

Proposed amnesty could cover taxes from as far back as 2007

THE Department of Finance (DoF) said on Monday that a proposed general tax amnesty (GTA) will likely cover unpaid internal revenue taxes as far back as 2007.

“The proposed general amnesty bill will cover all internal revenue taxes from 2024 and previous years. It could be up to 2007,” Finance Undersecretary Charlito Martin R. Mendoza said at a Senate Finance Committee briefing with the Development Budget Coordination Committee.

Mr. Mendoza said the DoF is still working out the details of the bill but it could “possibly” include unpaid Customs duties.

Finance Secretary Ralph G. Recto has said that amnesty legislation is set to be refiled to Congress this year, after having been vetoed in 2019.

In 2019, President Rodrigo R. Duterte rejected the GTA provisions of Republic Act No. 11213 but retained the estate tax amnesty.

The tax amnesty program will involve an amnesty charge equivalent to a portion of the outstanding unpaid tax in exchange for immunity from civil, criminal, and administrative penalties.

The DoF expects additional revenue from the proposed bill,

though no projections are available as yet.

Mr. Mendoza said the DoF is still working on how to address Mr. Duterte’s veto.

At the same briefing, the government aims to trim the share of the deficit relative to gross domestic product to 3.1% by 2030.

“With higher government revenue collections and improved expenditure management, our fiscal deficit will drop from the pandemic high of 8.6%, to 5.5% in 2025 and down to about 4% by 2028. It will further drop to 3% in 2030,” Finance Undersecretary Karlo Fermin S. Adriano said.

Mr. Adriano said government efforts to curb wasteful expenditure are crucial to this forecast.

The DoF reiterated its no new taxes pledge until 2028, with the exemption of the Single Use Plastics Act.

The excise tax on single-use plastic bags was one of the 28 priority bills identified by the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council.

While it was approved by the House on third reading in 2022, the measure remains with the Senate Ways and Means Committee. — **Aubrey Rose A. Inosante**

P64 food poverty threshold set for revamp

THE Department of Economy, Planning, and Development (DEPDev) said it will overhaul the food poverty threshold in 2026, which is currently set at P64 per person per day.

“We will be revising the poverty threshold,” Economy Undersecretary Rosemarie G. Edillon told a Senate Finance Committee briefing on Monday, adding that new data will be incorporated from the 2024 census.

Sen. Loren Regina B. Legarda called the P64 threshold an “out-of-touch economic benchmark.”

According to the 2023 Family Income and Expenditure Survey (FIES), the monthly food poverty threshold for a family of five was P9,581, or about P64 per person a day.

Economy Secretary Arsenio M. Balisacan has admitted that P64 was outdated and committed to revise it. The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) has also called it “insufficient” and not reflective of actual food spending.

Ms. Edillon said the revised threshold will consider factors such as age, sex, and size, which affect nutritional requirements.

“The 2025 FIES is currently being conducted. The PSA has finished the first round covering the first semester of 2025. The second round covering July until December will be conducted in January to February of 2026. Results will be available sometime in July next year,” she said.

Updated methodology will be submitted to the PSA Board for approval and will be applied to the 2025 FIES data. Until then, the 2023 threshold remains in use. — **Aubrey Rose A. Inosante**

ERC unveils draft rules for power reserve procurement

THE Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) said it drafted rules for the National Grid Corp. of the Philippines (NGCP) to follow in procuring reserve power.

In a draft resolution, the ERC proposed implementing guidelines for the procurement, execution, and evaluation of ancillary services (AS) procurement agreements by the NGCP.

Ancillary services refer to power reserves tapped by the grid to ensure the reliable operation of the transmission system should its regular sources of power fall short.

The ERC said that the Department of Energy’s policy on the competitive selection process (CSP) for AS requires that the regulator review whether the parties comply with the requirements.

The proposed rules require the system operator to undertake “a transparent, competitive and non-discriminatory procurement process for AS.”

To encourage broader participation in AS procurement, the system operator is directed to ensure compliance with the DoE on the mandatory AS capability testing of all generating facilities.

“To ensure SO’s compliance with its obligation to procure cost-effective and least-cost AS, the lowest calculated bid shall be subject to an AS.



ROSE GALLOWAY GREEN-UNSPASH

Price Cap set by the system operator, which shall not be disclosed by the TPBAC (Third Party Bids and Awards Committee) to the bidders until the opening of bids,” the ERC said.

The ERC said that all AS procurement agreements must obtain its approval prior to implementation, with a maximum term of five years.

Francis Saturnino Juan, ERC chairman and chief executive officer, said in a recent commission meeting that the review of AS procurement agreements should be streamlined akin to the process for power supply agreements.

