

PROFESSIONAL REGULATION COMMISSION



2019 ANNUAL REPORT

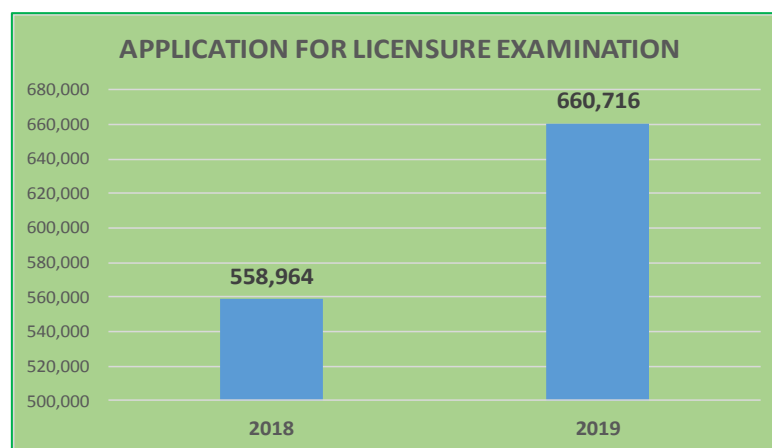
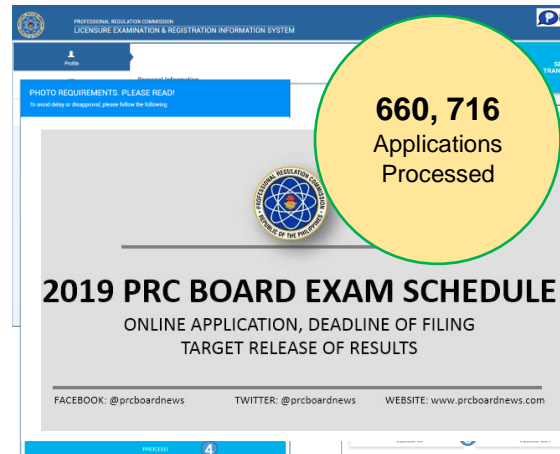
March 2020
P. Paredes St., Sampaloc, Manila
Philippines 1008

I. LICENSURE EXAMINATION SERVICES

LICENSURE APPLICATIONS

The Professional Regulation Commission (Commission) as a regulatory agency mandated to conduct and administer licensure examinations to aspiring professionals, and to regulate and supervise the practice of the professions in partnership with the Professional Regulatory Boards (PRBs), continuously performs its functions with integrity, professionalism and excellence.

In 2019, the Commission processed and issued a total of six hundred sixty thousand seven hundred sixteen (660, 716) applications for licensure examination, including applications without examination, which is 18.20% higher than the previous year.



One hundred percent (100%) of these applications were acted upon within two (2) days from filing by the end of December 2019, except those that require actions from the PRBs.

