

LTO collects P1.1-B in online payments

MANILA—The Land Transportation Office (LTO), less than 10 months after the launch of an online payment system for car dealers, collected more than PHP1.117 billion from online payments alone.

Lawyer Clarence V. Guinto, LTO-National Capital Region West regional director, said the amount was collected as part of their compliance with Republic Act (RA) 11032, known as the Ease of Doing Business Act or the Anti-Red Tape Act of 2007.

"We thought of putting technology in the system and we started October 1, 2018, and we found out that as of June 30, 2019, we already collected through that online payment system an amount of more than PHP1.117 billion. So, we eliminated human intervention—car dealers, liaisons, representatives need not go to the LTO office anymore to register the motor vehicle," Guinto said in a phone interview.

The transportation official said the current web-based system which has reduced motor vehicle registration processing time

from seven days to three days is just the start of a comprehensive online payment system that they hope would eventually take over the majority of the LTO's annual PHP24 billion collection.

"LTO annually collects about PHP24 billion, and sabi ko nga (what I said before), PHP23 billion to go. Saan pa galing yung ibang collection (Where did other collections come from?) Number one, this is only implemented in NCR, hopefully in the very near future, this will be implemented nationwide," Guinto said.

Aside from collecting payments from car dealers, the LTO hopes to accommodate the rest of the driving public through an online payment system that would not only cater to those who want to register a motor vehicle or renew their license but would also collect payments for traffic violations.

"When you register your motor vehicle every year or when you renew your license, every five years yung sa ngayon (for now), prior to going to LTO office, you may pay now

through online. That's in the pipeline now. Or even when you are issued citation tickets, and then you admit the citation, the traffic violation, you just pay your fines through an online payment. That's still in the (future), forward-looking," Guinto said.

To mark the PHP1.117 billion milestone, the LTO is set to award supporters and partners who have contributed to the success of the program in a ceremony on August 15, 2019, in Quezon City.

LTO chief, Assistant Secretary Edgar C. Galvante said the LTO wishes to recognize the contributions of their partners in the project since their modernization efforts would not only ease the process of doing business but would decrease corruption as well.

"This technology-driven innovation in the payment collection system for new motor vehicle registration significantly reduced human intervention in the cash management system. This translates to decreased opportunities for corrupt practices in payment, and more efficient payment collec-

tion," Galvante said.

The online payment system currently used by the LTO is called the Landbank Electronic Payment Portal (LBP-ePP) which is being implemented in LTO NCR West and Regional Office 3 (Central Luzon).

The LTO NCR West complemented the LBP-ePP with an online assessment system called the LTO Electronic Payment Assessment Tool which automatically computes the exact amount due for a three-year registration of a motor vehicle.

The LBP-ePP online payment system was made possible through a memorandum of agreement (MOA) between the Landbank and the Bureau of Treasury (BTr) signed last December 1, 2017.

Another MOA was signed last August 17, 2018 between Galvante, then Landbank president Alex V. Buenaventura, and BTr Treasurer Rosalia V. de Leon for a nationwide implementation of an online payment system for transportation fees that would include all banks, payment centers, kiosks, among others. (PNA)

ongoing procurement programs for the PA include the acquisition program for 155 mm self-propelled artillery which can be used for territorial defense and other land-based weapons systems.

"Actually, the Revised Armed Forces Modernization is for all, not only for the Air Force and Navy, including the Army. We have different Horizons (which consists of three) so right now we are in the Second Horizon to procure equipment so it's ready, the President (Rodrigo Duterte) has allotted funds for the procurement of like modern equipment, like self-propelled artillery, this will be used in the ter-

ritorial defense, right now the Army is contemplating to buy one land-based system, we have already upgraded our air aviation, from (Army) Aviation Battalion, it will be upgraded to (Army) Aviation Regiment wherein our Army will have its own helicopters to support its ground forces," he added.

The Revised Armed Forces of the Philippines Modernization Program started in 2013 and will end in 2028.

The modernization program's First Horizon started in 2013 and ended in 2017 while the Second Horizon started in 2018 and will end in 2023. (PNA)