“I took the initiative to propose these kinds of guidelines so that we have a clear set to follow, which can also serve as a guide for the industry, the SO, and the AS providers who will participate in any CSP that the SO will carry out,” Mr. Juan said.

He said that the review of AS procurement agreements should be streamlined to accelerate the application and for the system to have access to the capacity immediately.

“What we are proposing is to look at the price that came out and, if it has already gone through the CSP, (we need) to accept it as the lowest cost that the system operator can obtain, and for the ERC to just review the other terms of the AS procurement agreement,” Mr. Juan said. — **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**

Negros Island producers seeking spotlight for organic produce, crafts

THE Association of Negros Producers (ANP) said it is seeking to develop niches in organics and crafts to supplement the island’s strengths as a food producer.

“Food has always been one of the favorites of people who visit Negros,” ANP President Christina Gaston told *BusinessWorld* on the sidelines of the preview of the 39th Negros Trade Fair. “But everything that we make comes from the soil ... whether it is the food or fashion.

“The products that we use (in crafts) actually are considered waste materials,” she added.

She said the group was organized to help micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) grow their businesses after the sugar industry collapsed in the 1980s, offering farm workers creative endeavors for their livelihood.

“Sustainability is very important to us. There are those who are working in the organic sector, producing liniments, soaps, and candles,” she said.

“Of course, we have organic agriculture. We have coffee and chocolate growers developing those industries as well,” she added.

She said the first wave of ANP members started in export, as directed by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) at the time, developing major markets in Europe and the US.

“Over the last 10 years, the domestic market has developed a lot both in appreciation and size, and logistics have enabled us to really expand our market range,” she added.

Last week, the ANP launched its 39th Negros Trade Fair, known

as HIMBON, at the SMX Convention Center in SM Aura.

Expected to be the biggest Negros Trade Fair, it will occupy 2,500 square meters and showcase 139 vendors and partners between Sept. 23 and 28.

“After 39 years, we have seen the sustainable growth of our exhibitors. We’ve witnessed how they’ve scaled up to the B2B (business-to-business) level, even supplying for international markets,” Ms. Gaston said.

“This is why we continuously strive to bring the trade fair to future markets and pass on the advocacy,” she added.

SM Supermalls President Steven Tan said that ANP’s approach is aligned with SM’s vision of providing a platform for MSMEs to showcase their products.

“Negros has so many rich and beautiful products, whether it is fabrics, home decor, or even food,” he said.

He noted the need to ensure “the continuity of this culture and heritage. We have to preserve it.”

The trade fair will not only showcase Negros food, fashion, and home and design, but also vendors and businesses from the Negros Island Region.

“This is just the start of the partnership. And we really hope that we could be a long-term partner. We want to make sure that the purveyors inside the fair could be successful,” said Mr. Tan.

“That would encourage them to do more and influence other MSMEs to really also showcase their products. Our (common) objective is to help the MSMEs,” he added. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**

Hann Reserve converts economic zone to mixed-use

HANN PHILIPPINES, Inc. (HPI) registered its mixed-use development in Clark as a special economic zone, the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) said, converting it from its initial status as a leisure project.

In a statement on Monday, PEZA said it signed a supplemental agreement with the company for the registration of the Hann Reserve.

“To be located in Pampanga, Hann Reserve is set to emerge as a world-class, master-planned destination where industries, agriculture, technology, and tourism converge,” PEZA said in a social media post.

“Once operational, the project is expected to create new investments, generate quality jobs, and unlock opportunities for local communities — anchoring Pampanga as a premier growth hub in Luzon,” it added.

The company earmarked P10.459 billion to develop an additional 324.6 hectares, which will supplement its 131-hectare property in New Clark City.

It is expected to begin construction and land development within the year.

According to PEZA, HPI requested the reclassification of Hann Reserve from a tourism economic zone to a mixed-use special

economic zone, to allow for manufacturing, agro-industrial, tourism, and information technology activities.

“This reclassification will enable HPI to attract a wider range of investors to its 455.60-hectare leased property,” it added.

PEZA Director General Tereso O. Panga said the agreement is a significant step in economic zone development.

“This reclassification of Hann Reserve ushers in a new era of ecozone development, one that fuses industry, innovation, agriculture, and tourism into a single, sustainable engine of growth,” he said. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**

Career Opportunity in NAN TIAN GROUP LTD. INC.

