



# TAMBULI Weekly Newsletter

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## 1. FPI Commends the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC)

On behalf of the Federation of Philippine Industries (FPI), representing the backbone of the nation's manufacturing sector, we wish to extend our deepest appreciation and commendation to the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) under your dynamic and resolute leadership. We have observed with great admiration the significant and positive transformations that have taken place within the Commission, which have profoundly impacted the Philippine energy sector and, by extension, our members' ability to compete and grow.

As manufacturers, our competitiveness on both local and global stages is directly tied to the availability of reliable and competitively priced electricity. In this regard, we specifically note and laud the following achievements of the Commission within a short span of time under your leadership:

**1. Expedited Disposition of Cases:** The marked improvement in the speed of case resolution has been a game-changer. For our members, this translates to operational certainty. Clearing long-pending issues, particularly concerning power supply agreements, provides the clarity needed to secure stable, long-term energy contracts, shielding our industries from the price volatility of the spot market and enabling better financial planning.

**2. Streamlined Issuance of Licenses and Certificates:** Your proactive processing of licenses, especially for generation companies, is instrumental in bolstering our country's energy security. This efficiency ensures that new capacity can be delivered to the grid in a timely manner, which is crucial for powering our factories, meeting production targets, and preventing costly operational disruptions.

**3. Addressing Backlogs and Enhancing Operational Efficiency:** The concerted effort to address administrative and case backlogs demonstrates a strong commitment to good governance. This has created a more predictable and dependable regulatory partner for industries, restoring trust in a process that is vital to our operations.

**4. Issuance of Sound and Forward-Looking Regulations:** We particularly commend the Commission for issuing well-crafted regulations that protect consumers while ensuring industry viability. Policies such as the Omnibus Rules for Customer Choice Programs empower large power consumers, including many of our members, to negotiate for more competitive electricity rates.

This directly enhances the competitiveness of Philippine-made goods against foreign imports and in the export market.

**5. Fair and Impartial Decision-Making:** The ERC's decisions have been widely perceived as fair, evidence-based, and grounded in a thorough understanding of the energy industry's complex realities. This commitment to impartiality is the cornerstone of a credible regulator and provides the stable policy environment essential for long-term industrial planning and capital investments.

Collectively, these initiatives have sent a powerful and positive signal to investors, particularly in the generation sector. The

restoration of investor confidence is critical, as it encourages the capital-intensive investments needed to build new power capacity—the ultimate long-term solution to achieving competitive and stable electricity prices for Philippine industries. The demonstrable efficiency, transparency, and fairness now evident at the ERC are powerful incentives for this much-needed growth.

Please accept our sincerest gratitude for your unwavering dedication and visionary leadership. We are confident that under your continued guidance, the ERC will remain a pillar of strength and stability for the Philippine electricity sector.

We look forward to our continued partnership with the ERC in powering a progressive and sustainable industrial future for the Philippines.

## 2. FPI urges DTI to act against lithium battery sellers deceiving consumers online

The Federation of Philippine Industries (FPI) has urged the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) to investigate the alleged sale of unverified and possibly substandard automotive batteries being marketed online, one of which is under the brand "GR Lithium Batteries."

In a letter dated October 27, 2025, FPI Chairman Emeritus Dr. Jesus L. Arranza called the attention of DTI Secretary Ma. Cristina A. Roque, citing serious concerns about misleading claims and the absence of the Import Commodity Clearance (ICC) mark on the said batteries — a clear violation of existing product standards regulations.

Based on Facebook posts monitored by the FPI, the company LED Lights Ph appears to be behind the marketing of the GR Lithium Batteries brand, though it remains unclear if the firm is even authorized to sell automotive batteries in the country. The group noted that social media posts from the seller are "making grand promises and wild claims" that could deceive Filipino consumers.

One of the most alarming assertions, FPI said, is the five-year warranty being offered by the seller. "This puts customers at a disadvantage because the company

has no established track record that could guarantee it will still be in business long enough to honor such warranties," Arranza said.

FPI members who monitored the online listings expressed alarm over the claims, pointing out that no ICC mark is visible on the products being promoted — suggesting they may have entered the country outside proper importation and certification channels.

Arranza appealed to the DTI to act swiftly through the Bureau of Philippine Standards (BPS), the E-Commerce Bureau, and Task Force Kalasag to protect both Filipino motorists and legitimate businesses from the proliferation of illegal and substandard automotive batteries.

"Our hopes are high that your good office will immediately take action to safeguard the welfare of Filipino motorists," the FPI letter stated. "This is also to ensure a level playing field for businesses in the country."

