



TAMBULI Weekly Newsletter

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Federation of Philippine Industries

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1. FPI Welcomes Cabinet Transitions as Key to Restoring Confidence and Stability

The Federation of Philippine Industries (FPI) welcomes the appointment of Finance Secretary Ralph Recto as Executive Secretary, succeeding Lucas Bersamin, and the designation of Frederick Go, Special Assistant to the President for Investment and Economic Affairs, as Finance Secretary. These transitions come at a crucial time for policy coherence, fiscal stability, and investor confidence. FPI affirms its support for continuity and coordination across government agencies to sustain economic momentum.

Secretary Recto's proven track record in fiscal management and governance will strengthen the Office of the Executive Secretary's role in ensuring coherence across government policies. Meanwhile, Secretary Go's extensive experience in investment promotion and economic affairs positions him well to sustain momentum in fiscal stewardship and investor confidence.

FPI also extends its full support to newly appointed Bureau of Internal

Revenue (BIR) Commissioner Charlito Martin Mendoza. Commissioner Mendoza, formerly Undersecretary of the Department of Finance overseeing the Revenue Operations Group, brings both legal and operational expertise from his leadership roles at DOF and the Bureau of Customs. His appointment underscores a commitment to integrity and transparency at the BIR—foundations essential to fair enforcement, modernization, and the predictable environment that businesses need to grow and create jobs.

FPI stands ready to collaborate with the economic team and the BIR under Commissioner Mendoza to advance transparent policy, digitalization, and fair compliance. These pillars are vital to restoring business confidence, driving enterprise growth, and building a resilient economy. FPI remains committed to constructive engagement that supports inclusive industrial development and strengthens public trust.

2. FPI Endorses Senator Bam Aquino's CADENA Bill: A Bold Step Toward Transparent and Accountable Governance

The Federation of Philippine Industries (FPI) proudly expresses its full support for the Citizen Access and Disclosure of Expenditures for National Accountability (CADENA) Bill—also known as the “Blockchain the Budget” Bill—authored by Senator Bam Aquino. This timely and forward-thinking initiative reflects our shared commitment to transparency, accountability, and good governance.

"We commend Senator Aquino's leadership in championing the use of appropriate technologies, like blockchain to strengthen the integrity of government budget processes," said John Reinier Dizon, President of FPI. "While not a silver bullet, CADENA offers a powerful mechanism to curb corruption, promote fiscal transparency, and restore public trust in how government funds are spent."

In late October, Senator Aquino's team met with several FPI Directors and industry representatives to present and discuss the CADENA Bill. The meeting included stakeholders from the construction materials sector—specifically steel, cement, and wood—as well as leaders from the food and beverage industries. The dialogue underscored broad-based support for the bill's potential to modernize public finance systems and foster greater civic engagement in budget oversight.

FPI recognizes digital innovation as a critical enabler of reform. The CADENA Bill exemplifies how technology can be harnessed to promote responsible, inclusive, and data-driven governance. We are confident that this legislation will serve as a model for other transparency initiatives in the region and beyond.

As the bill moves through the legislative process, FPI stands ready to collaborate, advocate, and lend its voice in support of this important measure. We urge stakeholders across sectors to rally behind CADENA and help usher in a new era of civic empowerment and fiscal accountability.

About FPI

The Federation of Philippine Industries is one of the country's largest and most influential umbrella organizations for the manufacturing and industrial sectors. Representing a broad spectrum of Philippine industries, FPI is committed to advancing national development through responsible business practices, policy advocacy, fighting illicit trade and promoting Philippine National Standards. With decades of experience in promoting industrial growth, transparency, and sustainability, FPI continues to be a trusted voice in shaping reforms that benefit both the economy and the Filipino people.

3. Beyond 'Dito sa Bayan ni Juan': Remembering Manong Johnny, a statesman and a friend – By: FPI CE, Dr. Jesus Lim Arranza

How can I express my feelings about the passing of a man I worked alongside for 26 years, someone who helped bring life and meaning to our weekly radio-TV program, Dito sa Bayan ni Juan? Perhaps the most fitting tribute is to echo his own words from eight years ago, spoken during my 75th birthday. I will never forget when Manong Johnny stood up—not just to

speaking about me, but also to honor my wife Evelyn and my children. His kind words will forever remain in my heart: “Kung ikuwento ko ang mga ginawa namin ni Mang Jess sa anti-smuggling at fight against illicit trade, abutin tayo dito ng magdamag.” Likewise, I could spend all day talking about Manong Johnny's kindness and generosity, and it still

wouldn't be enough time.