Operations Assistant (Mandarin Speaking) (2 Vacancies)	
Job Description: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintain records of all business activities, including inventory, and customer data.• Assist with product research, data entry, and task tracking.• Develop and implement operational strategies to improve efficiency and productivity• Coordinate communication between departments to keep workflows moving.• Proficient in computer operating systems, applications, hardware and software.	
Qualification: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bachelor's/ College Degree in any field• Must have an excellent written and verbal communication skills in English and Mandarin.• Effective problem-solving skills vital for addressing challenges in inventory management, customer service and logistics.• Strong decision making ability and optimizing operational strategies.• Attention to detail, ensuring precision in inventory tracking, order processing, and maintaining a seamless customer experience.	
Applications may be sent to: Name of Company HR: Ahlon Rain E. Cabrera Email address: nantiangroup01@gmail.com	
Company/ Employer	
Company Name: NAN TIAN GROUP LTD. INC. Complete Address: 201 Upper Ground, Eastfield Center, Pres. D. Macapagal Blvd. Brgy. 076 Pasay City Nature Of Business: Hotels and Restaurants	
Name of foreign national intending to apply for the position	Name of foreign national intending to apply for the position
Name: Chen, Qingqing Address: Pasay City Nationality: Chinese Intended period of employment: Three (3) years	Name: Liu, Chengxuan Address: Taguig City Nationality: Chinese Intended period of employment: Three (3) years
NAN TIAN GROUP LTD. INC. hereby declares that the above-named foreign national is able, willing, and qualified to perform the services and job description for this position. The company has the intention to employ the said foreign national and apply for an Alien Employment Permit with the Department of Labor and Employment - National Capital Region located at 967 Malligaya Street, Malate, Manila	

Career Opportunity in RURAL BANK OF SANTA ROSA (LAGUNA), INC.
CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCIAL REPORTING SENIOR MANAGER

Job Description:

- MAINTENANCE AND BUILDING OF RELEVANT FINANCIAL MODEL COVERING BUSINESS FORECASTING, VALUATION, UNIT ECONOMICS ANALYSIS
- SUPPORTING ON FUNDRAISING, CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT, AND OTHER AD-HOC PROJECTS SUCH AS CORPORATE STRUCTURING, COMMERCIAL PARTNERSHIPS AND M&A

Job Qualification:

- DEGREE IN FINANCE, ACCOUNTING OR BUSINESS MANAGEMENT
- ABILITY TO SYNTHESIZE COMPLEX FINANCIAL INFORMATION INTO EFFECTIVE, USER-FRIENDLY POWERPOINT PRESENTATIONS

Applications may be sent to:
JEWEL ANN AQUINO
jaquino@salmon.ph

COMPANY / EMPLOYER	NAME OF FOREIGN NATIONAL INTENDING TO APPLY FOR THE POSITION
Company Name: Rural Bank of Santa Rosa (Laguna) Inc Complete Address: F. Gomez St., Brgy. Malusak City of Sta. Rosa, Laguna Nature of Business: Rural Banking	Name: ASSEL ZAKIROVA Address: Red Oak Two Serendra, BGC, Taguig Nationality: Kazakhstan Intended Period of Employment: Three (3) Years
Rural Bank of Santa Rosa (Laguna), Inc hereby declares that the above-named foreign national is able, willing, and qualified to perform the services and job description for this position. The company has the intention to employ the said foreign national and apply for an Alien Employment Permit with the Department of Labor and Employment - Regional Office No. IV-A located at 3rd and 4th Floor, Anderson Bldg. II, Brgy. Parian, Calamba City, Laguna.	
Any Filipino jobseeker who is competent, able and willing to perform the services for which the foreign national is intended to be hired for, may file an objection at DOLE Regional Office No.IV-A located at 3rd and 4th Floor, Anderson Bldg. II, Brgy. Parian, Calamba City, Laguna within 30 days after this publication.	
Please inform DOLE Regional Office No.IV-A if you have any information on criminal offenses committed by the foreign nationals.	

Career Opportunity in Kikkoman Trading Asia Pte Ltd – Philippine Branch
Japanese Technical Sales Specialist
(1 Vacancy)

Job Description:

- Engage in nationwide sales activities as a Japanese Technical Sales Specialist, focusing on Japanese clients and meet needs.
- Promote company products and enhance brand visibility through targeted marketing initiatives for Japanese customers.
- Plan and execute sales and marketing strategies with a strong emphasis on the Japanese market.
- Lead team members toward achieving goals.
- Manage and train team members, incorporating Japanese business culture and communication practices.
- Assist managers and senior leaders, especially in Japan-related projects or customer relations when requested.

