

# LEGAL UPDATES

NOVEMBER 2025 | ISSUE NO. 11, S. 2025

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# SUPREME COURT

## SUPREME COURT ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER (A.M.) NO. 25-09-16-SC - 2025 TRANSITORY RULES ON ELECTRONIC FILING AND SERVICE IN THE SUPREME COURT

On 30 September 2025, the Supreme Court of the Philippines en banc adopted the 2025 Transitory Rules on Electronic Filing and Service in the Supreme Court under Administrative Order (A.M.) No. 25-09-16-SC to further modernize and digitalize court processes. The Rules took effect on 30 October 2025 following publication in the Official Gazette, two (2) newspapers of general circulation, and posting on the Supreme Court website.

Beginning 30 October 2025, all filings and service of documents in the Supreme Court (initiatory or subsequent) must be done electronically through the eCourt PH platform for covered filers. Filings outside the system without Court authorization are deemed not filed and do not interrupt deadlines.

### ***Covered Filers***

- Members of the Philippine Bar are automatically covered filers. They must file and serve all pleadings, motions, and related court papers electronically through the Philippine Judiciary Platform (PJP) eCourt PH with valid and verified accounts.
- Covered filers must have active registered accounts with the PJP before they can file or serve documents electronically.

### ***Non-Covered Filers***

- Persons not members of the Philippine Bar, amicus curiae appointed by the Court, and law student practitioners are non-covered filers and may use traditional filing modes (e.g., personal filing, registered mail, or accredited courier) unless otherwise ordered by the Court.

### ***Excluded Cases***

The Rules expressly retain traditional procedural rules for specified matters, which remain outside mandatory e-filing, including:

- Appeals in all criminal cases under Rule 122 of the Rules of Criminal Procedure;
- Administrative complaints against personnel of the Supreme Court and its decentralized units;
- Administrative complaints and related matters involving the Court of Appeals, Sandiganbayan, Court of Tax Appeals, first- and second-level courts, justices, judges, and personnel;
- Complaints against lawyers and other Bar matters; or
- Cases within the jurisdiction of the Presidential Electoral Tribunal (PET), Senate Electoral Tribunal (SET), and House Electoral Tribunal (HET).

### ***Electronic Filing and Service Mechanics***

- Filings must be submitted via the eCourt PH application under the Philippine Judiciary Platform.
- Filings are considered complete and filed on the date and time indicated in the electronic system's confirmation of a successful filing as recorded in the electronic filing application
- Technical specifications — including acceptable file formats, size limitations, readability, and other electronic requirements — are enforced by the Court's system.

### ***Format***

- Font:
  - Legible professional typeface; many firms and secondary sources recommend 14-point readable fonts
- Spacing:
  - Single spacing within text with 1.5 spacing between paragraphs
- Margins & Page Size:
  - Standard margins on 8.5 × 13 inches (the Filipino tabloid/legal size) to mirror traditional print filing formats
- File Integrity:
  - No password-protected, encrypted, or otherwise inaccessible files — the platform must be able to ingest text and attachments without errors.

### ***Electronic Service***

- Service of pleadings, motions, notices, and orders is done electronically through the same system or via designated official emails.
- The official electronic date and time stamp determine service timing and compliance with deadlines.

 [Click here for the full text of SC A.M. No. 25-09-16-SC](#)

# BANKING

## **BSP CIRCULAR LETTER NO. CL-2025-045 - FINANCIAL ACTION TASK FORCE (FATF) PUBLICATIONS**

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) issued Circular Letter No. CL-2025-045 informing all BSP-supervised financial institutions of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) publications dated 24 October 2025, calling on all members to apply countermeasures with respect to high-risk jurisdictions, namely the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Iran, and to apply risk-based Enhanced Due Diligence (EDD) measures for Myanmar.

The circular also notes the removal of Burkina Faso, Mozambique, Nigeria, and South Africa from the FATF's list of jurisdictions under increased monitoring. Meanwhile, the FATF reaffirms the continued suspension of the Russian Federation's membership, urging members to remain vigilant against circumvention risks. Financial institutions are directed to regularly monitor FATF issuances and incorporate them into their risk assessment and mitigation frameworks.

