

ARTA and agencies to facilitate efficient logistics services amidst crisis thru NEHEMIA Program for logistics sector

20 October 2020 – The Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA), along with the Office of the Cabinet Secretariat, Department of Transportation, Land Transportation Franchising Regulatory Board, Department of the Interior and Local Government, and the Department of Trade and Industry, launch the National Effort for Harmonization of Efficient Measures of Inter-related Agencies (NEHEMIA) Program for the logistics sector this afternoon.

The logistics sector is one of the five priority sectors identified by the Lead Builder Agencies of the program during its strategic planning in 2019, the other four being the telecommunications, housing, food/pharmaceutical and energy sector. The agencies had since identified the country's restrictive and incoherent regulatory framework when it comes to logistics as one factor behind the poor performance and low international competitiveness of the Philippine logistics sector.

At this time of crisis, more than ever, ARTA and the other lead builder agencies determined it urgent to launch the NEHEMIA Program to the logistics sector in order to facilitate efficient logistics services around the country. Through NEHEMIA, the involved agencies will aim to reduce the procedures, requirements, and processing times of logistics services to enable unhampered delivery of goods.

Among others, they will remove overregulation and redundant requirements to come up with a streamlined process. As opposed to the previous process in which stickers are being required for the goods to be transported through local government units and other checkpoints, a QR code similar to the rapid pass technology will instead be used

“We recognize that we have always been in dire need of a much made-efficient logistics services and the ongoing pandemic has simply highlighted this requirement. Now more than ever comes the need to eliminate undue regulations in the logistics sector in order to meet the heightened demand for goods at this time of crisis”, Director General Belgica said.

The NEHEMIA for the telco sector was completed in July of this year and was able to cut down the processing time for building telecommunication towers from nine months to just 16 days whereas that for the housing sector was launched just yesterday.

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