

LANDBANK'S RICE TARIFFICATION LAW INITIATIVES TOTAL P7.48 B IN LOANS AND CASH GRANT RELEASES

Since the Rice Tariffication Law (RTL) or Republic Act No. 11203 was signed two years ago, LANDBANK, in partnership with the Department of Agriculture (DA), has disbursed as of end-March 2021 a total of P7.48 billion in loans and cash grants that benefited 961,560 rice farmers and 88 cooperatives.

"LANDBANK remains one with the Department of Agriculture and other government partners in providing intensified support to rice farmers nationwide as part of collective efforts under the Rice Tariffication Law. We remain committed in delivering accessible and responsive financial services toward revitalizing our local economy and ensuring food security," said LANDBANK President and CEO Cecilia C. Borrromeo.

LANDBANK administers financing support programs for the DA as part of the RTL implementation to help local rice farmers increase their productivity and income.

Programs in support of the RTL

Of the total disbursements, P1.01 billion in cumulative loans were extended to 6,000 rice farmers and 88 cooperatives through the Expanded Rice Credit Assistance under the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (ERCA-RCEF).

Available until 2024, LANDBANK will lend up to P500 million in credit assistance annually under ERCA-RCEF to rice farmers in 38 rice-producing provinces at affordable interest rates, with minimal documentary requirements.

The Bank has also released a total of P2.52 billion in loans to 165,963 small rice farmers through the Survival and Recovery Assistance (SURE Aid) Lending Program, which provides an immediate credit assistance of P15,000 with zero interest and no collateral to individual rice farmers tilling one hectare of land and below.

Meanwhile, under the DA's Rice Farmer Financial Assistance (RFFA) Program, a total of 253,478 farmers were provided cash assistance amounting to P1.27 billion. The RFFA is a P3-billion unconditional cash transfer program which aims to give P5,000 financial assistance each to rice farmers who are tilling 0.5 to 2 hectares of land.

LANDBANK also released a total of P2.68 billion in cash grants to 536,119 farmer-beneficiaries under the DA's Financial Subsidy to Rice Farmers (FSRF) Program. Through the FSRF, small rice farmers tilling one hectare or less who are not covered under the RFFA Program are provided P5,000 cash subsidy each to augment their production needs.

On February 14, 2019, President Rodrigo R. Duterte signed RA 11203 entitled, "An Act Liberalizing the Importation, Exportation, and Trading of Rice, Lifting for the Purpose the Quantitative Import Restriction on Rice, and for Other Purposes." The law provided a P10-billion annual support to rice farmers, and their cooperatives and associations to help increase their productivity and income.

In the Province of Bataan, the ERCA-RCEF was a timely boon for several rice farmers and cooperatives to support their production and increase income amidst the pandemic. Through the Program, these farmers received financial assistance for additional capital and to purchase farm equipment.



MR. DANILO P. ZULUETA is the chairman of Nagwaling Diwa Liyang Farmers Association in Pilar, Bataan. Under the ERCA-RCEF, he received loan assistance in a quick and timely manner with the Bank's streamlined loan application process. He was able to use it as additional capital for his rice production.

"Malaki ang naitulong ng puhunan na pinautang sa akin ng LANDBANK. Nakapagpatanim ako ng naayon sa bilang ng araw ng punla... at nakapagsabog ako ng abono sa tamang panahon. Kaya't dahil doon, nagkaroon ako ng isang masaganang ani at karagdagang kita."

MR. ELMER M. ISIDRO is also a member of Nagwaling Diwa Liyang Farmers Association in Pilar, Bataan. He received a loan under the Program which helped boost his productivity and improve his income.

"Dahil po dito (ERCA-RCEF), hindi ko na po kailangan humiram sa ibang mga lending, bangko, o kooperatiba... napakaliit po ng interes ng nahiram naming pera sa LANDBANK. Nagamit ko po ito bilang karagdagang kapital sa aking mga pangangailangan sa pagsasaka."