[Click here for the full text of BSP Circular Letter No. CL-2025-045](#)

## **BSP MEMORANDUM NO. M-2025-037 - GUIDELINES ON THE SUBMISSION OF THE REVISED REPORT ON NDF TRANSACTIONS AND THE CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENT ON NDF TRANSACTIONS AGAINST THE PHILIPPINE PESO USING EXTENSIBLE MARK-UP LANGUAGE (XML) FORMAT THROUGH PRUDENTIAL REPORTING INNOVATION AND MONITORING ENGINE (PRIME)**

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) issued Memorandum No. M-2025-037 prescribing the procedures for submission of the revised Report on Non-Deliverable Forward (NDF) Transactions and Certification of Compliance through the Prudential Reporting Innovation and Monitoring Engine (PRIME) in XML format.

The guidelines specify the:

1. Availability of the XML Schema Definition, control prooflist, and certification templates in PRIME;
2. Filing timelines for NDF reports (within two (2) banking days after the reference period) and certifications (within fifteen (15) banking days after the reference quarter); and
3. Commencement of live submissions beginning with reference periods 24 November 2025 (NDF reports) and 31 December 2025 (certifications), replacing e-mail submissions.

The Memorandum also provides API-based and PRIME portal submission guidance for covered banks and updated registration and submission modalities for Non-Bank Financial Institutions (NBFIs). The Memorandum reiterates compliance with existing BSP reporting standards.

[Click here for the full text of BSP Memorandum No. M-2025-037](#)

# LABOR & EMPLOYMENT

## **DOLE DEPARTMENT ORDER NO. 255, SERIES OF 2025 - REVISED PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES IN THE CONDUCT OF VOLUNTARY ARBITRATION PROCEEDINGS**

Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Department Order (D.O.) No. 255, Series of 2025 adopts the Revised Procedural Guidelines in the Conduct of Voluntary Arbitration Proceedings, reinforcing voluntary arbitration as a preferred, expeditious, and non-adversarial mechanism for resolving labor disputes. The issuance underscores the policy of encouraging grievance settlement and voluntary arbitration as integral components of collective bargaining and industrial peace. It emphasizes party autonomy by allowing the parties and the chosen Voluntary Arbitrator (VA) or Panel of Voluntary Arbitrators (PVA) to agree on procedural rules; in the absence of such agreement, the Guidelines apply by default, with the Rules of Court serving only a suppletory role where consistent with labor relations objectives and due process requirements.

The Guidelines clarify the scope of jurisdiction of voluntary arbitrators, granting them exclusive and original authority over unresolved grievances involving the interpretation or implementation of collective bargaining agreements, disputes arising from company personnel policies, wage distortion issues in organized establishments, and productivity incentive disputes under existing law. Unresolved grievances are automatically referred to voluntary arbitration if not settled within seven (7) calendar days from exhaustion of the grievance machinery.

*(Continued on the next page)*



# LABOR & EMPLOYMENT

*(DOLE D.O. No. 255, Series of 2025 - Revised Procedural Guidelines in the Conduct of Voluntary Arbitration Proceedings, continued)*

By agreement of the parties, the jurisdiction of voluntary arbitrators may be expanded to include other labor disputes, including unfair labor practices and bargaining deadlocks. The Guidelines further recognize the ability of parties to shift disputes from compulsory arbitration to voluntary arbitration, reinforcing consent-based dispute resolution. Jurisdiction is deemed acquired by the voluntary arbitrator or panel upon receipt and acceptance of a duly executed submission agreement, a notice to arbitrate where an arbitrator is named under the parties' agreement, or a notice of selection issued following Regional Conciliation and Mediation Branch (RCMB)-supervised selection when parties fail to agree on an arbitrator.

The issuance details multiple modes of submitting disputes to voluntary arbitration, including direct submission, referral following conciliation-mediation, referral from the National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC) or DOLE when cases are filed in the wrong forum, pre-termination of conciliation upon agreement of the parties, and the notice-to-arbitrate mechanism where one party refuses to arbitrate. In cases of refusal, the Guidelines provide escalation rules to ensure arbitration proceeds without undue delay, including RCMB intervention in arbitrator selection.

