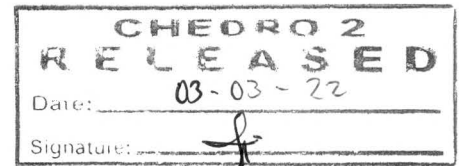




Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION
Region 02

REGIONAL MEMORANDUM
No. 067, Series 2022



FOR : ALL PRESIDENTS/HEADS/OFFICERS-IN-CHARGE OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS (HEIs) IN REGION 02

SUBJECT : CHED PRESS RELEASE: "UniFAST attains 99.67% fund utilization for RA 10931 implementation in FY 2020"

DATE : March 3, 2022

Attached is a copy of the Press Release issued by **Chairperson J. PROSPERO E. DE VERA III**, Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and Unified Student Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education (UniFAST), featuring the Unified Student Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education's (UniFAST) overall Budget Utilization Rate (BUR) of its continuing Fiscal Year 2020 allotment for the implementation of programs under RA 10931 otherwise known as the "Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act."

For information of all concerned.

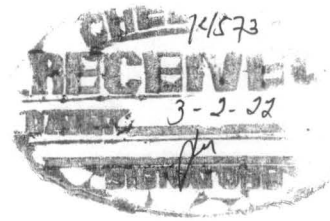

ATTY. MARCO CICERO F. DOMINGO
OIC, Director IV

Kindly rate the delivery of our services through the link below:
Link: <http://bit.ly/CHEDRO2CSS>

Your response shall help us improve our systems and procedures so we can better serve you.

Thank you.

UniFAST/AMM/RDO-14573



Press Release
02 March 2022

UniFAST attains 99.67% fund utilization for RA 10931 implementation in FY 2020

The Unified Student Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education (UniFAST), an attached agency of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), posts a 99.67% overall budget utilization rate (BUR) of its continuing Fiscal Year 2020 allotment for the implementation of programs under RA 10931 (Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act).

This is higher than its previous BURs in FYs 2018 and 2019 despite the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The UniFAST Central Office achieved a utilization rate of 99.97% of its PhP 3 billion allotment for the implementation of Free Higher Education (FHE) in state universities and colleges (SUCs) and CHED-recognized local universities and colleges (LUCs), and Tertiary Education Subsidy (TES) Program for new grantees while the CHED Regional Offices were able to attain a 99.39% utilization rate.

For comparison, the disbursement rate of the national government as a percentage of obligations as of December 1, 2021 stands only at 75.2% based on the latest available Statement of Appropriations, Allotments, Obligations, Disbursements and Balances of the Department of Budget and Management.

Meanwhile, UniFAST is determined to utilize its PhP 44 billion allotment for FY 2021. By virtue of Republic Act No. 11640, the House of Representatives and the Senate extended the validity of the FY 2021 budget to December 31, 2022.

To date, the UniFAST Central Office has achieved a utilization rate of 99.84% of its PhP 18.82 billion allotment covering Free Higher Education and new TES grantees.

“CHED and UniFAST had always been compliant with the cash-based budgeting system and I mean not just obligation but actual disbursements. Under the

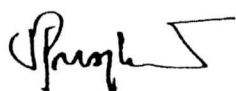
programs of RA 10931, the pandemic did not stop us from continuing our operations in the reimbursements of FHE, as well as the disbursement of TES allowances of our student-grantees,” said CHED and UniFAST Board Chairman Popoy De Vera.

When Atty. Ryan Estevez took the helm of UniFAST as its Officer-in-Charge, Executive Director IV, the Agency was able to achieve very high budget utilization rate by strengthening the Secretariat’s human resource base in the central and regional offices, streamlining program processes, adopting ICT applications to facilitate processing and signing of documents, and crafting of policies based on stakeholder consultation and feedback.

Several partnership projects to promote higher education were rolled out with the Land Bank of the Philippines, Department of Labor and Employment - Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, University of the Philippines Population Institute, Film Development Council of the Philippines, Business Mirror and REX Education Publishing among others.

During the recent CHED Commission En Banc meeting, UniFAST was commended for its accomplishments. *“In upholding the dictum “No student shall be left behind”, we continue to judiciously implement the mandates of RA 10931, which is undoubtedly the most transformative, radical and unparalleled piece of legislation that this administration has passed.,” said Commissioner Aldrin Darilag.*

Commissioner Ronald Adamat attributed this achievement as a result of the diligence, sacrifices, and hard work of the people in CHED-UniFAST, coupled with the cooperation of HEIs who made sure that students, including those in the marginalized sectors, are assisted during these challenging times.



J. PROSPERO E. DE VERA III, DPA

Chairman

Commission on Higher Education