



**LGRP**  
LOCAL GOVERNANCE REFORM PROJECT

# NEWSLETTER

## Q2 2023

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.

## CONTENTS

- 1 Keeping Track: LGRP's 11th Progress Report**
- 2 Tax Matters: BLGF's Training on Real Property Tax (RPT) Compliance and Tax Impact Study**
- 3 Finance Focus: DOF Secretary's Call for Sound Local Government Finance**
- 4 Enhancing Local Finance: BLGF's Strategic Planning for NCR LGUs**
- 5 In Focus: BLGF and ADB's Review Mission for LGRP**
- 6 Scaling Up Training: BLGF Gears Up with Experts in Real Property Assessment**

## Design Monitoring Framework Report

The total own-source LGU revenue for FY2022 rose by 35.26% increase or Php278.641 billion, from the FY2017 target of Php206 billion.



# Keeping track: LGRP's 11th Progress Report

In the 11th 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 23.97% Physical Accomplishment Rate representing a 4.74 % increase from the previous quarter. The progress is attributable to the various activities undertaken for Outputs 2 and 3, and the Project Management Administration.



### Output 2: Property tax valuation database and information systems implemented

The 2.43% increase is attributed to the successful completion of Memorandum of Agreements (MOAs) with twenty pilot local government units (LGUs), the Land Registration Authority (LRA), and the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR). These agreements focus on partnerships during the development of Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal (CAMA) with Geographic Information System (GIS) and Real Property Information Technology (RPIT) systems, as well as data sharing. Additionally, the issuance of the no objection letter (NOL) for Submission 1 of the CAMA with GIS procurement documents and the conduct of its pre-bid conference contributed to the increase. High-level meetings with officials from the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) and the Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) were also held to discuss and agree on matters related to the development of the mentioned IT systems.



### Output 3: Enhance the RPT administration for selected LGUs

Output 3 experienced a 0.78% increase, primarily influenced by the successful conduct of a Real Property Tax Compliance and Impact Studies (RPTCIS) workshop and three Tax Mapping workshops. Additionally, a draft of the policy on Digital Collection and Payments was collaboratively crafted with Output 1, contributing to the growth in Output 3.



### Project Management Administration

Project Management Activities (PMA) experienced a 0.69% increase, which can be attributed to the successful completion of various administrative and financial deliverables. These include the procurement and onboarding of two individual consultants for Output 1, the publication of three LGRP newsletters covering the 3rd and 4th quarters of 2022 and 1st quarter of 2023, and the completion and submission of the audited project financial statements (APFS) for FY2022.



# Tax Matters:

## BLGF's Training on Real Property Tax (RPT) Compliance and Tax Impact Study

The Bureau of Local Government Finance (BLGF) Component 3 Team of the Local Governance Reform Project (LGRP) organized a four-day Training on Real Property Tax (RPT) Compliance and Tax Impact Study from April 12 to 15, 2023. The training was attended by twenty-nine (29) key officials and personnel from BLGF Regional Offices' local assessment and treasury units across the country. The event took place at the View Park Hotel in Tagaytay City, Cavite.



BLGF OIC Executive Director, Ma. Pamela P. Quizon, stressed the training's significance in enhancing real property taxation and compliance in twenty (20) pilot local government units (LGUs). The training aimed to establish the baseline for property tax reforms in these LGUs and analyze its impact on the proposed Real Property Valuation and Assessment Reform (RPVAR) bill. The bill received approval from the Lower House of Representatives on December 12, 2022, and underwent the last leg of deliberation by the Senate Committee on Ways and Means' technical working group on April 13, 2023.



The RPVAR seeks to harmonize, streamline, and make property valuation fair and consistent by developing a single real property valuation base for taxation and baselining the values used by other government agencies.

Read more: <https://bit.ly/44kPOTl>

## Finance Focus:

# DOF Secretary's Call for Sound Local Government Finance

Secretary Benjamin E. Diokno led the ceremonial signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between academic partners, National Government Agencies (NGAs), and pilot local government units (LGUs) on May 11, 2023, at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) in Pasay City. This collaboration aims to advance Outputs 2 and 4 of the Local Governance Reform Project (LGRP).



