



TAMBULI Weekly Newsletter

The Official e-Newsletter of the
Federation of Philippine Industries

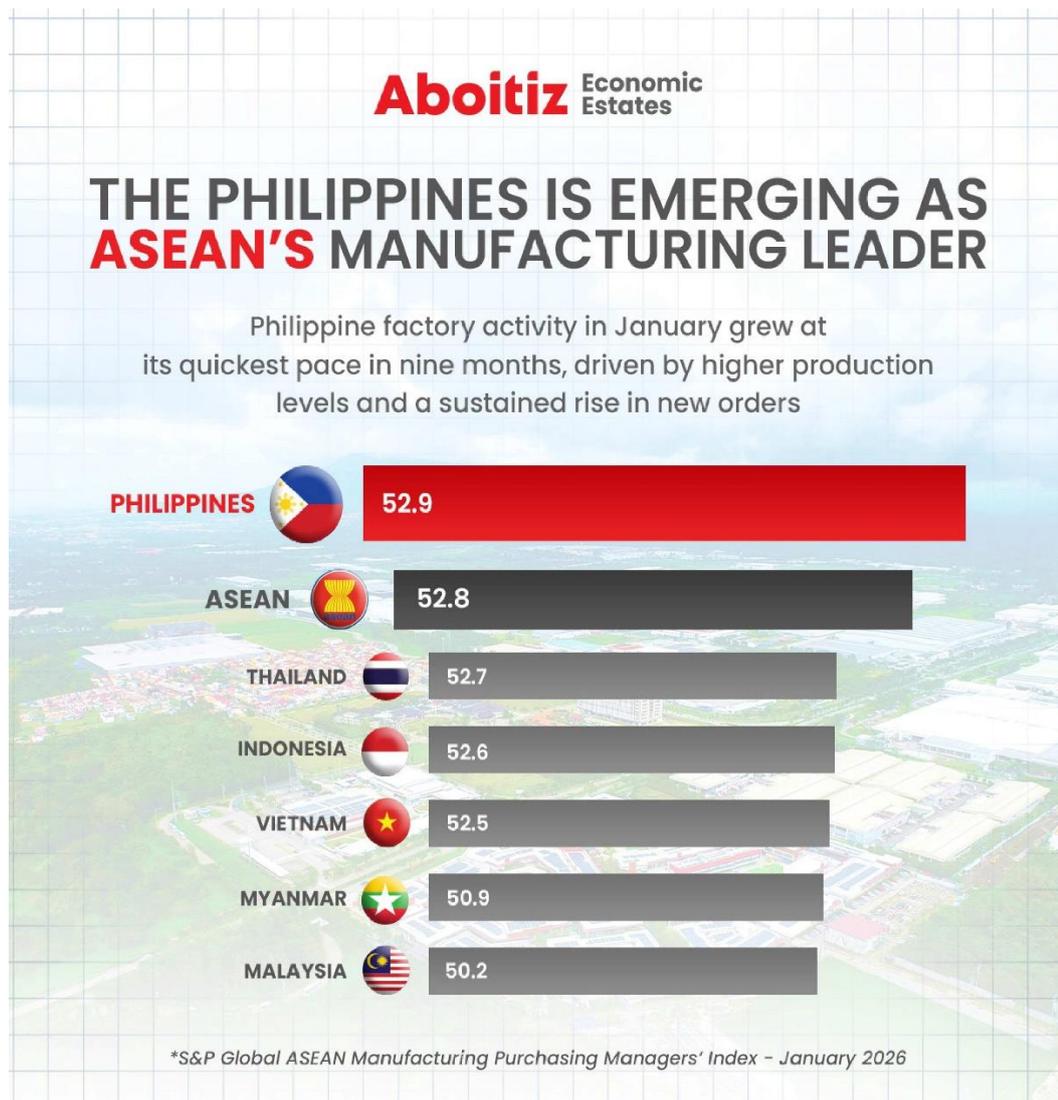
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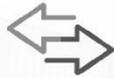
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1. THE PHILIPPINES IS EMERGING AS MANUFACTURING LEADER



AN UPWARD TREND AMID EXTERNAL PRESSURE

Despite stronger output, business sentiment remains cautious.



**UNCERTAIN
EXPORT
DEMAND**



**SHIFTING
SUPPLY CHAIN
CONDITIONS**



**RISING INPUT
AND
OPERATING COSTS**

INTEGRATED ECOSYSTEMS STRENGTHEN RESILIENCE

Manufacturers operate and scale more effectively when their essential requirements are met within a fully integrated ecosystem of solutions.