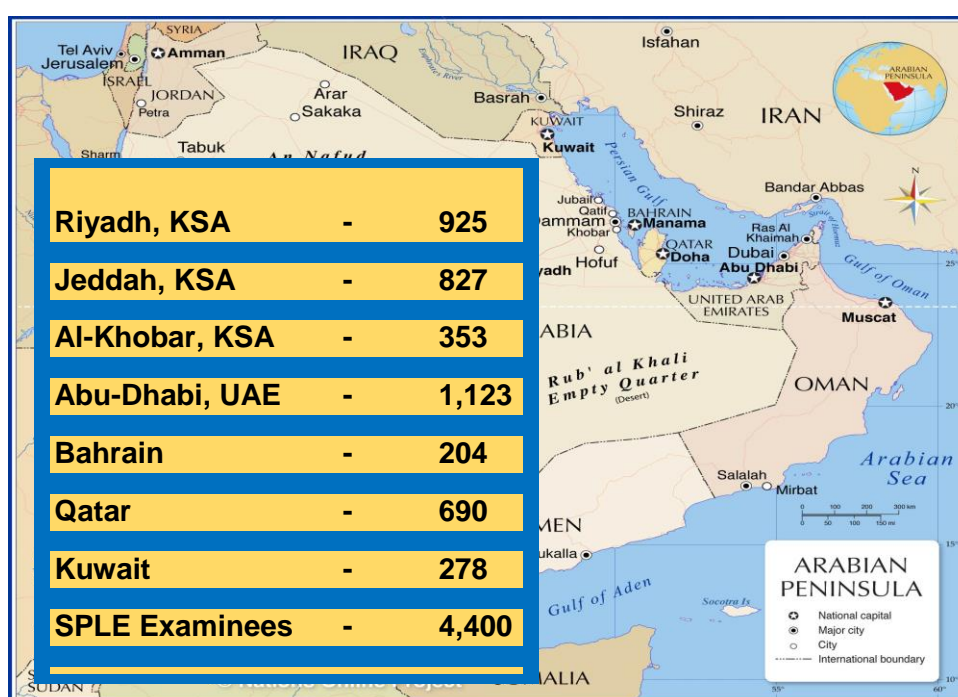
LICENSURE EXAMINATIONS

Eighty-four (84) item analyses with test consultants and one hundred seventy-eight (178) peer reviews were conducted by the PRBs to ensure quality, relevance, and acceptability of the test items.

Within the year, a total of eighty-four (84) Board Licensure Examinations were conducted and administered in various testing centers in Metro Manila, all PRC ROs, and other various testing centers in selected provinces with a total of six hundred fifty-five thousand two hundred eighty-nine (655, 289) examinees tested.

SPECIAL PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE EXAMINATION (SPLE)

Recognizing the important role of professionals in the nation-building, and in compliance with Executive Order (EO) No. 835, dated October 6, 2009, directing the Commission and other concerned government agencies through the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), conducted the yearly SPLE for qualified Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs). The Commission conducted SPLE in seven (7) different cities/countries in the Middle East with a total of four thousand four hundred (4,400) examinees to twenty-three (23) professions. Moreover, the Licensure Examinations for Professional Teachers were held in Bangkok, Thailand and Hong Kong in September 2019, simultaneous with the local conduct, with three hundred forty-five (345) and four hundred sixty (460) examinees, respectively.



TWENTY- THREE (23) BOARD LICENSURE EXAMINATIONS IN 2019 SPLE

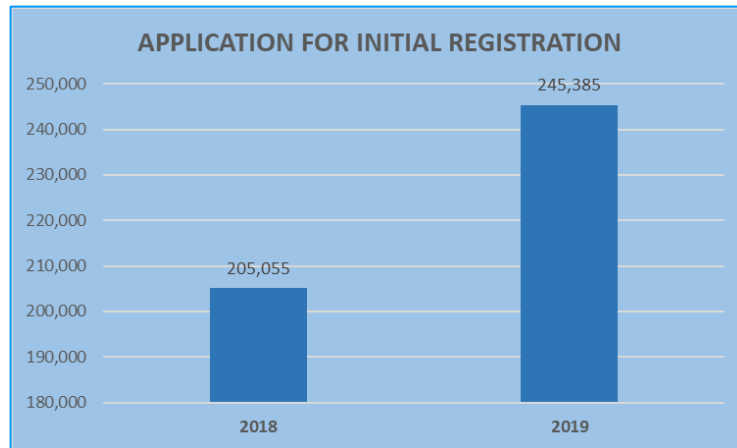
Accountancy, Architecture, Certified Plant Mechanic, Chemical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Dentistry, Electronics Engineering, Electronics Technology, Environmental Planning, Geodetic Engineering, Master Plumber, Mechanical Engineering, Midwifery, Nursing, Physical Therapy, Professional Teachers, Psychometrician, Radiologic Technology, Registered Electrical Engineering, Registered Master Electrician, Respiratory Therapy, Veterinary Medicine, X-ray Technology

In line with the Commission/PRBs Laws, Regulations, Policies and Procedures' continued impact assessment, the Commission issued resolutions on the Revised Criteria in the Selection of Personnel to compose the PRC Examination Team Deployed for Overseas SPLE, Prescribing the Examination fees for the 2019 SPLE, and Establishing the Timetable of Activities for the Conduct of SPLE for OFWs in the Middle East for 2019.

II. REGULATION SERVICES

INITIAL REGISTRATION

For FY 2019, the Commission processed and issued a total of two hundred forty-five thousand three hundred eighty-five (245,385) registration of new professionals, which is 19.67% higher than the previous year.



RENEWALS OF PROFESSIONAL IDENTIFICATION CARDS (PICs)

A total of six hundred thirty thousand eight hundred forty-seven (630,847) renewals of PICs by various professionals have been processed in FY 2019, which is relatively higher than FY 2018 with a total of four hundred thirty-seven thousand one hundred seventy-eight (437, 178). The number indicates an increase of 44.30% from the last year's accomplishment.

