



**NOTICE OF MEETING**

**TO :** **THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY** for Biodiversity  
IN CONCURRENT CAPACITY AS DIRECTOR  
Biodiversity Management Bureau

**THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY**  
Field Operations – Mindanao  
IN CONCURRENT CAPACITY AS DIRECTOR  
Forest Management Bureau

**THE DIRECTORS**  
Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau  
Policy and Planning Service

**REPRESENTATIVES** from the  
Philippine Exporters Confederation, Inc.

**ALL CONCERNED OFFICES/STAFF** from  
**DENR PHILEXPORT TWG**  
per DENR Special Order 2024-149

**FROM :** **THE UNDERSECRETARY**  
Policy, Planning and International Affairs

**DATE AND TIME :** **13 December 2024 (Friday)**  
02:00 PM onwards

**VENUE :** FMB OD Conference Room  
G/F FMB Main Building  
Visayas Avenue, Quezon City

We would like to invite your office to attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> DENR-PhilExport Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting to discuss the identified action points regarding the following:

1. List of Plantations in Luzon (possible source of raw materials for furniture);
2. Clarification on the three percent (3%) CITES Fees;
3. Development of a policy to address issues related to the encroachment of Mahogany species in Forest Parks in Bukidnon.

Attached are pertinent documents for your information and reference.

**YOUR ATTENDANCE IS HIGHLY ENCOURAGED.**

  
**ATTY. JONAS R. LEONES**



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
KAGAWARAN NG KAPALIGIRAN AT LIKAS YAMAN



MAR 15 2024

**DENR SPECIAL ORDER**

No. 2024- 149

**SUBJECT : CREATION OF TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP FOR THE PHILIPPINE EXPORTERS CONFEDERATION, INC. (PHILEXPORT)**

In the interest of service and to facilitate the proposed amendment to the wood importation and exportation guidelines by the PHILEXPORT, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Technical Working Group (TWG) is hereby created, and be composed following:

**Chair:** Jonas R. Leones, CESO I  
Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs

**Vice-chair:** Cheryl Loise T. Leal  
OIC Director, Policy and Planning Service

**Members:** Arleigh J. Adorable, CESO III  
OIC Assistant Secretary for Field Operations-Western Mindanao and Forest Management Bureau Director, in concurrent capacity

Marcial C. Amaro, Jr. CESO II  
Assistant Secretary for International Affairs and Biodiversity Management Bureau Director, in concurrent capacity

Maria Lourdes G. Ferrer, CESO III  
Director, Ecosystem Research Development Bureau

Representative/s from the Philippine Exporters Confederation

The TWG shall facilitate the discussions and provide guidance and recommendations on the issues and concerns raised by the PHILEXPORT on the following:

1. Proposed amendments on DENR Administrative Orders No. 1991-54 and 1999-46;
2. Exorbitant CITES fee of 3% of the FOB price of wood exports
3. Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Certification in the Philippines;

4. Invasive/ Plantation Species (e.g. Gmelina and Mahogany); and
5. Other wood exportation and importation concerns.

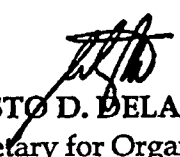
A Technical Secretariat shall provide technical and administrative support in the conduct of TWG activities and be composed of the following:

**Head:** Ray Thomas F. Kabigting  
OIC, Forest Investment Development Division

**Members:** Representative/s from the Policy and Planning Service  
Representative/s from the Ecosystem Research Development Bureau  
Representative/s from the Biodiversity Management Bureau  
Representative/s from the Forest Management Bureau

All expenses to be incurred relative to the conduct of this Order shall be charged against DENR Funds, subject to the usual accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

This Order shall take effect immediately.