My first encounter with Manong Johnny was during a tumultuous period in 1973. At the time, I was leading the Baguio Oil marketing group, facing a global shortage of fats and oils that drove up coconut product prices in the world market. Typically, the Philippines consumed around 20 percent of its coconut oil production, but a significant portion was being exported. This led to a nationwide shortage of cooking oil.

Facing a national emergency over a coconut oil shortage, the government intervened. Coconut oil had vanished from local shelves because it was under price control and therefore producers are exporting the product because of good price and they don't want to violate the price control law and lose money.

The government's response was swift and serious. Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile summoned the leaders of the coconut oil industry to a meeting at the military headquarters of Camp Crame. I was there representing Baguio Oil, while

also serving as President of the Coconut Oil Refiners Association (CORA). That first meeting was a dead end; we failed to agree on anything.

Agriculture Undersecretary Jose Drilon, who attended the meeting with us, expressed the seriousness of the situation and suggested that we convene at his office to explore potential solutions. He subsequently invited me and five other industry leaders for an immediate discussion. During our meeting with Drilon, we said that since 80 percent of the country's coconut products are exported, this will allow producers to subsidize locally sold coconut oil products. This subsidy could serve as an incentive for local manufacturers to boost their sales of coconut-based products in the domestic market. Out of the six participants in that meeting with Drilon, I am the only one remaining today, as I was just 32 years old at the time. (To read/view the full article follow this link: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2025/11/19/beyond-dito-sa-bayan-ni-juan-remembering-manong-johnny-a-statesman-and-a-friend/>)

4. Listen, correct contradictions and save our farmers - By: Ernesto M. Ordoñez

MANILA, Philippines— In the critical sector of rice, our government must immediately listen, correct its possible contradictions and save our rice farmers. They suffer today as never before.

We hope that President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. (PBBM), whose strong agriculture advocacy we appreciate, listens more to farmers than to certain government officials. These officials believe lowering tariffs automatically results in significantly decreasing retail prices. Our experience shows that this does not follow. Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. has always sided with farmers on this belief.

Contradiction

Last Oct. 25, PBBM issued Executive Order (EO) No. 100. It sets a floor price for palay to protect farmers from low prices. The Department of Agriculture stated that this should average P18 a kilo.

On Nov. 9, EO 105 was published. It stated

that the 15 percent rice tariff will stay until Dec. 31. After that, the tariff will be "increased by 5 percentage points per 5 percent decrease in international prices; or decreased by 5 percentage points per 5 percent increase in international prices. However, the MFN rates of duty on rice shall in no case be below 15 percent or above 35 percent."

If the starting point of the adjustment is the 15 percent existing tariff on Dec. 31, this will clearly contradict EO 100. It would then be impossible to achieve EO 100's palay floor price objective of P18 a kilo. Consider the table shown here.

As of Nov. 12, the upper landed cost of the most common imported rice of Vietnam 504 is \$350 a ton. The upper CIF cost is \$20. At the current exchange rate of \$1:P58.86, the resulting price will be P21.83 per kilo. (Continue reading: <https://business.inquirer.net/558328/listen-correct-contradictions-and-save-our-farmers>)

5. FPI Golf Tournament



The Federation is delighted to revive one of its most anticipated events—the Annual FPI Golf Invitational—scheduled for **December 16, 2025, at the Orchard Golf and Country Club, with a shotgun start at 7:00 AM.** This is in line with FPI's mission to strengthen Philippine industry, this special tournament serves as a fundraising initiative to support and expand FPI's advocacy programs—ensuring we continue to champion the growth, integrity, and competitiveness of our industrial sector. If you are keen about being a sponsor to this event or for any further information, you may reach the FPI Secretariat thru the ff: Tel. Nos.: (632) 8722-3409, 8584-9642, 8727-4359 Fax: (632) 8722-9737 | Email: fpi@fpi.ph | Website: www.fpi.ph.

6. FPI in the news

Widening graft probe pushes Philippines to 'high political risk' status |
<https://asianews.network/widening-graft-probe-pushes-philippines-to-high-political-risk-status/>

AFTER CABINET SHUFFLE: INDUSTRIES, BCDA VOW SUPPORT TO ECONOMIC TEAM'S GROWTH PLAN | <https://malaya.com.ph/business/after-cabinet-shuffle-industries-bcda-vow-support-to-economic-teams-growth-plan/>

Biz groups back Go, Recto appointments as Finance chief, ES |
<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/money/economy/966664/business-groups-back-go-recto-finance-chief-executive-secretary/story/>

Biz groups back Cabinet shake-up |
<https://www.manilatimes.net/2025/11/19/business/top-business/biz-groups-back-cabinet-shake-up/2226710>

