



FINEX FOCUS

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF FINEX

5th General Membership Meeting

The Anti-Agricultural Economic Sabotage Act: Fostering Competitive Agricultural Sector



HON. MARIAN IVY F. REYES-FAJARDO
KEYNOTE SPEAKER P. 3



(L-R) John Paul Sorsogon, Michael Angelo Gamora, Rogelio Quevedo

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DR. FERMIN ADRIANO
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



"We need a competitive agriculture sector that ensures food security and incentivizes investment by creating a level playing field. This would create jobs, ensure a reliable supply of essential goods, and foster innovation."

- EJ Qua Hiansen

Food security is essential, and our nation has been blessed with abundant natural resources, which should theoretically result in food security. At the heart of this lies our agriculture sector, a sector with aging workers that is often at the mercy of the adverse effects of climate change.

Agriculture is the primary source of food that nourishes our communities. Agriculture sustains us from the rice we eat daily to the vegetables, fruits, and fish that complement our meals.

But beyond food security, agriculture is also a major source of livelihood for millions of Filipinos, especially in rural areas. It provides jobs for our farmers, fisherfolk, and agricultural workers, contributing significantly to our country's employment and economic stability.

Ultimately, it seeks to strengthen the agricultural sector and promote food security.



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MESSAGE OF THE KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

HON. MARIAN IVY F. REYES-FAJARDO **ASSOCIATE JUSTICE (COURT OF TAX APPEALS)**

Associate Justice Marian Ivy F. Reyes-Fajardo is the youngest Associate Justice appointed to the Court of Tax Appeals at the age of 46.

She graduated cum laude in BA Psychology from the University of the Philippines and obtained her Juris Doctor from the Ateneo De Manila University. In May 2018, she completed on merit scholarship, with honors and top of her class, her Masters of Law in International Business Law at the Pritzker School of Law of Northwestern University Chicago, USA. In 2021, she finished the Philippine Judicial Academy's Pre-Judicature program, garnering the highest grade of 96.7% for the competency exam for aspiring judges.

Read her full profile [HERE](#) and link to her presentation [HERE](#)



"The revised economic sabotage law expands its definition to include smuggling, hoarding, profiteering, cartels, and financing, while broadening product coverage to various agricultural and aquatic goods. Financing activities linked to economic sabotage are now criminalized, with enforcement overseen by the newly created bodies such as the Anti-Agricultural Economic Sabotage Council, an enforcement group, and a dedicated prosecution team." Stated by Hon. Maria Ivy Reyes-Fajardo, Associate Justice of the Court of Tax Appeals.



From left to right are Hon. Marian Ivy F. Reyes-Fajardo, Associate Justice of the Court of Appeals. Dr. Fermin Adriano, Former Usec. of the Department of Agriculture. And Emmanuel Leyco, Chair and Chief Economist at Credit Rating & Investors Services Phils., Inc.



DR. FERMIN D. ADRIANO **FORMER USEC. OF DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

Read his full profile [HERE](#)

“If we can manage food prices, we can practically halve the inflation rate in the country - and therefore, it can impact on the level of interest rates,” was the powerful message of Dr. Fermin Adriano, former Undersecretary of the Department of Agriculture, during the FINEX’s 5th General Membership Meeting held on May 16, 2025.

The GMM centered on the discussion of Republic Act No. 12022, or the Anti-Agricultural Economic Sabotage Act. Justice Marian Ivy F. Reyes-Fajardo of the Court of Tax Appeals highlighted key provisions of the new law in comparison with RA 10845 (the Anti-Agricultural Smuggling Act of 2016), including the following:

- Definition of Economic Sabotage - now includes smuggling, hoarding, profiteering, cartels, and financing.
- Expanded Product Coverage - now includes beef fruits, salt, palm oil, tobacco, processed agricultural products, aquatic products, among others.
- Daily Price Index (DPI) - established as the official reference for market prices to detect profiteering and hoarding.
- News Offenses - hoarding (30% inventory threshold), profiteering (10% above DPI), and cartels (aligned with the Competition Law).
- Financing as an Offense - criminalizes financial support for economic sabotage activities.

- Enforcement and Oversight Bodies - creation of the Anti-Agricultural Economic Sabotage Council (heated by the President), the Anti-Agricultural Economic Sabotage Enforcement Group, and a special team of prosecutors for expedited legal proceedings.
- Stricter Penalties - includes increased imprisonment terms.
- Exclusive Jurisdiction - cases fall under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Court of Tax Appeals (CTA).
- Mandatory Record-Keeping and Reporting - businesses are required to register storage facilities, maintain transaction records (for five years), and submit monthly inventory reports.
- Repeal of Previous Legislation - RA 10845 was explicitly repealed.

Dr. Adriano followed the discussion with a strong emphasis on a key question: *Does RA 12022 promote a competitive agricultural sector?* He pointed out that the Philippines’ agricultural trade deficits are widening, malnutrition rates in the country were significantly higher than those of ASEAN neighbors in 2020, and that almost 29% of Filipino children under five years old suffer from stunting.

“There is no way that agriculture will develop if only the government invests in agriculture,” Dr. Adriano stated, **encouraging the private sector to invest in the industry.**

FINEX GMM PHOTOS



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