**GREATER
OPERATIONAL
CONTINUITY**

**MORE EFFICIENT
COST AND SUPPLY
CHAIN MANAGEMENT**

**RELIABLE ACCESS
TO SKILLED TALENT**



2. Breaking the P1-trillion barrier: BOC's 2026 revenue target hinges on reforms and curbing smuggling - By: FPI CE, Dr. Jesus Lim Arranza

and weaker momentum in key sectors.

The Department of Finance, under Finance Secretary Frederick Go, is making a strong push for the Bureau of Customs to finally breach the symbolic P1-trillion revenue mark in 2026—a goal that has remained elusive for years despite repeated attempts.

This optimism comes at a challenging time. The Philippine economy grew by only 4.4 percent in 2025, marking the slowest post-pandemic expansion and missing government targets for the third consecutive year. That underperformance triggered downward revisions to macroeconomic assumptions, including a slight trimming of the BOC's 2026 revenue target to around P1.003 trillion (from an earlier higher figure like P1.013 trillion or P1.033 trillion in some projections).

The slowdown stemmed from factors such as unfavorable weather, lingering effects of the billion-peso flood control scandal,

Secretary Go's confidence, expressed during the BOC's 124th anniversary, rests on several pillars:

- 1) Sustained reforms within the bureau that have long been advocated but not fully realized.
- 2) New leadership momentum under Customs Commissioner Ariel Nepomuceno.
- 3) Stronger inter-agency coordination and policy shifts on imports.

He emphasized that if the BOC falls short, the DOF would offset the gap by ramping up collections from other sources—primarily taxes via the BIR or non-tax revenues—rather than drastically altering fiscal plans.

Commissioner Ariel Nepomuceno struck a

more measured tone, calling the target “attainable but challenging” and unlikely to require “drastic” changes to economic assumptions, while framing it as a contribution to national recovery.

This P1-trillion milestone carries both practical and psychological weight. Customs duties and related fees represent the government’s second-largest revenue stream after internal revenue taxes.

Achieving it would signal improved border enforcement, reduced smuggling/technical smuggling, better valuation compliance, and effective use of digital systems—issues that have historically dragged collections below potential. (Continue reading:

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2026/02/18/breaking-the-p1-trillion-barrier-bocs-2026-revenue-target-hinges-on-reforms-and-curbing-smuggling/>)

3. Including the private sector in governance - By: Ernesto M. Ordoñez

MANILA, Philippines — For agriculture to succeed, private-sector participation in governance is necessary. This was demonstrated last Feb. 10 to Feb. 11 during the meeting of the elected 19 regional and 13 sectoral committee chairs of the legislated public-private Philippine Council of Agriculture and Fisheries (PCAF).

These chairs discussed the results of the monitoring and evaluation they did in 2025 for Department of Agriculture (DA)-funded projects. They made several recommendations to improve agricultural governance.

Four key ones are identified here, categorized into: (1) reducing corruption and (2) expanding participation.

Reducing corruption: Checklist

The 35-percent rate of underutilization and nonutilization of DA-funded grants in 2025 was attributed to the lack in 2024 of a checklist of requirements before the grant was given.

The creation and implementation of such a checklist was recommended by the private sector and implemented in 2025. The checklist for each project was filled out by the DA regional executive director (RED).

Significantly, each had to be witnessed and signed by the Regional Agriculture and Fisheries Council (RAFC) chair for transparency and accountability. This has already resulted in the more responsible and effective implementation location of these grants.

Three DA REDs who did not use this checklist and continued to give the grants without the necessary due diligence have already been taken out of their jobs. They are the same ones who have been found negligent in other areas.

It was recommended that the successful implementation of the checklist usage, with corresponding penalties for those not complying, should continue and intensify to prevent further corruption and waste.

Reducing corruption: Bidding

The trail of corruption starts with the bidding for the project. Certain REDs unfairly limit the bidders to their favored ones.

This often means money for them from the winning bidder. This comes at the expense of the farmers and fisherfolk, who do not get what is due them.

It was recommended that the list of accredited bidders from the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System be given to the RAFC chairs. This way, other qualified bidders can compete, not only the bidders preselected by the RED.

In addition, notice should be given at least 20 working days before the actual bidding to allow more to participate.