  
**AUGUSTO D. DELA PEÑA**  
Undersecretary for Organizational  
Transformation and Human Resources

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dr. George T. Barcelon  
Chairman

Trustee - Footwear, Leather and Travelgoods Sector

Amb. William S. Co  
Vice Chairman  
Trustee - Associate Sector

Dr. Sergio R. Ortiz-Luis Jr.  
President  
Trustee - Resource-based Sector

Mr. Apolinar E. Aure  
Secretary  
Trustee - Housewares Sector

Consul Bernardo T. Benedicto III  
Treasurer  
Trustee - Metal Manufactures Sector

Mr. Oscar A. Barrera  
Trustee - Chemical Sector

Ms. Myrna C. Bituin  
Trustee - Furniture Sector

Dr. Francis C. Chua  
Trustee - Automotive and Automotive

Mr. Ferdinand A. Ferrer  
Trustee - Electronics Sector

Dr. Mina T. Gabor  
Trustee - Tourism Sector

Ms. Mila L. Lacson  
Trustee - Holiday Decors, Gifts & Premiums Sector

Engr. Eunina V. Mangio  
Trustee - Associate Sector

Ms. Cecilia R. Ramos  
Trustee - Fashion Accessories & Jewelry Sector

Ms. Diana H. Santos  
Trustee - Garments Sector

Mr. Apolinar G. Suarez, Jr  
Trustee - Non-metallic Mineral Manufactures Sector

Mr. Jon Mykel V. Teodoro  
Trustee - Information Technology, Products  
and Services Sector

Mr. William Tiu Lim  
Trustee - Food Sector

Mr. Robert M. Young  
Trustee - Textiles Sector

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Dr. Sergio R. Ortiz-Luis Jr.  
President & CEO

Mr. Senen M. Perlada  
Executive Vice President & COO

Ms. Eufonia L. Coronel  
Vice-President - Accounting, Comptrollership,  
and Treasury Division

Ms. Leonor D. Abella  
Vice President - Promotions Division

Mr. Armando F. Victoria  
Vice President - Operations Division

Ms. Ma. Fiordeliza C. Leong  
Vice President - Advocacy, Communications  
and Special Concerns Division

Ms. Constanca D. Valdez  
Assistant Vice President - Accounting, Comptrollership,  
and Treasury Department

Atty. Aniano G. Bagabaldo  
Consultant



## Philippine Exporters Confederation, Inc.

October 18, 2024

**USec. Jonas R. Leones**

Department of Environment and Natural Resources

DENR Bldg. Visayas Avenue,

Diliman, Quezon City, Metro Manila

[ouppia@denr.gov.ph](mailto:ouppia@denr.gov.ph)

cc: [kabigtingraythomas@gmail.com](mailto:kabigtingraythomas@gmail.com)

Dear USec. Leones:

We trust that you are well.

Thank you for sending DENR representative Ms. Amisol Talania to the last Board meeting with Government Trustees on September 19, 2024.

We will sincerely appreciate if the Undersecretary or Assistant Secretary for Policy can attend the next Board meeting to give updates on the action points mentioned in the September meeting as follows:

1. On the list of plantations in Luzon: PHILEXPORT Trustee Bituin for Furniture was very much grateful for the list of Visayas-based wood suppliers that was provided to them. However, they prefer to source materials from Luzon suppliers, as it will be very costly for them to get legally-obtained raw materials from regions that are farther. For this reason, they are still waiting for the said list.
2. On the 3% CITES fee: During the first PHILEXPORT-DENR TWG meeting on May 14, 2024, it was mentioned that a separate sub-TWG will be convened with Atty. Kabigting as the lead to address this issue.
3. On mahogany trees encroaching in the forests in Bukidnon: PHILEXPORT Trustee Gabor for Tourism raised this issue and strongly recommended that DENR swiftly act on this matter to save the Narra trees that are affected in the forests in Malaybalay, Bukidnon.

We will likewise appreciate receiving the next schedule of the PHILEXPORT-DENR TWG meeting where we can discuss these matters prior to the next Board meeting on December 19, Thursday, 1:00 p.m. at the PHILEXPORT Showroom, ITC Complex, Roxas Blvd., corner Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Pasay City and via Zoom. In case you prefer to attend the Board meeting virtually, we will send the meeting link after confirmation.

