

PUV fuel subsidy seen facilitated by lifting of ban on CPC transfer

THE Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) said the lifting of a ban on transferring Certificates of Public Convenience (CPCs) is expected to facilitate the distribution of public utility vehicle (PUV) fuel subsidies.

It said the ban, in force since 2016 to quash an emerging black market in CPCs, has hindered the registration of PUV workers for government fuel subsidies, and has also made registering for the PUV Modernization program more difficult.

In a statement on Thursday, the LTFRB said it lifted the “prohibition on the acceptance of applications for sale and transfer, whether voluntary or involuntary, of CPC,” via a memorandum circular that took effect on Monday.

Fuel subsidies came into force during the pandemic when PUV drivers could not ply their routes. They are also resorted to in lieu of fare hikes, which government economic managers consider inflationary.

CPCs are granted to a utility for the operation of land transportation services for public use.

Transport groups such as the Nagkakaisang Samahan ng mga Nangangasiwa ng Panlalawigang Bus sa Pilipinas, Inc. had requested a review of the 2016 ban.

The 2016 memo was designed to address trading of CPCs which the agency said was more profitable than operating the franchise itself.

The new memo retains safeguards against such transfers.

Only two transfers are allowed but may not take place within a year of the grant and a year prior to expiration.

It said CPCs subject to transfer must “cover all authorized units under the subject CPC, and no fractional transfer of CPC shall be allowed.”

According to the LTFRB, the resulting ease of PUV registration will improve access to the fuel subsidies and the PUV Modernization program.

Fuel subsidies have been denied to PUV owners that fail to transfer and register vehicles in their name while the transfer ban was in force.

“The LTFRB is very mindful of the situation, and that is why we took careful consideration in the issuance of this circular. We need to strike

a balance between allowing a legitimate CPC transfer and at the same time deter any form of abuse,” LTFRB Chairman Teofilo E. Guadiz III said.

The expanded ability to release subsidies is expected to help the government address underspending concerns, which have been blamed for slowing economic growth. — **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**



SEAN DO-UNSPASH

Game dev't industry touted as source of high-quality jobs

THE Board of Investments (BoI) said the game development industry is serving as a source of high-value jobs within the IT-BPM (Information Technology and Business Process Management) space.

“We recognize the notable contribution of the game development industry to the Philippine economy and quality employment of Filipinos,” BoI Executive Director Ma. Corazon Halili-Dichosa said in a statement.

In 2022, digital interactive goods and services, which includes game development and animation, generated over P325 billion or more than 20% of gross domestic product. Employment growth in the segment was 4.5%, with staffing at 388,828.

The BoI is currently promoting game development careers to young people as a viable source of employment.

“We hope to inspire and motivate young people to explore the opportunities available, pursue their dreams, and turn them into reality,” Ms. Halili-Dichosa said.

The BoI has said that one of its goals is to ensure a steady pool of trained game developers to reduce game companies’ training costs.

The BoI is part of a broader partnership with the Commission on Higher Education to strengthen the link between industry and academic institutions. One of the results is the National Skills Mapping and Survey on Human Resource Development Needs of the IT-BPM sector.

The BoI said the report underscored the need for workplace-ready talent in game development and validated plans for government intervention in student skills development. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**

JOB VACANCY

Company Name & Address:

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited
HSBC Centre, 3058 Fifth Avenue West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City, 1634 Philippines

Contact Details of Company:

raissacgarcia@hsbc.com.ph

Available Job Vacancy/Position:

Senior Vice President and Head of MSS Operations

Job Description:

We are currently seeking a high caliber professional to join our team as **Senior Vice President and Head of Markets and Securities Services Operations.**

The purpose of this role is to be in charge of overseeing all of MSS Operations activity for HBAP PH including Markets Operations and Securities Services. To protect the bank from potential losses. To minimize exposure to operational risk by ensuring sufficient controls are in place and enforced and emerging risks identified and mitigated. To ensure transactions are processed and settled completely, promptly and accurately within defined settlement limits, guidelines while maintaining a control conscious and regulatory and policy compliant environment.

In this role, you will:

- Safeguards the Bank from potential losses
- Contributes to the Bank's profitability by optimizing operations processes, driving cost efficiencies
- Proactively manage operational risk, including its identification, assessment, mitigation and control, loss identification and reporting
- To develop and maintain strong relationships with the HBAP Philippines Markets and Securities Services Team
- Work closely with Regional Heads of each Asset Classes and APAC Sites to develop, agree and implement key strategies and process improvements
- Contributes to staff development through proper guidance, coaching, counseling and training to the team
- Ensures full compliance with FIM, audit recommendations and relevant local Central Bank and SEC regulations, HSBC-covered regulations
- Manage the change agenda alongside the regional/global/local teams

Qualifications:

To be successful in this role, you will bring:

- Experience in leading and managing a securities services business or other relevant leadership experience.
- Experience in all aspects of Business management, including people development, client management, business planning, financials, marketing, and risk management
- Strong knowledge and awareness of Markets and Securities Services products.
- Collaborative approach to working in a matrix environment involving Sector, global product heads, global functions and local HSBC structures
- Strong stakeholder management experience at local and regional level
- Driver of growth and change
- Strategic and creative thinker
- Strong leadership qualities of decision making, authority and people motivator

Salary Range: PHP250,000 to PHP450,000

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- Must be 4 years college graduate in any related field
- Works well under pressure, self-motivated
- Good communication skills to interact with the customer
- Solid organizational skills including attention to detail and multi-tasking skills
- At least 3 to 5 years of experience in any related fields using computer as primary job tools
- Fluent in both Korean and English language

DELIGHTFOOD INC.

Address: Unit 239, Avida Cityflex Soho Building, 7th Avenue corner Lane T, Bonifacio Global City, Fort Bonifacio, City of Taguig
Email: paramountvisaofficer@gmail.com

JOB VACANCY

10 INDONESIAN PROGRAMMER OFFICER 5 INDONESIAN FINANCE OFFICER 10 INDONESIAN CUSTOMER SERVICE IT SUPPORT

- Must be 4 years bachelor degree
- Able to speak, write and read Indonesian and English language
- At least 3-5 years of experience in a related field using computers as the primary job tools

ALPHA PHILINDO SOLUTION INC.

Address: 2/F 134 Bldg., 134 Jupiter St., Bel-Air, Makati City,
Email: admin@alphaphilindo.com

JOB OPENING

Senior Contracts Lead

Duties and Responsibilities:

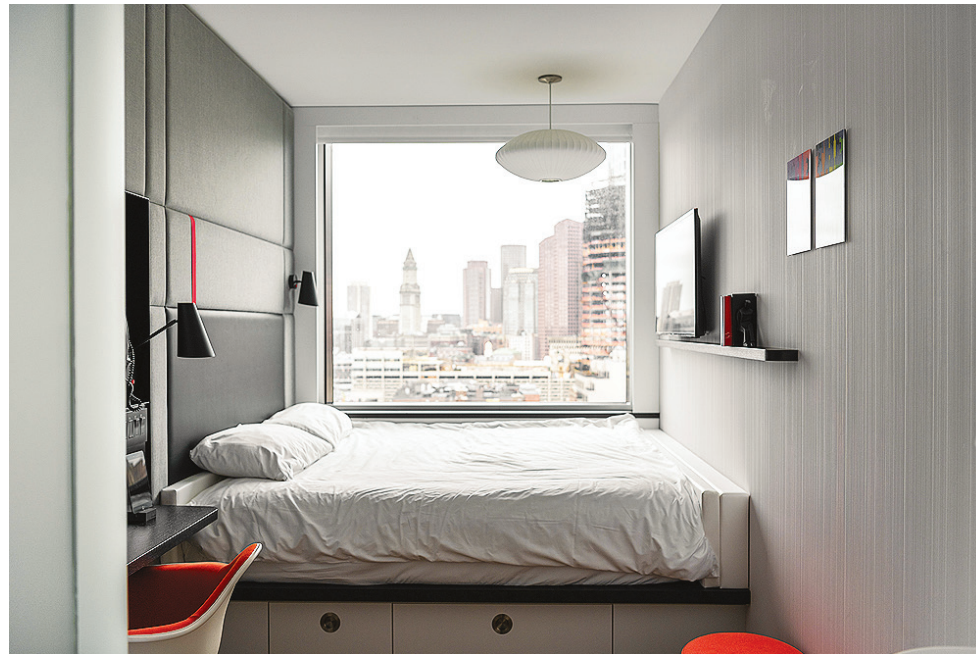
- Source, Tender or Negotiate, Evaluate, and Award Suppliers in close collaboration with the Project Team
- Apply the company process, procedures, and industry best and recommended practices in contracting and procurement while focusing on contribution to the business drivers and not compromising on compliance for Prime Energy's Policies on HSSE&SP, E&C, code of conduct, applicable local and international laws and regulations
- Design and improve with business partners the assigned supply chains, starting with quality project scope, the contracting strategy and commercial tactics, and post-award contract management
- Manage relationships across the end-to-end supply chain for the assigned categories and ensure that stakeholders understand the intent of the contract and work together to achieve the desired business outcomes within the timeframe as per Project schedule
- Determine the right remuneration/compensation model (e.g. output-based contract, Milestone payments Lumpsum, Schedule of rates or Norms) to encourage the right behaviors and expectations from suppliers to optimize the alignment of the supply chain and asset delivery.

