



TAMBULI Weekly Newsletter

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1. URGENT APPEAL TO HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT FERDINAND MARCOS, JR.



URGENT APPEAL TO HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT FERDINAND R. MARCOS, JR.

We, the major business organizations representing members across all sectors - large, medium, small, and micro-enterprises are co-signing this resolution, urgently calling on your administration to address, without delay, the historic, massive, and unprecedented corruption scandal crippling our flood control and infrastructure projects — a crisis that has eroded public trust and now threatens our national security.

We have contributed to national funds thru taxes locally and nationally and have paid additional assessment of taxes. We provided many fees to enable us to do business. Yet, Trillions of pesos supplied and intended to protect our communities from disasters have been squandered through ghost projects, substandard work, and inflated contracts. This is more than financial loss — it is a fatal breach of public trust that leaves our people vulnerable and outraged.

We therefore urge His Excellency to immediately and transparently adopt the following measures:

- Empower the Independent Commission on Infrastructure (ICI) with full legal authority and independence to conduct a swift, comprehensive investigation, free from political influence.
- Prosecute all those responsible, impartially and without regard of rank, position, political affiliation or personal relations.
- Implement institutional reforms, ensure restitution of ill gotten wealth and embezzled funds of the government, and strengthen procurement and oversight systems, preventing future abuse.
- Provide regular public updates on the progress of investigations and reforms and to publicly disclose all audit findings to demonstrate genuine commitment and credibility.

Mr. President, we strongly urge you to act decisively to signal your administration's genuine commitment to justice, integrity, and accountable governance.

1. Association of Abaca Pulp Manufacturers of the Philippines
2. Association of Certified Public Accountants in Commerce and Industry
3. Association of International Shipping Lines, Inc.
4. Association of Petrochemical Manufacturers of the Philippines
5. Capital Markets Development Foundation, Inc.
6. Employers' Confederation of the Philippines
7. Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Inc.
8. Federation of Philippine Industries
9. Financial Institute Executives of the Philippines
10. FinTech Alliance.Ph
11. Fintech Philippines Association
12. Good Governance Advocates of the Philippines
13. Institute of Corporate Directors
14. International Chamber of Commerce-Philippines
15. IT and Business Process Association of the Philippines
16. Justice Reform Initiative
17. Makati Business Club
18. Management Association of the Philippines
19. Philippine Association of Legitimate Service Contractors
20. Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry
21. Philippine Exporters Confederation
22. Philippine Food Exporters Confederation
23. Philippine Franchise Association
24. Philippine Hotel Owners Association, Inc.
25. Philippine Plastics Industry Association
26. Philippine Retailers Association
27. Philippine Steelmakers Association
28. Philippine Young Entrepreneurs Association
29. Samahan sa Pilipinas ng mga Industriyang Kimika
30. Supply Chain Management of the Philippines
31. Tax Management Association of the Philippines
32. Women's Business Council Philippines
33. Filipina CEO Circle
34. Healthcare Information Management Association of the Philippines

2. Why the need for state witnesses when the evidence is already clear – By: FPI CE, Dr. Jesus Lim Arranza

IN the ongoing congressional investigations on ghost projects and substandard infrastructure supposedly funded by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), one question keeps coming up: Do we need state witnesses to pin down the guilty?

Frankly, I think this debate is unnecessary. Why the fuss over state witnesses when the evidence is already staring us in the face?

If a project was allocated funds, documented, and paid for—but never implemented on the ground—then it is not only a ghost project; it is a crime that leaves behind visible emptiness. The absence of a project where one was intended to be built serves as proof—no state witness is needed.

Likewise, if a road, bridge, or flood control structure was supposedly completed but has already crumbled, cracked, or eroded long before its expected lifespan, that's evidence enough. Engineers can measure, test, and certify that the work was substandard. The documents, the site, and the results speak louder than any testimony.

So why should we give those involved an escape route by turning them into state witnesses? If we keep doing this, we only embolden more crooks in government and the private sector—because they know they can always talk their way out later. The picture, as they say, already speaks for itself. (Continue reading: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2025/10/15/why-the-need-for-state-witnesses-when-the-evidence-is-already-clear/>)

3. Agriculture roadmaps: formulation and implementation - By: Ernesto M. Ordoñez

MANILA, Philippines — For our country, we must not only do things right (eliminate corruption). We must also do the right thing (increase competence). We should do this as we formulate and implement our agriculture roadmaps.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. has already shown unprecedented political will in combating corruption by conducting investigations on 14 Department of Agriculture (DA) officials. In addition, apprehensions of contraband increased fourfold during his watch.