Attached for your reference are the agenda and the highlights of the previous Board meeting.

International Trade Center Complex, Roxas Boulevard cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Ave.,  
Pasay City 1308

●Tel nos.: (632) 8230-5555; (632) 8935-1025

●Fax no.: (632) 8831-0231

●Email: [communications@philexport.ph](mailto:communications@philexport.ph)

●[www.philexport.ph](http://www.philexport.ph) / [facebook.com/philexport.ph](https://facebook.com/philexport.ph) / [linkedin.com/company/philexport](https://linkedin.com/company/philexport)

For inquiries or other information, your office may get in touch with Ms. Kathleen Joyce P. Fordan, Policy Officer, or Ms. Ma. Flordeliza Leong, VP for Advocacy, Communications and Special Concerns, through [advocacy@philexport.ph](mailto:advocacy@philexport.ph) or telephone number 8230-5555.

Thank you for the usual attention and support!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sergio R. Ortiz-Luis Jr.", written in a cursive style.

**Sergio R. Ortiz-Luis Jr.**  
President



**PHILEXPORT 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Board of Trustees Meeting with Government Trustees**  
December 19, 2024, Thursday \* 1:00 p.m.\* Zoom and PHILEXPORT Showroom,  
ITC Complex, Roxas Blvd., corner Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Pasay City

## **AGENDA**

- I. CALL TO ORDER**
- II. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GOVERNMENT TRUSTEES AND/OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVES**
- III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE September 19, 2024 MEETING** **ANNEX A**
- IV. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES** **ANNEX B**
  - 1. Export Development Council**  
Updates on the following:
    - A. PEDP 2023-2028: Export targets and updates on the implementation
    - B. COMELEC Gun Ban policy: Updates on the new processes and procedures in the application for exemption of firearms from the policy
    - C. Amendments to the PPA and CAAP Charters
    - D. International Maritime Trade Competitiveness Act
  - 2. Department of Finance**  
Updates on the following:
    - A. ASEAN Single Window exchange of documents using TradeNet
    - B. Philippine Trade Facilitation Committee
    - C. BOC CBW policies including the fees, ETRACC, AIMS and SMRMIR
  - 3. Bureau of Internal Revenue**  
Updates on the BIR Electronic Invoicing System
  - 4. Department of Environment and Natural Resources**  
Updates on the meeting of the TWG to discuss pending issues including the following:
    - Amendments to the DENR AO 1991-54 on wood exports
    - Review on the exorbitant CITES fee of 3% of the FOB value of wood exports
    - Forest Stewardship Council
    - DENR processes and fees
  - 5. Department of Agriculture**  
Updates on the certification/program on shrimp paste exports as required by the US
- V. ADJOURNMENT**

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**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MEETING  
PHILEXPORT BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
WITH GOVERNMENT TRUSTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES  
September 19, 2024 \* 1:00 PM \* Milky Way Cafe  
900 Antonio Arnaiz Ave, Makati, 1200 Metro Manila and via Zoom**

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**PRESENT:**

9 Dr. Sergio R. Ortiz-Luis Jr. - President  
10 Dr. William S. Co - Chairman  
11 Mr. Apolinar E. Aure - Secretary  
12 Mr. Bernardo T. Benedicto III - Treasurer  
13 Mr. Bryan L. Ang - Trustee  
14 Mr. Oscar A. Barrera - Trustee  
15 Ms. Myrna C. Bituin - Trustee  
16 Dr. Mina T. Gabor - Trustee  
17 Ms. Milagros L. Lacson - Trustee  
18 Ms. Cecilia R. Ramos - Trustee  
19 Ms. Diana H. Santos - Trustee  
20 Mr. William L. Tiu Lim - Trustee  
21 Mr. Jon Mykel V. Teodoro - Trustee  
22 Mr. Robert M. Young - Trustee  
23 Mr. Apolinar G. Suarez - Trustee

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**GOVERNMENT TRUSTEES/REPRESENTATIVES:**

