



# TAMBULI Weekly Newsletter

The Official e-Newsletter of the  
Federation of Philippine Industries

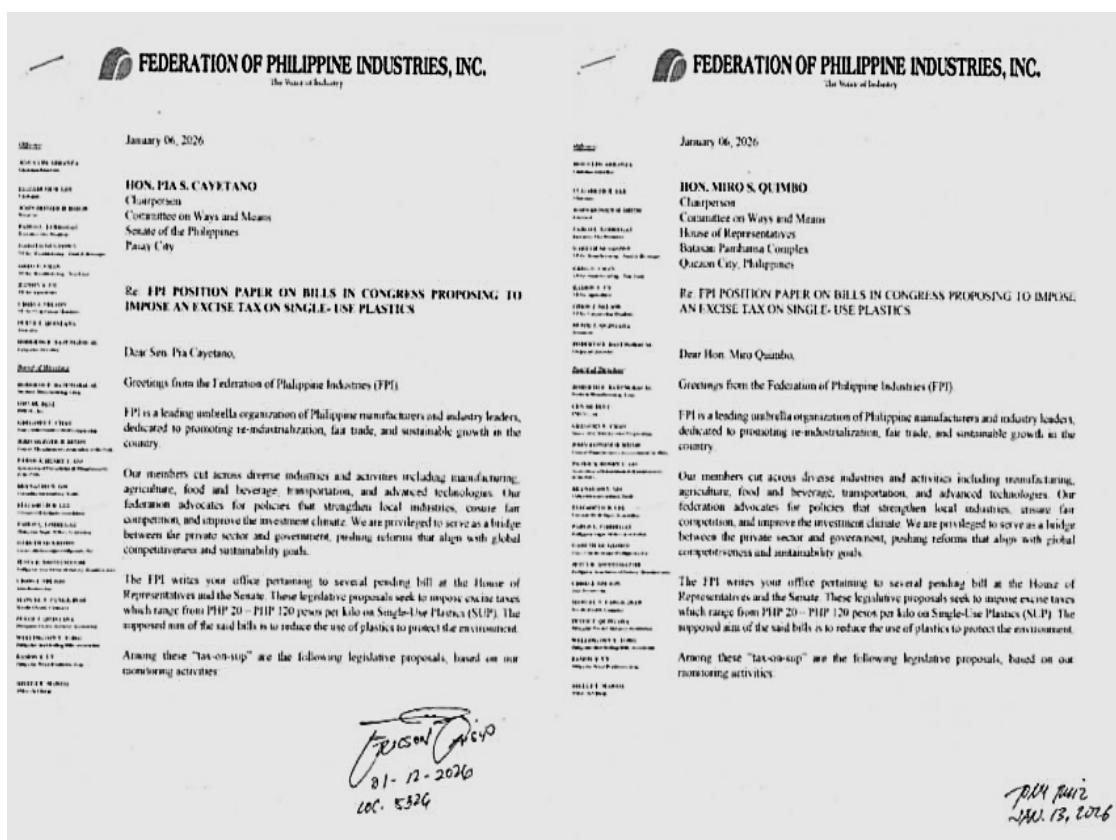
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## 1. FPI POSITION PAPER ON BILLS PROPOSING TO IMPOSE AN EXCISE TAX ON SINGLE-USE PLASTICS (SUP)



In letters, both dated January 6, 2026, addressed to the respective Committees on Ways and Means of the Philippine Senate and House of Representatives, the Federation of Philippine Industries (FPI) expressed its concerns as well as its recommendations on bills proposing to impose an excise tax on single-use plastics, to wit:

- Strengthen enforcement of RA 9003 and RA 11898 to ensure proper waste segregation, recycling, and producer accountability.
- Improve waste management infrastructure and producer compliance, focusing

- resources on collection systems, recycling facilities, and monitoring mechanisms.
- Develop Waste-to-Energy (WTE) initiatives as a complementary strategy, converting non-recyclable plastics and residual waste into usable energy. This reduces landfill dependence, supports renewable energy goals, and provides an environmentally sound alternative to indiscriminate disposal.
- Avoid regressive taxation that disproportionately harms consumers and MSMEs, particularly those reliant on sachet-packaged goods.
- Advocate for alternative measures that achieve environmental objectives without violating constitutional principles or restricting access to essential commodities for low-income households.