Meanwhile, our agriculture exports increased last year by 22 percent, higher than Vietnam's 18 percent and Thailand's 6 percent. But perhaps because we had suboptimal agriculture export roadmaps and weak direction, our \$7.8-billion exports last year are very low compared to Thailand's \$52.2 billion and Thailand's \$42.2 billion.

Cacao road map

To improve our agriculture exports, cacao was identified as a promising crop. But without a good roadmap, this promise may not be fulfilled.

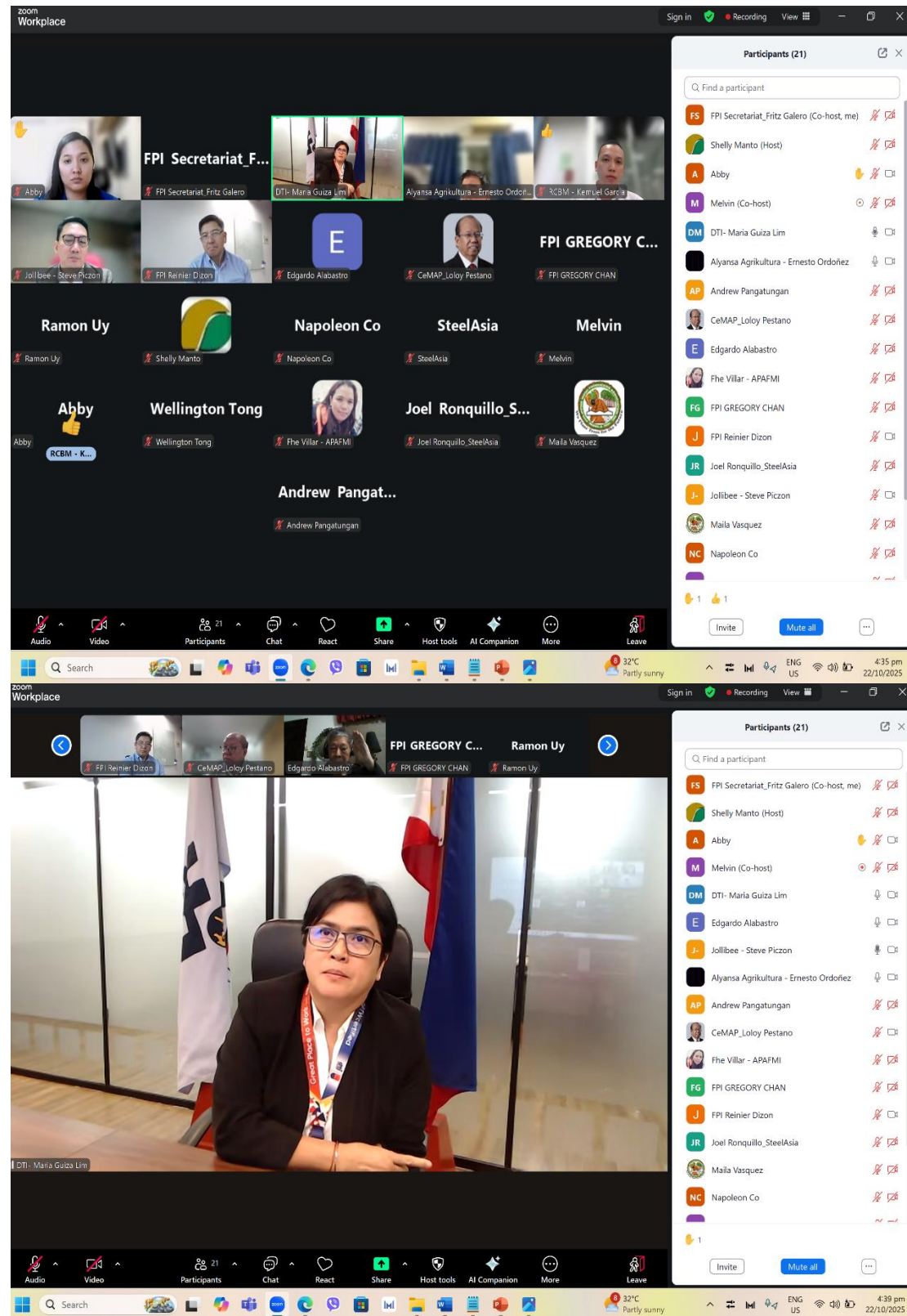
On June 26 to June 27, the private sector Philippine Cacao Industry Association, led by Consul Armi Lopez Garcia, worked with the DA and the Department of Trade and Industry for a more effective 2026 to 2028 Philippine Cacao Roadmap. Central to this effort was Edward Barlaan, professor emeritus of the University of Southern Mindanao. Participants were government agencies and cacao stakeholders across the value chain.