27 DED Elsa P. Valenzuela - Export Development Council  
28 Mr. Reden Facunla - Bureau of Internal Revenue  
29 Mr. Roberto Quintos - Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas  
30 Ms. Amisol Talania - DENR  
31 Mr. Santini Tiocson - DENR-EMB  
32 Ms. Aenna Masangkay - DTI-Export Marketing Bureau  
33 Mr. Jhino Ilano - DICT-ICT Industry Development Bureau

**ALSO PRESENT:**

37 Atty. Myra Janina P. Bañaga - Assistant Corporate Secretary  
38 Mr. Senen M. Perlada - Executive Vice President/COO  
39 Ms. Leonor D. Abella - Vice President for Promotions  
40 Ms. Ma. Flordeliza C. Leong - Vice President, ACSCD  
41 Ms. Theresa Gigi G. Digal - Manager, PDMD & Membership  
42 Ms. Ruth Marquez - Manager, CBW  
43 Ms. Kathleen Joyce P. Fordan - Policy Advocacy Associate  
44 Mr. Christopher Sangria - Systems Associate  
45 Mr. Gerald S. Ibañez - Systems Associate  
46 Ms. Ivy Mae P. Pudol - Secretariat  
47 Ms. Milline Bagares - Secretariat

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2 **PART I**  
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4 **CALL TO ORDER**

5 President Sergio R. Oriz-Luis Jr. called the PHILEXPORT Board of Trustees  
6 meeting with Government Trustees/Representatives to order at 1:00 p.m. He  
7 acknowledged and welcomed the government trustees/representatives who were  
8 present.  
9

10 **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

11 On motion made, duly seconded and unanimously carried, the proposed agenda of  
12 the BOT meeting was **ADOPTED**.  
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14 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

15 On motion made, duly seconded and unanimously carried, the minutes of the  
16 previous meeting were **APPROVED**.  
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18 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

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20 **1) Export Development Council**  
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22 **A. Updates on the Philippine Export Development Plan (PEDP) 2023-**  
23 **2028**

24 DED Valenzuela reported that the EDC in collaboration with DTI-  
25 Export Marketing Bureau successfully conducted the first leg of the  
26 series last August 20, 2024 for Region VII in Cebu City, with and  
27 Region VI-A (Iloilo City) joining via Zoom livestream.  
28

29 The session was held in cooperation with DTI Region 7 and  
30 PHILEXPORT Cebu Chapter and part of a strategic effort to equip  
31 exporters and aspiring exporters with the tools and support needed to  
32 thrive in the global market.  
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34 Sharing the real value of the session for exporters, DED Valenzuela  
35 said that it also featured one-on-one export counseling with key  
36 government agencies such as the Department of Trade and Industry  
37 (DTI), Export Marketing Bureau (EMB), Philippine Trade Training  
38 Center (PTTC), and Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines  
39 (IPOP HL). This direct access to expert guidance is designed to help  
40 exporters navigate challenges and capitalize on new opportunities, she  
41 said.  
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43 The remaining schedules are as follows: September 24 for Region XI-  
44 Davao City, October 2 for Region X-Cagayan de Oro City, October 4  
45 for Region XII-General Santos City, October 10 for NCR, October 16  
46 for Region IV-A CALABARZON and November 6 for Region III  
47 Pampanga.  
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49 Action points:

- 50 • EDC to provide further updates on the results of these  
51 stakeholder engagements.  
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## **B. Updates on the COMELEC Gun Ban Policy**

DED Valenzuela stated that the coordination meeting of the COMELEC-CBFSC was convened on April 16, 2024. The Office of the Special Assistant to the President for Investment and Economic Affairs led by Secretary Frederick Go held a meeting on May 17, 2024 to discuss this policy. In this meeting, concerns regarding the impact of the gun ban on key industries were raised, particularly in relation to operational restrictions and logistical challenges. The NCTPPS Secretariat is currently awaiting the agreements made during that meeting.

