



Republic of the Philippines

PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 2026- 048

TO : ALL PEZA REGISTERED BUSINESS ENTERPRISES (RBEs)
ALL ZONE ADMINISTRATORS / ZONE MANAGERS (ZMs)

FROM : TERESO O. PANGA
Director General

DATE : 27 July 2026

SUBJECT : Dissemination of DTI-DOF-DOLE Joint Administrative Order (JAO) No. 26-01, on the Rules on Investigation and Prohibition of the Importation of Goods Produced through Forced Labor



This is to disseminate to all PEZA-Registered Business Enterprises (RBEs) the attached **DTI-DOF-DOLE Joint Administrative Order (JAO) No. 26-01**, or the ***“Rules on the Investigation and Prohibition of the Importation of Goods Produced through Forced Labor”*** signed on 24 July 2026.

On 02 June 2026, the United States Trade Representative (USTR) issued its findings under its Section 301 investigation concerning the failure of certain economies, including the Philippines, to adopt and effectively enforce measures prohibiting the importation of goods produced wholly or in part through forced labor. Among its findings, the USTR noted the absence of a dedicated legal or administrative mechanism in the Philippines for the investigation and regulation of imported goods suspected of having been produced through forced labor.

Recognizing the potential adverse impact of the USTR's proposed action on Philippine exports, and to further strengthen the country's commitment to responsible trade practices and international labor standards, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), through the Export Marketing Bureau (EMB), initiated inter-agency consultations on the possible establishment of a domestic mechanism to address these concerns. Participating agencies included the PEZA, the Bureau of Import Services (BIS), Bureau of International Trade Relations (BITR), Foreign Trade Service Corps (FTSC), Board of Investments (BOI), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Finance (DOF), and the Bureau of Customs (BOC).

As an outcome of the consultation, the attached JAO was issued to establish an inter-agency framework for the investigation of imported goods suspected of being produced wholly or in part through forced labor. The JAO prescribes the rules governing the receipt and evaluation of complaints, conduct of investigations, inter-agency coordination, and implementation of appropriate enforcement measures by the concerned agencies.

The Order will take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation. Under the said JAO, an Implementing Guidelines shall be

jointly issued by the DTI, DOLE, DOF, and BOC within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of the Order.

In compliance therefore with the recently signed JAO, all PEZA RBEs are enjoined from using, manufacturing, and importing goods, including raw materials, intermediate goods, components, and finished products, produced wholly or in part through forced labor. This regulatory requirement will also be embedded in the Registration Agreement (RA) executed by PEZA and the RBEs.

For your information and strict compliance.

Attachment:

1. *Signed copy of the JAO, re Rules on the Investigation and Prohibition of the Importation of Goods Produced through Forced Labor*