(To read/view the full article follow this link: <https://business.inquirer.net/574025/includi ng-the-private-sector-in-governance>)

4. FPI Board in action



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

5. FPI Anti-Smuggling Committee



Photos were taken during the FPI-BOC TWG Meeting held on Thursday, 19 February 2026, at 7AM, Manila Hotel.

6. FPI in the news

Biz group head wary of scrapping VAT exemptions |

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2026/02/20/business/top-business/biz-group-head-wary-of-scrapping-vat-exemptions/2281380>

FPI urges caution on OECD proposal to remove VAT exemptions |

<https://malaya.com.ph/business/business-news/fpi-urges-caution-on-oecd-proposal-to-remove-vat-exemptions/>

OECD tax shift needs careful calibration | <https://context.ph/2026/02/19/oecd-tax-shift-needs-careful-calibration/>

FPI flags 'cost spikes' as OECD pushes for major Philippine tax overhaul |

<https://mb.com.ph/2026/02/18/fpi-flags-cost-spikes-as-oecd-pushes-for-major-philippine-tax-overhaul>

Philippines investments poised for reset |

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2026/02/17/2508441/philippines-investments-poised-reset/amp/>

Breaking the P1-trillion barrier: BOC's 2026 revenue target hinges on reforms and curbing smuggling | <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2026/02/18/breaking-the-p1-trillion-barrier-bocs-2026-revenue-target-hinges-on-reforms-and-curbing-smuggling/>

Philippines investments poised for reset | <https://www.philstar.com/business/2026/02/17/2508441/philippines-investments-poised-reset/amp/>

Including the private sector in governance | <https://business.inquirer.net/574025/including-the-private-sector-in-governance>

Is Philippine Manufacturing Ready for a 2026 Comeback? | Elizabeth Lee | Business 360 | <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SRG-T0nvUyU>

FPI chair Lee: PMI 52.9 signals manufacturing growth, but investors remain cautious | https://bnc.bilyonaryo.com/fpi-chair-lee-pmi-52-9-signals-manufacturing-growth-but-investors-remain-cautious/business/?fbclid=IwDGRjcAP621JleHRuA2FibQlxMQBzcnRjBmFwcF9pZAo2NjI4NTY4Mzc5AAEeOtioXVvkQ4vQrVpWNOE37h2cDPvFqtv66ALi7FYGclJEYrX99BLd-CORom3s_aem_Jhvd8t8xF0M25ILrLkAvUA

CONFIDENCE AS THE 'MISSING MULTIPLIER' | <https://web.facebook.com/reel/895523733446998>

PH MANUFACTURING FACES UNEVEN STATRT TO 2026 AMID CAUTIOUS INVESTORS (13:58) | <https://www.youtube.com/live/yL3Uk0Fi2vM>

Beyond political theater: A plea for Senate substance and duty | <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2026/02/11/beyond-political-theater-a-plea-for-senate-substance-and-duty/>

Leveraging biochar for growing crops | <https://business.inquirer.net/572868/leveraging-biochar-for-growing-crops>

7. Other news & announcements

DTI seizes ₱1.6M worth of uncertified steel bars to protect Filipino homes | <https://www.facebook.com/DTI.FTEB/posts/pfbid0c2ovYrCaYqt7MgAzakXigzTNnkiTFnVvsFKfbRAeUpbRBBH1TB9fSA2Wi68kzNCaI?rdid=f1avdcHUjobAXrVil#>

DoF to review OECD call to phase out VAT exemptions for senior citizens, private schools | <https://www.bworldonline.com/top-stories/2026/02/20/731635/dof-to-review-oecd-call-to-phase-out-vat-exemptions-for-senior-citizens-private-schools/>

ERC sets maximum allowable revenue for NGCP | Business 360 | <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W9nUiarM3vY>

Giga Presses -- the giant die casts that are reshaping car manufacturing | <https://www.autonews.com/suppliers/giga-presses-help-toyota-volvo-hyundai-cut-production-costs/>

Prices of construction materials rise at faster pace in January | <https://www.philstar.com/business/2026/02/15/2507993/prices-construction-materials-rise-faster-pace-january>

DA tightens grip on warehouses under sabotage law | <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2026/02/15/2508060/da-tightens-grip-warehouses-under-sabotage-law>

DTI seizes P1.6M worth of uncertified steel bars in N. Ecija |
<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1268958>

