



**TAX MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE PHILIPPINES, INC.**



2016 TMAP NATIONAL ELECTION TAX SURVEY

Instructions: Mark the appropriate box with an X.

Name of Candidate RALPH G. RECTO Position SENATOR Party LIBERAL PARTY

A. Comprehensive Tax Reform

		<i>YES</i>	<i>NO</i>	<i>Remark(s) (if any)</i>
1.	The last comprehensive tax reform program in the Philippines was in 1997, almost 20 years ago, would you institute moves for a genuine comprehensive tax reform?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2.	Do you think it should be a priority of government?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

B. Adjustment of Personal Income Tax Bracket

3.	The present personal income tax brackets (Section 24 A 2) in our Tax Code have not been adjusted since 1987 to take into account the changes in the consumer price index over the past 29 years. Will you support the immediate adjustment of the tax brackets?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	I filed Senate Bill No. 716 adjusting the existing brackets to inflation and Senate Bill No. 2974 introducing a four-tier income tax brackets and provides automatic indexation.
4.	Do you agree that the tax brackets should be indexed and adjustments should be done automatically every three years?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The adjustment should be done every six years because the official term of every administration is six years.
5.	Will the adjustment take place during the first 100 days of the new administration?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

C. Income Tax Rates

6.	Comparison of the corporate and personal income tax rates among ASEAN countries would show that the Philippines imposes the highest corporate income tax rate at 30%, and highest effective income tax rate on individuals. Will you initiate and/or support the reduction of corporate and individual income tax rates?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	I already filed Senate Bill No. 2974 introducing an income tax schedule with rates ranging from 10% to 25%.
7.	Do you agree in a tax system that would free up some of the burden from wage earners while exacting more from corporate taxpayers and individuals with higher income?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	To make our tax system more equitable.

D. Simplified Tax Compliance

		YES	NO	<i>Remark(s) (if any)</i>
8.	Are you in favor of the adoption of a simplified manner of computing net income for self-employed individuals and professionals with annual gross sales/receipts of ₱10 million or below, including simplified tax return filing, bookkeeping and invoicing requirements?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	To ease the burden of the taxpayers and to encourage more self-employed individuals and professionals to voluntarily file their income tax returns and pay the correct taxes due thereon.
9.	Are you in favor of exempting marginal income earners (those with gross annual sales/receipt not exceeding ₱100,000) from tax and from administrative requirements?	X		I filed Senate Bill No. 2223 exempting marginal income earners with gross sales/receipts not exceeding P140,000 which is approximately similar to the gross income of minimum wage earners.

E. Value-added Tax

10.	Originally, the rate of VAT was only 10% and increased to its current rate of 12% by the previous administration (now the highest VAT rate among the ASEAN countries). As an additional source of revenue for the next administration, will you consider increasing the VAT rate further? If so, at what rate?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	I filed Senate Bill No. 462 reducing the VAT from 12% to 10% as the existing economic conditions when RA 9337 was passed no longer present at this time.
11.	When it was originally adopted, the VAT only covered a limited number of transactions. An amendment to the VAT broadened or increased the VAT coverage to include additional transactions (i.e., sale of real property used in business, professional income of doctors, lawyers and others). Will you consider broadening further the VAT base by revisiting the exemptions and effectively including more transactions subject to VAT?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The existing VAT law already covers a wide range of transactions. Broadening further the VAT coverage might increase the prices of basic commodities.

F. Excise Tax on Petroleum & Others

12.	Excise tax rates on petroleum products have not been updated since 1997 and fuel prices are expected to stay low for at least a few more years, would you consider increasing excise tax on petroleum products?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The increase might affect the prices of basic commodities as a result of the increase in prices of petroleum products
13.	As a means to reduce air pollution, would you support legislation granting tax breaks to hybrid or electric vehicles?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	I filed Senate Bill No. 255 for this purpose.
14.	Would you consider increasing excise tax on alcohol products, luxury or high-end automobiles, and other non-essential goods to increase tax collection?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	To compensate revenue loss as a result of income tax reform.

G. Rationalization of Fiscal Incentives

15.	With the passage of the TIMTA Law (Tax Incentives Management and Transparency ACT), it is now possible to monitor the various Investment Tax Incentives (ITI) granted by various Investment Promotion Agencies (i.e., BOI, PEZA, BCDA, PRA, TIEZA, and others). Will you support the passage of a fiscal incentives rationalization act that will allow greater scrutiny of the way ITIs are granted and managed, eliminate redundant incentives and retain only those which are necessary to make the Philippines attractive to foreign investors?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	I filed Senate Bill No. 987. It aims to end the indiscriminate dispensation of fiscal perks to investors who are primarily motivated by the prospects in the domestic market and investments that would have been made even without incentives.
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H. Estate Tax

		YES	NO	Remark(s) (if any)
16.	Some countries have already abolished or at least temporarily suspended the imposition of estate tax, which is imposed on the assets of a deceased individual upon death. Would you consider the abolition of estate tax in the Philippines?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Estate taxation has a narrow base. It also entails a huge administrative cost. The properties that may be subjected to estate tax may be covered by other taxes on property transactions
17.	Currently, the family home deduction for estate tax purposes is ₱1 million, would you agree to increase the amount considering the increase in the value of real properties in the Philippines? How much should be the deductible amount?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	There should be automatic indexation of the value every six years.
18.	How about the existing standard deduction, which is currently at ₱1 million, would you consider increasing the amount, which is effectively not subject to estate tax? If so, how much?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	There should be automatic indexation of the amount every six years.
19.	The brackets in the current estate tax table have not been adjusted since 1998, would you support an adjustment to the estate tax brackets to consider changes in the consumer price index?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Similar to income tax bracket, this should be adjusted based on the current CPI. Also provides automatic indexation every six years.

I. Tax Administration

20.	Experts say that in PH only few are paying and more taxes are being collected from the few through recurring tax audit. Yet, there are businesses and/or individuals who can get away with not being registered with the BIR. Do you believe the tax system in the Philippines is unfair to many?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The tax system is not unfair. The problem lies in the implementation and enforcement of tax laws.
21.	Some countries adopted drastic reforms like the reorganization of their tax administrations and human resources, giving higher pay to employees but imposing greater accountability, resulting in the improvement of the overall performance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	There should be a competitive compensation package at par with the private sector to hire competent employees and professionalize the bureau in a bid to eliminate

	of their tax agencies. Do you think there is a need to adopt similar institutional reforms in our tax agencies like the BIR & BoC?			alleged corruption practices.
22.	Will you strongly push for the elimination of corruption at the BIR and BoC?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The government suffers huge revenue loss due to alleged corruption practices
23.	Would you support the lifting of bank secrecy laws consistent with international standard to enable revenue authorities to combat tax evasion?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	To prevent tax evaders from using bank secrecy law as a tool to hide proceeds of the crime. Provided severe penalties will be imposed against illegal disclosure of information especially those used for partisan political ends.
24.	Would you consider granting a tax amnesty program as a prelude to the adoption of a comprehensive tax reform program?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	To encourage tax compliance and increase the tax base.

I am allowing TMAP to disclose my answers to the public and post it at the TMAP website and other social media pages of the association.

Name of Candidate: RALPH G. RECTO By: _____

Date: MAY 4, 2016 Position _____

Send reply to TMAP *c/o Update Management & Research Center (UMRC), Inc.*, Unit 2414, Cityland 10, Tower II, Cor. H. V. Dela Costa & Valero Sts., Makati City, Tel/Fax: 753-1346 Telephone: 840-2325 E-mail Address: tax_map@yahoo.com Website: www.tmap.org.ph