

The Philippines' Legislative Agenda

Priority Bills for passage within the 19th Congress

Measures in the Common Legislative Agenda approved by the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council are critical in the push for reforms that will advance the country's growth and inclusion.

Fiscal Measures

VAT on Digital Services¹: ENSURES an equal playing field between local and foreign digital service providers while expanding the VAT base **approved by Bicameral Committee on June 27, 2024*

Excise Tax on Single-Use Plastics²: PROMOTES sustainable consumption and production, and reducing plastic waste generation

Rationalization of the Mining Fiscal Regime²: SIMPLIFIES fiscal regime for the mining industry

Industry and Investments

Anti-Agricultural Economic Sabotage Act¹: IMPOSES severe sanctions against smugglers, profiteers, hoarders and cartels of agricultural and fishery products. **awaiting signature of the President*

Amendments to the Foreign Investors' Long-Term Lease Act²: REINFORCES the opening of the economy to foreign investments by extending the lease of private lands (excluding agricultural lands) to foreigners from a maximum of 75 years to 99 years

Blue Economy Act³: COMPREHENSIVE framework for the sustainable development of marine and coastal resources

Amendments to the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (EPIRA)²: ENSURES fair pricing and addresses issues related to power supply and demand, and improves supply reliability and quality

CREATE MORE Act²: ENHANCES the tax and administrative incentives available to companies, and clarifies rules on implementing VAT incentives

Waste-to-Energy (WtE) Bill³: PROVIDES regulatory framework for facilities utilizing WtE, safeguards against potential environmental and health concerns

Infrastructure

Amendments to the Right-of-Way Act²: FAST-TRACKS acquisition of right of way leading to accelerated implementation of infrastructure projects

Open Access in Data Transmission Act³: OPENS UP and brings in more players in the telecommunications industry

Financial

Reforms to Philippine Capital Markets²: FACILITATE capital raising for Filipino companies through the stock market by reducing taxes on stock transactions and equalizing the dividend tax.

Social and Governance

Philippine Maritime Zones Act¹: DECLARES maritime zones based on the standards set by UNCLOS, clarifies the geographical extent of the Philippine maritime domain, and the Philippines' legal powers **pending bicam*

New Government Auditing Code¹: UPDATES 45-year old Government Auditing Code of the Philippines. **approved on third reading in House of Representatives on December 12, 2023*

Archipelagic Sea Lanes Act²: ESTABLISHES the Philippines' archipelagic sea lanes within PH archipelagic waters

E-Government Act / E-Governance Act³: PROMOTES interoperable government ICT network

Self-Reliant Defense Posture Revitalization Act¹: PROMOTES the preferential use of Filipino labor, domestic materials and locally produced goods, and measures that help make them competitive **pending bicam*

Department of Water Resources²: AGENCY responsible for comprehensive and integrated water resources development and management

Enterprise-Based Education and Training Framework Act³: BRIDGES the gap between the rapidly evolving needs of industries and the requisite skills of employees

Amendments to the Universal Health Care Act³: REVISES the premium rates for direct contributors of the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth)

Academic Recovery and Accessible Learning (ARAL) Program Act¹: ENSURES learners develop the most important learning competencies in reading, mathematics and sciences through tutors **pending bicam*

Amendments to the Rice Tariffication Law²: TEMPORARY authority to National Food Authority to stabilize the price and supply of rice during food security emergencies

Philippine Immigration Act³: ENHANCES the capacity of the Bureau of Immigration to safeguard the country's borders and protect the rights of migrants

^{1/} Top Priority and in Advanced Stages

^{2/} Top Priority

^{3/} Second Priority

(Identified by LEDAC)

Priority Measures Signed Into Law and Other Reforms

The administration is on track in implementing its transformation agenda.

Industry and Investments

Maharlika Investment Fund: COUNTRY'S FIRST-EVER sovereign wealth fund to invest in critical infrastructure projects, among others

100-percent Foreign Ownership of Renewable Energy Projects: LIBERALIZED solar, wind, hydro, and ocean or tidal energy projects

Public-Private Partnership Code of the Philippines (PPP Code): ENHANCES clarity and predictability to encourage investments in PPPs

Philippine Salt Industry Development Act: PROVIDES salt farmers with appropriate technology and research, and adequate financial, production, marketing and other support services

Financial

Anti-Financial Accounts Scamming Act: PENALIZES scammers and provides legislative support to financial institutions to combat the proliferation of scammers

Fiscal and Governance

Internet Transactions Act: LAYS DOWN the code of conduct and qualifications for businesses wishing to engage in e-commerce

Ease of Paying Taxes Act: MODERNIZES tax administration, encourages proper and easy compliance, boosts revenue collection

Real Property Valuation and Assessment Reform Act: HASTENS the automation of services provided by local government units to boost efficiency of tax collection and improve delivery of services

New Government Procurement Act: ADDRESSES loopholes and inefficiencies in the current procurement system

Social and Human Capital Development

National Employment Recovery Strategy/Trabaho Para sa Bayan Act: IMPROVES the employability and competitiveness of Filipino workers through upskilling and reskilling initiatives

New Agrarian Emancipation Act: FREES farmer beneficiaries under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) from debt

Regional Specialty Hospitals: ESTABLISHES centers that will provide and improve access to specialized healthcare

Environment

Philippine Ecosystem and Natural Capital Accounting System (PENCAS): ESTABLISHES framework in the generation of natural capital statistics and accounts toward their progressive integration in macroeconomic indicators

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