### Action point:

- EDC NCTPPS to provide updates on the agreements in meeting.

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## **C. Updates on the amendments to the PPA and CAAP Charters**

The bills HB 1400 (Rep. Bernadette Herrera), HB 8055 (Rep. Midy Cua) and HB 10509 (Rep. Rufus Rodriguez) were all filed in the current 19th Congress and are still pending. Meanwhile, HB 5002 on the amendment of the CAAP charter has been pending with the Committee on Transportation since September 22, 2022.

### Action point:

- EDC to provide updates on these bills, including the position paper that was mentioned in the June BOT meeting that EDC is supposed to be drafting to be co-signed with PHILEXPORT

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## **D. Updates on House Bill 4933 or the International Maritime Trade Competitiveness Act**

H.B. 4933 has been pending since September 21, 2022 with the Committee on Transportation. Meanwhile, a counterpart bill (S.B. 2147) seeking to enhance the competitiveness of Philippine maritime trade was introduced by Sen. Jinggoy Estrada in the 19th Congress on May 9, 2023 and still pending in the Committee as of May 15, 2023.

### Action point:

- EDC to provide updates on House Bill 4933 or the International Maritime Trade Competitiveness Act

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## **E. Updates on the implementation of the ATA Carnet System in the Philippines**

DED Valenzuela remarked that the launch of the ATA Carnet system was done last July 15, 2024 marking the start of its implementation.

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## **F. Updates on the CREATE Law**

The congressional bicameral conference committee approved on September 10, 2024 the Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises to Maximize Opportunities for Reinvigorating the Economy (CREATE MORE) bill which seeks to lower taxes on domestic and foreign companies to 20 percent from 25 percent, among other features.

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## 2) Department of Finance

### A. Updates on the ASEAN Single Window exchange of documents using TradeNet

There was no DOF representative in the meeting. The Department of Finance (DOF) and the Bureau of Customs (BOC) recently convened with the members of the ASEAN-USAID Partnership Program to discuss the development of the next-generation ASEAN Single Window (ASW) which represents a pivotal advancement in enhancing the Philippines' role in regional trade facilitation.

The session delved into the policy, legal, and technical aspects crucial to advancing the next-generation ASW. The Philippines' challenges in crafting policies and technologies for electronic document exchange with trading partners and the ASEAN Single Window were addressed in detail.

The ASEAN-USAID Partnership Program will provide the intermediate report on the study at the 68th TWG Meeting which is slated to take place in Cebu City from September 10 to 13.

#### Action point:

- DOF to provide updates on the TradeNet

### B. Updates on the Philippine Trade Facilitation Committee

BOC called the 2nd TWG meeting on the 1st National Time Release Study (NTRS) on August 13, 2024 at DOF, Manila.

It was presided by the head of the NTRS-TWG Atty. Geniefelle P. Lagmay, Assessment and Operations Coordinating Group-Port Operations Service (AOCG) and Acting Director for the Port Operations Service (POS) assisted by the Secretariat from the BOC Time Release Study TWG. This collaborative effort will also involve other government agencies and private sector entities that issue permits or licenses. In the August meeting, they were instructed to submit their documentary requirements and processing time to DOF.

#### Action point:

- DOF/BOC to provide updates on the PTFC

### C. BIR Electronic Invoicing Project

Mr. Facunla from the Taxpayer Service Programs and Monitoring Division shared that the EIS is still under its pilot implementation and was made available only to identified business taxpayers under the jurisdiction of the large taxpayers' service after they have been duly notified. He added that the transmission of sales data is still ongoing. As of September 10, the total number of invoices transmitted to the EIS is about 243 million.

Noting that the EIS and its infrastructure is currently being evaluated for its stability and sustainability before expanding its implementation, Mr. Facunla further said that the Bureau plans to cover non-large taxpayers in the 4th quarter of this year but still waiting for the go

1 signal of their technical counterpart. Once approved, they will start  
2 writing those exporters classified as non-large taxpayers as the next  
3 target participants. One of the criteria to be chosen as pilot taxpayer  
4 to use the web-based issuance facility of the EIS portal is exporters  
5 with a maximum of 20 business-to-business average transactions per  
6 day.

