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NEWSLETTER

Q4 2022

This newsletter is an official quarterly publication of the Local Governance Reform Project (LGRP) under the Bureau of Local Government Finance (BLGF) which aims to present the project's activities, milestones, and initiatives to improve local revenue mobilization, upscale local public service delivery, and strengthen local governance. The LGRP implementation is from FY2021 to FY2024.

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KEEPING TRACK: LGRP'S 9TH PROGRESS REPORT

In the 9th Quarterly Progress Report (QPR) submitted by the Bureau to the Asian Development Bank (ADB), it was reported that the Local Governance Reform Project (LGRP) attained a 15.99% Accomplishment Rate representing a 1.691 % increase from the previous quarter. The progress is attributable to the various activities undertaken for Project Management, Output 1, and Output 3, as follows:



Project Management

Shows an 0.89% increase due to the bulk of activities held by the Project Management Office (PMO) and Project Monitoring Unit (PMU). It was during this quarter that the 2022 ADB Midterm Review Mission (MTR) was completed and the Aide Memoire of ADB has been issued. Likewise, the 5th Interagency Governing Board (IGB) meeting, the conduct of the FY2023 Annual Planning Workshop and the submission of FY 2021 Audited Project Financial Statement (APFS), that happened during this period all contributed significantly to the progress rate of the project management.



Institutional development and policy formulation for property valuation

had a 0.46% increase resulting from the conduct of 3 Committee meetings with the House of Representatives (HOR), conduct of 5 write shops for the updating of the MRPAAO, and the holding of a Seminar on the Comparative Property Tax in the Southeast Asian Countries.



Enhance the RPT administration for selected LGUs

registered an increase of 0.22% because of the completion of the 3 batches of the Training of Trainers (TOT) on the skills enhancement on SMV updating. A virtual roadshow was successfully carried out on November 8, 2022 for the 112 shortlisted LGUs that may be considered for the Pilot LGUs. To date, the Bureau has already received 13 Expression of Interests (EOIs) from various LGUs as of 31 December 2022.

PROFESSIONALIZING OUR LOCAL ASSESSORS: BLGF ENGAGED CPRMCI AS THE LOCAL TRAINING FIRM FOR THE LGRP

In a bid to professionalize the country's local assessors and strengthen the capacities of our Local Government Units to become sustainable in local revenue mobilization, the Bureau of Local Government Finance (BLGF) signed a contract with CPRM Consultants, Inc. (CPRMCI) on 04 October 2022 as the training firm for the LGRP. As the national training firm, CPRMCI is tasked to conduct diagnostic study on the core competencies of our local assessors and appraisers and strengthen their capacities that will enable them to meet both public and private sector needs in property valuation. Among the expected deliverables of the training firm include the development of expanded academic and training course curricula, conduct of performance assessment programs with training manuals, through a partner state university or college and a training institution, development of learning materials suitable for both physical and virtual environments, and for synchronous and asynchronous mode. The training firm will also rollout training for local assessors and appraisers at the provincial, city, and municipal levels, and BLGF employees; and develop a monitoring and evaluation system to ensure compliance and performance, among others.