The industry group, which has been at the forefront of anti-smuggling and consumer protection efforts, earlier called on the government to intensify enforcement against counterfeit and uncertified goods,

particularly in the automotive battery sector.

The issue underscores a growing concern over the rise of untested imported lithium batteries being marketed online without proper certifications or safety validation. Consumer groups have also echoed the need for DTI to heighten monitoring of e-commerce platforms where such products are freely sold.

If proven to be substandard or uncertified, these batteries could pose safety hazards, including potential fire or explosion risks, and may fail prematurely, putting motorists and vehicles at risk.

FPI's letter follows its earlier calls this year for tighter enforcement of import regulations and product testing and certification to prevent smuggling and the entry of substandard goods.

### **3. Floods and quakes: Wake-up calls for unity and accountability – By: FPI CE, Dr. Jesus Lim Arranza**

The recent floods and earthquakes that battered the country should not be seen as natural disasters only—they are wake-up calls. They remind us, in the most painful way, that no one is spared when systems fail, when complacency takes over, and when accountability is ignored.

In the past, many Filipinos would shrug off problems that didn't affect or hurt them directly. If a flood only submerged another town, or an earthquake only damaged another province, we turned away and carried on. We didn't care if there were obvious lapses, omissions, and

commissions that made the impact on lives more severe.

The same attitude explains why we tolerate so many violations in our everyday lives—from ukay-ukay stalls selling smuggled goods, to tricycles clogging main highways, to government agencies bending the rules.

To read/view the full article follow this link: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2025/11/05/floods-and-quakes-wake-up-calls-for-unity-and-accountability/>

### **4. Agriculture: Exports, not imports - By: Ernesto M. Ordoñez**

We must cut down on our agricultural imports. In addition, we must increase our agricultural exports. Otherwise, our agricultural development will be stymied.

This past year, consider how agriculture has grown compared with other sectors. In the first quarter, it was the worst-performing. In the second quarter, it was the best.

Agriculture must continue this momentum. But, this will not happen unless we improve our agricultural trade balance.

Last year, our agriculture exports were only worth \$7.8 billion, compared with imports of \$19.5 billion. This resulted in an agriculture trade deficit of \$11.7 billion, by far the worst in Southeast Asia.

There is good and there is bad news. The good news is that in 2024, our agriculture export growth of 22 percent impressively surpassed Vietnam's 18 percent and Thailand's 6 percent.

The bad news is that our \$7.8 billion is way below Vietnam's \$62.5 billion and Thailand's \$52.2 billion.

If only we did 80 percent of what Thailand did, we would not need the \$38.3 billion in overseas remittances that have caused so much disruption in our economic and social lives. (Continue reading: <https://business.inquirer.net/555854/agriculture-exports-not-imports>)

## 5. FPI Board in action



Photos taken during the FPI Board meeting on Wednesday, November 5, 2025, 12:00pm to 2:00pm at the Manila Golf and Country Club, Makati City.

## 6. FPI Committee

### FPI Meeting Re “Blockchain in the Budget Bill”



The meeting, chaired by Mr. Rainer Dizon, President of the Federation of Philippine Industries (FPI), gathered leaders and representatives from the construction, cement, and steel sectors, alongside government partners. The discussion centered on introducing and consulting stakeholders regarding the “Blockchain in the Budget Bill”, a legislative proposal by Sen. Bam Aquino. The meeting was held last Wednesday, 29 October 2025, 11:30am, Jazmin Rm., Club Filipino, Eisenhower Street, Greenhills, San Juan City.

## 7. FPI in the news

### Floods and quakes: Wake-up calls for unity and accountability

To read/view the article: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2025/11/05/floods-and-quakes-wake-up-calls-for-unity-and-accountability/>

### DTI to probe sale of unverified ‘GR Lithium Batteries’ online

To read/view the article: <https://tribune.net.ph/2025/11/03/dti-to-probe-sale-of-unverified-gr-lithium-batteries-online>

### Agriculture: Exports, not imports

To read/view the article: <https://business.inquirer.net/555854/agriculture-exports-not-imports>

**Billionaire congressman Leandro Leviste has completed the sale of P13.76 billion worth of shares in SP New Energy Corp. (SPNEC) to the group of tycoon Manuel V. Pangilinan, cementing the latter's control of one of the country's largest solar operators.**

To read/view the article: <https://insiderph.com/leviste-sells-p138-b-spnec-stake-to-mvp-led-meralcos-renewable-unit-mgreen>