DTI: No certification, no place in construction market |
<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2026/02/12/dti-no-certification-no-place-in-construction-market/>

BIR rolls out major audit reforms to curb LOA weaponization | The Daily Dish |
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g6QXHqOWuKM>

LGU consolidation and declining unemployment |
<https://www.bworldonline.com/opinion/2026/02/10/729366/lgu-consolidation-and-declining-unemployment/>

50,000 | <https://www.philstar.com/business/2026/02/09/2506669/50000>

Bulacan Flood Control Scandal: Rep. Tina Pancho at Guiguinto Mayor Cruz, pinakakasuhan din ng NBI | <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0CtcT5xmb1I>

More life to your years: How a longevity center can help |
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bta9IBXfkWE>

AMLC, nag-isyu ng freeze order sa 379 bank accounts nina Jonathan So at Carlito Macadangdang | <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v9BmNiA4IR8>

BIR RR No. 1-2026 - Amending Sections 3, 4, and 7 of RR No. 9-2025 to clarify filing and payment rules for VAT on local sales, provide optional value-added tax (VAT) registration for certain Registered Business Enterprises (RBEs), extend the deadline for system reconfiguration, and exclude certain enterprises and activities from the coverage of VAT on local sales of RBEs under Section 295(D) of the NIRC of 997 (Tax Code), as Amended by Section 18 of Republic Act No. 12066. | [Full Text](#)

BIR RMO No. 4-2026 - Implementing Guidelines on the Availment of Wellness Leave for BIR Officials and Employees Pursuant to Civil Service Commission (CSC) Resolution No. 2501292 dated November 13, 2025 | [Full Text](#)

BIR RMC No. 12-2026 - Provides extension of deadlines for the filing of tax returns and payment of the corresponding taxes due thereon, including submission of required documents for taxpayers under the jurisdiction of Revenue District Office No. 101 — Lanao del Norte that were affected by Tropical Storm "Basyang". | [Full Text](#)

BIR RMC No. 11-2026 - Missing triplicate copy of unused/unissued BIR Form No. AF51 — Accountable Form No. 51. | [Full Text](#)

REQUEST FOR COMMENT ON THE DRAFT MC ON CGT |
<https://www.sec.gov.ph/notice-rfc/request-for-comment-on-the-draft-mc-on-cgt/#gsc.tab=0>

SUBMISSION OF IMPACT EVALUATION REPORT SURVEY FORM |
<https://www.sec.gov.ph/notices/submission-of-impact-evaluation-report-survey-form-2/#gsc.tab=0>

SEC MC No. 10, series of 2026 - GUIDELINES ON THE COMPLIANCES OF ONE PERSON CORPORATIONS (OPCs) | <https://www.sec.gov.ph/mc-2026/sec-mc-no-10-series-of-2026/#gsc.tab=0>

SEC MC No. 09, series of 2026 - FILING OF ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND GENERAL INFORMATION SHEET | <https://www.sec.gov.ph/mc-2026/sec-mc-no-09-series-of-2026/#gsc.tab=0>

SEC MC No. 08, series of 2026 - RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION | <https://www.sec.gov.ph/mc-2026/sec-mc-no-08-series-of-2026rules-of-procedure-of-the-securities-and-exchange-commission/#gsc.tab=0>

SEC to issue new, consolidated guidelines on corporate governance training | <https://www.sec.gov.ph/pr-2026/sec-to-issue-new-consolidated-guidelines-on-corporate-governance-training/#gsc.tab=0>

BOC OCOM memo 18-2026 - Modified Work Hours for Muslim Officials and Employees During the Holy Month of Ramadan | <https://customs.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/2026-18-OCOM-MEMO.pdf>

BOC OCOM memo 17-2026 - Directive to Expedite the Clearance of Rice Shipment | <https://customs.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/2026-17-OCOM-MEMO.pdf>

BOC OCOM memo 13-2026 - Directive on the Submission of PEZA Locators Involved in Cigarette and Tobacco Production | <https://customs.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/2026-13-OCOM-MEMO.pdf>

BOC IAG memo 05-2026 - Philippine Tax Academy (PTA) : 2026 Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) Program for 9th Cycle Compliance of Lawyers of the Bureau of Customs | <https://customs.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/2026-05-IAG-MEMO.pdf>

BOC AOCG memo 22-2026 - Reiteration of Directive on Live Streaming of Condemnation Activities | <https://customs.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/2026-22-AOCG-MEMO.pdf>