Beyond 'Dito sa Bayan ni Juan': Remembering Manong Johnny, a statesman and a friend | <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2025/11/19/beyond-dito-sa-bayan-ni-juan-remembering-manong-johnny-a-statesman-and-a-friend/>

PCCI, FPI hope movement in Marcos cabinet will further stabilize, boost PH economy | <https://logisticsnews.ph/2025/11/19/pcci-hopes-movement-in-marcos-cabinet-will-further-stabilize-boost-ph-economy/>

Manufacturers adopt smart procurement, hedging as peso depreciates; exporters welcome weak peso | <https://logisticsnews.ph/2025/11/18/manufacturers-adopt-smart-procurement-hedging-as-peso-depreciates-exporters-welcome-weak-peso/>

Marcos Cabinet revamp lauded by business groups |

<https://mb.com.ph/2025/11/18/business-groups-laud-marcos-cabinet-revamp>

Cabinet reshuffle won't quickly restore investor confidence in PHL — analysts |

<https://www.bworldonline.com/the-nation/2025/11/18/713145/cabinet-reshuffle-wont-quickly-restore-investor-confidence-in-phl-analysts/>

Biz groups: Cabinet changes to strengthen investments |

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2025/11/19/2488270/biz-groups-cabinet-changes-strengthen-investments/amp/>

Business group: Marcos cabinet shakeup crucial to restoring confidence, stability | <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sjf5YGvAiBk>

FPI welcomes 'crucial' Cabinet shake-up | <https://business.inquirer.net/558826/fpi-welcomes-crucial-cabinet-shake-up/amp>

FPI Welcomes Cabinet Transitions as Key to Restoring Confidence and Stability

| <https://web.facebook.com/share/p/1H3oDheZuK/>

PHL investment slump seen to persist amid corruption probe |

<https://www.bworldonline.com/top-stories/2025/11/17/712443/phl-investment-slump-seen-to-persist-amid-corruption-probe/>

'RESTORE BUSINESS CONFIDENCE, CLEAR WAY FOR PESO REBOUND' |

<https://malaya.com.ph/business/business-news/restore-business-confidence-clear-way-for-peso-rebound/>

Biz groups renew call for transparency |

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2025/11/17/2487752/biz-groups-renew-call-transparency>

Substandard steel seized in Central Luzon, Calabarzon regions valued at over P3 million |

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2025/11/16/712475/substandard-steel-seized-in-central-luzon-calabarzon-regions-valued-at-over-p3-million/>

DTI seizes over P3.5 million substandard steel |

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2025/11/17/2487681/dti-seizes-over-p35-million-substandard-steel>

Philippine investment slump seen to persist amid corruption probe |

<https://wealthinsights.metrobank.com.ph/bworldonline/phl-investment-slump-seen-to-persist-amid-corruption-probe/>

Tackling corruption key to PH rebound – FPI chief |

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2025/11/17/business/top-business/tackling-corruption-key-to-ph-rebound-fpi-chief/2224974>

“‘This moment calls for urgent, concrete reforms’ — Elizabeth Lee of the FPI sees the current anti-corruption protests as a turning point to restore investor trust and strengthen institutions.” |

https://x.com/bilyonaryo_ph/status/1989921930821210323

FPI's Elizabeth Lee to gov't: Fix corruption, fix the peso to boost economy |

<https://bilyonaryo.com/2025/11/16/fpis-elizabeth-lee-to-govt-fix-corruption-fix-the-peso-to-boost-economy/business/>

BUSINESS GROUP BACKS BLOCKCHAINING THE BUDGET BILL |

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2025/11/15/business/top-business/business-group-backs-blockchaining-the-budget-bill/2224423>

“FPI leads the charge in helping Filipino industries thrive amid turbulent times.”

| <https://powerwheelsmagazine.com.ph/2025-fpi-business-summit-helping-local-industries-thrive-through-turbulent-times/>

Listen, correct contradictions and save our farmers |

<https://business.inquirer.net/558328/listen-correct-contradictions-and-save-our-farmers>

MVP mulls sale of Metro Pacific’s stake in LRT-1 operator | Business 360 |

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZVsC6_whGG8

Private-sector role in keeping noche buena prices steady cited as cue for gov’t support |

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2025/11/11/711555/private-sector-role-in-keeping-noche-buena-prices-steady-cited-as-cue-for-govt-support/>

Holiday win for shoppers: Noche Buena prices hold steady despite rising costs |

<https://bilyonaryo.com/2025/11/11/holiday-win-for-shoppers-noche-buena-prices-hold-steady-despite-rising-costs/food/>

