

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE

Quezon City

February 1, 2008

REVENUE MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 18 - 2008

**SUBJECT : Publishing the Full Text of Administrative Order No. 189
Entitled Affirming the Policy of Consultation, Equity and
Gradualism in Imposing/Increasing Charges and for Other
Purposes.**

**TO : All Internal Revenue Officials, Employees and Others
Concerned.**

For the information and guidance of all internal revenue officials, employees and others concerned, quoted hereunder is the full text of ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 189, AFFIRMING THE POLICY OF CONSULTATION, EQUITY AND GRADUALISM IN IMPOSING/INCREASING CHARGES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, as follows:

“ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 189

**AFFIRMING THE POLICY OF CONSULTATION, EQUITY AND
GRADUALISM IN IMPOSING/INCREASING CHARGES AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

Whereas, the Department of Finance and Bureau of Internal Revenue's (DOF/BIR) 26-fold increase in the 3% tax on gross earnings of public utility vehicles (PUV), based on 2007 prices, has provoked attacks from both Senators and the transport sector;

Whereas, there is a need to reiterate and enforce three important principles in imposing and increasing charges: consultation, equity and gradualism;

Whereas, there should be clear efforts on the part of government to consult affected sectors and relevant agencies, in this case, the Department of Transportation (DOTC), if not the Board of the National Economic and Development Authority; to spread the burden among sectors, especially the rich; and to work out a gradual schedule of tax adjustments;

Whereas, while acknowledging the need to adjust PUV taxes based on current prices, the government should conduct consultations on the correct earnings level on which taxes would be based, as well as the timetable for imposing increases without grave dislocation of PUV operators and workers;

Now therefore I, Gloria M. Arroyo, President of the Philippines, by the powers vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the land, do hereby order:

1. The principles of consultation, equity and gradualism are hereby affirmed in imposing and increasing charges.
2. The DOF/BIR shall work with DOTC and the transport sector on an urgent study to determine the right levels of PUV earnings as basis for taxation, and to set a schedule for adjusting charges without dislocating operators and drivers.
3. The DOTC Land Transportation Office (LTO) and Land Transportation Franchise Regulatory Board (LTFRB) shall work with the Metro Manila Development Authority and transport associations to rid Epifanio delos Santos Avenue and other major thoroughfares of colorum buses and jeepneys, thus reducing traffic and increasing revenues for legitimate PUVs. Primary responsibility shall be on LTO and LTFRB.
4. The BIR and the Bureau of Customs shall intensify efforts to collect from large taxpayers and importers, and bring evaders and smugglers to court.

Done in the City of Manila this 13th day of August, 2007.

(Signed)
GLORIA M. ARROYO

By the President:

(Signed)
EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary”

All concerned are hereby enjoined to be guided accordingly and give this circular a wide publicity as possible.

(Original Signed)
LILIAN B. HEFTI
Commissioner of Internal Revenue