CERTIFICATION, AUTHENTICATION AND STATEBOARD VERIFICATION

A total of seven hundred fifty-five thousand nine hundred sixty-seven (755,967) certification and one million two hundred twenty-five thousand fifty-five (1,225,055) authentication requests were acted upon and processed, while forty-five thousand three hundred twelve (45,312) stateboard verification applications were processed and verified in FY 2019. Further, the Commission has started to implement the Online Certification System for online application of certifications (Board Rating and Passing).

PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY LAWS (PRLs) – MANDATED INSPECTION

To ensure the quality, safety and effectiveness of the workplace of the professionals, the Commission, through the Accreditation and Compliance Division and Regional Offices, assisted the PRBs to monitor and conduct inspection of three hundred thirteen (313) Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and seven hundred thirty-four (734) Firms and Establishments in Metro Manila and various provinces, for a total of one thousand forty-seven (1,047) inspections nationwide. The table below shows the number of inspections conducted by PRBs.

PROFESSION	TOTAL	PROFESSION	TOTAL
ACCOUNTANCY	63	LIBRARIAN	24
AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERING	4	MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY	33
AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING	7	MEDICINE	9
ARCHITECTURE	3	METALLURGICAL ENGINEERING	4
CHEMICAL ENGINEERING	17	MIDWIFERY	108
CHEMISTRY	209	NURSING	34
CIVIL ENGINEERING	8	OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY	31
CRIMINOLOGY	45	OPTOMETRY	69
CUSTOMS BROKERS	20	PHARMACY	15
DENTISTRY	43	PHYSICAL THERAPY	13
ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING	13	PROFESSIONAL TEACHERS	6
FISHERIES	8	PSYCHOLOGY	17
FORESTRY	6	RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY	49
GEODETIC ENGINEERING	5	REAL ESATE SERVICE	41
GEOLOGY	6	RESPIRATORY THERAPY	32
GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING	2	SOCIAL WORKERS	15
INTERIOR DESIGN	17	VETERINARY MEDICINE	51
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	20		
TOTAL = 1,047			

The PRBs likewise issued one hundred one (101) Certificates of Compliance to Electrical Engineering and Mechanical Engineering, two thousand three hundred twenty-nine (2,329) Certificates of Accreditation to Accountancy, Pharmacy and Real Estate, and ninety-six (96) chemical laboratories were issued authorities to operate.

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD)

In compliance to the implementation of R.A. No. 10912, also known as the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Act of 2016, the Commission, in coordination with various stakeholders, issued PRC Resolution No. 1146-2019 entitled “Amending Relevant Provisions of Resolution No. 1032 (s.2017) Otherwise Known as the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 10912, known as the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Act of 2016.” The resolution provided amendments to the IRR, especially for a transition period to enable the stakeholders to complete antecedent requirements for the effective implementation of the law. In view of the resolution, thirty-two (32) PRBs are able to issue their Operational Guidelines, which

feat has been made possible given the additional nine (9) staff hired who are tasked to extend support to the CPD Council members and resources necessary to facilitate CPD programs anchored at efficiently implementing the CPD Act.

CPD Operational Guidelines	
1. Agriculture	17. Occupational Therapy
2. Metallurgical Engineering	18. Architecture
3. Civil Engineering	19. Professional Teachers
4. Physical Therapy	20. Social Workers
5. Fisheries	21. Accountancy
6. Dentistry	22. Aeronautical Engineering
7. Medical Technology	23. Chemical Engineering
8. Master Plumber	24. Guidance & Counselling
9. Librarian	25. Customs Brokers
10. Foresters	26. Interior Design
11. Electronic Engineering	27. Landscape Architecture
12. Agriculture & Biosystems Engineering	28. Criminology
13. Nursing	29. Pharmacy
14. Radiologic Technology	30. Geology
15. Midwifery	31. Veterinary Medicine
16. Chemistry	32. Environmental Planning

In addition, the CPD Councils of various professions accredited four hundred thirty-nine (439) CPD Providers, nineteen thousand seven hundred eighty-six (19,786) accredited CPD Programs, three thousand eight hundred seventy-six (3,876) Self-Directed Learning Activities and one million forty-nine thousand four hundred fifty-three (1,049,453) professionals attended the accredited CPD Programs.