Manufacturers sound alarm as higher costs threaten food prices |

<https://mb.com.ph/2025/11/11/manufacturers-sound-alarm-as-higher-costs-threaten-food-prices>

Reduce logistics bottlenecks, more access to raw materials to ensure sustainable price stability – FPI |

<https://logisticsnews.ph/2025/11/11/reduce-logistics-bottlenecks-more-access-to-raw-materials-to-ensure-sustainable-price-stability-fpi/>

Balisacan admits governance failings not just spending stifles Q3 growth |

<https://bilyonaryo.com/2025/11/09/balisacan-admits-governance-failings-not-just-spending-stifles-q3-growth/business/>

Slow GDP seen a ‘wake-up’ call |

<https://business.inquirer.net/557466/slow-gdp-seen-a-wake-up-call>

Policy is more important than programs for progress |

<https://business.inquirer.net/557005/policy-is-more-important-than-programs-for-progress>

Good governance key to PH growth rebound |

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2025/11/08/business/top-business/good-governance-key-to-ph-growth-rebound/2218589/amp>

Business groups decry corruption's drag on waning Philippine growth |

<https://mb.com.ph/2025/11/07/business-decries-corruptions-drag-on-waning-growth>

Business says lower GDP is a wake up call, urges sustained fight for good governance |

<https://logisticsnews.ph/2025/11/07/business-says-the-lower-gdp-is-a-wake-up-call-urges-sustained-fight-for-good-governance/>

FPI’s Lee calls 4% growth a ‘wake up call’ for Philippine economy amid corruption, gov’t spending cuts, typhoon disruptions |

<https://bilyonaryo.com/2025/11/08/fpis-lee-calls-4-growth-a-wake-up-call-for-philippine-economy-amid-corruption-govt-spending-cuts-typhoon-disruptions/business/>

Business groups decry corruption's drag on waning Philippine growth |
<https://mb.com.ph/2025/11/07/business-decries-corruptions-drag-on-waning-growth>

7. Other news & announcements

Most agri exports exempted from US tariffs — DTI |
https://www.bworldonline.com/top-stories/2025/11/19/713110/most-agri-exports-exempted-from-us-tariffs-dti/#google_vignette

Can domestic savings cover the country's increasing investment needs? |
<https://www.bworldonline.com/infographics/2025/11/19/713025/can-domestic-savings-cover-the-countrys-increasing-investment-needs-6/>

BIR to review audit authorization rules amid 'weaponization' claims |
<https://www.bworldonline.com/top-stories/2025/11/19/713256/bir-to-review-audit-authorization-rules-amid-weaponization-claims/>

Recto moves up to Executive Secretary, Go takes over DOF in major Marcos Cabinet shakeup | https://bilyonaryo.com/2025/11/17/recto-moves-up-to-executive-secretary-go-to-take-over-dof-in-major-marcos-cabinet-shakeup/business/?fbclid=IwZnRzaAOHvF5leHRuA2FlbQlxMQBzcnRjBmFwcF9pZAo2NjI4NTY4Mzc5CGNhGxzaXRIAjI1AAEestSI1IraVThzEipejzZrWJw1GWwOBGES6T0ZVMtQ5xejUQFHN9mLN5_vWV0_aem_PJqKMPnaV89IX4cFeZc9w

Panukalang batas para sa P200 dagdag-sahod, pasado na sa Kamara |
<https://www.facebook.com/News5Everywhere/videos/1083377223643782/?fs=e&mibextid=wwXlfr&rdid=AxSsovssRHzuqOgW>

BIR leadership change: Lumagui replaced by Mendoza as commissioner |
<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/money/economy/965893/bir-leadership-change-lumagui-mendoza-commissioner/story/>

Agricultural output grows by 2.8% in Q3 |
<https://www.bworldonline.com/infographics/2025/11/07/710679/agricultural-output-grows-by-2-8-in-q3/>

BIR RMC No. 106-2025 - Inclusion of Additional BIR Forms for Taxpayers Affected by Severe Typhoon "Tino" per Revenue Memorandum Circular (RMC) Nos. 99 and 100-2025 and Additional Revenue District Office for Taxpayers Affected by Super Typhoon "Uwan" per RMC No. 101-2025 for the Filing of Tax Returns, Payment of Taxes Due Thereon, and the Submission of Other Required Documents | [Full Text](#)

BIR RMC No. 105-2025 - Clarifying the Taxability of Health Emergency Allowance Granted Under Republic Act No. 11712, Otherwise Known as the "Public Health Emergency Benefits and Allowances for Health Care Workers Act" | [Full Text](#)