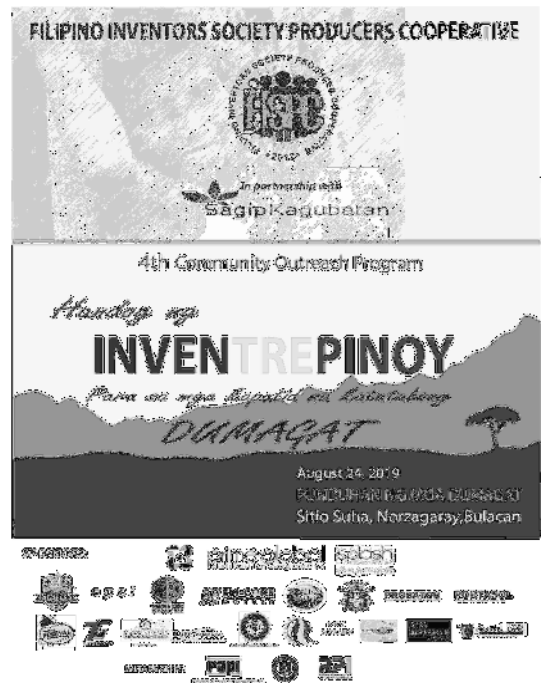
FISPC SPEARHEADS COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM

THE Filipino Inventors Society Producer Cooperative (FISPC) in partnership with SagipKagubatan, will jointly spearhead its 4th Community Outreach Program on Aug. 24 in Sitio Suha, Norzagaray, Bulacan.

This is part of the cooperative's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and with Dumagat tribe as beneficiary. There will be tree-planting, mass feeding, free haircut, parlor games, gift-giving and announcement of projects for the benefit of the Dumagats.

The event coincides with FISPC president Francisco "Popoy" Pagayon's birthday. He said that this social activity has been on its 4th year, since they began engaging in the program in 2015.

The four types of CSR are environmental sustainability initiatives, direct philanthropic giving, ethical business practices and economic respon-



sibility. Pagayon said their cooperative is fulfilling all four.

FISPC has been seeking donations in cash and in kind. So far, it has been accepting cash from the donors' deposit through PNB FISPC Current Account – 105210018068. It continues to appeal to kind-hearted individu-

als of basic necessities as donations.

CSR is a self-regulating business model that helps a company be socially accountable — to itself, its stakeholders, and the public. To date, hundreds have made pledges and will join the group as volunteers.

DepEd to change policy on buffer stock of learning materials

MANILA – The Department of Education is in the process of changing its policy on the buffer stock of learning materials in its central office warehouses.

This, after the Commission on Audit reported that the DepEd was able to deliver only 11.8 million out of the 38.5 million textbooks and instructional and learning materials, which were supposed to be distributed to public school students and teachers.

"This small portion is allotted in times of calamities, as replacement of old or worn-out books, and for newly established schools and increased enrolment, among others," the DepEd said in a statement.

The DepEd said buffer stock pertains to 7 percent of the completed development, printing, and delivery of learning materials for the projected enrolment of the school year.

It said a "large chunk" of the procured textbooks

are delivered to their warehouses while part of it is to be delivered directly to the school districts.

Following COA's recommendation, the DepEd said it would now maintain only 0.05 percent, not 2 percent, of the 7-percent buffer stock of learning materials in their warehouses.

It would also distribute the remaining 6.95 percent learning materials to all public schools.

On the correction of the errors in textbooks, the DepEd reported that the Bureau of Learning Resources has conducted three workshops involving academicians and DepEd validators to check comments and recommendations on learning resources and textbooks for Kindergarten to Grade 10 from certain regions.

"Validated findings, description of errors found, and recommendations on how to correct these will comprise the

"notes of teachers" that the Department shall issue through a memorandum to the regions," it said.

The DepEd added it seeks to expand its authority in view of Republic Act 8047, which mandates the writing and printing of textbooks with private publishers.

It also mandates DepEd to prepare the minimum learning competencies, and/or prototypes and other specifications for books and/or manuscripts called for; test, evaluate, select, and approve the manuscripts or books to be submitted by the publishers for multiple adoption.

"Even as the Department recognizes the policy of promoting competition in offering this exercise to the private sector, it also expresses concern that accountability is dispersed among different stakeholders," the DepEd said. (PNA)

Army to activate Aviation Regiment within this year

MANILA – The Philippine Army (PA) is set to activate its Aviation Regiment within this year as part of its modernization efforts.

"We'll be activating the regiment this year and we'll be equipping (it) gradually," Col. Romulo Manuel, Army chief of plans, said in an interview with reporters in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City Wednesday.

Manuel also said around four to eight helicopters will be acquired for the PA's Aviation Regiment and there are Army pilots undergoing training in civilian flight schools on how to operate these aircraft.

He added that that the multiple launch

rocket system (MLRS) acquired from South Korea will undergo its second visual inspection anytime soon.

"May pinag-usapan sa (there are talks on what to use as) transport system (for the MLRS)," Manuel said.

He said the South Korean-acquired MLRS, the "Kooryung," has a range of 48 kilometers to 80 kilometers and that it is composed of four batteries with one going to the Philippine Marine Corps.

A battery consists of six launcher tubes or artillery pieces. Manuel said the MLRS can be used for internal and territorial or external defense.

Aside from this, the Army official also said