Last Oct. 15, they came together to improve and approve the final version of the cacao roadmap. Here are some of its key findings.

(Continue reading: <https://business.inquirer.net/553039/agriculture-roadmaps-formulation-and-implementation>)

4. FPI Committees

Legislation and Policy



Online Round Table Discussion (RTD) with DTI-Bureau of Import Services (BIS) held last Wednesday, 22 October 2025, 3:30pm-5:00pm Via Zoom.

A focused dialogue was conducted between the DTI and members of the Federation of Philippine Industries (FPI), with the goal of clarifying current trade remedy measures and exploring potential legislative and procedural reforms.

The session highlighted opportunities to strengthen safeguards against unfair foreign competition, improve responsiveness to market changes, and increase support for vulnerable sectors such as agriculture. The speaker was Ms. Maria Guiza B. Lim who serves as Director of the Bureau of Import Services (BIS).

Labor and Productivity



Pre-COP30 Tripartite Consultation on Just Transition held last October 10, 2025, 2nd Floor, Quezon Hall 1 of Seda Vertis North in Quezon City.

As the world races to address climate change, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) is taking steps to ensure that Filipino workers and enterprises are not left behind in the shift to a greener economy.

Through its policy research arm, the Institute for Labor Studies (ILS), and in partnership with the International Labour Organization (ILO), DOLE brought together representatives from government, labor, employers, and civil society in Quezon City for a pre-COP30 consultation on Just Transition, a framework that seeks to balance environmental goals with decent work and social protection.

All event materials, presentations, and official photos are now available in this Google Drive [folder](#). In addition, the Department of Labor and Employment ([DOLE](#)) and [ILS](#) have each published a press release on the consultation, for your reference and perusal.

Product Standards



On Oct. 7, 2025, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) confiscated substandard construction materials from 24 retailer firms, as part of its intensified drive to remove uncertified and unsafe products in the market. The DTI's Fair Trade Enforcement Bureau (FTEB) led the operations under the agency's collaboration with the Federation of Philippine Industries (FPI) to strengthen monitoring and enforcement against violative trade practices. View post: <https://www.facebook.com/reel/664438426425285>.

5. FPI in the news

Maiki Oreta with Elizabeth H. Lee, Chairperson of the Federation of Philippine Industries, on #Business360

View post: <https://www.facebook.com/bncphl/posts/catch-maiki-oreta-with-elizabeth-h-lee-chairperson-of-the-federation-of-philippi/122225193914354398/>

Perang ninakaw sa taumbayan, ibalik — Elizabeth Lee

See post: <https://www.facebook.com/reel/1873171649947908>

Interview with FPI Chairperson Elizabeth Lee |

Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S0wOFZIXHQ> (skip to: [28:39](#)) | DWAR Abante Radyo

Panawagan ng 34 business groups kay PBBM - Aksiyunan agad ang katiwalian kaugnay sa flood control projects

Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F7ERSIPHID8>

Biz groups: Corruption crisis a security threat

To read/view the article: <https://business.inquirer.net/553396/biz-groups-corruption-crisis-a-security-threat/amp>

Business groups urge President Marcos: Strengthen ICI

To read/view the article: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2025/10/20/2481187/business-groups-urge-president-marcos-strengthen-ici/amp/>

Business groups call on Marcos to take 'swift, decisive action' vs 'unprecedented corruption'

To read/view the article: <https://www.abs-cbn.com/news/business/2025/10/19/business-groups-call-on-marcos-to-take-swift-decisive-action-vs-unprecedented-corruption-2318>

Agriculture roadmaps: formulation and implementation

To read/view the article: <https://business.inquirer.net/553039/agriculture-roadmaps-formulation-and-implementation>

Why the need for state witnesses when the evidence is already clear

To read/view the article: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2025/10/15/why-the-need-for-state-witnesses-when-the-evidence-is-already-clear/>