For FY 2019, the Commission also issued Guidelines to comply with the provisions of the Resolution, namely: Accreditation of Informal Learning and Professional Work Experience; Accreditation of Online Training Program; Determination of CPD Providers' Seminar/Registration Fees; Self-Directed Learning Creditable Activities; and the Grant of Honoraria for the CPD Councils or their Alternates, CPD Evaluators, and Monitors.

RESOLUTION OF CASES

The Commission and the Boards investigate, hear, and decide cases in the exercise of their quasi-judicial powers under the law. In August 2019, the Commission embarked on a Case Decongestion Project (CDP) in order to facilitate the hiring of additional hearing officers and to streamline the agency's case disposition process. A total of seven hundred fifteen (715) cases were closed/terminated that year: three hundred twenty-one (321) from January to July 2019 and three hundred ninety-four (394) from August to December 2019.

January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
25	34	46	88	14	28	86	91	79	78	69	77

The average case disposal rate prior to the CDP implementation is only at 45.86%. The average disposal rate surged to 78.8% from August until December 2019. This accounts for a 71.82% increase in the number of cases resolved since the implementation of the CDP.

On the area of special investigation:

Particulars	Investigation Completed/Terminated
In Re: Examinees	68
In Re: Employees	3
In Re: Professionals	4
Special Investigation Committee (SIC)	8

A total of thirty (30) cases were decided on appeal in 2018 and fifty-one (51) in 2019.

Year	Newly-Docketed	Decided
2018	32	30
2019	8	51

III. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS SERVICES

MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS (MRPQ) / MUTUAL RECOGNITION AGREEMENTS

The MRPQ and MRA aim to promote the mobility of professionals among ASEAN member-states. In FY 2019, the PRB of Respiratory Therapy was added among the twelve (12) professions that reached Phase 4 in MRPQ, making it a total of thirteen (13) professions. The table below shows the status of the professions identified from 2015 to 2017 with MRPQ progress.

STATUS OF PROFESSIONS AS OF DECEMBER 2019				
PROFESSIONS	PHASE 1	PHASE 2	PHASE 3	PHASE 4
2015 TARGET PROFESSIONS				
Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy				
Veterinary Medicine				
Environmental Planning				
Psychology				
Real Estate Service				
Professional Teachers				
Landscape Architecture				
Interior Design				
Nutrition and Dietetics				
Librarians				
2016 TARGET PROFESSIONS				
Agriculture				
Criminology				
Optometry				
Customs Brokers				
Medical Technology				
Pharmacy				
Respiratory Therapy				
2017 TARGET PROFESSIONS				
Chemistry				
Master Plumbers				
Geology				
Fishery				
Forestry				
Social Workers				
Radiologic Technology				
Guidance and Counseling				
Midwifery				

PHASE1: Research Phase

PHASE2: Consultation with Stakeholders

PHASE3: Meeting with Foreign Counterparts

The MRPQ and MRA facilitated the registration of two hundred sixteen (216) Filipino Engineers as ASEAN Chartered Professional Engineers (ACPE), eleven (11) ASEAN Architects (AA), thirty-four (34) ASEAN Chartered Professional Accountants (ASEAN CPA), and forty-eight (48) APEC Engineers.

Further, the Commission worked together with the Health and Business Service Sectors of the 94th ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Services (CCS) for its related meetings held on October 21-25, 2019 in the country.

SPECIAL TEMPORARY PERMIT (STP)

Seven hundred eighty-two (782) applications for STPs were issued to foreign professionals who desired to practice their professions in the country, subject to applicable laws, reciprocity and other international agreements. With complete documentary requirements, the applications were facilitated, processed and issued.

PHILIPPINE QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK (PQF)

The PQF is a national policy that describes the levels of educational qualifications, and sets the corresponding standards for qualification outcomes. It addresses job mismatch as it ensures the alignment of educational outcomes to job requirements.

In line with this framework, the Commission, through the International Affairs Office (IAO), provided administrative and technical assistance on the review of the Career Progression and Specialization and Credit Accumulation and Transfer System (CPS-CATS).

Various meetings and other related activities for various international agreements/cooperation have been participated-in and/or conducted by the Commission.

IV. INSTITUTIONAL PROGRAMS

CONTINUING REGULATORY IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF PRC/ PRB LAWS, REGULATIONS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

To assess the adequacy of the existing laws, regulations policies, and procedures regarding the enactment of various laws and executive issuances affecting the licensure and practice of professions, and to ensure that the same remain relevant and responsive to the needs of time, impact assessments of existing rules, regulations, and policies were undertaken.

