



**PRESS RELEASE**

Date: 21 February 2025

For further information, contact:

Tel. No. 53062833

**PHILIPPINES EXITS FATF GREYLIST**

The Philippines welcomes its removal from the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)'s greylist, a milestone that underscores the country's commitment to combat money laundering and terrorist financing.

Countries in the FATF greylist are placed under increased monitoring. This is a burdensome process for banks and other financial institutions. This process discourages correspondent banking relationships and international financial flows into the country.

The Philippines' exit from the FATF greylist is expected to facilitate faster and lower-cost cross-border transactions, reduce compliance barriers, and enhance financial transparency. These will support business, strengthen the country's position as an attractive destination for foreign direct investment (FDI), and benefit Filipinos, particularly overseas Filipino workers (OFWs).

President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. played a key role in securing the country's exit from the greylist. In July 2023, he issued Executive Order No. 33, which served as a roadmap for addressing the action plan imposed by the FATF. The President further underscored the urgency of exiting the greylist by issuing additional directives in October 2023 and January 2024.

Executive Secretary Lucas P. Bersamin, Chairman of the National Anti-Money Laundering/Counter-Terrorism Financing/Counter-Proliferation Financing (AML/CTF/CPF) Coordinating Committee (NACC), praised the FATF's decision. He stated, "This recognition affirms that the Philippines' AML/CTF/CPF framework aligns with global standards. It supports our vision to enhance economic competitiveness for the benefit of our people."

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Governor and Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) Chairman Eli M. Remolona, Jr. highlighted the collaborative effort behind the achievement. He stated, "This achievement is a result of strong cooperation within the government as well as the private sector. It also complements our ongoing efforts to make the financial system a stronger driver of sustainable growth."

Background

The FATF placed the Philippines on the greylist in 2021, requiring the country to address 18 action items to secure removal. Greylisted countries undergo close monitoring and must implement corrective measures to avoid being placed on the blacklist, which can lead to serious economic repercussions.



The exit will reduce international fund transfer requirements, benefitting Filipino individuals and businesses.

Moreover, even prior to the grey listing, some foreign regulators were already imposing stringent requirements or fines on financial institutions dealing with entities in the Philippines and other countries deemed to have weak anti-dirty money regimes. This prompted some banks to just avoid doing business with entities in those countries rather than managing possible money laundering or terrorist financing risks. The FATF decision may prompt foreign banks to review and resume their business relationship and transactions with Philippine financial entities.

The FATF's decision follows an onsite visit on 20-22 January 2025, during which the Philippines successfully demonstrated compliance with its action plan, including:

- **strengthening supervision** of designated non-financial businesses, such as lawyers, accountants, real-estate sector and company service providers, and casinos;
- **reducing risks associated with casino junkets;**
- **cracking down on unregistered and illegal money transfer operators;**
- **improving access** to accurate beneficial ownership information for law enforcement agencies;
- **increasing investigations and prosecutions** related to money laundering and terrorism financing;
- **implementing appropriate measures** for non-profit organizations to prevent misuse while allowing legitimate activities; and
- **implementing stricter cross-border measures** on all main sea/airports of the country.

The successful removal from the greylist is credited to the coordinated efforts of NACC member agencies and contributing agencies, including:

- AMLC
- BSP
- Department of Finance
- Department of Foreign Affairs
- Securities and Exchange Commission
- Insurance Commission
- Department of National Defense



Republic of the Philippines  
**ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING COUNCIL**



- Anti-Terrorism Council
- Department of Justice
- Office of the Ombudsman
- Philippine National Police
- National Intelligence Coordinating Agency
- National Bureau of Investigation
- Intelligence Service Armed Forces of the Philippines
- Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency
- Bureau of Customs
- Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation
- Cagayan Economic Zone Authority
- Aurora Pacific Economic Zone and Freeport Authority
- Department of Trade and Industry - Strategic Trade Management Office
- Department of the Interior and Local Government
- Philippine Coast Guard
- Department of Social Welfare and Development

The private sector—including banks, money service businesses, real estate firms, casinos, legal and accounting professionals, and non-profit organizations—and the Judiciary also played a crucial role in achieving this milestone.

Exiting the FATF grey list is a significant step in strengthening the Philippines' financial system and maintaining global confidence. The government remains committed to ensuring long-term compliance with international standards.

###