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TAX

RULES & NEWS

SERIES NO. 008-2026

IN THIS SERIES:

Latest from BIR

- Revenue Memorandum Circular (RMC)
- Tax and Business Related News

BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE

Issuances

REVENUE MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

RMC No. 13-2026

February 27, 2026

Circularizing Republic Act No. 12312, entitled "An Act Banning and Declaring Illegal Offshore Gaming Operations in the Philippines and Other Operations Related thereto, Repealing for the Purpose Republic Act Numbered Eleven Thousand Five Hundred Ninety, Otherwise Known as 'An Act Taxing Philippine Offshore Gaming Operations', and for Other Purposes"

[Full Text](#) | [Annex A](#)

TAX AND BUSINESS RELATED

News

BIR WEEKENDER BRIEFS

Volume No. 17 Issue No 8 Week ending February 27, 2026 - BIR Website

Nationwide Simultaneous CHAT Day - Commissioner Charlito Martin R. Mendoza, together with the Deputy Commissioners (DCIRs), led the conduct of the Nationwide CHAT (Counsel, Help, Assist Taxpayers) Day on February 23, 2026. They joined revenue officers in visiting business establishments as they guided and encouraged taxpayers' voluntary compliance.

Click the link below to read the full news from the source:

<https://bir-cdn.bir.gov.ph/BIR/pdf/v17n8%20highres.pdf>

TAX AND BUSINESS RELATED *News*

BIR launches South Luzon tax campaign, flags digital reforms ahead of filing season

BIR Website / February 27, 2026

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) on Friday, February 27, launched the South Luzon leg of its 2026 Regional Tax Campaign, with Commissioner Charlito Martin R. Mendoza outlining digital reforms, enforcement efforts, and workforce upgrades aimed at improving tax compliance ahead of the April filing season.

Click the link below to read the full news from the source:

<https://bir-cdn.bir.gov.ph/BIR/pdf/PR17FEB2726.pdf>

BIR 'saves' P461-M in revenue from crackdown vs. illicit cigarettes

Philippine News Agency / Ma. Teresa Montemayor / February 20, 2026 - MANILA

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) on Friday said sustained enforcement operations in Pampanga this month maintained an estimated PHP460.98 million in government revenue as part of its nationwide campaign against illicit tobacco.

Click the link below to read the full news from the source:

<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1269481>

Caraga hosts BIR's 2026 tax campaign kickoff in Mindanao

Philippine News Agency / Alexander Lopez / February 20, 2026 - BUTUAN CITY

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) formally launched its 2026 tax campaign in Mindanao on Friday here, urging taxpayers to comply with their obligations under the theme, "Mahusay na Serbisyo, Katumbas ng Buwis Mo."

Click the link below to read the full news from the source:

<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1269462>

TAX AND BUSINESS RELATED *News*

Legarda eyes tax reliefs to privately owned heritage buildings, houses

Philippine News Agency / Leonel Abasola / February 23, 2026 - MANILA

Senator Loren Legarda is pushing for the passage of a measure seeking to grant incentive mechanisms to privately owned heritage buildings and ancestral houses. Senate Bill No. 1852, or the “Strengthening the Conservation and Protection of Philippine Cultural Heritage Through Heritage Incentives,” aims to address the high cost of conservation, restoration, and maintenance, which are key factors behind the deterioration or loss of many historic structures.

Click the link below to read the full news from the source:

<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1269560>

Pest control, not machine guns: Proportional reform for Philippine tax administration

Bilyonaryo.com / February 23, 2026

Every few years, a familiar “big bang” idea returns to tax administration policy conversation: abolish the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) and the Bureau of Customs (BOC), and replace both with a single, independent, well-funded National Revenue Authority (NRA).

Click the link below to read the full news from the source:

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2026/02/23/pest-control-not-machine-guns-proportional-reform-for-philippine-tax-administration/>

CHAT program offers counseling, ‘friendly’ verification to taxpayers

Philippine News Agency / Che Palicte / February 24, 2026 - DAVAO CITY

The Bureau of Internal Revenue-Davao Region (BIR-11) launched CHAT (Counsel, Help, Assist Taxpayers) Day here on Monday, an initiative offering approachable and solution-oriented interactions through friendly compliance verification.

Click the link below to read the full news from the source:

<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1269577>

TAX AND BUSINESS RELATED *News*

BIR, industry back unified vape juice tax to curb misdeclaration

Business World / Kenneth Christiane L. Basilio / February 24, 2026

AUTHORITIES and industry stakeholders on Monday backed a proposal to unify the excise tax structure for electronic vape juices, as lawmakers seek to plug regulatory gaps and boost government revenues amid tapering collections under the current system.

