

As of 10 November 2025

Updates on Key Structural Reforms in the Philippines

- The Administration's transformation agenda continues to gain momentum and support attainment of development goals.
- Over half of the priority bills under the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council (LEDAC)'s Common Legislative Agenda during the 19th Congress have been enacted into law. These measures aim to improve the country's investment climate and fiscal position, among others.
- Building on earlier gains, priority bills in the 20th Congress focus on driving social and economic transformation while improving governance and transparency.



Industry and Investments

Public-Private Partnership Code of the Philippines (PPP Code): Streamlines and strengthens PPP legal framework, enhancing clarity and predictability that aims to boost private sector participation

Anti-Agricultural Economic Sabotage Act: Imposes severe sanctions against smugglers, profiteers, hoarders, and cartels of agricultural and fishery products

Maharlika Investment Fund: Sovereign wealth fund to invest in critical infrastructure projects, among others

Value-Added Tax Refund for Non-Resident Tourists Act:¹ Allows non-resident tourists to reclaim the 12% VAT on eligible goods bought in the Philippines if conditions are met, including making a minimum purchase of PHP3,000 per transaction at accredited stores and taking the goods out of the country within 60 days.

Liberalized Renewable Energy Sector:² 100% foreign ownership in exploration, development, and utilization of hydro, ocean/tidal, solar, and wind energy

¹Not in LEDAC Common Legislative Agenda

²Amended Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Renewable Energy (RE) Act via DOE Circular 2022-11-0034

ENACTED REFORMS

Industry and Investments

Amendments to the Foreign Investors' Long-Term Lease Act: Extends lease of private lands (excluding agricultural lands) to foreigners to 99 years from 75 years

Amendments to the Right-of-Way Act (ARROW): Fast-tracks acquisition of right-of-way through streamlined appropriation, updated valuation standards, inclusion of easements and temporary use, and promotion of digitalization, leading to accelerated implementation of infrastructure projects

Philippine National Nuclear Energy Safety Act³: Establishes Philippine Atomic Energy Regulatory Authority (PhilATOM) to ensure safe, secure, and peaceful nuclear energy use

Financial

Capital Markets Efficiency Promotions Act: Harmonizes taxation on passive income by eliminating certain exemptions and aligning tax rates across financial instruments; modernizes the tax system on passive income, making it more competitive, regionally aligned, and investor friendly

Anti-Financial Account Scamming Act: Penalizes scammers and provides legislative support to financial institutions to combat proliferation of scammers

³Not in LEDAC Common Legislative Agenda

ENACTED REFORMS

Fiscal

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

Real Property Valuation and Assessment Reform Act: Broadens tax base used for property and property-related taxes of national and local government and improves tax collections without increasing existing tax rates or imposing new taxes

VAT on Digital Services: Ensures equal playing field between local and foreign digital service providers while expanding VAT base

Enhanced Fiscal Regime for Large-Scale Metallic Mining Act: Rationalizes taxation of mining sector, ensuring fairness, simplicity, and good governance

CREATE MORE Act: Enhances ease of doing business, clarifies VAT rules, provides more attractive tax incentives, strengthens governance and accountability, and establishes transition rules for pre-CREATE registered business enterprises

Environment and Social

National Employment Recovery Strategy: Improves employability and competitiveness of Filipino workers through upskilling and reskilling

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

Governance and Security

New Government Procurement Act: Modernizes procurement by replacing lowest bid rule with most economically and advantageous responsive bid, promoting quality, transparency, and sustainability through digital systems and ESG principles.

Internet Transactions Act: Lays down code of conduct and qualifications for businesses wishing to engage in e-commerce

Philippine Maritime Zones Act: Declares maritime zones based on standards set by United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), clarifies geographical extent of Philippine maritime domain and legal powers

Self-Reliant Defense Posture Revitalization Act: Promotes preferential use of Filipino labor, domestic materials and locally produced goods, and measures that help make them competitive

Archipelagic Sea Lanes Act: Establishes archipelagic sea lanes within Philippine archipelagic waters

Government Optimization Act: Empowers the President to streamline executive agencies by minimizing redundancies and enhancing public service delivery based on results of strategic review

E-Governance Act: Digital transformation of government services through integrated and interoperable government ICT network, improving efficiency, transparency, and accessibility

Konektadong Pinoy Act: Removes franchise barriers to entry to ensure universal, affordable, and high-quality internet access across the country, especially in underserved areas

REFORMS IN PIPELINE

Industry and Investments

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

Amendments to the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (EPIRA): Restructure Energy Regulatory Commission for greater efficiency, strengthen cross-ownership limitations between power generators and distributors, and enhance regulatory powers to lower electricity costs and improve supply diversity

Masterplan for Infrastructure and National Development: 30-year blueprint for integrated infrastructure development that seeks to ensure continuity beyond political cycles and align long-term investments with national priorities

REFORMS IN PIPELINE

Fiscal

Progressive Budgeting for Better and Modernized Governance Act: Institutionalizes a cash-based budgeting system and integrates public financial management through a unified platform to improve transparency, fiscal discipline, and efficiency in government spending

Revenue-enhancing measures

Extension of Estate Tax Amnesty: Extends eligibility of estate tax amnesty to June 2027; seeks to provide heirs and beneficiaries with another opportunity to settle their obligations in a fair and affordable manner; strengthens government revenue collections; and promotes productive use of inherited assets

General Tax Amnesty: Provides opportunity to taxpayers to settle outstanding tax liabilities and improve government's tax administration and revenue collection by expanding the tax base

Excise Tax on Single-Use Plastics: Promotes sustainable consumption and production; and reduces plastic waste generation

REFORMS IN PIPELINE

Governance

Amendments to the Anti-Money Laundering Act: Expands coverage and strengthens compliance with global anti-money laundering/counter-terrorism financing standards

Digital Payments Act: Mandates secure, reliable, and interoperable digital payment systems for all government disbursements and collections; and encourages merchants of all sizes to adopt them, modernizing public service and expanding financial access

Amendments to the Bank Deposits Secrecy Law: Allows regulators like BSP and Anti-Money Laundering Council to access bank deposits for anti-money laundering, tax, and corruption probes with the goal of aligning with global standards, improving financial transparency, and curbing abuse through strict safeguards

Requiring Civil Servants to Waive Bank Secrecy: Mandates all civil servants to execute written waivers, allowing the Office of the Ombudsman to examine their bank deposits and investments, including foreign currency accounts.

Sources: LEDAC Secretariat, Department of Energy, Philippine Communications Office

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