BIR RMC No. 101-2025 - Providing Extension of Deadlines for the Filing of Tax Returns and Payment of the Corresponding Taxes Due Thereon, Including Submission of Required Documents Due in November 2025, for Taxpayers Within Areas that were Affected by Super Typhoon "Uwan" | [Full Text](#)

BIR RMC No. 100-2025 - Expanding the coverage of RMC No. 99-2025 to additional areas affected by Severe Typhoon "Tino" for the filing of tax returns and payment of taxes due thereon, including the submission of other required documents | [Full Text](#)

BIR RMC No. 99-2025 - Providing Extension of Deadlines for Filing, Payment of Taxes, and Submission of Documents Falling Due in November 2025 for Taxpayers in Areas Affected by Severe Typhoon "Tino" | [Full Text](#)

BIR RMO No. 47-2025 - Assumption to duty of CHARLITO MARTIN R. MENDOZA as Commissioner of Internal Revenue | [Full Text](#)

SEC officially assumes 2026 ACMF chairship, upholds ASEAN market priorities | <https://www.sec.gov.ph/pr-2025/sec-officially-assumes-2026-acmf-chairship-upholds-asean-market-priorities/#gsc.tab=0>

SEC MOVES TO EXPAND REIT MARKET | <https://www.sec.gov.ph/pr-2025/sec-moves-to-expand-reit-market/#gsc.tab=0>

SEC BACKS FINTECH INNOVATION, CLEARS ANOTHER SANDBOX APPLICATION | <https://www.sec.gov.ph/pr-2025/sec-backs-fintech-innovation-clears-another-sandbox-application/#gsc.tab=0>

SEC COLLABORATES WITH WORLD BANK GROUP, MARKET PLAYERS TO DEEPEN CORPORATE BOND MARKET, EXPAND SME FINANCING | <https://www.sec.gov.ph/pr-2025/sec-collaborates-with-world-bank-group-market-players-to-deepen-corporate-bond-market-expand-sme-financing/#gsc.tab=0>

SEC revokes E-Value accreditation, orders Villar Land to reappraise properties | <https://www.sec.gov.ph/pr-2025/sec-revokes-e-value-accreditation-orders-villar-land-to-reappraise-properties/>

SEC approves bond offer by Metro Pacific Tollways | <https://www.sec.gov.ph/pr-2025/sec-approves-bond-offer-by-metro-pacific-tollways/>

SEC launches new educational platform to promote financial literacy | <https://www.sec.gov.ph/pr-2025/sec-launches-new-educational-platform-to-promote-financial-literacy/>

In 6th Investor Protection Week, SEC wants every Filipino InvestEd | <https://www.sec.gov.ph/pr-2025/in-6th-investor-protection-week-sec-wants-every-filipino-invested/>

SEC to further streamline amendment process | <https://www.sec.gov.ph/pr-2025/sec-to-further-streamline-amendment-process/>

ADVISORY RE: UNRECORDED ONLINE LENDING PLATFORMS | <https://www.sec.gov.ph/advisories-2025/advisory-re-unrecorded-online-lending-platforms/#gsc.tab=0>

PAALALA SA PUBLIKO TUNGKOL SA HINDI AWTORISADONG PAG-GAMIT NG PANGALAN AT LOGO NG SEC | <https://www.sec.gov.ph/advisories-2025/paalala-sa-publiko-tungkol-sa-hindi-awtorisadong-pag-gamit-ng-pangalan-at-logo-ng-sec/>

REVISIONS TO SEC MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 1, SERIES OF 2020, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9856, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST (REIT) ACT OF 2009 |

<https://www.sec.gov.ph/notices/revisions-to-sec-memorandum-circular-no-1-series-of-2020/#gsc.tab=0>

REMINDER TO NOMINATE NEXT PRIVATE SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES 2026-2029 | <https://www.sec.gov.ph/notice-mnrc/reminder-to-nominate-next-private-sector-representatives-2026-2029/>

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON THE EXPOSURE DRAFT OF THE MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR ON THE 2025 GUIDELINES ON WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION | <https://www.sec.gov.ph/notices/request-for-comments-on-the-exposure-draft-of-the-memorandum-circular-on-the-2025-guidelines-on-whistleblower-protection/>

BOC Transforms Seized Assets into Millions for the Filipino People | <https://customs.gov.ph/boc-transforms-seized-assets-into-millions-for-the-filipino-people/>

Commissioner Nepomuceno Graced the 40th Gintong Parangal | <https://customs.gov.ph/commissioner-nepomuceno-graced-the-40th-gintong-parangal/>

20TH CONGRESS COMMITTEE HEARINGS/MEETINGS

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