BOC IAG memo 04-2026 - Reiteration on the Submission of the Zero Backlog Report | <https://customs.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/2026-04-IAG-MEMO-1.pdf>

BOC OCOM Memo 11-2026 - Examination Schedule at DEAs | <https://customs.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/2026-11-OCOM-MEMO.pdf>

BOC OCOM Memo 10-2026 - Guidelines for the Hiring and Renewal of Contracts of Service for January to December 2026 | <https://customs.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/2026-10-OCOM-MEMO.pdf>

Customs Chief Commends Cagayan de Oro Port for Destruction of ₱188M Smuggled Cigarettes | <https://customs.gov.ph/customs-chief-commends-cagayan-de-oro-port-for-destruction-of-%e2%82%b1188m-smuggled-cigarettes/>

Government Delivers Long-Delayed Balikbayan Boxes as Last Batch of Delivery Rollout Begins | <https://customs.gov.ph/government-delivers-long-delayed-balikbayan-boxes-as-final-wave-of-delivery-rollout-begins/>

BOC Tightens Airport Inspection Rules to Safeguard Passenger Rights | <https://customs.gov.ph/boc-tightens-airport-inspection-rules-to-safeguard-passenger-rights/>

40 Importers, Brokers Charged in BOC's Anti-Smuggling Campaign | <https://customs.gov.ph/40-importers-brokers-charged-in-bocs-anti-smuggling-campaign/>

BOC, DILG Joint Operations Net Over P200M in Illicit Tobacco Manufacturing Equipment and Materials | <https://customs.gov.ph/boc-dilg-joint-operations-net-over-p200m-in-illicit-tobacco-manufacturing-equipment-and-materials/>

Customs Commissioner Highlights Push for Fully Digital, Data-Driven Customs System | <https://customs.gov.ph/customs-commissioner-highlights-push-for-fully-digital-data-driven-customs-system/>

BOC Convened First Strategic Dialogue with Industry to Improve Efficiency and Cargo Movement for Better Port Utilization | <https://customs.gov.ph/boc-convened-first-strategic-dialogue-with-industry-to-improve-efficiency-and-cargo-movement-for-better-port-utilization/>

BOC Commissioner Nepomuceno Pushes Reform Agenda with Full Backing from Finance Secretary Go at 124th Anniversary | <https://customs.gov.ph/boc-commissioner-nepomuceno-pushes-reform-agenda-with-full-backing-from-finance-secretary-go-at-124th-anniversary/>

BOC Intensifies Cigarette-Smuggling Crack Down, Seizes ₱39.3M Worth of Illicit Cigarettes and Dried Tobacco | <https://customs.gov.ph/boc-intensifies-cigarette-smuggling-crack-down-seizes-%e2%82%b139-3m-worth-of-illicit-cigarettes-and-dried-tobacco/>

BOC Converts Forfeited Luxury Vehicle into ₱29 Million Revenue for Nation-Building | <https://customs.gov.ph/boc-converts-forfeited-luxury-vehicle-into-%e2%82%b129-million-revenue-for-nation-building/>

BOC Port of Davao Condemned ₱235 Million Worth of Seized Cigarettes | <https://customs.gov.ph/boc-port-of-davao-condemned-%e2%82%b1235-million-worth-of-seized-cigarettes-2/>

BOC Sustains and Expands Good Governance Reforms through IAM Program | <https://customs.gov.ph/boc-sustains-and-expands-good-governance-reforms-through-iam-program/>

BOC Earns Recognition from DHL Express Philippines for Vigilance and Digitalized Customs Service | <https://customs.gov.ph/boc-earns-recognition-from-dhl-express-philippines-for-vigilance-and-digitalized-customs-service/>

BOC-NAIA Turns Over ₱36 Million Worth of Forfeited Agarwood Shipments to DENR | <https://customs.gov.ph/boc-naia-turns-over-%e2%82%b136-million-worth-of-forfeited-agarwood-shipments-to-denr/>

BOC, DILG, at Iba Pang Ahensya Nagsagawa ng Follow-Through Inspection sa Ilegal na Paggawaan ng Sigarilyo sa Pampanga | <https://customs.gov.ph/boc-dilg-at-iba-pang-ahensya-nagsagawa-ng-follow-through-inspection-sa-ilegal-na-paggawaan-ng-sigarilyo-sa-pampanga/>

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”