

Driver's license branch reduces services until Sept. 17 for training

By Oyaol Ngirairiki
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The Department of Revenue and Taxation's Driver's License Branch will have limited services from Aug. 16-Sept. 17 as employees train for long-anticipated online programs. "We are excited to finally begin the testing and training phase for our enhanced Driver's License and Guam ID system which will allow for online renewal and replacement of Guam driver's licenses and Guam IDs," said Director Dafne Mansapit-Shimizu on Monday. The director previously announced the goal of having online services by the end of the year. She said they're targeting to have online services as well as Saturday hours begin sometime at the end of September after training

is completed. Even with the agency moving the vehicle registration services to the Department of Public Works compound in Upper Tumon, there remains a backlog of residents still trying to renew or obtain their drivers licenses or Guam identification cards. Residents continue to line up for several hours each day, with a line beginning sometimes before sunrise. Each morning 160 tickets are issued to those already waiting in line, officials stated. On some days, they are able to squeeze in additional customers beyond the 160. "The tickets issued daily ensures that our customers do not wait longer than they have to and to ensure that decent social distancing is present. For instance, if 160 tickets were issued for the day, those 160 customers are all

covered until close of business. If more tickets are issued, the staff will have to work past our normal business hours," officials stated. They added that some customers are there for more than one service, which means a longer wait time: "For example, Mr. Jose can come in and renew his driver's license and he is also requesting for a Guam ID. Hence, not every wait time per customer is the same across the board." Officials didn't say how many customers they'll be able to see while employees are in training. "Although there may be a reduction in the servicing capacity for the branch during this time, we're confident that the system launch will result in the branch's ability to better serve the community once the new system is in place," Deputy Director Marie Lizama said.

Officials said there are plans to open on the weekends again to address the current backlog. "After the training is completed, we are looking at Saturdays to address the backlog," officials said, adding: "Please note, that our DRT staff have been working diligently to address the bulk of the quarantine backlog. This is in addition to the daily customer walk-ins, the mail-ins, and the drop-box." There have been some residents who've complained that with the long wait comes the need to use the restroom and port-a-potties aren't always appealing. In response to questions about these complaints, officials said they have "port-a-potties stationed for our customers outside the building. We also have our restrooms inside the building." DRT also announced the phone numbers for its new Customer Call Center to help manage the large volume of calls received on a daily basis: 635-1840/635-1841/635-7614/635-7651 or 635-1813. Residents also may email pinadmin@revtax.guam.gov.

Public schools start short of secondary teachers

By Jolene Toves
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A big challenge brought up by Guam Department of Education schools is filling vacant teacher positions. The teacher shortage has not only affected in-person classroom coverage but also online classes.

Some parents have expressed frustration that their children enrolled online haven't received a class schedule. "The first challenge that the schools are bringing up, is that they have to find coverage for the teachers positions that are not filled yet. So they have a combination of substitute teachers or they have one of their school faculty

and in some cases principals are covering the class," Deputy Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Joseph Sanchez said. Sanchez said, GDOE does have enough teachers to cover online classes for elementary but additional teachers are needed at the secondary levels. The Guam Daily Post has asked how

many teachers GDOE needs. "That number changes, actually almost daily, as the personnel is processed they process quite a bit during the day. Hopefully, the number has gone down since the start of school," Sanchez said. Public schools began the new year on Aug. 12.



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INVITATION FOR BID

GDOE IFB 036-2021

REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF INTRUSION DETECTION AND CLOSED-CIRCUIT TELEVISION (CCTV) SECURITY ELECTRONIC SYSTEM

SUBMISSION DATE: Friday, September 10, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. CHST

Note: It is solely the Bidder's responsibility to review the website on a daily basis for the issuance of Amendments/Clarifications for any possible changes to the IFB.

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/s/ CARMEN T. CHARFAUROS
SUPPLY MANAGEMENT ADMINISTRATOR

For: JON J. P. FERNANDEZ
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

GDOE RFP 014-2021

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR THE CHAMORU LANGUAGE AND CULTURE CONTENT STANDARDS AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

SUBMISSION DATE: Friday, September 3, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. CHST

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