## 2. The POGO tax trap: How inflated zonal values are punishing Filipino property owners - By: FPI CE, Dr. Jesus Lim Arranza

The rise and fall of the Philippine Offshore Gaming Operator (POGO) industry is more than just a story of shifting economic tides; it is a cautionary tale of government-induced market distortion. Today, as the dust settles following the total ban on POGOs, thousands of Filipino property owners find themselves “holding the bag”—saddled with properties that have lost their primary tenant base but are still being taxed at the “artificial” peak prices of 2019.

As Chairman Emeritus of the Federation of Philippine Industries (FPI), I am calling on the government to recognize its role in this crisis. It is time for an immediate, transparent review and recalibration of property zonal values to reflect the post-POGO reality.

### The artificial boom

AT its peak in 2019, the POGO industry was huge, employing anywhere from 300,000 to 470,000 workers. This influx was not an accident of the free market; it was a result of a deliberate government policy that actively encouraged POGOs to set up shop in the Philippines.

The impact on real estate was seismic. Developers and landlords, seeing the insatiable demand for office and residential spaces, naturally adjusted. We saw rental rates skyrocket and property values double in a matter of years. Take, for instance, BF Homes: a square meter that once sold for P20,000 saw its price nearly double during the boom.

This growth was not organic. It was a bubble fueled by a specific government policy. When the current administration correctly identified POGOs as “harmful” and banned their operations, the bubble burst. But while the tenants have left, the tax obligations based on those inflated values have remained.

### The tax trap

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) sets zonal values to determine the basis for various national and local taxes. When these values are artificially high, the tax burden becomes predatory.

Property owners are currently being squeezed from two sides. On the national level, they face disproportionately high Capital Gains Tax, Documentary Stamp Tax, Value-Added Tax, and Donor’s Tax. Even in times of grief, families are being hit with excessive Estate Taxes based on valuations that no longer exist in the actual market.

On the local level, the burden continues with Real Property Taxes, Special Education Fund taxes, and ad valorem taxes on idle lands. For a landlord with a vacant building that once housed a POGO, these taxes are no longer a contribution to nation-building—they are a financial death sentence. (Continue reading: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2026/01/21/the-pogo-tax-trap-how-inflated-zonal-values-are-punishing-filipino-property-owners/>)

### 3. Mangroves matter - By: Ernesto M. Ordoñez

MANILA, Philippines — With the need for protection against climate change and more livelihoods to alleviate our poverty, mangroves significantly matter.

They should now get much more support from both the government and the private sector.

Last Jan. 15, a Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) undersecretary told us that its budget for mangrove establishment had been reduced to zero.

Is this appropriate? Let us identify now the three main benefits of mangroves and then take the appropriate action.

The first main benefit is coastal protection and resilience. Mangroves absorb storm surges. They protect coastal communities by reducing damage from hurricanes, typhoons and tsunamis. They are also highly effective “blue carbon” sinks.

The second benefit is water quality and erosion health. They filter pollutants and excess nutrients from storm water runoffs, protecting seagrass beds and coral reefs. They provide breeding, feeding and nursery grounds for fish, shellfish and other marine life.

The third benefit is the economic and social dimension. Added livelihood and income is

gained through fishing and tourism. Resources are provided like firewood, charcoal and medicinal plants.

There is increased food security because the seaweed industry provides a base for global fish catches.

#### Status

Brian James Lu wrote about our mangroves today: “The situation is truly alarming. A report by the International Union for Conservation stated that half of the world’s mangrove ecosystems are at risk of collapse due to climate change.”

“According to a study, the Philippines experienced the region’s second-worst mangrove decline. The country’s mangrove forests have drastically reduced from 500,000 hectares in 1918 to just 100,000 hectares in 1995.”

Worse, mangroves face threats, such as irresponsible coastal construction and reclamation, poor land-use planning and illegal logging.

Thankfully, our government has created programs for mangrove conservation and development.