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8 Moreover, he mentioned that they will conduct the briefing or seminar  
9 to help understand and guide the taxpayers on how to use the web-  
10 based issuance facility of the EIS taxpayer portal. They plan to  
11 onboard them before the end of this year.

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13 Considering that PHILEXPORT members are mostly composed of  
14 MSMEs, VP Leong inquired if they are allowed to use the portal even  
15 if they are not covered yet as part of training and preparing them to  
16 use it.

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18 Mr. Facunla affirmed that MSMEs can use the system and for free.  
19 They will conduct a briefing for those chosen/identified taxpayers that  
20 will be included in the pilot implementation on the web-based  
21 issuance facility of the EIS taxpayer portal.

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23 Further, VP Leong asked how soon the implementation will follow  
24 after the training, suggesting a transition period because it may take a  
25 while for others to be familiar with the system. She also mentioned  
26 about the issue of internet connection that may not be available  
27 nationwide.

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29 Responding that it is still in the pilot implementation, Mr. Facunla  
30 explained that their target for the non-large taxpayers for the  
31 implementation is to identify 50 exporters claiming tax incentives.  
32 One of the criteria will be a maximum of 20 business-to-business  
33 transactions per day nationwide.

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35 Action point:

- 36 • BIR to provide further updates on the EIS

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38 **D. Updates on the BOC CAO 01-2022, SMRMIR and E-TRACC**

39 There was no BOC representative in the meeting. On Aug. 8, 2024,  
40 EDC submitted a position paper to the BOC Committee on Anti-Red  
41 Tape seeking clarification on the Regulatory Impact Assessment  
42 (RIA) concerning Customs Administrative Order (CAO) 01-2024. The  
43 paper highlighted concerns on the impact of fees and charges on  
44 stakeholder competitiveness, particularly in relation to the Clarification  
45 on the Procedure for the Collection of Fees and Charges outlined in  
46 CAO 02-2024.

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48 In a meeting called by Finance A/Sec. Dakila Napao in July,  
49 stakeholders including EDC and PHILEXPORT proposed a reduction  
50 of the ETRACC fee now costing 500Php to 700Php, citing its adverse  
51 impact on competitiveness. He also suggested to BOC exploring  
52 automatic disarming of ETRACC devices for exports to lessen cost  
53 and time involved.

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The integration of cargo tracking services between the E-TRACC System and PEZA System was likewise discussed as a potential solution, with Trade U/Sec. Ceferino Rodolfo committing to arrange a meeting between PEZA and the E-TRACC service provider to address the issue.

Meanwhile, during the BOC-PHILEXPORT exclusive meeting on August 30, 2024, the BOC stressed that exporters are not exempted from the ETRACC system, but Commissioner Rubio committed to address the issues raised by stakeholders on fees, redundancy, and the arming and disarming of GPS tracking devices.

BOC also mentioned that all fees, including those under CAO 01-2022 and customs dues, fees, and charges are under review. Both the EU-ASEAN Business Council and the Export Development Council have expressed concerns regarding the increase in fees and charges.

In the same meeting, the BOC likewise shared that it is currently using a manual process for the Automated Bonds Management System (ABMS) due to the suspension of the Automated Import Management System (AIMS). The BOC announced that the suspension of AIMS is expected to last for approximately three months.

Action point:

- BOC to provide further updates on the amendments to CAO 02-2022 and SMRMIR

### 3) Department of Environment and Natural Resources

#### **A. Amendments to the DENR AO 1991-54 or the Wood Exportation Policy and CITES fee amounting to 3% of export value**

Sharing the European Union (EU) policies on Carbon Border Monitoring (CBAM), VP Leong said it will first affect the bigger exporters with high carbon emissions like steel, cement and other industrial goods. Moreover, she introduced the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) policy that covers products that tend to may cause deforestation will also be regulated by the EU. These include coffee, coco, soy, palm oil, wood, rubber, cattle and furniture. She believed that the policy will not be as impactful to Philippine MSMEs though, since there is still little export volume of these products to the EU. On the other hand, this policy offers an advantage for coconut exports to this region.