DTI cracks down on 24 retailers selling substandard products

View post: <https://www.facebook.com/reel/664438426425285>

2025 FPI Business Summit: Helping Local Industries Thrive Through Turbulent Times

To read/view the article: https://powerwheelsmagazine.com.ph/2025-fpi-business-summit-helping-local-industries-thrive-through-turbulent-times/?fbclid=IwQ0xDSwNbArtleHRuA2FlbQlXMQABHn7xaYvJMdXIW5hTRf6pIObUTiu3LVJ2EdXSWdg52_gb6q3HU26NVos5kR4Z_aem_mltB64YEu0HRYuAcU3Lk-w

Industry group supports BOC's bold anti-smuggling reforms

To read/view the article: <https://manilastandard.net/business/314654773/industry-group-supports-bocs-bold-anti-smuggling-reforms.html>

DTI to Adopt Temporary Safeguard Duty Recommendation on Cement

Read post: <https://www.facebook.com/DTI.Philippines/posts/read-dti-to-adopt-temporary-safeguard-duty-recommendation-on-cementtrade-and-ind/1240391501466126/>

Customs reforms take off: Digitalization and anti-corruption push seen to end smuggling, says FPI

Read post: <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/19nkn7KUTx/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

FPI hopes BoC digitalization can reform 'most corrupt' agency, curb smuggling

To read/view the article: <https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2025/10/13/704995/fpi-hopes-boc-digitalization-can-reform-most-corrupt-agency-curb-smuggling/?amp>

PH BUSINESS GROUP BACKS REFORMS IN PUBLIC BIDDING SYSTEM AMID FLOOD CONTROL CORRUPTION SCANDAL

Watch: <https://youtu.be/E3-SObfd9Q?t=200>

Congress must move on the damaging rice tariff

To read/view the article: <https://business.inquirer.net/552022/congress-must-move-on-the-damaging-rice-tariff>

“Hanapin ang PS at ICC marks para makasigurong sumusunod sa Philippine Product Standards.” DTI- FTEB OIC Atty. Genaro Jacob, while inspecting hardware stores in Arayat, Pampanga.

Watch: <https://web.facebook.com/reel/814212134325809>

BOC and FPI Forge Stronger Partnership to Combat Smuggling and Protect Domestic Industries | <https://customs.gov.ph/boc-and-fpi-forge-stronger-partnership-to-combat-smuggling-and-protect-domestic-industries/>

6. Other news & announcements

Power firms get more time to comply with public offering requirement | <https://www.bworldonline.com/corporate/2025/10/22/707071/power-firms-get-more-time-to-comply-with-public-offering-requirement/>

The World's Taiwan Strategy Runs Through the Philippines
The Philippines is becoming a regional nexus for defense integration involving U.S. allies from around the globe. | <https://thediplomat.com/2025/10/the-worlds-taiwan-strategy-runs-through-the-philippines/>

BIR RR No. 27-2025 - Amends Section 8 of Revenue Regulations No. 25-2003 on the Tax Treatment on Subsequent Sale, Transfer or Exchange of Tax-Exempt Automobile by a Tax-Exempt Person/Entity to a Non-Exempt Person/Entity | [Full Text](#)

BIR RR No. 26-2025 - Amending the transitory provisions of RR No. 11-2025 extending the compliance period for electronic invoice issuance by covered taxpayers | [Full Text](#)

BIR RMO No. 45-2025 - Modification of Alphanumeric Tax Code (ATC) of Selected Revenue Source under Republic Act (R.A.) No. 12214 (Capital Markets Efficiency Promotion Act) | [Full Text](#)

BIR RMO No. 44-2025 - Guidelines and Procedures in Processing and Payment of Separation and Terminal Leave Benefits (TLB) Claims in the National and Regional Offices Amending Revenue Memorandum Order (RMO) No. 37-2016 and RMO No. 40-2020, as amended by RMO No. 14-2022 | [Full Text](#) | [Annex A](#) | [Annex B](#) | [Annex C](#) | [Annex D](#) | [Annex E](#) | [Annex F](#) | [Annex G](#) | [Annex H](#)

BIR RMO No. 43-2025 - Guidelines on the Grant of Medical Allowance to Employees of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) | [Full Text](#) | [Annex A](#) | [Annex B to E](#)

BIR RMC No. 92-2025 - Work-around Procedure for the Accomplishment of BIR Form No. 1602Q in Light of the Implementation of Republic Act No. 12214, also known as the "Capital Markets Efficiency Promotion Act (CMEPA)" | [Full Text](#)

BIR RMC No. 92-2025 - Over the Counter Medicines and First Aid Kits | [Full Text](#)

SEC wins big on wellbeing and diversity | <https://www.sec.gov.ph/pr-2025/sec-wins-big-on-wellbeing-and-diversity/#gsc.tab=0>