Qualifications and Experience:

- Depth of experience and proven agile delivery in Upstream/Conventional Oil and Gas Projects & Wells contract tenders, negotiations, evaluation, award, and contract management is a must
- Having a strong network in the market and being fully aware of supplier and developments and opportunities to support project delivery is a must
- Able to influence stakeholders (Business, SC, Suppliers) to work together in an integrated way
- Able to Manage multiple workstreams at the same time
- Able to translate strategy to tangible and valuable outcomes for the project
- Ability to apply functional expertise with commercial acumen

PRIME ENERGY RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT B.V.

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ANDREA DAVIS-UNSPASH

Airbnb booking data show China interest in travel to PHL picking up

AIRBNB, a home-sharing service, said that the Philippines has become a top prospective destination for Chinese travelers, based on accommodation booking searches.

“Since the reopening of cross-border travel in China, Chinese travelers are increasingly expressing interest to visit a wider variety of destinations,” Airbnb said in a statement.

“The Philippines has recorded more than 10 times the increase in guest searches among Chinese travelers on Airbnb year on year,” it added.

The company was citing an analysis of internal data for 2022.

The Department of Tourism recorded 39,627 Chinese visitors last year, representing 1.49% of all arrivals in 2022. At that volume of travelers, China was a top 10 market for the Philippines.

Airbnb said that domestic travel by Filipinos as measured in bookings data is currently double the 2020 level.

“Domestic tourism has proved to be resilient in times of crisis and an option of a more immediate and positive economic impact to local economies. A weekend trip to a destination near home is not only easier to plan, but also much more affordable,” according to Amanpreet Bajaj, general manager for Southeast Asia at Airbnb.

Mr. Bajaj said a diverse array of travel destinations is cheaper for travelers and supports more local economies than a concentration of visitors in the most popular destinations.

“Airbnb is helping disperse guests, income and tourism benefits beyond the usual hotspots to new and trending destinations. We see the challenges posed by mass tourism around the world, and are investing in solutions to help, while helping guests discover new communities and generating new income streams for locals,” he added. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**

Ninja Van to build Laguna warehouse to serve SME clients

LOGISTICS company Ninja Van Philippines said it will build a 3,700-square meter warehouse in Laguna to service its small and medium enterprise (SME) clientele.

In a statement, the company seeks to provide warehousing solutions in support of SMEs who may also not have the staffing or capacity to effectively carry out order fulfillment.

“For many businesses, fulfillment and warehousing may still be costly or too time-consuming,” Ninja Van Country Head Vin Perez said in a statement.

Asked to comment further, the company said the expansion is part of a \$50-million group-wide investment program running until 2024.

The new facility can store 2,400 pallets and an order processing capacity of 15,000 a day. The facility will also offer fulfillment services which include standard inbound, storage, outbound, and return processes and warehouse management solutions.

“Going beyond last-mile delivery, Ninja Van looks to become a total supply chain solutions provider to help shippers grow and thrive,” it said.

Group-wide, Ninja Van operates in Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam, and Thailand. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**



RAMPANEL.COM

PHL IP filings down 5.5% in first half

THE Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPHL) said intellectual property (IP) filings declined 5.5% year on year in the first half, led by the trademarks segment.

Filings for trademarks in the six months declined 8% year on year to 18,599, with residents accounting for 12,206 or 65.6% of the applications.

Pharmaceutical, health and cosmetic products accounted for 18.7% of trademark filings, followed by agricultural products and services (17.9%), and scientific research, information and communication technology (13.5%).

IPOPHL said that the lower trademark filings reflected the economy's slower growth during the period.

“Historically, trademark filing activities have been more active in the second semester so we continue to monitor the trend to see if a reversal is still possible,” Mr. Barba added.

Patent applications rose 9% year on year to 2,134. Non-residents accounted for 1,916 applications or 90%.

Pharmaceuticals accounted for 24.47% of patent applications, followed by organic fine chemistry and digital communications with 10.58% and 7.89%, respectively.

Filings for Utility Models (UMs) grew 27.7% in the six months to 835 applications, with residents accounting for 96%.

Top sources of UM filings were the food chemistry (55.6%), basic materials chemistry (8.9%), and pharmaceuticals (5.6%) industries.

Applications to register Industrial Designs (IDs) rose 17.6% to 635 filings in the first half, with residents accounting for 53.1%.

The transport or hoisting industry topped ID applications with 15.4%, followed by furnishing (11.1%) and packaging and containers for

the transport or handling of goods (10.8%).

Copyright registrations rose 64.5% year on year to 2,833 filings. Books, pamphlets, articles, e-books, audio books, comics, novels and other writings accounted for 60.4% of applications, followed by computer programs, software, games and apps (10.6%); and musical compositions (8.8%).

“For the rest of 2023, IPOPHL will continue to vigorously promote IP protection more than ever. Tempered business activity should not translate to decreased IP protection,” Deputy Director General Ann Claire C. Cabochan said.

“We thus reiterate the long-term opportunities of strongly protected IP and remind the business community of the irreversible consequences they face when they fail to protect their prized IP assets,” she added. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**