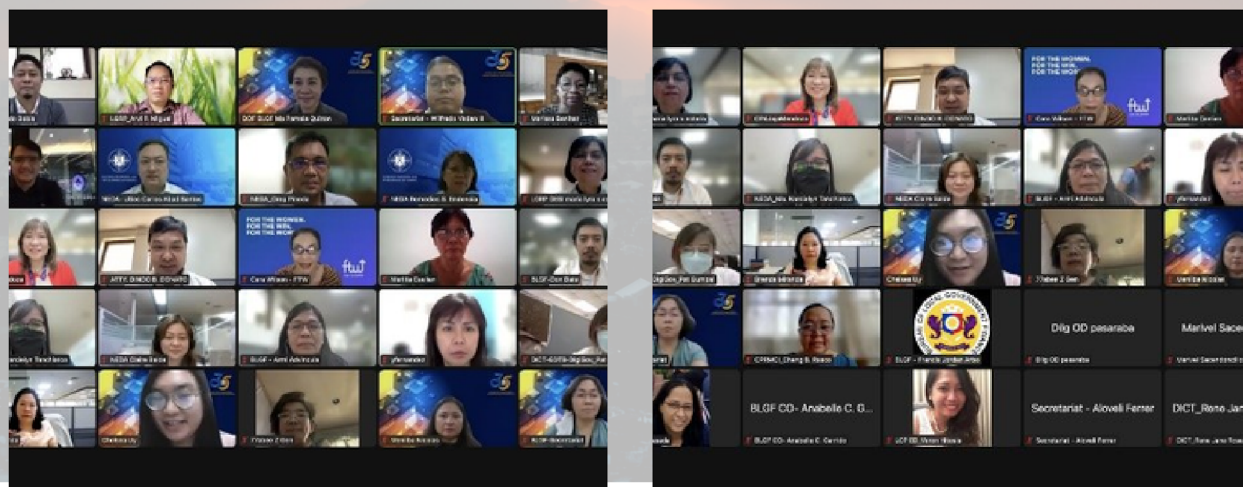
The onboarding of a National Training Firm is deemed to contribute significantly to achieving progress for one of the LGRP's expected outcomes which is to develop and sustain a professional cadre of assessors and further advance the property valuation practice in the Philippines.

The contract of CPRMCI commenced on 04 October 2022 and will end on 04 October 2024.

Read more: <https://bit.ly/3WXOZja>

INTERAGENCY ORIENTATION MEETING ON THE LOCAL GOVERNANCE REFORM PROJECT

The Bureau of Local Government Finance (BLGF) Project Management Implementation System (PMIS) and the Project Management Unit (PMU) conducted Orientation Meetings on Local Governance Reform Project (LGRP) for all Member-Agencies of the Interagency Governing Board to ensure proper representation and to update the official members to the Interagency Governing Board. The orientation meetings were held in two (2) batches on October 24 and 27, 2022 respectively. Said meetings were held to present the salient details of the LGRP and discuss the IGB member agency's roles and participation in the implementation of the project.



The participants of the orientation meetings are the updated official members and alternate representatives of the Interagency Governing Board (IGB) pursuant to AO NO. 40 – Implementing the Local Government Reform Project and Creating the Interagency Governing Board for the LGRP. DOF as Chair; members include NEDA, DILG, DICT, DBM, BIR, the Leagues (i.e., LPP, LCP and LMP) and a representative each for an NGO/women organization and the private sector. The IGB provides oversight on Project implementation as well as policy direction and guidance to the LGRP, a four-year project loan assisted by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), which aims to strengthen revenue generation and real property tax (RPT) management, improve local public service delivery, and strengthen local governance.

Read more: <https://bit.ly/3XWhbEI>

BLGF AND ADB CONDUCT MIDTERM REVIEW MISSION ON THE LGRP

MANDALUYONG CITY – The Bureau of Local Government Finance conducted a Midterm Review Mission on Loan No. 3944 PHI: Local Governance Reform Project (LGRP) at the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Headquarters, Mandaluyong City last 19 October 2022. Among the participants of the review mission are the BLGF Project Management Office (PMO), output team leaders and focal persons of the Project Management and Implementation Structure (PMIS), and ADB representatives.



The Midterm Review Mission is conducted to assess the implementation of the LGRP and apprise the project implementers on the physical accomplishments, ongoing activities, financial performance, and the necessary catch-up plans. The review mission was attended by the BLGF Project Management Office (PMO), output team leaders and focal persons of the Project Management and Implementation Structure (PMIS), and ADB representatives

Read more: <https://bit.ly/3HStCLU>

BLGF DRUMS UP ACTIVITIES FOR THE SELECTION OF LGRP PILOT LGUS

MANILA CITY – The Bureau of Local Government Finance (BLGF) showcased the Asian Development Bank (ADB)-funded Local Governance Reform Project (LGRP) through a virtual roadshow participated by more than fifty-six (56) local government units (LGUs) out of the one hundred twelve (112) preliminary qualified target pilot LGUs for the Output 3 of the Project, last 08 November 2022, via Zoom. This is in efforts to enhance the real property taxation capabilities and practices of the selected partner LGUs. The selection criteria for identification of the pilot LGUs was approved thru a resolution issued by the LGRP's Interagency Governing Board (IGB) – operating as a high-level project steering committee by virtue of Administrative Order 40, series of 2021, dated 27 April 2021.



