

**LGRP**
LOCAL GOVERNANCE REFORM PROJECT

NEWSLETTER

Q3 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.

ISSUE NO. 06 | VOL 02 | OCTOBER 2023

In this Issue

- 1** Keeping Track: BLGF presents the LGRP 12th quarterly progress report to ADB
- 2** Towards Improved Gender Mainstreaming: BLGF and ADB conduct Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Strategic Planning Workshop
- 3** Finance Focus: DOF, BLGF 9th Meeting of the LGRP Project Steering Committee (PSC) strengthens collaboration and progress
- 4** Enhancing Property Valuation: BLGF's workshops on the Development of the Manual on Real Property Appraisal and Assessment (MRPAAO)
- 5** Policy Focus: Senate Bill No. 2386 Update: Real Property Valuation and Assessment
- 6** In Photos: Finance Secretary and BLGF Officials convene for a Command Conference

LGRP

accomplishment rate:

25.67%

with an increase of
1.70% from Q2 2023.



Keeping Track: BLGF presents the LGRP 12th Quarterly Progress Report to the ADB

The Bureau of Local Government Finance (BLGF) submitted to the Asian Development Bank (ADB) the 12th Quarterly Progress Report for LGRP which covers the project's implementation status from July 01 to September 30, 2023. Notable progress from this quarter is attributable to Outputs 3 and Project Management Activities, as follows:



Output 3: Real Property Taxation of Selected LGUs Enhanced (OP3)

5.97%



This is the result of an increased approved Schedule of Market Values (SMV) for pilot local government units (LGUs). Out of the 20 pilot LGUs, 10 have approved SMVs, with 8 already engaged in General Revision of Real Property Assessments. Two (2) LGUs are collecting real property taxes based on the new SMVs. The other 10 pilot LGUs are at various stages of SMV updates. The team aided three LGUs in data collection and conducted workshops on Tax Mapping for Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao clusters. Additionally, field validations supported six (6) pilot LGUs, and one pilot LGU received training on tax compliance review.



Project Management Activities (PMA)

1.77%



The progress in the PMA is attributed to the fulfillment of administrative and financial milestones, including the (1) publication of the LGRP newsletter on the BLGF website for the 2nd quarter of 2023; (2) consistently holding meetings with the Project Steering Committee (PSC), Interagency Governing Board (IGB), and Project teams; and (3) hosting of the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) planning workshop.

Towards Improved Gender Mainstreaming: BLGF and ADB conduct Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Strategic Planning Workshop

The Bureau of Local Government Finance (BLGF) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) conducted the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Sensitivity Training and Planning Workshop from 05 to 07 July 2023 at the Pontefino Hotel in Batangas City. The said event brought together the BLGF Central and Regional Gender and Development (GAD) focal persons to tackle gender disparities within the Local Governance Reform Project (LGRP), in support to advocating for gender mainstreaming and inclusivity.

The said workshop acknowledged the ADB's commitment to addressing vulnerability issues, empowering women and promoting equitable development in programs and government projects. It also emphasized the importance of GESI principles and its impact to fairness and social justice, as well as the need to establish a safe and inclusive environment by mainstreaming the policies of the Civil Service Commission (CSC) and the integration of GESI into local finance guidelines and BLGF programs.

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



Finance Focus: DOF, BLGF 9th Meeting of the LGRP Project Steering Committee (PSC) strengthens collaboration and progress

The Department of Finance (DOF) and Bureau of Local Government Finance (BLGF) 9th LGRP PSC convened on 05 July 2023 at the Pontefino Hotel, Batangas, to provide project updates, discuss important matters, and strengthen collaboration among key stakeholders involved in the Local Governance Reform Project (LGRP).



During the session, important agenda items were addressed, including the approval of agenda items for presentation to the Interagency Governing Board (IGB) and for the briefing of the IGB Chair Finance Secretary Benjamin E. Diokno. The board presented comprehensive updates on the project implementation, focusing on the physical accomplishment and financial performance of the Pilot LGUs. These updates served as valuable insights into the progress made in updating their Schedule of Market Values (SMV) and General Revision (GR). The discussions also covered the proposed budget realignment and project extension, to ensure effective resource allocation and project completion within the specified timeline.

Read more: <https://bit.ly/48H99oz>

Enhancing Property Valuation: BLGF's workshops on the Development of the Manual on Real Property Appraisal and Assessment (MRPAAO)

The Bureau of Local Government Finance (BLGF) Component 1 of the Local Governance Reform Project (LGRP) conducted two (2) workshops on the development of the Manual on Real Property Appraisal and Assessment Operations (MRPAAO) 2nd Edition in a bid to strengthen the institutional development and policy support for property valuation.



The MRPAAO 2nd edition, which is composed of four (4) books: Book I (Administration, Book II (Fundamentals of Appraisal and Assessment), Book III (Development of the Schedule of Fair Market Values (SFMV), and Book IV (Tax Mapping Operations), is a significant deliverable of the LGRP Component 1 as implemented by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to boost the domestic resource mobilization of LGUs through improved property tax revenue administration.

Policy Focus:

Senate Bill No. 2386 Update: Real Property Valuation and Assessment Reform

Pasay City -- Senator Sherwin Gatchalian, Chairperson of the Committee on Ways and Means, led the discussion on Senate Bill No. 2386, or the Real Property Valuation and Assessment Reform Bill during the Plenary Session Nos. 21 and 22 at the Senate of the Philippines on 12 and 13 September 2023. The proposed RPVAR bill recognizes the local government units' (LGUs) important role in the valuation process, empowering them to adjust assessment levels and tax rates and improve financial management through the legislation's goal of establishing a uniform standard in determining market values.



During the plenary sessions, Senator Gatchalian, the RPVAR bill sponsor, highlighted the need for a standardized framework by streamlining property appraisals and valuations. Interpellators, Senator Roberto Dela Rosa and Senator Risa Hontiveros raised concerns on the LGUs' stance and potential cost increases in home ownership, respectively. In response, Senator Gatchalian assured that fairness, accuracy, and local autonomy are observed while granting LGUs the flexibility to set property tax amounts and rates.



The discussion on Senate Bill No. 2386 underscores the Senate's commitment to address critical real property valuation challenges and enhance the fiscal capacity of LGUs for the ultimate benefit of their constituents. The bill envisions a harmonious balance between standardized property valuation and the autonomy of LGUs in tax assessment and administration.



Photo credits to the Senate of the Philippines Official Facebook Page

In Photos: Finance Secretary and BLGF Officials convene for a Command Conference

The Bureau of Local Government Finance (BLGF) Central and Regional Directors convene with Finance Secretary Benjamin E. Diokno at a Command Conference held on 29 September 2023 at the DOF Manila. The high-level meeting discussed the progress on the Local Governance Reform Project (LGRP) and major commitments and updates on the BLGF's strategic thrusts and programs.





LGRP
LOCAL GOVERNANCE REFORM PROJECT

**DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE**

8 EDPC Building Bangko Sentral ng
Pilipinas Complex
Roxas Boulevard cor. P. Ocampo St.,
1004 Manila

BLGF.GOV.PH | records@blgf.gov.ph

EDITORIAL TEAM AND CONTRIBUTORS

**BLGF LGRP Project Management
Office (PMO)**

Consolacion Q. Agcaoili
Executive Director

Ma. Pamela P. Quizon
Acting Deputy Executive Director
LGRP Project Director

BLGF Planning and IEC Team

LGRP PMIS Output 1 and 2 Teams

BLGF GAD Focal Point System Core Team