Ms. Talania reported that the DENR had a meeting last July regarding CITES and other fees. However, they still cannot provide other details and data that are supposed to come from DENR EMB. She shared that the agency was also busy with the budget hearing but promised to follow up with U/Sec. Leones to convene the TWG meeting to help address these issues.

1 Expressing her gratitude again for the copies of wood suppliers from  
2 the Visayas region, Trustee Bituin reiterated her request for the list of  
3 plantations in Luzon where they can source and buy legally, as it will  
4 be very costly for them to obtain legally obtained raw materials from  
5 regions that are farther.  
6

7 Ms. Talana answered that they will coordinate with the FMB to  
8 provide these data.  
9

10 Additionally, Trustee Bituin stated that she wanted to be an example  
11 against exporters and manufacturers using illegally-sources raw  
12 materials. She also shared about the flourishing furniture industry of  
13 Indonesia because of the ease in importing wood from the United  
14 States (US) as facilitated by its DA which is solely responsible for  
15 such plantations. She noted that the local furniture industry also  
16 needs this support to address its declining performance.  
17

18 Yet, Trustee Bituin still believed that the industry can still thrive with  
19 support and help of the government, clients from the Foreign Buyers  
20 Association of the Philippines (FOBAP) and the EU which still values  
21 the workmanship and capabilities of the Philippines furniture industry  
22 compared with other country suppliers.  
23

24 Trustee Young clarified that in fact, almost 80% of the foreign orders  
25 of FOBAP were already transferred to Indonesia because of the  
26 problems shared by Trustee Bituin. He urged DENR to urgently  
27 address the issues or the furniture industry will become extinct.  
28

29 Meanwhile, Trustee Gabor raised the matter of mahogany trees that  
30 have already been encroaching in forests, resulting to the death of  
31 Narra trees in Malaybalay, Bukidnon. She advised DENR to swiftly act  
32 on the matter.  
33

#### 34 **B. Hazardous waste**

35 Mr. Tiocson of DENR-EMB stated that the official response to the  
36 concerns of PHILEXPORT is still for signature by the director.  
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#### 38 Action point:

- 39 • DENR to provide updates on the TWG and the discussion of  
40 the above concerns.  
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### 42 **4) Department of Agriculture**

#### 43 **A. Issue on shrimp paste to the US**

44 There was no representative from the DA in the meeting. During the  
45 June BOT meeting, Ms. Anne Frias-Lisbo of DA-AMAS shared a  
46 report from BFAR that aquaculture shrimps are allowed for export to  
47 the US. BFAR also has ongoing technical consultations with exporters  
48 and other stakeholders to acquire a certification from the relevant  
49 agency for exporting Philippine shrimp products.  
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51 VP Leong asked BFAR if it is aware of the volume of detained  
52 Philippine shrimp products at the US border. Trustee Gabor also  
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1 inquired if the Philippines has the capacity to immediately move to  
2 aquaculture shrimp farming. Ms. Lisbo replied that it is BFAR that can  
3 give answers to this. Having no BFAR representative present in the  
4 meeting, Ms. Lisbo gave the contact details of BFAR.

5  
6 EVP Perlada asked the value and volume of aquaculture shrimp  
7 products from the Philippines. Ms. Lisbo assured the board that she  
8 will ask BFAR for the data and share it with PHILEXPORT.

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10 Action point:

- 11 • DA to provide report and updates on the matter

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13 **5) Department of Information and Communications Technology**

14 Dir. Ilano shared that with regard to MSMEs, they are still heavily  
15 promoting the use of eGov Super App. He then said that if exporters  
16 need any assistance, they will “gladly assist”.