SEC clears preferred share offer by Megawide | <https://www.sec.gov.ph/pr-2025/sec-clears-preferred-share-offer-by-megawide/#gsc.tab=0>

STATEMENT OF SEC CHAIRPERSON FRANCIS LIM Clarifying a Claim about the Impact of Recent Corruption Issues on the Capital Market | <https://www.sec.gov.ph/pr-2025/statement-of-sec-chairperson-francis-lim-clarifying-a-claim-about-the-impact-of-recent-corruption-issues-on-the-capital-market/#gsc.tab=0>

SEC FOREIGN INVESTMENT REGISTRATION STATION DIVISION (FIRST-D) GREEN LANE UNIT | <https://www.sec.gov.ph/notices/sec-foreign-investment-registration-station-division-first-d-green-lane-unit/#gsc.tab=0>

CONDUCT OF SEC CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION IN CEBU ON 27 NOVEMBER 2025 | <https://www.sec.gov.ph/notices/conduct-of-sec-certification-examination-in-cebu-on-27-november-2025/#gsc.tab=0>

EXPOSURE DRAFT OF MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR ON BLOCKCHAIN-BASED DIGITAL SIGNING AND AUTHENTICATION OF SEC DOCUMENTS USING THE SEC VERITAS | <https://www.sec.gov.ph/notices/exposure-draft-of-memorandum-circular-on-blockchain-based-digital-signing-and-authentication-of-sec-documents-using-the-sec-veritas/#gsc.tab=0>

STREAMLINING OF REQUIREMENT ON THE SUBMISSION OF ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING OPERATING MANUAL AND ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING – COMPLIANCE FORM FOR FINANCING COMPANIES AND LENDING COMPANIES | <https://www.sec.gov.ph/notices/streamlining-of-requirement-on-the-submission-of-anti-money-laundering-operating-manual-and-anti-money-laundering-compliance-form-for-financing-companies-and-lending-companies/#gsc.tab=0>

BOC MISTG Memo 16-2025 - Customer Care Portal System Advisory | <https://customs.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/2025-16-MISTG-MEMO.pdf>

BOC OCOM Memo 70-2025 - Consolidation of Commodities Subject to Imports and Assessment Service Clearance | <https://customs.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/2025-70-OCOM-MEMO.pdf>

BOC AOCG Memo 210-2025 - Submission of Data on Safeguard Duty on Cement for Calendar Year 2025 | <https://customs.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/2025-210-AOCG-MEMO.pdf>

BOC PCAG Memo 02-2025 - Apostille Documents | <https://customs.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/2025-02-PCAG-MEMO.pdf>

BOC, ARISE Plus Philippines Mark Major Reforms at Culminating WG Meeting | <https://customs.gov.ph/boc-arise-plus-philippines-mark-major-reforms-at-culminating-wg-meeting/>

BOC Chief Pushes Full Digitalization to Strengthen Supply Chain Security | <https://customs.gov.ph/boc-chief-pushes-full-digitalization-to-strengthen-supply-chain-security/>

BOC Shares Progress on Digitalization and Stakeholder Engagement in Meeting with EU-ASEAN Business Council | <https://customs.gov.ph/boc-shares-progress-on-digitalization-and-stakeholder-engagement-in-meeting-with-eu-asean-business-council/>

BOC Seeks Dialogue with U.S. Embassy and AmCham Following State Department Report | <https://customs.gov.ph/boc-seeks-dialogue-with-u-s-embassy-and-amcham-following-state-department-report/>

BOC Generates Over ₱106 Million from Transparent Disposal of Goods | <https://customs.gov.ph/boc-generates-over-%e2%82%b1106-million-from-transparent-disposal-of-goods/>

BOC CMC 188-2025 - Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Administrative Order (DAO) No. 25-11, Series of 2025, Re: In the Matter of the Preliminary Determination on the Application for Safeguard Measures on Importation of Corrugating Medium from Various Countries (AHTN CODES 4805.19.10 4805.19.90 and 4805.12.00) Safeguard Measure Case No SG-01-2025) |
<https://customs.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/2025CMC-188-2025.pdf>

BOC CMO 06-2025 - Rules and Regulations Governing the Implementation of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) Origin Management System (OMS), Including the Product Evaluation Report (PER) Management System (PMS), in the Philippines |
<https://customs.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/2025CMO-06-2025.pdf>

20TH CONGRESS COMMITTEE HEARINGS/MEETINGS

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