



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
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27 September 2020

**MEMORANDUM**

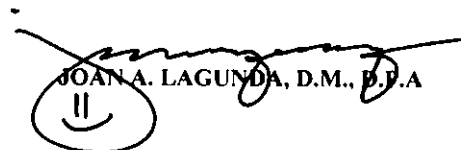
TO : All Bureaus Directors  
  
The Directors  
Legal Affairs Service  
Policy and Planning Service

FROM : The Assistant Secretary  
Field Operations-Mindanao and Legislative Affairs

SUBJECT : **INVITATION FROM THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE,  
GOVERNMENT AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION**

This pertains to the letter dated 24 September 2020, received by this Office 26 September 2020 from Ms. Mary Jane Arzadon, Legislative Committee Secretary, Committee on Civil Service, Government and Professional Regulation (Subcommittee on SBN 1844) inviting DENR to its **Public Hearing on 29 September 2020 Tuesday 10 a.m. via CISCO WEBEX** online videoconferencing, to discuss the proposed subject bill, Senate Bill no. 1844 – “An Act Authorizing the President to Expedite the Processing and Issuance of National and Local Permits and Licenses” (Introduced by: Senators Sotto III, Recto Zubiri, Drilon and Lacson)

Kindly inform this office of your attendance before the scheduled date of the meeting and submit presentation, comments and/or position papers or proposed provision with respect to the bill in hard and soft copy at the Legislative Liaison Office at telephone number 8920-1761 and email [denrlegislative@yahoo.com](mailto:denrlegislative@yahoo.com) for consolidation. Also, you can confirm your participation to Ms. Gina Dellomes, at 552-6601 loc. 3318, or at [senatecivilservice@gmail.com](mailto:senatecivilservice@gmail.com) or at Globe number 0917-5913386 or (7)959-1996. The WebEx meeting link will be sent an hour before the subject hearing thru the authorized emails of your office/ and or representatives.

  
JOAN A. LAGUNDA, D.M., P.F.A

MEMO NO.2020-468



Republic of the Philippines  
Congress of the Philippines  
**Senate**  
Pasay City

September 24, 2020

**COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE, GOVERNMENT AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION  
(SUBCOMMITTEE ON SBN 1844/EASE OF DOING BUSINESS)**

**JOINT PUBLIC HEARING  
For September 29, 2020, Tuesday, 10 a.m.  
Via online videoconferencing**

**Hon. Roy A. Cimatú**  
Secretary  
**Department of Environment and Natural Resources**

**Dear Secretary Cimatú,**

Please be informed that the Committee on Civil Service, Government and Professional Regulation (Subcommittee on SBN 1844) will conduct its **Public Hearing on September 29, 2020; Tuesday; 10 a.m. via CISCO WEBEX online videoconferencing**, to discuss the proposed subject bill, to wit:

**SENATE BILL NO. 1844 – “AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT TO EXPEDITE THE PROCESSING AND ISSUANCE OF NATIONAL AND LOCAL PERMITS AND LICENSES”** (*Introduced by: Senators Sotto III, Recto Zubiri, Drilon and, Lacson*)

In this connection, we would like to invite you as one of our resource persons. You may direct your comments and position papers on the subject bill. Proposal for amendments with justification are necessary as part of your position paper.

A copy of the bill is found and can be downloaded via our website [www.senate.gov.ph](http://www.senate.gov.ph)

The Webex meeting link will be sent an hour before the subject hearing thru the authorized emails of your office/ and or representatives. Kindly forward the emails/username that you will be using for this hearing prior to the date aforementioned.

Queries and confirmation of attendance please contact Ms. Gina Dellomes, our assisting technical staff, at 552-6601 loc. 3318, or at [senatecivilservice@gmail.com](mailto:senatecivilservice@gmail.com) or at my Globe number 0917-5913386 or (7)959 -1996.

Thank you.

By authority of the Subcommittee Chairman

*Mary Jane M. Arzadon*

**MS. MARY JANE M. ARZADON**

*Legislative Committee Secretary*

*Committee on Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation*

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**  
*Second Regular Session*

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Senate  
Office of the Secretary

SENATE

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S. B. No. 1844

RECEIVED

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Introduced by Senators VICENTE C. SOTTO III, RALPH G. RECTO, JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI, FRANKLIN M. DRILON, and PANFILO M. LACSON

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**AN ACT  
AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT TO EXPEDITE THE PROCESSING AND  
ISSUANCE OF NATIONAL AND LOCAL PERMITS AND LICENSES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

In the World Bank's 2020 Doing Business Report, Philippines jumped 29 notches, ranking 95<sup>th</sup> from 124<sup>th</sup> last year. The Philippines got an Ease of Doing Business score of 62.8 in the 2020 report, an improvement over its grade in the previous year of 57.68. Based on the report, the Philippines improved on three areas: starting a business, dealing with construction permits, and protecting minority investors.<sup>1</sup> Although it was a big leap from the previous year's, the Philippines is still last in the ranking among the founding members of Southeast Asian Nations.

According to some reports in 2019<sup>2</sup>, the Philippines is a top foreign investment destination largely attributable to its continuing digital transformation and combined information and communications technology (ICT) and infrastructure efforts. Furthermore, based on an article published by the Philippine News Agency on December 30, 2019, Philippine economy is still among Asia's fastest amid easing inflation. The Philippine gross domestic product (GDP) accelerated by 6.2 percent in

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.dof.gov.ph/dof-confident-of-even-better-doing-business-ranking-for-phi-next-year-amid-msme-reform/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://markets.businessinsider.com/news/stocks/philippines-a-top-foreign-investment-destination-with-613-surge-in-approved-investments-1028710393#>

the third quarter, making it the second fastest-growing major economy after Vietnam, and ahead of China, India, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Thailand.