(To read/view the full article follow this link: <https://business.inquirer.net/569194/mangroves-matter>)

### 4. FPI Board in action



Photos were taken during the FPI Board Meeting on January 14, 2026, Wednesday, 11:30am, Pavillion & Cabana, Club Filipino, San Juan City.

## 5. FPI Summit/Events Committee



Photo was taken during the FPI Summit/Events Committee Meeting on January 21, 2026, Wednesday, 10:00 am Jasmin Room, Club Filipino, San Juan City.

## 6. FPI in the news

**The POGO tax trap: How inflated zonal values are punishing Filipino property owners** | <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2026/01/21/the-pogo-tax-trap-how-inflated-zonal-values-are-punishing-filipino-property-owners/>

**'CARS funding fix to boost investor confidence'** |  
<https://www.philstar.com/business/2026/01/21/2502308/cars-funding-fix-boost-investor-confidence>

**National Single Window to streamline permits, cut trade bottlenecks—FPI** |  
<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2026/01/21/fpi-says-single-window-key-to-reducing-trade-delays/>

**Gov't to tap unused DPWH funds to settle ₱4.3-billion CARS program dues** |  
<https://mb.com.ph/2026/01/19/govt-to-tap-unused-dpwh-funds-to-settle-43-billion-cars-program-dues>

**PH auto parts makers back CARS budget; warns supply chain still weak** |  
[https://malaya.com.ph/business/corporate/ph-auto-parts-makers-back-cars-budget-warns-supply-chain-still-weak/#google\\_vignette](https://malaya.com.ph/business/corporate/ph-auto-parts-makers-back-cars-budget-warns-supply-chain-still-weak/#google_vignette)

**Business groups say execution of reforms key to regaining investor trust** |  
[https://www.bworldonline.com/top-stories/2026/01/19/724873/business-groups-say-execution-of-reforms-key-to-regaining-investor-trust/#google\\_vignette](https://www.bworldonline.com/top-stories/2026/01/19/724873/business-groups-say-execution-of-reforms-key-to-regaining-investor-trust/#google_vignette)

**Domestic manufacturers cheer tax, customs overhaul to rebuild investor trust** |  
<https://mb.com.ph/2026/01/19/domestic-manufacturers-cheer-tax-customs-overhaul-to-rebuild-investor-trust>

**'Govt must work with auto makers for reforms'** |  
<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2026/01/19/govt-must-work-with-auto-makers-for-reforms/>

**Auto parts makers welcome funding for CARS program |**  
[https://manilastandard.net/business/economy-trade/314692866/auto-parts-makers-welcome-funding-for-cars-program.html#google\\_vignette](https://manilastandard.net/business/economy-trade/314692866/auto-parts-makers-welcome-funding-for-cars-program.html#google_vignette)

**Biz orgs laud gov't funding for CARS program |**  
<https://tribune.net.ph/amp/story/2026/01/18/biz-orgs-laud-govt-funding-for-cars-program>

**Mangroves matter |** <https://business.inquirer.net/569194/mangroves-matter>

**The ultimate betrayal: Why Manuel Bonoan carries the greatest weight in the ghost flood control scandal |** <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2026/01/14/the-ultimate-betrayal-why-manuel-bonoan-carries-the-greatest-weight-in-the-ghost-flood-control-scandal/>

**With POGOs banned, land value review urged |**  
<https://www.manilatimes.net/2026/01/13/business/top-business/with-pogos-banned-land-value-review-urged/2257223/amp>

**Industry group seeks zonal value review after expulsion of POGOs |**  
<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2026/01/12/723775/industry-group-seeks-zonal-value-review-after-expulsion-of-pogos/?amp>

**Post-POGO realm needs new zonal values—FPI |**  
<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2026/01/13/post-pogo-realm-needs-new-zonal-values-fpi/>

**Farm clustering and consolidation for agriculture success |**  
<https://business.inquirer.net/568158/clustering-and-consolidation-for-agriculture-success>

## 7. Other news & announcements

**Japan bets billions on chips as TSMC transforms rural Kumamoto into a semiconductor hub |** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R3bya66Dr4o>

**Netflix earnings: Why the stock fell on earnings |**  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QEOpjGOI\\_Xw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QEOpjGOI_Xw)