The Commission along with the PRBs continued to undertake review and regulatory impact assessment exercises that produced the following procedural issuances, policies and guidelines:

- Supplemental Guidelines on the Conduct of the Oath Taking of New Professionals Overseas.
- Guidelines in the Determination of the Parties/Entities which may Organize Mass Oath Taking Ceremonies of the New Professionals
- Supplemental Guidelines on the Conduct of the Special/Individual Oath Taking of New Professionals
- Guidelines on the Conduct of Special Investigation Committee (SIC) Investigation
- Revised Guidelines on Transmittal and Action of “For the Board” (FTB) Application, Documents from the Regional Offices
- Guidelines on the Use of Electronic Signature of the PRBs on Certificates of Registration and Report of Rating
- Revised Guidelines on the Suspension or Cancellation of Licensure Examination During Inclement Weather and Other Unexpected Disasters
- Guidelines on the Tagging and Untagging of Professionals with Administrative Case
- Non-Acceptance of Request to Transfer Testing Center/Venue After Enrollment in the Online Application System
- Prescribing the Internal Guidelines for the Implementation of Republic Act No. 11261, or the First Time Jobseekers Assistance Act, and Its Implementing Rules and Regulations
- Guidelines in the Reporting and Consolidation of Accomplishment Reports in the Delivery of PRC Services
- Guidelines in the Submission of a Certified and Notarized List of Graduates by Higher Educational Institutions
- Guidelines on the Review of Orders, Resolutions, and Decisions in Administrative Cases filed at the Regional Offices

Meanwhile, the “Speech Language Pathology Act” or Republic Act (R.A.) No. 11249, “Philippine Fisheries Profession Act” or R.A. No. 11398, and “Philippine Occupational Therapy Law of 2018” or R.A. No. 11241 were enacted.

Various policies, IRRs and Codes of Ethics are ongoing review.

IMPROVEMENT ON THE COMPUTERIZATION OF PRC PROCESSES AND DEVELOPMENT OF DATABASE

The 2021-2023 Information Systems Strategic Plan (ISSP) of Commission is on the final stage of review by the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT). The Commission has made continuous developments with regard to technology and technological efforts for the enhancement of its e-services.

The systems comprising the Licensure Examination and Registration Information System (LERIS), which is an in-house development system, have been deployed and implemented in PRC Offices and Service Centers, as follows:

- Electronic Payment and Collection System
- Online Payment System
- Online Appointment System
- Online Registration System
- Online Identification (ID) Renewal System
- Continuing Professional Development Accreditation System
- Cash Management System
- Attendance Monitoring System
- Test Questions Databank System

Moreover, to help reduce the process cycle time and procedural steps of the Commission’s key frontline transactions, additional eServices have also been deployed and implemented, namely:

- Online Application for ID Replacement (Duplicate ID),
- Online Certification System,
- Electronic Room Assignment and Seat Plan
- Legal Management Information System (LMIS).

To continuously provide the clients with maximum convenience, efficiency and quality services, the Commission partnered with PayMaya, in addition to the other existing payment channels. The transacting public can now make their payments for online transactions through PayMaya Mastercard, VISA, JCB (Debit/Credit Cards) and PayMaya accounts.

New systems such as Interactive Archival Storage and Retrieval of Records System and Network Infrastructure Rehabilitation is now being developed by the Information and

Technology Service (ICTS) to provide an easier access to documents, files and records, and to provide internet connectivity in the processing of online transactions.