The selection of voluntary arbitrators is subject to structured rules designed to promote neutrality and efficiency. In the absence of agreement, a sole arbitrator is the default. Where parties fail to cooperate, the RCMB supervises selection through a raffle mechanism. Notably, the Guidelines impose a workload cap, prohibiting the appointment or selection of any arbitrator with five or more pending cases, thereby addressing concerns over delay and capacity constraints. Alternate voluntary arbitrators may be appointed when the original arbitrator becomes unavailable due to incapacity, withdrawal, or other valid reasons.

Once jurisdiction is acquired, the Guidelines impose strict procedural timelines. The voluntary arbitrator is required to set the initial conference within two working days from acceptance of the case. Mandatory conciliation-mediation must be actively pursued within the first thirty (30) calendar days, reflecting the primacy of amicable settlement even after arbitration has commenced.

If settlement efforts fail or if parties repeatedly fail to appear, the proceedings move forward through the submission of verified position papers and replies within fixed periods, after which the case is deemed submitted for decision. Clarificatory conferences or inspections may be conducted when necessary to resolve factual issues, but proceedings are intended to remain streamlined and non-litigious.

The issuance prescribes firm timelines for decision-making. Decisions or awards must be rendered within the period agreed upon by the parties, but in no case beyond ninety (90) calendar days from acceptance of the case, subject only to a limited extension by written agreement. Decisions must clearly state the factual and legal bases and, where monetary awards are involved, must specify the amounts granted and the manner of computation.

For panel decisions, deliberation requirements are formalized, including documentation of panel discussions and time-bound rules for dissenting opinions, reinforcing transparency and accountability in collective decision-making.

Voluntary arbitration awards become final and executory after ten calendar days from receipt unless a timely motion for reconsideration is filed. Motions for reconsideration are strictly limited to patent or palpable errors and must be resolved promptly, with second motions expressly prohibited. As a general rule, execution of voluntary arbitration awards is not stayed by the filing of appeals or petitions for judicial review unless a court issues a temporary restraining order or injunction. This execution-forward posture underscores the finality and binding nature of voluntary arbitration outcomes.

The Guidelines also provide detailed rules on execution and enforcement. Voluntary compliance is encouraged, but where a party fails to comply, the voluntary arbitrator may issue a writ of execution enforceable through DOLE or NLRC sheriffs. Restitution mechanisms are provided in the event a judgment is later reversed or annulled, subject to established exceptions. Special and highly detailed provisions govern monetary awards involving seafarers, requiring explicit classification of undisputed and disputed amounts and establishing bond requirements for the immediate execution of disputed awards, consistent with recent legislative developments affecting maritime labor claims.

Finally, the issuance strengthens administrative oversight by imposing reportorial requirements on voluntary arbitrators, including the timely submission of decisions and complete case records to the appropriate RCMB. The Guidelines take effect fifteen (15) days after publication and represent a significant procedural recalibration aimed at accelerating dispute resolution, strengthening enforcement, and enhancing confidence in voluntary arbitration as a practical, final, and efficient mechanism for resolving labor disputes.

 [Click here for the full text of DOLE DO No. 255, Series of 2025](#)




## **REVENUE MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR (RMC) NO. 99-2025 - PROVIDING EXTENSION OF DEADLINES FOR FILING, PAYMENT OF TAXES, AND SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS FALLING DUE IN NOVEMBER 2025 FOR TAXPAYERS IN AREAS AFFECTED BY SEVERE TYPHOON “TINO”**

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) issued Revenue Memorandum Circular (RMC) No. 99-2025 to provide relief to taxpayers taking into account the severe typhoon “Tino” that struck the province of Cebu on 04 November 2025. RMC No. 99-2025 extended all deadlines falling within the month of November 2025 until 28 November 2025, relative to the filing of tax returns and payment of the corresponding taxes due thereon, as well as the submission of reports, attachments, and other documents required under existing revenue issuances. This covers the following BIR Offices:

1. Revenue District Office (RDO) No. 80 – Mandaue City, Cebu
2. RDO No. 81 – Cebu City North
3. RDO No. 82 – Cebu City South
4. RDO No. 83 – Talisay City, Cebu
5. Large Taxpayer Division No. 123 – Cebu

RMC No. 99-2025 also specified the list of all the statutory deadlines for submission and/or filing of the following documents and/or returns, as well as the payment of the corresponding taxes, that was extended to 28 November 2025.

All taxpayers covered by RMC No. 99-2025 shall not be subject to the imposition of penalties, surcharges, and interest, provided that the corresponding returns, payments, and submissions are made within the extended period.