**Guinigundo: Gov't economic briefing a timely response to falling FDI |**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xeBXixEVJA4>

**Made in the Philippines |** <https://www.philstar.com/business/2026/01/19/2501870/made-philippines>

**Malampaya East 1 gas field discovered — Marcos |**  
<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2169864/marcos-malampaya-east-1-gas-field-to-light-millions-of-homes-schools>

**South African high court rejects Maersk's legal challenge to ICTSI's Durban Container Terminal Pier 2 tender award |** <https://www.fruitnet.com/eurofruit/court-dismisses-maersk-challenge-to-ictsi-durban-terminal-tender/269241.article>

**China Mandates 50% Domestic Equipment Rule for Chipmakers |**  
<https://www.thefinancialdistrict.com.ph/post/china-mandates-50-domestic-equipment-rule-for-chipmakers>

**UPDATED: BIR tightens tax audit controls after LOA freeze |**  
<https://bilyonaryo.com/2026/01/16/bir-resumes-letters-of-authority-finance-chief-promises-safer-data-driven-audits/business/>

**Gov't partnerships with private sector seen to boost transparency in public works projects |**  
<https://www.bworldonline.com/top-stories/2026/01/16/724637/govt-partnerships-with-private-sector-seen-to-boost-transparency-in-public-works-projects/>

**Is Philippine agriculture really protected by high tariffs? |**  
<https://business.inquirer.net/568313/is-philippine-agriculture-really-protected-by-high-tariffs>

**"Industrial Policy": Philippines Needs a New Economic Paradigm |**  
[https://richardheydarian.substack.com/p/philippines-need-a-new-economic-paradigm?utm\\_campaign=post-expanded-share&utm\\_medium=web&triedRedirect=true](https://richardheydarian.substack.com/p/philippines-need-a-new-economic-paradigm?utm_campaign=post-expanded-share&utm_medium=web&triedRedirect=true)

**Philippines near bottom of Asia manufacturing rankings despite strong workforce |**  
<https://mb.com.ph/2026/01/15/philippines-near-bottom-of-asia-manufacturing-rankings-despite-strong-workforce>

**"Philippine Economy": Is Manufacturing the Next Big Step? |**  
[https://www.linkedin.com/posts/richard-heydarian-75aa0662\\_manilahouse-activity-7417551143108603904-9Qae?utm\\_medium=ios\\_app&rcm=ACoAAAhpLYYB8vqNKP37SOL4fCkMzshPuj5icw&utm\\_source=social\\_share\\_send&utm\\_campaign=copy\\_link](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/richard-heydarian-75aa0662_manilahouse-activity-7417551143108603904-9Qae?utm_medium=ios_app&rcm=ACoAAAhpLYYB8vqNKP37SOL4fCkMzshPuj5icw&utm_source=social_share_send&utm_campaign=copy_link)

**"Philippines Desperately Needs Manufacturing" |**  
<https://www.facebook.com/reel/1661914101484480>

**Cyclicalty |**  
<https://www.philstar.com/opinion/2026/01/13/2500568/cyclicalty>

**BIR RMC No. 4-2026 - Clarification on the Mandatory Registration of Permanently Bound Loose-Leaf Books of Accounts and Computerized Books of Accounts Through the Online Registration and Update System (ORUS), and Extension of Registration Deadlines |**  
[Full Text](#)

**BIR RMC No. 3-2026 - Circularizing Additional List of Personal Equity Retirement Account (PERA) Unit Investment Trust Funds (UITFs) Duly Approved by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) |**  
[Full Text](#) | [Annex A](#)

**BIR RMC No. 2-2026 - Circularizing Memorandum Circular (MC) No. 111 dated December 18, 2025 of the Office of the President, Malacañang Palace |**  
[Full Text](#)

**SUBMISSION OF IMPACT EVALUATION REPORT SURVEY FORM |**  
<https://www.sec.gov.ph/notices/submit-impact-evaluation-report-survey-form/#qsc.tab=0>