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18 **NEW ISSUES / FOR INFORMATION**

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20 **1) BSP updates on recent economic and financial developments**

21 DD Quintos of the BSP reported that the country’s real gross domestic  
22 product (GDP) grew by 6.3 percent year-on-year (y-o-y) in Q2 2024, due  
23 mainly to robust domestic demand and a significant increase in total  
24 investments. This growth was faster than the year-ago and quarter ago  
25 growth rates of 4.3 percent and 5.8 percent, respectively. The favorable  
26 GDP outturn was driven mainly by the broad-based expansion of services  
27 (e.g., wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles),  
28 and industry sectors (e.g., construction).

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Headline inflation increased in Q2 2024 to 3.8 percent. As such, average  
inflation in the first half of the year settled at 3.5 percent. This is within the  
National Government’s average inflation target range of 3.0 percent ± 1.0 ppt  
for the year.

On policy rates, BSP highlighted that inflation was likely to continue to move  
closer to the midpoint of the 2 – 4 percent target range. Based on the BSP’s  
latest survey of market forecasters, inflation expectations also remained  
well-anchored. The country’s balance of payments (BOP) position registered  
a surplus of US\$1.2 billion in Q2 2024, a turnaround from a deficit of US\$1.2  
billion in Q2 2023. The reversal to a BOP surplus in Q2 2024 was due to the  
significantly higher net inflows posted in the financial account  
notwithstanding the increase in the current account deficit.

As of end-June 2024, the maturity profile of the country’s external  
debt remained predominantly medium to long term (MLT) in nature (with  
original maturities longer than one year), with its share to total recorded at  
86.3 percent (or US\$112.29 billion).  
Export sales in July 2024 amounted to \$6.249 billion indicating an annual  
increase of .1%.

On the exchange rate, the peso depreciated in Q2 2024 due partly to broad  
US dollar strength as indications of robust US economic activity and  
elevated inflation contributed to heightened market expectations of a delay in

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the monetary policy easing cycle of the US Federal Reserve (US Fed).  
During the quarter, the peso averaged P57.80/US\$1, depreciating by 3.18  
percent q-o-q and 3.73 percent y-o-y from the Q2 2023 average of  
P55.67/US\$1.

**CONCLUSION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING WITH GOVERNMENT  
TRUSTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES**

Having no further matters to discuss involving the government matters, President  
Ortiz-Luis announced at 1:35 p.m. that the meeting is adjourned.



**MEMORANDUM**

**FOR** : The Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs

**FROM** : The Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning, International Affairs, and Climate Change, and In-Charge, Office of the Director for Policy and Planning Service

**SUBJECT** : **PHILEXPORT 3<sup>RD</sup> QUARTER BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING WITH THE GOVERNMENT TRUSTEES**

**DATE** : **23 SEP 2024**

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This refers to the Philippine Exporters Confederation, Incorporated (PHILEXPORTs) 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Board of Trustees Meeting with the Government Trustees held at Milky Way Café, Antonio Arnaiz Avenue, Makati City and via Zoom platform on 19 September 2024, 1:00 PM.

The meeting was attended by the PHILEXPORT Board of Trustees headed by Ms. Myrna Bituin, along with representatives from various Government Agencies and the DENR, including the EMB-Hazardous Waste Management Section and the PPS-Policy Studies Division.

During the meeting, DENR provided updates on the conducted DENR Technical Working Group (TWG) for PHILEXPORT meeting. For. Amisol Talania of PPS-PSD informed that the DENR has already provided PHILEXPORT with data on Mahogany Exports in the Philippines based on CITES database. Other pending issues will be revisited again in the next TWG meeting.

Likewise, the EMB Representative informed the PHILEXPORT that the requested data regarding PCO Accreditation, Permit to Operate, Discharge Permits, etc., will be officially transmitted once the letter has been approved.

Additionally, the following action points for DENR were noted:

1. Coordination with FMB re: Data on Wood Products in Luzon; and
2. Development of a policy to address issues related to the encroachment of Mahogany Species in Forest Parks.

For your information, please.

  
NORAEENE M. UY