The MOA formalized the partnership among the Bureau of Local Government Finance (BLGF), Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), and Land Registration Authority (LRA) as data-sharing institutions. Together, they will develop a Real Property Information System (RPIS) and Computer Aided Mass Appraisal (CAMA) with Geographic Information System (GIS), benefiting 21 prototype LGUs. This digital infrastructure will lead to fair and equitable taxation, promoting accountability and transparency in local governance.



Additionally, the agreement was formalized between BLGF, UP Open University (UPOU), Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP), and Local Government Academy (LGA) to strengthen capacity-building interventions for LGUs and professionalize local assessors. This includes offering certification and degree courses on real estate management, continuing professional development programs, international twinning and faculty development initiatives, and capacity development for the sustainability of LGRP implementation.



Read more: <https://bit.ly/44ywkz3>



# Enhancing Local Finance: BLGF's Strategic Planning for NCR LGUs

The Bureau of Local Government Finance (BLGF) conducted a highly successful strategic planning conference for local treasurers and assessors in the National Capital Region (NCR). The conference, held from May 31 to June 1, 2023, at Hotel Dominique in Tagaytay City, provided an invaluable platform for fostering collaboration and knowledge-sharing.



During the conference, BLGF's Officer-in-charge (OIC) Executive Director, Ricardo L. Bobis, Jr., emphasized the importance of collaboration and knowledge-sharing in driving progress in the NCR. The aim was to create a supportive environment that collectively overcomes challenges and enhances the quality of performance in treasury and assessment operations.

Acting Deputy Executive Director, Ma. Pamela P. Quizon, commended the active participation of NCR's local treasurers and assessors, contributing to the conference's success. The BLGF's commitment to collaboration and knowledge-sharing was evident throughout the event, providing valuable insights to participants for efficient resource management and good governance within NCR LGUs.

Read more: <https://bit.ly/3O3trzc>

# In Focus:

## BLGF and ADB's Review Mission for LGRP

The Bureau of Local Government Finance (BLGF) conducted a successful review mission in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) at the ADB Headquarters in Mandaluyong City on 08 June 2023. This mission brought together key representatives and members from the BLGF Project Management Office (PMO), output team leaders and focal persons of the Project Management and Implementation Structure (PMIS), the Department of Finance (DOF) International Finance Group (IFG) and Revenue Generation and Local Finance Group (RGLFG), and ADB, to assess the progress of Loan No. 3944 PHI: Local Governance Reform Project (LGRP).



Building on the momentum from the recent Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signings with key stakeholders and local government units (LGUs) in March and May 2023, Dr. Aekapol Chongvilaivan, the ADB South Asia Department Senior Economist for Public Finance, expressed enthusiasm for the LGRP's potential to foster productive discussions and address implementation issues. The meeting served as an opportunity to document the Philippine government's requests and address concerns regarding the project's advancement.

In the said meeting, the BLGF outlined the expansion plan for a capacity building program and the revised work plan for the IT implementation under Component 2 and provided substantial justification for the six-month extension of the project loan.

The review mission aims to assess the LGRP implementation and update project implementers on physical accomplishments, ongoing activities, financial performance, and catch-up plans.

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



# Scaling Up Training: BLGF Gears Up with Experts in Real Property Assessment

The Bureau of Local Government Finance (BLGF), in partnership with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) through the Local Governance Reform Project (LGRP), successfully conducted a Training-Workshop for Subject Matter Experts on Real Property Appraisal and Assessment on 13 to 16 June 2023 at the Hotel Kimberly in Tagaytay City.



In his opening message, BLGF Regional Office No. VII Regional Director Jessie B. Doctolero, underscored the BLGF's role in overseeing the administrative, technical supervision, and coordination of the local government units (LGUs) treasury and assessment operations.

"We are fully committed to equipping you with the tools you need to excel in your responsibilities. The goal of this training-workshop is to empower you to effectively contribute to the overall development of LGUs", Director Doctolero said.



Read more: <https://bit.ly/46ZsZeb>





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