REORGANIZATION

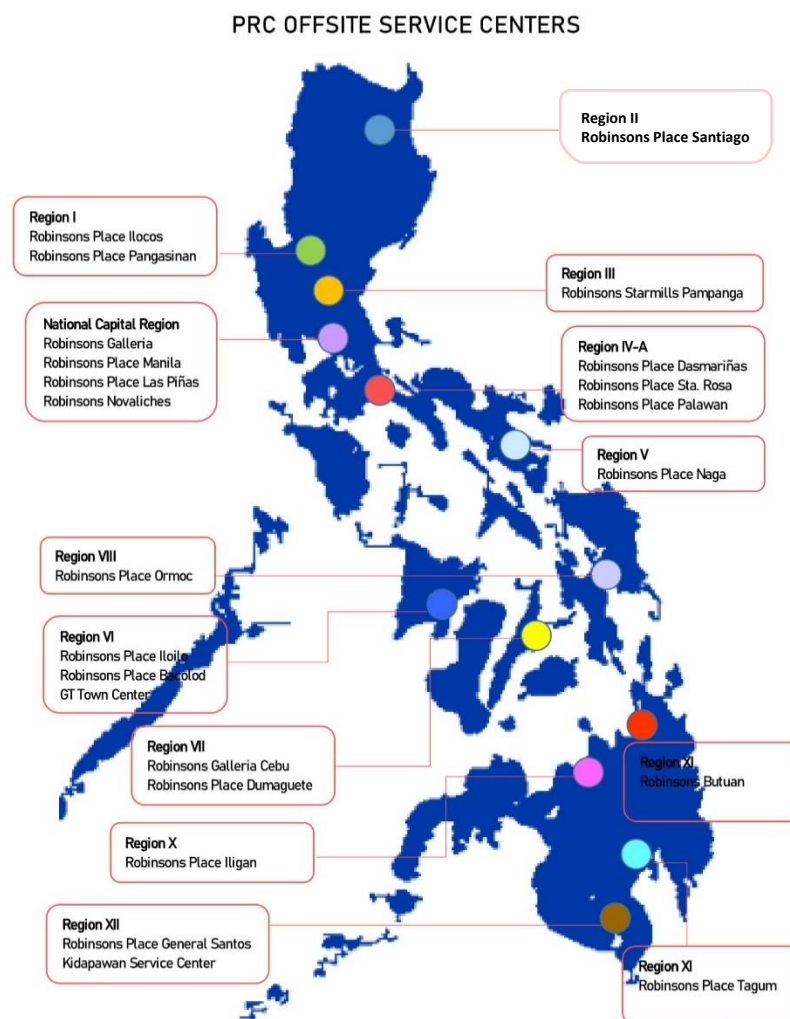
The approved organizational structure and staffing pattern (OSSP) of the Commission has been implemented continuously. Out of the original one thousand seventy-six (1,076) approved plantilla positions, five (5) coterminous with the incumbent (CTI) positions were abolished, five (5) positions were collapsed, and three (3) positions were created resulting to authorized one thousand sixty-nine (1,069) plantilla positions.

A total of seven hundred seventy-five (775) plantilla positions were filled-up, while the two hundred ninety-four (294) remaining positions are under the selection process. The positions vacated by promoted employees from various PRC offices have been re-published along with the unfilled vacant positions. Other options to hire, like job order (JO) personnel are ongoing.

V. INSTITUTIONAL PROJECTS

EXPANSION OF PRC OFFSITE SERVICE CENTERS

With the aim to bring the Commission's frontline services closer to its clients, additional two (2) service centers in Pavia, Iloilo, and in the City of Kidapawan, Cotabato were opened. Thus, in FY 2019, the Commission has a total of twenty-three (23) operational Service Centers under a rent-free agreement, and catered to one million one hundred fifty-one thousand fifty (1,151,050) clients. The increase in the number of clients served is attributable to the hiring of additional fourteen (14) support staff, assistance have been beneficial in expediting the processing of examination applications and renewal of licenses.



PRC Offsite Service Centers are located in Robinsons Mall, LGUs and other local malls nationwide as shown in the map.

audit in FY 2019 to improve and maintain their ISO 9001:2015 Certification. While PRC Regional Offices in NCR, Baguio, Cebu, Davao, Iloilo, Legazpi and Pagadian have started to process their ISO 9001: 2015 Certification.

NEW BUILDINGS FOR PRC CENTRAL OFFICE AND REGIONAL OFFICES (ROs) AND REHABILITATION PROJECTS

In partnership with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), the construction of the new PRC Building in Pasay City is on-going. Further, the construction of PRC Regional Offices in Cebu, Pagadian, and Koronadal has started in 2019, along with the extension buildings of Regional Offices in Legazpi and Tuguegarao.

Also, rehabilitation projects like installation of a brand-new elevator car and the repainting of the exterior of the main and annex buildings of PRC Morayta were completed, while improvement of PRC's sanitary systems is on-going.

CITIZEN'S CHARTER

In compliance with the Republic Act (R.A.) No. 11032, also known as the "Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018," and with the aim to streamline the procedural steps of the frontline transactions, the Anti-Red Tape (ART) Committee has revisited and updated the Commission's Citizen's Charter and submitted the same to the Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) on 29 November 2019.

REVENUE COLLECTIONS

The PRC collected revenues amounting to one billion five hundred thirteen million four hundred eighty-eight thousand nine hundred nine (P1,513,488,909.00).