

Macro Movements: DOF reports all-time high non-tax revenue; PH Investments surpass 2024 target

DOF records all-time high collections for non-tax revenue

- ▶ The Department of Finance (DOF) reported non-tax revenue collections reaching PHP555.30B by the end of November 2024, a 45.6% increase compared to the same period last year. Full-year projections estimate PHP606.6B—the highest collection in Philippine history—exceeding targets by 204.9% and surpassing the previous year by 53.6%.
- ▶ Non-tax revenue growth was driven by increased dividend contributions from government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs), privatization of government assets, and reallocation of unused GOCC funds, equipping the government to deliver enhanced services in critical areas such as healthcare, education, food security, social protection, and national development.

Philippine investment agencies surpass 2024 Targets

- ▶ The Board of Investments (BOI) recorded PHP1.62T in investments, surpassing its PHP1.5T target with a 28% increase from 2023, while the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) closed at PHP214.18B, exceeding its PHP200B target with an increase of 22% compared to the previous year.
- ▶ The country's surge in investments was driven by its cost-effective skilled workforce, strong economic fundamentals, favorable demographics, and improved credit ratings, which collectively attracted foreign direct investments. This growth was further bolstered by policy initiatives such as the CREATE MORE Act, which improved incentive schemes.

Industry Insights: Philippines extends foreign land leases to 99 years; BOI green lane projects reach PHP4.5T

Philippines extending foreign land lease to 99 years from 75 years

- ▶ The Philippine Senate and House of Representatives have separately approved on final reading bills that would extend land lease rights for foreigners from 75 years to 99 years for private land leases of tourism-related investments of at least US\$5M, with 70% of the amount required to be infused into the project within 3 years.
- ▶ The proposed measure is expected to unlock land and property values in growth areas outside Metro Manila, boosting the Philippines' competitiveness alongside Singapore and Malaysia (which already allow 99-year lease terms), ahead of Thailand's exploration of similar lease terms and Vietnam's 50-year leases with a one-time extension.

BOI projects for green lane processing amount to PHP4.5T

- ▶ As of December 2024, the Board of Investments (BOI) has certified 173 projects worth PHP4.51T for green lane services under Executive Order No. 18, which aims to expedite licenses and permits for strategic investments supporting the country's economic growth.
- ▶ Renewable energy projects make up a significant portion with 139 projects valued at PHP4.11T, followed by 22 food security projects worth PHP13.95B, 8 digital infrastructure projects valued at PHP352.13B, and 4 manufacturing investments amounting to PHP36.91B.

Deal Spotlight: GoTyme stakeholder raises US\$250M; Growthem Capital invests US\$121M in Mets Logistics

GoTyme Bank to benefit from US\$250 million Series D capital raise

- ▶ GoTyme Bank is set to benefit from major stakeholder Singapore-based Tyme Group's US\$250M Series D capital raise, led by Nubank with a US\$150M investment, M&G's Catalyst Fund contributing US\$50M, and \$50M from existing shareholders, valuing Tyme Group at US\$1.5B and achieving unicorn status.
- ▶ GoTyme Bank aims to sustain its growth by launching new features in 2025 and targeting 9 million users by year-end, having already reached 5 million users within two years. Planned developments include the introduction of consumer credit, crypto trading, remittance services, and cash recycler machines to enhance and expand the bank's current offerings.

Growthem Capital invests US\$121M in Mets Logistics to support cold chain expansion

- ▶ Singapore-based private equity firm Growthem Capital Partners (GCP) is investing US\$121M in Mets Logistics, a leading cold-chain solutions provider in the Philippines, to expand its network of facilities. In addition, Mets Logistics' founding shareholders will also contribute an additional US\$8.6M as part of the deal.
- ▶ The investment comes at a time when investments in warehouses, cold chains, and cold storage facilities are becoming critical to ensure food supply stability and control food prices in the Philippines, a top national priority. Mets Logistics, with facilities offering 100,000 pallet positions, supports food preservation through dry goods storage and blast freezing, as demand for cold chain capacity is projected to grow by 10–15% annually under the 2025 roadmap.