Meanwhile, **MR. ROBERTO R. MORALES** is a member of Sitio Bani Farmers Association in Balanga City, Bataan. He was also able to borrow from LANDBANK under ERCA-RCEF, which he used to acquire farm inputs such as fertilizers and allowed him to bring home increased income.

"Napakadali ng paghiram ko ng pera mula sa LANDBANK. Napakadali rin ng proseso. Kailangan lang namin mag-intay ng tatlong araw para ma-release ang loan."



VIRGINIA FARMS, INC. GROWS PORK PRODUCTION THROUGH LANDBANK



From a humble backyard venture that started in 1968, Cebu-based Virginia Farms Inc. (VFI) is now regarded as the oldest and largest integrated farm-to-pork business in Central Visayas.

With its 360-hectare farm in the town of Asturias and a pork retail chain with 51 outlets, VFI has been helping address the meat requirements in Luzon since last year when pork growers in the area have been largely affected by the African Swine Fever (ASF) outbreak. The company was able to ship a total of 10,760 hogs in 2020 and continues to ship frozen carcasses weekly to the region.

The growth of VFI, specifically in the last eight years, has been supported by LANDBANK through its Cebu North Lending Center, which financed the expansion of the company's business operations and the construction of modern facilities.

VFI President Rolando E. Tambago is optimistic that recent investments will allow the company to continue supplying Luzon with ASF-free pork.

"With the current situation of the pork industry, there's a good opportunity for us here in the Visayas to expand and meet the gap of pork supply in other areas. I hope

that LANDBANK will continue to support us in our plans to expand and grow our business further, as we envision to be a major supplier of quality pork in the Philippines," said Mr. Tambago.

In 2013, VFI first availed of a term loan from LANDBANK to finance the construction of piggery buildings in its site in Asturias. The loan was also used to purchase refrigeration equipment for its pork retail chain, The Pork Shop.

The company availed of another term loan from the Bank in 2014 to develop additional piggery houses and acquire boars and gilts to improve its genetic stock.

With its operations expanding rapidly and retail branches opening one after another, VFI again turned to LANDBANK in 2015 and in 2018 to finance the development of meat cutting and slaughterhouse facilities.

Established in 2016, the meat cutting facility can process up to 1,000 hogs daily. Meanwhile, the modern slaughterhouse, which was inaugurated in 2019, can accommodate up to 1,000 heads per day at a processing rate of 100 heads per hour.

VFI also availed of a short term loan from LANDBANK in 2020 as a working capital for the expansion of The Pork Shop. Since its inception in 2008, this retail business has grown significantly, with outlets now spread across Cebu, Iloilo, and Biliran.

"LANDBANK remains steadfast in supporting the agriculture sector, including the recovery of our local swine industry. We will continue to extend credit assistance to hog raisers as we contribute to ensuring food security in the country," said LANDBANK President and CEO Cecilia C. Borromeo.

MATANAO LGU INKS P200-M LANDBANK LOAN FOR RECOVERY PROJECTS

Recovery efforts of the 2nd class municipality of Matanao in Davao del Sur from the ongoing health crisis, as well as natural calamities such as frequent earthquakes that rock the region, will receive crucial financial support from LANDBANK as the Municipality signed six term loans totaling P200 million on March 15, 2021.

The Matanao local government unit (LGU) availed of the financial recovery package under the RISE UP LGUs (Restoration and Invigoration Package for a Self-sufficient Economy towards UPgrowth for LGUs) Lending Program, designed to provide the necessary funding requirements of provincial, city, and municipal LGUs to revive their local economy and recover from the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We continue to encourage our LGUs to utilize their borrowing capacity to bolster local healthcare services and economic recovery programs. The LANDBANK RISE UP LGUs Lending Program provides for responsive and accessible financing for these requirements," said LANDBANK President and CEO Cecilia C. Borromeo.

Part of the loan will be used by Matanao to bolster its healthcare services, which include maintenance of COVID-19 isolation and monitoring units, as well as temporary treatment facilities for residents suspected or have tested positive with the virus.

