



# THE DBM BULLETIN

The Official Newsletter of the Department of Budget and Management

October-December 2016

## Merry Christmas



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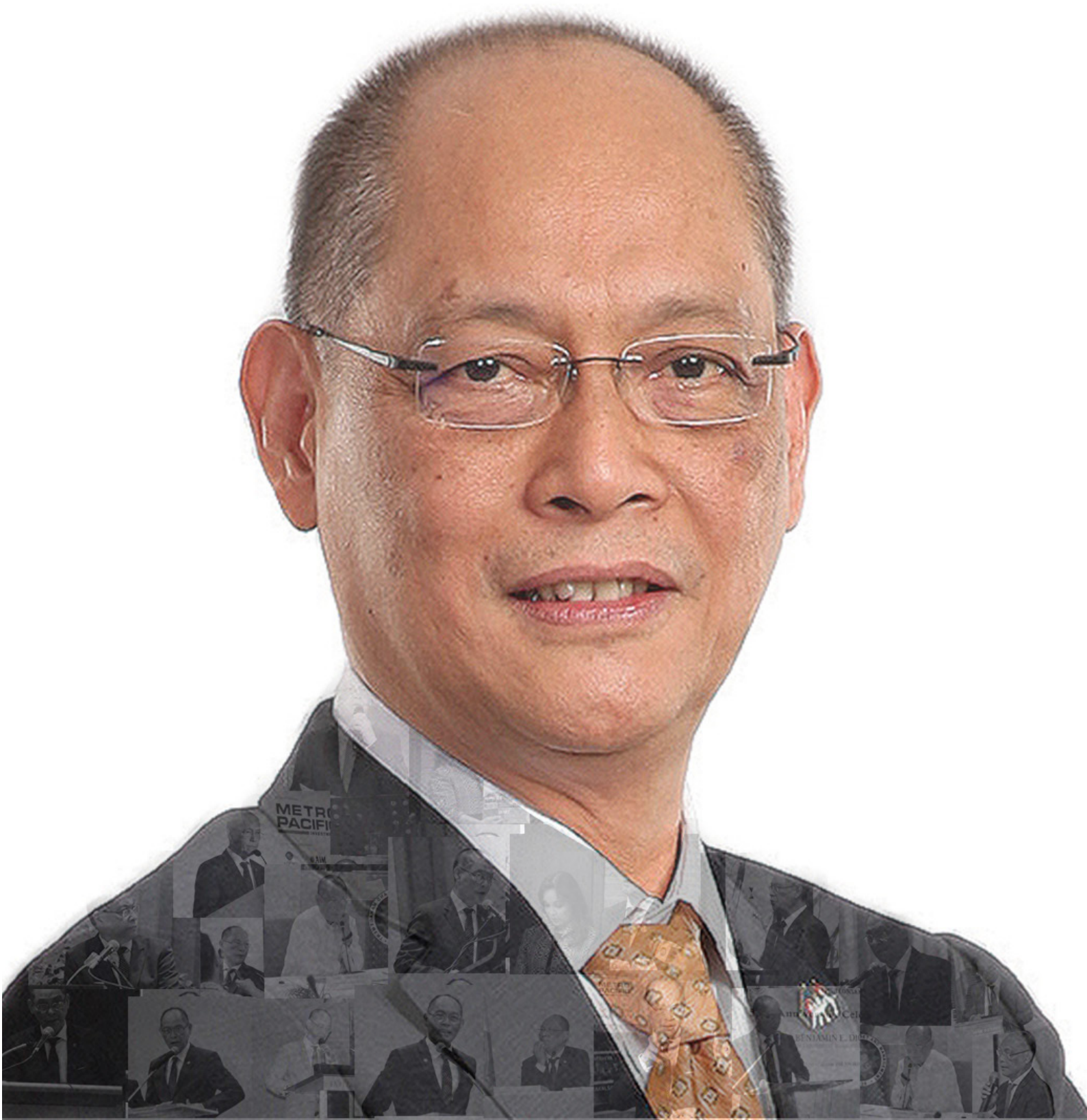
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## The Secretary's Corner



## SECRETARY BENJAMIN E. DIOKNO'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO THE DBM

**M**ore important than the festive parties, colorful decorations, and abundant gifts, the meaning of Christmas has always been about joy, thanksgiving, hope, and love.