**UPDATED FINANCIAL REPORTING BULLETIN NO. 4 PURSUANT TO SEC MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 4, SERIES OF 2026 |**  
<https://www.sec.gov.ph/notices/updated-financial-reporting-bulletin-no-4-pursuant-to-sec-memorandum-circular-no-4-series-of-2026/#qsc.tab=0>

**LAUNCH OF THE HIERARCHICAL AND APPLICABLE RELATIONS AND BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REGISTRY (HARBOR) |**  
<https://www.sec.gov.ph/notices/launch-hierarchical-and-applicable-relations-and-beneficial-ownership-registry-harbor/#qsc.tab=0>

**Updated Link for the Mandatory Disclosure Form |**  
<https://www.sec.gov.ph/notices/updated-link-for-the-mandatory-disclosure-form-mdf/#gsc.tab=0>

**SEC CERTIFICATION WEBINARS SCHEDULES AND REGISTRATION PROCEDURE |** <https://www.sec.gov.ph/cmp-notice/sec-certification-webinars-schedules-and-registration-procedure/#gsc.tab=0>

**SEC MC No. 06, series of 2026 - EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF SUBSCRIPTION CONTRACT |** <https://www.sec.gov.ph/mc-2026/sec-mc-no-06-series-of-2026expanding-the-coverage-of-subscription-contract/#gsc.tab=0>

**SEC MC No. 05, series of 2026 - AMENDMENTS TO RULE 39.1.4 OF THE 2015 IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE SECURITIES REGULATION CODE – RULES GOVERNING REGISTRARS OF QUALIFIED INSTITUTIONAL AND INDIVIDUAL BUYERS |** <https://www.sec.gov.ph/mc-2026/sec-mc-no-05-series-of-2026/#gsc.tab=0>

**SEC MC No. 04, series of 2026 - AMENDMENTS TO THE APPLICATION AND DEFINITION OF TERMS UNDER THE REVISED SRC RULE 68 IN RELATION TO THE ADJUSTMENT OF THE AUDIT THRESHOLD |** <https://www.sec.gov.ph/mc-2026/sec-mc-no-04-series-of-2026/#gsc.tab=0>

**SEC MC No. 03, series of 2026 - GUIDELINES ON THE CLASSIFICATION, PROCESSING, AND SUBMISSION OF AMENDMENT APPLICATIONS FILED THROUGH THE EAMEND PORTAL, AND IMPOSITION OF PENALTIES FOR NON-SUBMISSION OF AMENDMENT DOCUMENTS |** <https://www.sec.gov.ph/mc-2026/sec-mc-no-03-series-of-2026guidelines-on-the-classification-processing-and-submission-of-amendment-applications-filed-through-the-eamend-portal-and-imposition-of-penalties-for-non-submission-of-a/#gsc.tab=0>

**SEC MC No. 02, series of 2026 - FURTHER SUPPORTING THE GROWTH AND EXPANSION OF MICRO, SMALL, AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (MSMES) BY EXTENDING DISCOUNTED RATES FOR CERTAIN FILING FEES |**  
<https://www.sec.gov.ph/mc-2026/sec-mc-no-02-series-of-2026further-supporting-the-growth-and-expansion-of-micro-small-and-medium-enterprises-msmes-by-extending-discounted-rates-for-certain-filing-fees/#gsc.tab=0>

**SEC launches web-based beneficial ownership registry, updates GIS forms |**  
<https://www.sec.gov.ph/pr-2026/sec-launches-beneficial-ownership-registry-issues-new-gis-forms/#gsc.tab=0>

**SEC exempts micro enterprises from submitting audited FS |**  
<https://www.sec.gov.ph/pr-2026/sec-exempts-micro-enterprises-from-submitting-audited-fs/#gsc.tab=0>

**SEC streamlines amendment process for corporations |** <https://www.sec.gov.ph/pr-2026/sec-streamlines-amendment-process-for-corporations/#gsc.tab=0>

**SEC extends registration, filing fee discounts for MSMEs |**  
<https://www.sec.gov.ph/pr-2026/sec-extends-registration-filing-fee-discounts-for-msmes/#gsc.tab=0>

**SEC concludes secondment program with Lao securities regulator |**  
<https://www.sec.gov.ph/pr-2026/sec-concludes-secondment-program-with-lao-securities-regulator/#gsc.tab=0>