The loan will also replenish funds used by the LGU to procure food and medical supplies that are distributed to the poorest and most affected members of the community who are mostly engaged in rice farming and banana cultivation.

Under Republic Act No. 11494 or the "Bayanihan to Recover as One Act," loans availed by LGUs during this time for such purposes will receive an interest subsidy until December 31, 2022 or until the total P1-billion subsidy fund under the Act is fully utilized.

For his part, Matanao Mayor Vincent F. Fernandez said that the LGU will strive to keep Matanao as one of the most competitive municipalities in the Davao Region.

"We are very thankful to LANDBANK for immediately responding to the urgent request of the LGU for assistance. Thank you for a decade of partnership. We hope that through this financial package with concessional terms, we can recover faster, not only from the damages brought about by the recent quakes, but also from this pandemic," said Mayor Fernandez.

He added that one of the term loans will be used to reconstruct the Municipal Hall building—previously financed by the Bank in 2013—after it was severely damaged by earthquakes in 2019 and rendered unusable.

Another term loan will be used to acquire heavy equipment for the ongoing development of road networks and other infrastructure prospects within the Municipality that will pave the way for the enhanced mobility of people and goods.

Moreover, the loan package will also fund the construction of a public market building that will benefit small farmers and fishers, as well as micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

LANDBANK OPENS ACCOUNTS FOR 730,783 UNBANKED PHILSYS REGISTRANTS

LANDBANK has successfully opened transaction accounts for 730,783 unbanked Philippine Identification System (PhilSys) registrants nationwide as of April 18, 2021.

This forms part of LANDBANK's partnership with the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) to co-locate during the PhilSys Step Two registrations and provide unbanked registrants with their own transaction accounts. To date, a total of 1,860,790 unbanked registrants have already signed up for LANDBANK transaction accounts.

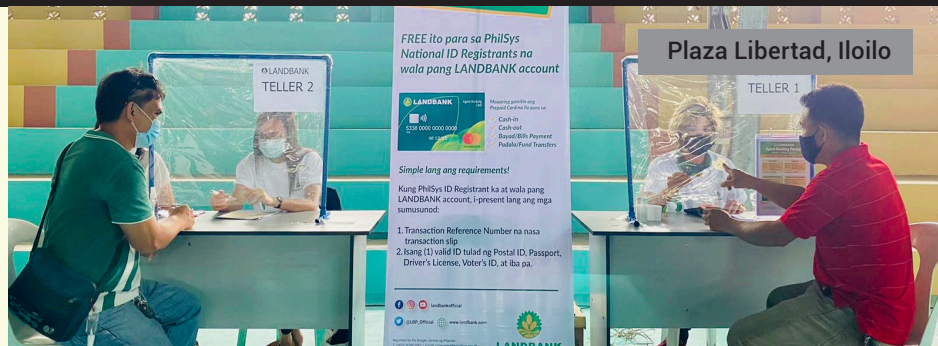
Upon the invitation of National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Secretary Karl Kendrick T. Chua to co-locate with the PSA, LANDBANK aims to bank all unbanked registrants applying for the National ID and provide them access to basic banking services and emergency government subsidies. Previously, PSA reported that 82% of the 10.52 million initial registrants do not have formal bank accounts.

"LANDBANK is one with the National Government's financial inclusion agenda. In partnership with the PSA, we are focused on opening accounts for as many unbanked PhilSys registrants as possible by the end of the year," said LANDBANK President and CEO Cecilia C. Borromeo.

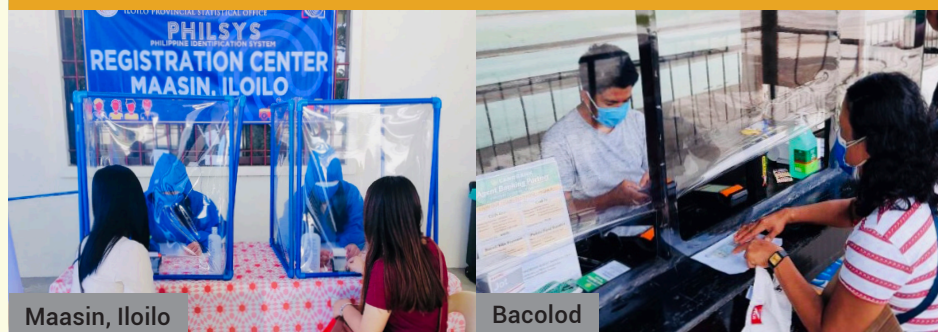
Unbanked PhilSys registrants can avail of LANDBANK transaction accounts once they have completed the second step of the registrations, which covers the validation of supporting documents and capturing of biometric information.