**Iginiit ni Elizabeth Lee, chair ng Federation of Philippine Industries (FPI), ang pangangailangang paigtingin ang suporta at pagpapatupad sa Independent Commission for Infrastructure (ICI) bilang hakbang laban sa malawak na katiwalian sa gobyerno. Binigyang-diin niya ang kahalagahan ng pagiging independiyente ng ICI upang tunay na magkaroon ito ng “pangil” sa paglilinis ng sistema at sa pagpapanagot sa mga sangkot sa maanomalyang flood control projects. - #DWAR1494**

Watch: <https://www.tiktok.com/@dwar1494/video/7563569303509830933>

### **Philippine Industries Support Full Restitution in Plea Bargains**

Watch: [https://www.tiktok.com/@bnc.exclusive/video/7564434028066016513?\\_r=1&\\_t=ZS-90wV84493XI](https://www.tiktok.com/@bnc.exclusive/video/7564434028066016513?_r=1&_t=ZS-90wV84493XI)

### **Biz group wants probe of online selling of auto batteries**

To read/view the article: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2025/10/29/business/top-business/biz-group-wants-probe-of-online-selling-of-auto-batteries/2210374>

### **FPI STATEMENT: Public outcry demands justice in multi-billion-peso flood control scandal**

To read/view the article: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2025/10/28/fpi-statement-public-outcry-demands-justice-in-multi-billion-peso-flood-control-scandal/>

### **Industry group urges Marcos to act on flood control scandal**

<https://manilastandard.net/business/314660584/industry-group-urges-marcos-to-act-on-flood-control-scandal.html>

### **Implementing the correct rice tariff**

To read/view the article: <https://business.inquirer.net/554312/implementing-the-correct-rice-tariff>

## **8. Other news & announcements**

### **4-year low: Philippine Q3 GDP growth slides to 4% amid graft probe |**

<https://business.inquirer.net/556803/philippine-gdp-growth-eases-to-4-in-q3-amid-graft-probe>

### **Join the PIDS Public Events in November 2025**

- November 13 (9:00 AM - 11:30 AM | via Zoom): [Conversations on Media, Communication, and Development](#)

Presenters: Dr. Ramonette Serafica, PIDS Senior Research Fellow; Ms. Queen Cel Oren, PIDS Research Specialist; and Philippines Communications Society representative

Register here: <https://bit.ly/pidsevent111325>

- November 20 (9:00 AM - 5:00 PM | Marco Polo Ortigas Manila, Pasig City): [UHC in Numbers: A Forum on the Philippines' Progress in Universal Health Care](#)

Presenters: PIDS-Health Economics and Finance Program researchers  
On-site participation is by invitation only.

➤ November 27 (9:00 AM - 11:30 AM | via Zoom): [Understanding How Early Experiences Shape Filipino Children's Development](#)

Presenters: Dr. Valerie Gilbert Ulep, PIDS Senior Research Fellow; Mr. Aaron Carlos Manuel, PIDS Project Technical Specialist; and Ms. Ma. Norma Thea Madeline Conjares, PIDS Technical Specialist

Register here: <https://bit.ly/pidsevent112725>

**PHL industry 'at its lowest point in recent years' — Balisacan |**

[https://www.bworldonline.com/top-stories/2025/11/04/709763/phl-industry-at-its-lowest-point-in-recent-years-balisacan/#google\\_vignette](https://www.bworldonline.com/top-stories/2025/11/04/709763/phl-industry-at-its-lowest-point-in-recent-years-balisacan/#google_vignette)

**Philippines' Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), October 2025 |**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/infographics/2025/11/04/709792/philippines-manufacturing-purchasing-managers-index-pmi-october-2025/>

**Marcos approves Tatak Pinoy Strategy to boost industries, jobs |**

<https://business.inquirer.net/556042/marcos-approves-tatak-pinoy-strategy-to-boost-industries-jobs>

**Industrial policy for the Philippines (Part 1) |**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/opinion/2025/10/22/707013/industrial-policy-for-the-philippines/>

**Industrial policy for the Philippines: A tale of 4 Tigers (Part 2) |**

[https://www.bworldonline.com/opinion/2025/10/29/708497/industrial-policy-for-the-philippines-a-tale-of-4-tigers/#google\\_vignette](https://www.bworldonline.com/opinion/2025/10/29/708497/industrial-policy-for-the-philippines-a-tale-of-4-tigers/#google_vignette)

**PH left out as US grants new trade perks to Asean neighbors |** <https://bnc.ph/ph-left-out-as-us-grants-new-trade-perks-to-asean-neighbors/business/>