**SEC issues revised rules to deepen Philippine REIT framework and support long-term investment | <https://www.sec.gov.ph/pr-2026/sec-issues-revised-rules-to-deepen-philippine-reit-framework-and-support-long-term-investment/#qsc.tab=0>**

**Bureau of Customs | [Connect With Us](#)**

**BOC CMO 01-2026 - Creation of the Commissioner's Strategic Advisory Office (CSAO) under the Office of the Commissioner | <https://customs.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/2026CMO-01-2026.pdf>**

**BOC 13-2026 - Bangsamoro Barter Trade Council Memorandum Order No. 01-2025 Series of 2025 | <https://customs.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/2026CMC-13-2026.pdf>**

**BOC CMC 11-2026 - E2M System's Procedural Code for the Implementation of Revenue Regulations No. 009-2025, which Implemented Section 295 (D) of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as Amended by Section 18 of Republic Act No. 12066 | <https://customs.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/2026CMC-11-2026.pdf>**

**BOC CMC 08-2026 - Food and Drug Administration (FDA) – Reiteration of Extension of Validity of License to Operate for Household/Urban Hazardous Substances Establishments | <https://customs.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/2026CMC-08-2026.pdf>**

**BOC CMC 05-2026 - Implementation of Memorandum Issued by the Department of Agriculture – Bureau of Plant Industry Providing the Guidelines on the Resumption of Importation of Milled Rice | <https://customs.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/2026CMC-05-2026.pdf>**

**BOC OCOM Memo 04-2026 - Reiteration of No "Haoshiao" Policy | <https://customs.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/2026-04-OCOM-MEMO.pdf>**

**BOC AOCG Memo 02-2026 - Export Assistance Initiatives | <https://customs.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/2026-02-AOCG-MEMO.pdf>**

**BOC MISTG Memo 01-2026 - Implementation of Excise Tax Rates of Alcohol, Tobacco and Vapor Products Under RA 11467 Section 141, 142 & 144, RA 11346 Section 145 of the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC) | <https://customs.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/2026-01-MISTG-MEMO.pdf>**

**BOC MISTG Memo 01-2026 - Implementation of Excise Tax Rates of Alcohol, Tobacco and Vapor Products Under RA 11467 Section 141, 142 & 144, RA 11346 Section 145 of the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC) | <https://customs.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/2026-01-MISTG-MEMO.pdf>**

**BOC Records ₱934.4B in 2025 Revenues, Achieves ₱17.7B Increase Despite Headwinds | <https://customs.gov.ph/boc-records-%e2%82%b1934-4b-in-2025-revenues-achieves-%e2%82%b117-7b-increase-despite-headwinds/>**

**BOC Warns Public Against Fake News and AI-Generated Content Circulating Online | <https://customs.gov.ph/boc-warns-public-against-fake-news-and-ai-generated-content-circulating-online/>**

**BOC Bolsters National Borders, Seizes ₱61.707 Billion in 2025 Anti-Smuggling Campaign | <https://customs.gov.ph/boc-bolsters-national-borders-seizes-%e2%82%b161-707-billion-in-2025-anti-smuggling-campaign/>**

**BOC Seizes P105.575 Million Worth of Smuggled Cigarettes in Bataan During First Week of 2026 | <https://customs.gov.ph/boc-seizes-p105-575-million-worth-of-smuggled-cigarettes-in-bataan-during-first-week-of-2026/>**

**BOC–Port of Davao Joins PNP-BARMM in Major Illicit Cigarette Recovery in Maguindanao del Norte | <https://customs.gov.ph/boc-port-of-davao-joins-pnp-barmm-in-major-illicit-cigarette-recovery-in-maguindanao-del-norte/>**

**ICI Intelligence Leads to BOC Seizure of High-Value Vehicles Worth ₱143M | <https://customs.gov.ph/ici-intelligence-leads-to-boc-seizure-of-high-value-vehicles-worth-%e2%82%b1143m/>**

## **20TH CONGRESS COMMITTEE HEARINGS/MEETINGS**

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

***“That in all things God may be glorified”***