The roadshow featured the benefits, deliverables, and objectives of Output 3, and highlighted as well the deliverables of Output 2, which focused on the development of IT systems that is aligned with technology related initiatives, database and programs of the Department of Information Communications Technology (DICT), Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) and Land Reform Authority (LRA). The linking would enable LGUs to update their Schedule of Market Values (SMV), automate the real estate appraisal and assessment for taxation purposes, collection and billing system for real property taxes (RPT). It is expected that the merging of the efforts and deliverables from Outputs 2 and 3 would facilitate the operationalization of the LGRP's reforms on the ground, as the project's best practices, systems, and policies are cascaded nationwide, consistent with the whole-of-government approach pursuant to the Republic Act No. 11032 otherwise known as the Ease of Doing Business

Read more: <https://bit.ly/3I1xLEK>

WORKING TOGETHER TO FURTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENDA: 5TH INTERAGENCY GOVERNING BOARD MEETING HELD

Manila City – The 5th Interagency Governing Board (IGB) for the Local Governance Reform Project (LGRP) conducted on 18 November 2022 at the Department of Finance (DOF) Building, Manila, approved the adoption of the updated official representatives and alternate members to the IGB through IGB Resolution No. 004.2022, presented project implementation updates, and the detailed parameters and application procedures on the selection criteria for pilot local government units (LGUs) per the IGB Resolution No. 003.2022.

IGB Chairperson Secretary Benjamin E. Diokno, in an opening message, expressed gratitude to the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for extending immense support to the LGRP through its policy-based loan, and emphasized the critical role of the IGB in the project's implementation.



“The IGB plays a critical role in strengthening the local governance framework and ensuring the attainment of the project’s major outputs within its implementation timetable. As we make our way towards a full recovery from the pandemic and chart a clear path to long-term inclusive growth, our LGUs must rise to the challenge of ensuring greater availability of resources and access to quality public services”, Secretary Diokno said.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/3DyVQc5>

BLGF CONDUCTS FY2023 ANNUAL PLANNING WORKSHOP FOR LGRP

Manila – The Bureau of Local Government Finance (BLGF) Local Governance Reform Project (LGRP) Project Management Implementation Structure (PMIS), in collaboration with the LGRP Project Management Unit (PMU), conducted the Annual Planning Workshop, on 19 to 22 December 2022, at the Century Park Hotel, Manila, in a bid to revisit commitments and accomplishments, and develop sound and strategic actions for the timely implementation of the project.

In a keynote message, Department of Finance (DOF) Revenue Generation and Local Finance Group OIC Undersecretary Dakila Elteen Napao, assured the BLGF of the DOF's support in realizing the LGRP outputs to reform the administration and management of real property tax and boost the country's local government revenue mobilization efforts.



“Rest assured that the DOF will work together with you in the completion of this important project as we achieve the intended outcomes of a better, more facilitating policy and administrative environment for LGUs to institute reforms in real property valuation and assessment, and increase own-source revenue from real property tax”, Undersecretary Napao said.

BLGF OIC Executive Director Ma. Pamela P. Quizon, in a closing message, underscored the LGRP as the precursor to the Real Property Valuation Reform bill which was passed in the Lower House on 12 December 2022.

“And with this project comes the challenge to answer the call of the people for strengthened local governance through an enhanced real property valuation system in the country”, OIC Executive Director Quizon emphasized.

The LGRP PMIS and PMU are expected to deliver the key targets and commitments for FY2023 which include the (a) printing and publication of the updated manuals on Real Property Appraisal and Assessment Operations and Philippine Valuation Standards; (b) issuance of policies on Idle Land Tax and Socialized Housing; (c) contracting firms for the Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal (CAMA); (d) finalization and onboarding of the twenty (20) pilot LGUs; (e) conduct of Tax Impact Study and Tax Compliance Study, Diagnostic Study and Competency Mapping for the LGU assessors; (f) conduct of ladderized framework for the academic curricula for the real estate management course offerings, twinning program and partnerships with academic institutions; and (g) contracting and onboarding of the e-Learning firm.



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