LANDBANK Agent Banking Cards (ABCs) are offered to unbanked PhilSys registrants free-of-charge through LANDBANK account opening booths at designated co-location areas.

Cardholders can use the LANDBANK ABCs to cash-in,



PhilSys registrants apply for LANDBANK transaction accounts



cash-out, and transfer funds at any LANDBANK Branch or Agent Banking Partner. They can also withdraw cash at Mastercard-accepting ATMs, perform cashless transactions, shop online, as well as receive government subsidy digitally.

Soon, the LANDBANK ABCs can also be used as contactless cards to pay fares in public transport modes under the Automatic Fare Collection System (AFCS) project of the Department of Transportation (DOTr).

LANDBANK is tapping personnel from its eight Branches Groups nationwide, as well as accredited cooperatives, associations, small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and private entities as Agent Banking Partners, to assist in the account application and Know-Your-Customer (KYC) requirements at the registration sites.

As of April 18, 2021, LANDBANK has co-located in 752 PhilSys Registration Centers in 10 regions, with additional centers in the pipeline as registrations continue to take place in 32 priority provinces nationwide.

ADVISORY

LANDBANK ADOPTS ACQUIRER-BASED ATM FEE CHARGING

LANDBANK has adopted the **Acquirer-Based ATM Fee Charging (ABFC) Model** in compliance with Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Memorandum No. M-2019-020.

Transactions made using your LANDBANK ATM Card at other banks' ATMs will be subject to the other banks' service charges.

Use of LANDBANK Card at LANDBANK ATM

Free-of-charge



Use of LANDBANK Card at other bank's ATM

Transaction fees set by other bank



Use of other bank's card at LANDBANK ATM

Withdrawal: Php 16.00
Balance Inquiry: Php 2.00



Cash withdrawal and balance inquiry made at LANDBANK using LANDBANK ATM cards shall continue to be free of charge.

UPDATE YOUR MOBILE NUMBER FOR MORE SECURE TRANSACTIONS



With the implementation of the **3D Secure** as an added security feature for the LANDBANK Visa Debit Card, a One-Time Password

(OTP) will be sent to users' registered mobile numbers before they can proceed with their desired online purchase or transactions (e.g., online shopping, food delivery, purchase of airline tickets).

To avoid delays in your online transactions, update your mobile numbers now through any of the following:



LANDBANK iAccess
Go to the Account Maintenance Menu



e-Mail your Branch of Account
Accomplish the Enrollment and Maintenance Agreement Form at <https://www.lbpiaaccess.com/login/infolink?i=7>



Proceed to your Branch of Account
Request to update mobile number

Read the step-by-step procedure at <https://www.landbank.com/advisory/update-your-registered-mobile-number-for-a-more-secure-transaction>

OFBANK IS OFFICIALLY FIRST DIGITAL-ONLY BANK IN PHL AFTER OBTAINING BSP BANKING LICENSE

By Department of Finance

The Overseas Filipino Bank (OFBank) has officially become the first branchless digital-only bank in the country's history after securing a digital banking license from the Monetary Board (MB) of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP).

A wholly owned subsidiary of the LANDBANK, the OFBank was able to commence its banking operations in June last year using its then existing license to operate as a thrift bank.

The MB issued the OFBank's digital banking license last March 25.

Finance Secretary Carlos G. Dominguez said, "This milestone in the country's banking history not only fulfills President Duterte's campaign pledge to create a bank that caters to overseas Filipinos, but will also help the Philippines leapfrog to the digital economy."