 [Click here for the full text of RMC No. 99-2025](#)

## **RMC NO. 100-2025 - EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF REVENUE MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 99-2025 TO ADDITIONAL AREAS AFFECTED BY SEVERE TYPHOON “TINO” FOR THE FILING OF TAX RETURNS AND PAYMENT OF TAXES DUE THEREON, INCLUDING THE SUBMISSION OF OTHER REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

The BIR issued RMC No. 100-2025, with reference to RMC No. 99-2025, to include additional areas affected by severe typhoon “Tino”. Taxpayers falling within the jurisdiction of the following revenue district offices are also given until 28 November 2025 to comply with the statutory deadlines, as specified in RMC No. 99-2025:

1. RDO No. 76 – Victorias City, Negros Occidental
2. RDO No. 77 – Bacolod City, Negros Occidental
3. RDO No. 78 – Binalbagan, Negros Occidental
4. Municipality of Vallehermoso and Cities of Guihulngan and Canlaon under RDO No. 79 – Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental

If the extended due dates fall on a holiday or non-working day, the submission and/or filing contemplated herein shall be made on the next working day.

 [Click here for the full text of RMC No. 100-2025](#)

## **RMC NO. 101-2025 - PROVIDING EXTENSION OF DEADLINES FOR THE FILING OF TAX RETURNS AND PAYMENT OF THE CORRESPONDING TAXES DUE THEREON, INCLUDING SUBMISSION OF REQUIRED DOCUMENTS DUE IN NOVEMBER 2025, FOR TAXPAYERS WITHIN AREAS THAT WERE AFFECTED BY SUPER TYPHOON “UWAN”**

The BIR issued RMC No. 101-2025 to provide relief to taxpayers taking into account the effects of Super Typhoon “Uwan” that struck various regions in the Philippines in November 2025. RMC No. 101-2025 extended all deadlines falling within the month of November 2025 until 28 November 2025, relative to the filing of tax returns and payment of the corresponding taxes due thereon, as well as the submission of reports, attachments, and other documents required under existing revenue issuances. This covers all the BIR Offices in the following regions: National Capital Region (NCR), Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), and Regions I, II, III, IV-A, IV-B, V, and VIII.

RMC No. 101-2025 also specified the list of all the statutory deadlines for submission and/or filing of the following documents and/or returns, as well as the payment of the corresponding taxes, that was extended to 28 November 2025.

All taxpayers covered by RMC No. 101-2025 shall not be subject to the imposition of penalties, surcharges, and interest, provided that the corresponding returns, payments, and submissions are made within the extended period.

 [Click here for the full text of RMC No. 101-2025](#)

# TAXATION

## **RMC NO. 105-2025 - CLARIFYING THE TAXABILITY OF HEALTH EMERGENCY ALLOWANCE GRANTED UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11712, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY BENEFITS AND ALLOWANCES FOR HEALTH CARE WORKERS ACT”**

The BIR issued RMC No. 105-2025 to clarify the taxability of the Health Emergency Allowance (HEA) granted under Republic Act (RA) No. 11712. Section 5 of RA No. 11712 grants an HEA to all healthcare and non-healthcare workers, regardless of employment status, during the COVID-19 or other public health emergencies of national scale that may be declared in the future, from the time of the declaration of the public health emergency until its lifting by the President.

The minimum amounts which shall be granted for every month of service, in addition to the existing benefits that the covered workers received, during the State of Public Health Emergency are as follows:

Area of Deployment	Amount of HEA
Low Risk Areas	At least PhP3,000.00
Medium Risk Areas	At least PhP6,000.00
High Risk Areas	At least PhP9,000.00

The HEA shall be released in full if the covered worker renders services for at least ninety-six (96) hours a month. Otherwise, the benefit shall be prorated. The HEA shall be treated as part of “Other Benefits” pursuant to Section 32(B)(7)(e) of the National Internal Revenue Code, as amended (Tax Code), which provides that the gross benefits received by officials and employees of public and private entities not exceeding PhP90,000.00 are exempt from income tax.

For individuals engaged under contracts of service and job orders, there exists no employer-employee relationship between the hiring agency and hired healthcare workers or nonhealthcare workers. In such a case, the covered workers are considered self-employed professionals or independent contractors. Thus, the HEA shall be subject to income tax and other applicable taxes in accordance with the provisions of the Tax Code, and to the registration and compliance requirements under RMC No. 51-2018.

