC Warns Public Against Solicitation Scheme Offering ‘Special Treatment’

To read/view this media release, kindly follow this link: <https://customs.gov.ph/boc-warns-public-against-solicitation-scheme-offering-special-treatment/>.

Statement of Bureau of Customs Commissioner Ariel Nepomuceno on the Online Duty and Tax Calculator

To read/view this media release, kindly follow this link: <https://customs.gov.ph/customs-chief-orders-temporary-removal-of-online-duty-tax-calculator/>.

BOC Foils PHP8.244-M Vape Smuggling Attempt at Clark Port

To read/view this media release, kindly follow this link: <https://customs.gov.ph/boc-foils-php8-244-m-vape-smuggling-attempt-at-clark-port/>.

PUBLIC ADVISORY: CHANGE IN SEC CONTACT CENTER HOTLINE NUMBER

To read/view this advisory, kindly follow this link: <https://www.sec.gov.ph/notices/change-in-sec-contact-center-hotline-number/>.

SEC CERTIFICATION WEBINAR FOR PROSPECTIVE EQUITY SECURITIES SALESMEN SCHEDULED ON 6-7 NOVEMBER 2025 AND REGISTRATION PROCEDURE

To read/view this advisory, kindly follow this link: <https://www.sec.gov.ph/notices-2025/sec-certification-webinar-for-prospective-equity-securities-salesmen-scheduled-on-6-7-november-2025-and-registration-procedure/>.

SEC CERTIFICATION WEBINAR FOR PROSPECTIVE COMPLIANCE OFFICERS/ASSOCIATED PERSONS FOR BROKER-DEALERS IN THE EQUITIES MARKET SCHEDULED ON OCTOBER 23-24, 2025 AND REGISTRATION PROCEDURE

To read/view this advisory, kindly follow this link: <https://www.sec.gov.ph/cmp-notice/sec-certification-webinar-for-prospective-compliance-officers-associated-persons-for-broker-dealers-in-the-equities-market-scheduled-on-october-23-24-2025-and-registration-procedure-2/>.

SEC CERTIFICATION EXAMINATIONS SCHEDULES IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2025 AT THE SEC HEADQUARTERS AND APPLICATION PROCEDURE

To read/view this advisory, kindly follow this link: <https://www.sec.gov.ph/cmp-notice/sec-certification-examinations-schedules-in-september-and-october-2025-at-the-sec-headquarters-and-application-procedure/>.

SEC drafts rules clarifying exempt transactions under SRC

To read view the SEC Press Release: <https://www.sec.gov.ph/pr-2025/sec-drafts-rules-clarifying-exempt-transactions-under-src/#qsc.tab=0>.

BIR RMO No. 36-2025 - Further Amending Revenue Memorandum Order No. 6-2023, Prescribing the Updated and Consolidated Policies, Guidelines and Procedures for BIR Audit Program | [Full Text](#)

20TH CONGRESS COMMITTEE HEARINGS/MEETINGS

- [Senate of the Philippines Committee Hearings/Meetings](#)
- [House of Representatives Committee Meetings](#)