Moreover, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the Department of Finance, the Philippines entered 2020 with strong growth prospects due to the conservative and responsible fiscal management and tax reform measures, just to name a few factors. The Philippines is even said to be among the fastest growing economies, with a revenue of 16.1% of gross domestic product (GDP), which is the country's highest since 1997.

However, the economic landscape of the Philippines has drastically changed by reason of the pandemic. The impact of COVID-19 to the different sectors of our society are all unprecedented. The Philippine economy is forecast to contract by 7.3% in 2020 amid the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the Asian Development Bank<sup>3</sup>. While this has been the case, the Department of Finance<sup>4</sup> remained optimistic in saying that the peso has emerged as among Asia's strongest currencies owing to the country's mild inflation rate.

Uncertainties surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, although have been lessened, still exist. Measures to cushion its effect to our people and our economy have already been made. However, there are still a lot to be accomplished in order to rebuild the economy and defeat COVID-19 altogether.

Thus, this bill seeks to authorize the President, during the time of national emergency, to suspend the requirements for national and local permits, licenses and certifications, and to streamline and expedite the process for the issuance of the same. While this may be a small step, it surely can create a significant impact on all enterprises. Likewise, this move could ease the already heavy burden of the businesses that were heavily hit and continuously being beaten by the gargantuan effects of the pandemic. This Act could be one of the needed breathers of the

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.adb.org/news/philippine-economy-decline-further-2020-amid-covid-19-recovery-2021>

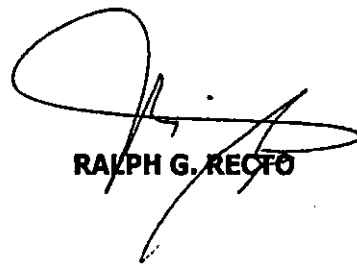
<sup>4</sup> <https://mb.com.ph/2020/09/01/strong-peso-shows-confidence-in-ph-dof/>

crumbling enterprises. And ultimately, this will redound to the benefit of our economy and encourage investors to capitalize in the country.

The COVID-19 virus is spreading fast, so our action must likewise be swift. Therefore, the immediate passage of this measure is earnestly sought.




**VICENTE C. SOTTO III**



**RALPH G. RECTO**



**JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI**



**FRANKLIN M. DRILON**



**PANFILO M. LACSON**

20 SEP 22 P3 29

SENATE

RECEIVED BY



Senate Bill No. 1844

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Introduced by Introduced by Senators VICENTE C. SOTTO III, RALPH G. RECTO,  
JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI, FRANKLIN M. DRILON, and PANFILO M. LACSON

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**AN ACT**

**AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT TO EXPEDITE THE PROCESSING AND  
ISSUANCE OF NATIONAL AND LOCAL PERMITS, LICENSES AND  
CERTIFICATIONS**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in  
Congress assembled:*

- 1       **SECTION 1. Coverage.** – This Act shall cover all agencies of the Executive  
2 branch, including departments, bureaus, offices, commissions, boards, councils;  
3 government instrumentalities, government owned and controlled corporations such as  
4 but not limited to the following: Department of Finance (DOF), Bureau of Internal  
5 Revenue (BIR), Bureau of Customs (BOC); Department of Environment and Natural  
6 Resources (DENR), National Water Resources Board (NWRB), Environmental  
7 Management Bureau (EMB), Land Management Bureau; Department of Justice (DOJ),  
8 Land Registration Authority (LRA), Bureau of Immigration (BI); Department of  
9 Transportation (DOTr), Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board  
10 (LTFRB), Land Transportation Office (LTO), Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines  
11 (CAAP), Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA);  
12 Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), National Commission on  
13 Indigenous Peoples (NCIP); Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG),  
14 Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP); Department of Health (DOH), Food and Drug  
15 Administration (FDA); Department of Information and Communications Technology  
16 (DICT), National Telecommunications Commission (NTC); Department of Agriculture  
17 (DA), Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR); Department of Energy

1 (DOE); Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC); Department of Labor and Employment  
2 (DOLE); Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD), Home  
3 Mutual Development Fund (HDMF/PAGIBIG), Human Settlements Adjudication  
4 Commission (HSAC); Social Security System (SSS); Government Service Insurance  
5 System (GSIS); and local government units.

6 **SEC. 2. Authority of the President to Suspend the Requirements for**  
7 **National and Local Permits, Licenses and Certifications, and to Streamline**  
8 **and Expedite the Process for the Issuance thereof.** – Notwithstanding any law,  
9 decree, order or ordinance to the contrary, the President, in times of national  
10 emergency shall have the authority to:

11 (a) accelerate and streamline regulatory processes and procedures for new and  
12 pending applications for permits, licenses, clearances, certifications or  
13 authorizations, including fixing or shortening the periods provided for under  
14 existing laws, regulations, issuances, and ordinances;

15 (b) suspend or waive the requirements in securing such permits, licenses,  
16 clearances, certifications or authorizations.

17 **SEC. 3. Power to Suspend or Remove** – Consistent with Article VII Sections  
18 1 and 17 of the Constitution, the Revised Administrative Code, other existing laws,  
19 and jurisprudence, the President shall have the authority to suspend or remove, upon  
20 the determination of a competent body, any government official or employee  
21 performing acts contrary to the preceding section.

22 **SEC. 4. Separability Clause.** – If any provision of this Act is declared  
23 unconstitutional or invalid, the provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in  
24 full force and effect.

25 **SEC. 5. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, orders, ordinances, rules and  
26 regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified  
27 accordingly.

28 **SEC. 6. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect upon its publication in the  
29 Official Gazette and in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*