"When President Duterte said he would create a bank that would serve overseas-based Filipinos, he wanted a bank that would be a trailblazer in terms of modernizing and expanding the scope of the services it offers to them," Dominguez said.

"I commend the OFBank and the LANDBANK under its President and CEO Cecilia Borromeo for their tireless efforts that have led to the bank's transformation into the Philippines first branchless and digital-only banking institution," he added.

The OFBank was created under Executive Order (EO) No. 44 that was signed by President Duterte in September 2017.

To fulfill the EO's provision on the

"need to establish a policy bank dedicated to provide financial products and services tailored to the requirements of Overseas Filipinos (OFs)", the Philippine Postal Savings Bank (PPSB) was acquired by LANDBANK and converted into the OFBank.

On June 29 last year, the OFBank was launched virtually amid the COVID-19 pandemic as the Philippines' first branchless and digital-centric government bank.

While fine-tuning its operations, systems and processes to enable its official transition into a digital bank, the OFBank operated as a thrift bank.

In December 2020, the BSP issued Circular No. 1105 on The Guidelines on the Establishment of Digital Banks, clearing the way for the OFBank to apply for a license as a digital bank.

On January 20, 2021, the OFBank submitted a Letter of Intent to the Supervisory and Policy Research Department of the BSP signifying its interest to be a duly licensed Digital Bank and followed it up with an application last Feb. 1 for the conversion of its thrift bank license into a digital bank license.

The OFBank offers four digital products and services that includes a Digital Onboarding System with Artificial Intelligence (DOBSAI), which allows the real-time opening of a mobile banking deposit account on supported iPhone or Android devices.

As of December 2020, a total of 19,887 DOBSAI accounts in the OFBank have been opened with an

outstanding balance of P104.37 million.

Aside from deposit savings accounts, the OFBank's digital services also include fund transfers, bills payments and applications for multi-purpose loans.

The volume of OFBank's electronic banking inflows totaled 45,997 accounts as of December 2020 for transactions amounting to P467 million, with outflows from 62,633 accounts of P372.41 million.

A total of 3,517 transactions amounting to P40.72 million were done by OFBank clients for the Premyo Bonds second offering and 380 transactions valued at P8.27 million for the RTB-25 (Retail Treasury Bond-25) issuance that were all coursed through the Bank's mobile application.

The OFBank's global digital reach spans 112 countries, with its clients able to access online the services of 763 merchants onboarded in its mobile application via the LinkBiz.Portal.

These merchants include 124 utility and service companies, 186 educational institutions, 277 government agencies and local government units (LGUs), 140 cooperatives/associations/foundations/corporations, 20 hospitals/healthcare/clinics, and 16 banks, credit card companies and insurance companies.

The OFBank's approved conversion to digital bank is the first phase of the three-stage licensing framework of the BSP on the establishment of new digital banks.

LANDBANK STILL NO. 1 IN RESOLUTION RATE AMONG GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

For the third time in a row, LANDBANK was cited by the Contact Center ng Bayan (CCB) under the Civil Service Commission (CSC) with 100% resolution rate for all concerns from January to December 2020, ranking first among the top ten agencies.

The CCB serves as the government's primary help desk for citizens' inquiries and assistance for frontline service procedures. It ensures that actions on public feedback are in compliance with the number of days required under the Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act.

Source: <https://contactcenterngbayan.gov.ph/>

TOP 10 AGENCIES WITH HIGHEST RESOLUTION RATE* (JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2020)	
AGENCY	RATE
1. Land Bank of the Philippines	100.00%
2. Philippine Health Insurance Corporation	100.00%
3. Bureau of Internal Revenue	98.81%
4. Land Transportation Office	92.74%
5. Social Security System	92.03%
6. Local Water Utilities Administration	87.10%
7. Home Development Mutual Fund	85.92%
8. Bureau of Fire Protection	85.71%
9. Professional Regulation Commission	85.29%
10. Department of Public Works and Highways	84.44%
*Based on list of agencies with 25 or more referrals received	