Qualification (Education, Experience, Professional License, Skills Certification, Specialized Training):

- College degree holder
- Fluent in Japanese language
- Deep knowledge for Japanese cuisine
- Experience in sales and customer service.
- Basic knowledge for Filipino cuisine and cooking

Applications may be sent to:
Shirley C. Pal
Email address:
shirleycpal@kikkoman.com.sg

Company/ Employer	Name of foreign national intending to apply for the position
Kikkoman Trading Asia Pte Ltd – Philippine Branch Address: Passay City 7th Floor , Regus Ascott, Giorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati City	Name: Yuta Hosokawa Address: Passay City Nationality: Japanese Monthly salary: PHP100,000 - 125,000 Workplace Address: Taguig City Intended period of employment: One (1) year
Ground Floor TDG InHub2 Warehouse AFP-RSBS Industrial Park East Service Road Corner C5, Western Bicutan, Taguig City	
Nature of business: Food Distributor/Importer/Exporter	
Kikkoman Trading Asia Pte Ltd – Philippine Branch hereby declares that the above-named foreign national is able, willing, and qualified to perform the services and job description for this position. The company has the intention to employ the said foreign national and apply for an Alien Employment Permit with the Department of Labor and Employment - National Capital Region located at 967 Malligaya Street, Malate, Manila.	

Company Name: Unilever Philippines, Inc.
Address: 7th Floor Bonifacio Stopover Corporate Center, 31st Street corner 2nd Avenue, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City
Nature of Business: Manufacturing

Contact details of the Company: Cathlea Marcelo | Cathlea.Marcelo@unilever.com

Job Position: Foods Greater Asia Human Resource Lead

Job Description:

- Play the lead role in shaping the People Agenda, ensuring alignment with global and local stakeholders to drive the business growth strategy
- Trusted partner and coach to Business Unit (BU) Global Mobility (GM) and development and delivery of people strategy for respective BU aligned to the Foods business group people strategy
- Setting the in-year and multi-year BU people priorities
- Building deep business understanding and knowledge for all critical markets in the BU, internally and externally
- Understanding the business strategy, current organization design, the gaps and collaborating with business leaders to resource for value
- Leading key change programs
- As a member of the BU leadership team, accountable for and full ownership of people costs, including tradeoffs within the profit and loss (P&L), including temporary, fixed and variable resourcing
- Business partnering for the BU LT, ensuring Human Resource (HR) solutions and interventions are delivered on time in full
- Working and collaborating as part of the broader Foods Business Group (BG) HR community to leverage scale and consistency where appropriate
- Attracting, developing and retaining talent for the BU
- Deploying the One Unilever Expertise and Innovation agenda for the BU
- Talent appointments for WL1-4 in the BU, leading Talent forums including succession planning and proactive sourcing for BU capabilities, domain expertise and to address talent gaps
- Embedding the Shape your own adventure principles in talent and career progression practices
- Ensuring two-way continuous dialogue and engagement across a geographically spread team across countries (where teams may not be meeting face to face even once a year)
- Leveraging HR data insights and analytics to drive BU people and business decisions
- BU specific learning needs, capability agenda and interventions
- Roll-out of Health and Wellbeing global priorities and addressing BU specific challenges
- Team effectiveness, change & transformation, strong facilitation skills to coach and build high performing teams

Basic Qualifications for the Position:

- Bachelor or Master’s degree in Psychology, Human Resources or any relevant field
- At least 12 years of experience in human resources
- Systematic and strategic thinking, being able to consider longer term implications for the business, society, and ecosystems
- A deep understanding of the business and levers to pull, engaging others to prioritize and pursue opportunities that deliver significant growth for Unilever and have a positive impact on the world
- An owner’s mindset, being able to use financial acumen, data, and insights to inform thinking that both makes the complex simple for others, creates a sense of urgency with a business edge and can show how those insights have created impact and delivered business value
- Leading and landing transformative change, comfortable experimenting with new approaches, pushing themselves and others to achieve outstanding outcomes
- A talent catalyst - can show how they have created an inclusive climate, empowering their teams and their business partners to be their best, building talent intimacy and successful teams and building trust and respect with business leaders
- Performance coaching you will have delivered team and personal feedback in a way that grows individuals and helps the business perform better
- Business Acumen - working so closely with the full business unit, it’s critical you are fluent with the P&L of Unilever, and particularly the customer and marketing investment models
- People Leadership - you will know how to identify and nurture talent, you’ll be able to give tough performance feedback, but also great developmental tasks and assignments

Monthly Salary Range: PHP 500,000-520,000
Workplace Address: Taguig City

Name of Foreign National: Zikra Khairiah Madina
City of Residence: Taguig City
Duration of Employment: 3 years

Unilever Philippines, Inc. hereby declares that the above-named foreign national is able, willing, and qualified to perform the services and job description for this position. The company has the intention to employ the said foreign national and apply for an Alien Employment Permit with the Department of Labor and Employment - National Capital Region located at 967 Wasmiya Building, Maligaya Street, Malate, Manila.