[Click here for the full text of RMC No. 105-2025](#)

## **RMC NO. 106-2025 - INCLUSION OF ADDITIONAL BIR FORMS FOR TAXPAYERS AFFECTED BY SEVERE TYPHOON “TINO” PER RMC NOS. 99-2025 AND 100-2025 AND ADDITIONAL REVENUE DISTRICT OFFICE FOR TAXPAYERS AFFECTED BY SUPER TYPHOON “UWAN” PER RMC NO. 101-2025 FOR THE FILING OF TAX RETURNS, PAYMENT OF TAXES DUE THEREON, AND THE SUBMISSION OF OTHER REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

The BIR issued RMC No. 106-2025, with reference to RMC Nos. 99-2025 and 100-2025, to include the following BIR Forms in the list of extension of statutory tax deadlines for the submission and/or filing of documents and/or returns, as well as the payment of the corresponding taxes, to 28 November 2025 to all taxpayers within the areas that were affected by Typhoon “Tino”:

1. BIR Form No. 1706 - Capital Gains Tax Return for Onerous Transfer of Real Property Classified as Capital Asset (both Taxable and Exempt)
2. BIR Form No. 1707 - Capital Gains Tax Return for Onerous Transfer of Shares of Stocks Not Traded Through the Local Stock Exchange

RMC No. 106-2025 also added RDO No. 64 - Talisay City, Camarines Norte in the list of the covered areas given the extension until 28 November 2025, as specified in RMC No. 101-2025.

[Click here for the full text of RMC No. 106-2025](#)

# STATUTE

## **EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 105 - MODIFYING THE RATES OF IMPORT DUTY ON RICE, AND CREATING AN INTER-AGENCY GROUP FOR THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION THEREOF**

President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. Issued Executive Order (EO) No. 105 to increase the Most Favored Nation (MFN) rates of duty on rice by 5% points per 5% decrease in international rice prices; or to decrease by 5% points per 5% increase in international rice prices. However, the MFN rate of duty on rice, both in-quota and out-quota, shall in no case be below 15% or above 35%.

[Click here for the full text of EO No. 105](#)

## PEZA MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR (MC) NO. 2025-058 - COMPUTATION, IMPOSITION, AND PAYMENT OF PENALTIES FOR LATE AND NON-SUBMISSION OF THE REQUIRED REPORTORIAL REQUIREMENTS FROM CY 2021 – 2024

On 15 October 2025, the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) issued Memorandum Circular (MC) No. 2025-058, formally operationalizing the computation, imposition, and collection of penalties against PEZA-registered business enterprises (RBEs) that failed to submit, or submitted late, their mandatory reportorial requirements covering Calendar Years 2021 to 2024.

The issuance consolidates prior rules and clarifies PEZA's enforcement posture following the full implementation of the Annual Compliance Management System (ACMS) and the transition to mandatory online reporting. The Circular reiterates that penalties are administrative in nature, imposed per violation, and do not preclude other sanctions for repeated or willful non-compliance.

The Circular applies to:

- All PEZA-registered business enterprises (RBEs)
- All reportorial requirements mandated under PEZA rules, including but not limited to:
  - Audited Financial Statements (AFS)
  - Annual and Quarterly Income Tax Returns
  - General Information Sheets (GIS)
  - Corporate changes (directors, officers, capitalization, accounting period, etc.)

The coverage specifically includes late or non-submission for reporting years 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024. PEZA reaffirmed a graduated penalty regime based on the number of violations incurred by an RBE. The reckoning date for penalty computation is the date of report submission to PEZA, not the BIR or SEC filing date. Daily fines shall accrue until actual compliance. Penalties apply per report, not per accounting year.

### Implementation Timeline

- Penalty computation commenced in CY 2021 following ACMS enforcement.
- PEZA confirmed that full computation and imposition for CY 2021–2024 is now being actively implemented.
- RBEs with pending or deficient submissions during these years are now subject to retroactive penalty assessment.

### Payment and Settlement Process

Upon issuance of the official Notice of Computation:

1. The RBE must secure an Order of Payment (OP) from the Enterprise Services Division (ESD).
2. Payment must be made strictly in accordance with PEZA instructions.
3. Proof of payment must be submitted to the ESD.
4. Only upon validation will the report be tagged as compliant in ACMS.