Click the link below to read the full news from the source:

https://www.bworldonline.com/top-stories/2026/02/24/732259/bir-industry-back-unified-vape-juice-tax-to-curb-misdeclaration/#google_vignette

BIR–Davao Region tops target, P717–M excess in 2025

Philippine News Agency / Che Palicte/February 24, 2026 - DAVAO CITY

The Bureau of Internal Revenue–Revenue Region No. 19 (BIR–Davao Region) has reported that its tax collections grew by 2.69 percent in 2025, surpassing its annual target.

Click the link below to read the full news from the source:

<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1269641>

Gov’t agencies back lawmakers’ proposal to unify vape tax rates

Philippine News Agency / February 24, 2026 - MANILA

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), Bureau of Customs (BOC), and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) have expressed strong support for the proposal of some lawmakers to unify the two-tier tax system of vapor products in the country. In a congressional hearing on Monday, the BIR, BOC, and DTI fully backed House of Representatives Bills 1316, 2618, 5207, 5212, 5364, and 6993, to restructure excise taxes for vapor products.

Click the link below to read the full news from the source:

<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1269735>

TAX AND BUSINESS RELATED *News*

BIR, BOC, DTI back proposal to unify vape tax rates

Philstar.com / February 24, 2026 - MANILA, Philippines

Key government agencies are backing proposals to simplify the country's excise tax system for vapor products, citing enforcement challenges, technical gaps and potential revenue losses under the current framework.

Click the link below to read the full news from the source:

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2026/02/24/2453721/bir-boc-dti-back-proposal-unify-vape-tax-rates>

Automated Initiation, Single-Instance and Standardized BIR audit framework

Business World / Amicus Curiae by Fatima Faye E. Cordova-De Lima / February 25, 2026

The National Internal Revenue Code, as amended, empowers the Commissioner of Internal Revenue (CIR) to make assessments and prescribe additional requirements for tax administration and enforcement. The CIR, or his duly authorized representative, may authorize the examination of any taxpayer and the assessment of the correct amount of tax. Pursuant to this power, the CIR issued Revenue Memorandum Order No. 001-2026 (RMO) on Jan. 27 this year.

Click the link below to read the full news from the source:

https://www.bworldonline.com/opinion/2026/02/25/732524/automated-initiation-single-instance-and-standardized-bir-audit-framework/#google_vignette

TAX AND BUSINESS RELATED *News*

BIR joins 'Lab for All,' brings taxpayer services closer to public

Philippine News Agency / February 26, 2026

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE – The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), through Revenue District Office (RDO) No. 21-Subic Bay Freeport Zone, actively participated in the “Lab for All” activity held at the Subic Bay Exhibition and Convention Center on Feb. 24, reaffirming its commitment to accessible and citizen-centered public service.

Click the link below to read the full news from the source:

<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1269920>

Gabriela to protest on March 8 for VAT abolition, accountability

Philippine Inquirer / Dianne Sampang / February 27, 2026 – MANILA, Philippines

For this year’s National Women’s Month, women’s group Gabriela will stage a mass protest on March 8, urging the abolition of the value-added tax and accountability for government corruption.

Click the link below to read the full news from the source:

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2188364/gabriela-sets-protest-on-march-8-to-call-for-vat-abolition-accountability>

Tax gamble

Businessworld / Martin Tort / February 26, 2025

For a government that’s cash-strapped, I cannot understand why Congress is abolishing the travel tax as well as reducing the tax on nicotine juice for vaping products. Both actions will erode revenue collections. Worse, in the case of nicotine juice, a lower tax can make vaping more accessible to the youth.

Click the link below to read the full news from the source:

<https://www.bworldonline.com/editors-picks/2026/02/26/732791/tax-gamble/>

TAX AND BUSINESS RELATED *News*

Independent taxpayer advocate proposed to expedite refund process — former official

Businessworld / Beatriz Marie D. Cruz / February 27, 2025

TAXPAYERS awaiting refunds should have a third-party advocate to turn to as the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) drags its feet on reimbursements, a former finance official said.

Click the link below to read the full news from the source:

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2026/02/26/733142/independent-taxpayer-advocate-proposed-to-expedite-refund-process-former-official/>

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For direct inquiries, you may email our Tax Partner, Fernando Santos, at fernansantos@alasoelas.com

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