**PBBM orders DPWH to cut construction costs by 50%, eyes P45 B savings for health, education, food |** <https://pia.gov.ph/news/pbbm-orders-dpwh-to-cut-construction-costs-by-50-eyes-p45-b-savings-for-health-education-food/>

**BIR RMO No. 46-2025 - Creation of Alphanumeric Tax Code (ATC) of Selected Revenue Source under Revenue Regulations No. 24-2025 |** [Full Text](#)

**BIR RMC No. 97-2025 - Circularizing the Availability of the Revised BIR Registration Forms |** [Full Text](#) | [Annex A](#) | [Annex B](#) | [Annex C](#) | [Annex D](#) | [Annex E](#) | [Annex F](#) | [Annex G](#)

**BIR RMC No. 96-2025 - Over the Counter Medicines and First Aid Kit |** [Full Text](#)

**BIR RMC No. 95-2025 - Circularizing Republic Act No. 12235 Entitled "An Act Amending Sections 134 and 168 of Republic Act No. 8424, Otherwise Known as the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as Amended" |** [Full Text](#) | [Annex](#)

**BIR RMC No. 94-2025 - Supplemental Policies on the Processing of Refund/Credit of Excise Tax Associated with Unused Internal Revenue Stamps for Cigarettes, Heated Tobacco Products and Vape Products |** [Full Text](#) | [Annex](#)

**BIR RMC No. 93-2025 - Circularizing Department of Finance (DOF) Order No. 074-2024 re: "Schedule of Income Classification for the First General Income Reclassification of Provinces, Cities, and Municipalities Based on the Income Ranges under Republic Act No. 11964" |** [Full Text](#) | [D.O. No. 74-2024](#)

**SEC bats for micro enterprises' exemption from filing audited financial statements** | <https://www.sec.gov.ph/pr-2025/sec-bats-for-micro-enterprises-exemption-from-filing-audited-financial-statements/>

**SEC to limit interest rates to promote fair lending practices** | <https://www.sec.gov.ph/pr-2025/sec-to-limit-interest-rates-to-promote-fair-lending-practices/>

**SEC GETS ANOTHER GLOBAL RECOGNITION FOR INNOVATIVE REGISTRATION SYSTEM** | <https://www.sec.gov.ph/pr-2025/sec-gets-another-global-recognition-for-innovative-registration-system/>

**SEC IMPOSES P1 MILLION FINE AGAINST SURITY CASH FOR UNFAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES** | <https://www.sec.gov.ph/pr-2025/sec-imposes-p1-million-fine-against-surity-cash-for-unfair-debt-collection-practices/#gsc.tab=0>

**SEC REFORMS TRANSLATE TO MILLIONS IN SAVINGS FOR MSMEs, OTHER CORPORATIONS** | <https://www.sec.gov.ph/pr-2025/sec-reforms-translate-to-millions-in-savings-for-msmes-other-corporations/#gsc.tab=0>

**SEC ALL SET TO ADOPT BLOCKCHAIN FOR AUTHENTICATION OF DIGITAL FILINGS** | <https://www.sec.gov.ph/pr-2025/sec-all-set-to-adopt-blockchain-for-authentication-of-digital-filings/#gsc.tab=0>

**SEC TO INTRODUCE REFORMS FOR GREATER TRANSPARENCY IN CORPORATIONS' BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP** | <https://www.sec.gov.ph/pr-2025/sec-to-introduce-reforms-for-greater-transparency-in-corporations-beneficial-ownership/#gsc.tab=0>

**SEC MC No. 13, series of 2025 - SEC GUIDELINES ON PHILIPPINE GREEN EQUITY** | <https://www.sec.gov.ph/mc-2025/sec-mc-no-13-series-of-2025/#gsc.tab=0>

**FACEBOOK PAGES USED IN ADVANCE FEE SCAM** | <https://www.sec.gov.ph/advisories-2025/facebook-pages-used-in-advance-fee-scam/#gsc.tab=0>

**REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON THE EXPOSURE DRAFT OF THE MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR ON THE GUIDELINES ON THE CLASSIFICATION, PROCESSING, AND SUBMISSION OF AMENDMENT APPLICATIONS THROUGH THE EAMEND PORTAL, AND IMPOSITION OF PENALTIES FOR NON-SUBMISSION OF AMENDMENT DOCUMENTS** | <https://www.sec.gov.ph/notices/request-for-comments-on-the-exposure-draft-of-the-memorandum-circular-on-the-guidelines-on-the-classification-processing-and-submission-of-amendment-applications-through-the-eamend-portal-and-impos/>