Failure to settle assessed penalties may result in continued non-compliant status and potential escalation. RBEs are allowed an additional seven (7) working days from the prescribed deadline to submit pending reports without incurring additional daily penalties, provided submission was made within the extension window. This relief is non-recurring and does not waive already-accrued penalties. Developer/Operator enterprises with non-fiscal or non-fiscal activities are not subject to penalty computation, though still required to submit reports.

 [Click here for the full text of PEZA MC No. 2025-058](#)


## INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

The icon for Intellectual Property is a shield-shaped emblem containing a stylized lightbulb, symbolizing ideas and innovation.

### IPOPHL MC NO. 2025-026 - EXTENSION OF THE GREEN TECHNOLOGY INCENTIVE PROGRAM FOR PATENTS, UTILITY MODELS, AND INDUSTRIAL DESIGNS

The Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPHL) issued MC No. 2025-026 to extend the duration of the Green Technology Incentive Program. The Program, which provides incentives to local applicants for developing green and sustainable technologies, has been extended until thirty (30) Patents, sixty (60) Utility Models, and sixty (60) Industrial Designs applications have been qualified and filed.

Eligible Patents, Utility Models, and Industrial Design Applications must relate to green and sustainable technology and must be directed to a single invention, utility model, or industrial design that materially contributes to: (1) the discovery or development of renewable energy resources; (2) the more efficient utilization and conservation of energy resources; or (3) greenhouse gas emission reduction. Early Publication Fees, Request for Substantive Examination (RSE), and Second Publication Fees shall be waived for qualified applicants.

 [Click here for the full text of IPOPHL MC No. 2025-026](#)



## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY CIRCULAR NO. DC 2025-10-0019 - FRAMEWORK FOR THE INTEGRATION OF NUCLEAR ENERGY IN THE COUNTRY'S GENERATION MIX TO IMPLEMENT THE CLEAN ENERGY SCENARIO UNDER THE PHILIPPINE ENERGY PLAN 2023-2050

The Department of Energy (DOE) issued Department Order (D.O.) No. DC 2025-10-0019 to establish a policy framework for the integration of nuclear energy into the Philippines' power generation mix. This order marks a significant step in shaping the country's long-term energy strategy by formally recognizing nuclear power as a viable, reliable, and sustainable energy source. It lays the groundwork for the safe, regulated, and economically viable introduction of nuclear energy into the national grid.

The policy is designed to address growing electricity demand, strengthen energy security, reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels, and support the country's climate commitments. It also seeks to ensure that the development of nuclear power aligns with public safety, environmental protection, and sound governance.

At the core of the framework is the designation of a Pioneer Nuclear Power Plant (NPP). This first nuclear facility will serve as the model for future nuclear projects in the country. It will be treated as a baseload power source, meaning it is expected to provide stable, continuous electricity. The DOE further directs that the Pioneer NPP be given priority dispatch, ensuring its electricity is readily integrated into the power grid in coordination with the Independent Market Operator and the System Operator.

To support investment and financial viability, the Department Order instructs the DOE to explore various financing and contracting mechanisms in coordination with key government institutions such as the Department of Finance and the Maharlika Investment Corporation. These may include public-private partnerships, long-term power supply agreements, and other financing structures that encourage investor participation. The Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) is also encouraged to consider adopting a Regulatory Asset Base (RAB) or similar framework, allowing investors to recover costs over long-term contracts—potentially spanning 25 years or more.

In addition, the Pioneer NPP is automatically classified as an Energy Project of National Significance (EPNS). This designation enables faster permitting processes and access to government incentives, helping reduce administrative delays and improve project feasibility. The DOE is further tasked with coordinating across government agencies to ensure that technical, regulatory, and safety requirements are aligned before project implementation.

Overall, D.O. No. DC 2025-10-0019 represents a major policy shift toward a more diversified and resilient energy mix. By laying down a clear framework for nuclear energy development, the government aims to ensure long-term energy reliability, promote sustainable economic growth, and prepare the country for future power demands—while maintaining strong safeguards for public safety and environmental protection.

 [Click here for the full text of DOE Circular No. DC-2025-10-0019](#)



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