

To Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8339



Introduced by **HON. BRIAN RAYMUND S. YAMSUAN**

**AN ACT GRANTING THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES POWER TO
SUSPEND THE EXCISE TAX ON PETROLEUM PRODUCTS DURING NATIONAL
OR GLOBAL ECONOMIC EMERGENCIES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
SECTION 148 OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS
AMENDED**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Recent tensions and escalating conflict in the Middle East have once again demonstrated the Philippines' vulnerability to fluctuations in global oil prices. Nearly 90 percent of the country's oil imports are sourced from the Middle East, making the Philippines among the worst affected by surging oil prices.¹ According to the Department of Energy - Oil Industry Management Bureau, the continued increase in the price per barrel of oil can result in fuel price increases of up to P10 per liter.² This rise in oil prices is also expected to create a domino effect, driving up the prices of food and other basic goods.

While the National Internal Revenue Code provides a safety net provision for suspending the scheduled increases in the excise tax to address possible fuel price shocks, this provision only covered the years 2018-2020. This leaves the government with little flexibility to address global emergencies and to cushion their economic impact on Filipinos.

While there are more immediate steps that can be taken to mitigate the effects of rising fuel prices, such as adopting temporary work-from-home arrangements to reduce fuel

¹<https://mb.com.ph/2026/03/03/philippines-among-worst-hit-by-oil-price-surge-amid-middle-east-tensionsing>

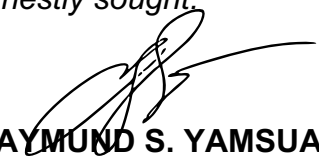
²<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/money/economy/978519/fuel-prices-could-jump-by-up-to-10-per-liter-amid-us-iran-conflict-doe-exec/story/>

consumption, the release of fuel subsidies for public utility vehicle operators and drivers, and the staggering of fuel price adjustments, these measures remain largely short-term and reactive. This bill seeks to provide a more forward-looking and institutional solution.

This bill proposes to grant the President of the Philippines with the authority to reduce or suspend the imposition of excise tax on fuel when the Dubai crude oil price based on Mean of Platts Singapore, the primary pricing benchmark for refined petroleum in Southeast Asia,³ for a period of two months reaches or exceeds \$80 per barrel. Currently, excise tax on unleaded premium gasoline is P10.00 per liter, while diesel is subject to P6.00 per liter.⁴ Temporarily reducing these amounts or suspending their imposition would help ease the burden of fuel price increases.

To minimize the impact on government revenues, this bill provides the appropriate safeguards governing the President's exercise of this power. The authority may only be exercised upon the recommendation of the Secretaries of Finance and Energy, and only when the specified conditions are met. The suspension of excise tax shall also be lifted once the conditions that triggered said suspension are no longer present. This way, there is a flexible mechanism to swiftly provide economic relief to Filipino citizens that does not unduly endanger our country's financial stability.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this measure is earnestly sought.



BRIAN RAYMUND S. YAMSUAN
Representative
2nd District, Parañaque City

³ <https://mb.com.ph/2026/03/04/record-oil-price-hike-looms-diesel-could-jump-16-next-week>

⁴ National Internal Revenue Code, Sec. 148.

**Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City**

**TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session**

HOUSE BILL NO. 8339

Introduced by **HON. BRIAN RAYMUND S. YAMSUAN**

**AN ACT GRANTING THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES POWER TO
SUSPEND THE EXCISE TAX ON PETROLEUM PRODUCTS DURING NATIONAL
OR GLOBAL ECONOMIC EMERGENCIES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
SECTION 148 OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS
AMENDED**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in
Congress assembled:*

SECTION 1. Section 148 of the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC) of 1997, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a new paragraph to read as follows:

SEC. 148. Manufactured Oils and Other Fuels. - There shall be collected on refined and manufactured mineral oils and motor fuels, the following excise taxes which shall attach to the goods hereunder enumerated as soon as they are in existence as such:

xxx

For the period covering 2018 to 2020, the scheduled increase in the excise tax on fuel as imposed in this Section shall be suspended when the average Dubai crude oil price based on Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) for three (3) months prior to the scheduled increase of the month reaches or exceeds Eighty dollars (USD 80) per barrel.

Provided, That the Department of Finance shall perform an annual review of the implementation of the excise tax on fuel and shall, based

on projections provided and recommendations of the Development budget coordination Committee, as reconciled from the conditions as provided above, recommend the implementation or suspension of the excise tax on fuel: Provided, further, That the recommendation shall be given on a yearly basis: Provided, finally, That any suspension of the increase in excise tax shall not result in any reduction of the excise tax being imposed at the time of the suspension.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISION ABOVE, THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES MAY, UPON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECRETARY OF FINANCE AND SECRETARY OF ENERGY, REDUCE OR SUSPEND THE IMPOSITION OF EXCISE TAX ON FUEL THROUGH AN EXECUTIVE ORDER, IN TIMES OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY OR WHEN PUBLIC INTEREST REQUIRES;

PROVIDED, THAT THE DUBAI CRUDE OIL PRICE BASED ON MEAN OF PLATTS SINGAPORE (MOPS) FOR TWO (2) MONTHS REACHES OR EXCEEDS EIGHTY DOLLARS (USD 80) PER BARREL;

PROVIDED, FINALLY, THAT SUCH SUSPENSION OR REDUCTION SHALL BE LIFTED WHEN THE CONDITIONS THAT WARRANT THE SUSPENSION OR REDUCTION OF EXCISE TAX NO LONGER EXISTS.

SEC. 2. Reportorial Requirement. – The President, through the Secretary of Finance, shall, within fifteen (15) days from the issuance of an Executive Order reducing or suspending the excise tax on fuel pursuant to this Act, and every month thereafter, submit a report to the Congress of the Philippines, clearly stating the factual basis for such reduction or suspension, the estimated forgone revenues, and the actual and expected impact on fuel prices and other relevant economic activities.

SEC. 3. Separability Clause. — If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provisions not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC. 4. Repealing Clause. — Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

SEC. 5. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,