**UPCOMING INTEGRATION OF eFAST AND eSECURE SYSTEMS** | <https://www.sec.gov.ph/notices/upcoming-integration-of-efast-and-esecure-systems/>

**REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR ON THE RECALIBRATED CEILINGS ON INTEREST RATES AND OTHER FEES CHARGED BY FINANCING COMPANIES, LENDING COMPANIES, AND THEIR ONLINE LENDING PLATFORMS** | <https://www.sec.gov.ph/notices/request-for-comments-on-the-draft-memorandum-circular-on-the-recalibrated-ceilings-on-interest-rates-and-other-fees-charged-by-financing-companies-lending-companies-and-their-online-lending-platform/#gsc.tab=0>

**LISTS OF APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED AT THE FINANCIAL ANALYSIS AND AUDIT DEPARTMENT (FAAD) | <https://www.sec.gov.ph/notices/lists-of-applications-accepted-at-the-financial-analysis-and-audit-department-faad/#gsc.tab=0>**

**REQUEST FOR FURTHER COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR ON THE ADOPTION OF PHILIPPINE FINANCIAL REPORTING STANDARDS (PFRS) ON SUSTAINABILITY DISCLOSURES AND ISSUANCE OF REPORTING GUIDELINES FOR PUBLICLY-LISTED COMPANIES AND LARGE NON-LISTED ENTITIES | <https://www.sec.gov.ph/notices/request-for-further-comments-on-the-draft-memorandum-circular-on-the-adoption-of-philippine-financial-reporting-standards-pfrs-on-sustainability-disclosures-and-issuance-of-reporting-guidelines-for/#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>**

**BOC CMO 07-2025 - Enhanced Tax Exemption System Lite (e-TES Lite) | <https://customs.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/2025CMO-07-2025.pdf>**

**BOC CMC 210-2025 - Value-Added Tax Exemption on the Importation of Goods by Export-Oriented Enterprises Pursuant to Revenue Regulations No. 10-2025 and Joint Administrative Order No. 002-2025, Series of 2025 | <https://customs.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/2025CMC-210-2025.pdf>**

**BOC CMC 211-2025 - Facilitation of the Reciprocal Access and Cooperation Between Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Self-Defense Forces of Japan – entered 11 September 2025 | <https://customs.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/2025CMC-211-2025.pdf>**

**BOC CMC 219-2025 - Adopting the 2024 National Disaster Response Plan and Directing the Implementation Thereof | <https://customs.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/2025CMC-219-2025.pdf>**

**BOC CMC 220-2025 - Department Order No. 018.2025 dated 25 September 2025 signed by the Secretary RALPH G. RECTO, DOF – “Guidelines for Accreditation of Value Added Tax (VAT) Refund System Operators Pursuant to Republic Act No. 12078 Otherwise Known as “An Act Creating a Vat Refund Mechanism for Non-Resident Tourists, Adding a New Section 112-A to the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as Amended, for the Purpose.” | <https://customs.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/2025CMC-220-2025.pdf>**

**BOC Conducts Stakeholder Meetings on the Authorized Economic Operator Program Expansion | <https://customs.gov.ph/boc-conducts-stakeholder-meetings-on-the-authorized-economic-operator-program-expansion/>**

**BOC Foils P482 Million Worth of Counterfeit Apparel | <https://customs.gov.ph/boc-foils-p482-million-worth-of-counterfeit-apparel/>**

**BOC Denounces Fake News on Seized Rolls-Royce Vehicle | <https://customs.gov.ph/boc-denounces-fake-news-on-seized-rolls-royce-vehicle/>**

**Senator Pangilinan Joins BOC in Crackdown on ₱12.96M Misdeclared Agri-Products at MICP | <https://customs.gov.ph/senator-pangilinan-joins-boc-in-crackdown-on-%e2%82%b112-96m-misdeclared-agri-products-at-micp/>**

**BOC Unveils AEO Guidelines to Advance Trade Efficiency |**  
<https://customs.gov.ph/boc-unveils-aeo-guidelines-to-advance-trade-efficiency/>

**BOC Thwarts P13.2-Million Agricultural Smuggling Attempt at Port of Manila |**  
<https://customs.gov.ph/boc-thwarts-p13-2-million-agricultural-smuggling-attempt-at-port-of-manila/>

**BOC, LTO Forge Strategic Partnership to Tighten Controls on Imported Vehicle Registration and Combat Smuggling |**  
<https://customs.gov.ph/boc-lto-forge-strategic-partnership-to-tighten-controls-on-imported-vehicle-registration-and-combat-smuggling/>

## 20TH CONGRESS COMMITTEE HEARINGS/MEETINGS

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