We celebrate the Christmas season with joy, as over the past six months, we had been successful in laying the groundwork for budget reforms. This achievement is one that is worth celebrating. It has not been easy, given our time constraints. But after the rigorous task of preparation, scrutiny, and adjustment, the Proposed 2017 National Budget has been ratified by Congress, and on the 22nd of December, the President signed into law the General Appropriations Act for FY 2017.

The 2017 National Budget—the People's Budget—embodies the collective aspirations of Filipinos. Far from empty words, the People's Budget is the Government's solemn promise to create a better quality of life for the Filipinos, most especially the poor and the marginalized.

We celebrate Christmas with gratefulness. None of our achievements will be possible without the committed participation of each and every one of you – of us, the entirety of the Department of Budget and Management. Our mandate of crafting and implementing a budget that responds to the needs of the people, and overseeing the bureaucracy to ensure its efficient and effective delivery of services, may seem like a Herculean task, but with DBM's teamwork, dedication, and diligence, the crucial responsibility is bearable and the goals, attainable. For this, I thank you.

We celebrate Christmas with hope for a peaceful, safer, more prosperous, and more beautiful Philippines – hope that is not a mere fantasy but one which we know we can realize. Our optimism is anchored on well-crafted policies and vigorous execution. So let us continue the great work we started and together we will perform an integral role in charting the Philippines'

growth trajectory and actualizing the bold ambitions we have for our country.

With the People's Budget, we can look forward to many programs and projects that pledge a perceivable difference in the day-to-day life of the ordinary Filipino.

One of these projects is the construction of major public infrastructure, which has already started and will intensify in the following years. This addresses the traffic congestion in our cities – the cause of our daily agony for a long time. New roads, bridges, and mass transport systems will be built to connect urban areas to provinces, promote economic growth, and improve and increase the mobility of people, services, and products.

Last but not the least, we celebrate Christmas with love – love for our fellowmen and love for our country. To these two all our struggles are dedicated.

May you and your loved ones have a meaningful Christmas, full of joy, thanksgiving, hope, and love. And may the holidays revitalize all of us for the work that must be done in the future. As public servants, let us learn from the lessons of the year that was and welcome 2017 ready to exert our best efforts because our people deserve no less.

Merry Christmas and a bountiful New Year to all of us!

BENJAMIN E. DIOKNO  
Secretary



## DBM-PROPOSED EXECUTIVE ORDER ON COMPENSATION ADJUSTMENTS AND GRANT OF ADDITIONAL BENEFITS SIGNED

On February 19, 2016, Executive Order No. 201, s. 2016 which provides for the modification of the salary schedule for civilian government personnel and grants additional benefits for both civilian and military and uniformed personnel was signed.

Said EO served as an interim measure to implement Tranche 1 of the proposed Salary Standardization Law (SSL) 2015. It also provided for the grant of the mid-year bonus equivalent to one month's basic salary, Productivity Enhancement Incentive (PEI) of PHP5,000 for civilian personnel, increase in Hazard Pay, and grant of a substantial Provisional Allowance and an Officers' Allowance in lieu of Base Pay increase for military and uniformed personnel.

## A STRONGER ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE

To ensure better services to its clientele - the DBM offices and employees - the existing Human Resources Division was converted into two divisions, i.e., (1) Human Resources Development Division to focus on employee learning and development, performance management, employee engagement activities and on-the-job training of college students, and (2) Human Resources Management Division to attend to recruitment and promotion, and management of employees' compensation and benefits, among others.

# THE DBM — IN — 2016

## MILESTONES AND MAJOR EVENTS





## DBM TURNED 80

A night of music and fun. This was how DBM celebrated its 80th Anniversary held at the Philippine International Convention Center on April 29, 2016.

## CHANGING OF THE GUARDS

Former DBM Secretary Florencio B. Abad handed over the helm of leadership of the Department to Secretary Benjamin E. Diokno on July 1. It is the second time that Secretary Diokno heads the DBM. The first time he became DBM's Secretary was in 1998 under the Estrada Administration. He also served as DBM Undersecretary for budget operations from 1987 to 1991 under the administration of the late President Corazon Aquino.

## FIRST FINANCIAL BLUEPRINT OF THE DUTERTE ADMINISTRATION SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS

On 15 August 2016, the PHP3.35-trillion proposed Budget of the Duterte Administration was submitted by Secretary Benjamin E. Diokno to Congress. Dubbed as "A Budget for Real Change", the proposed Budget was crafted to fund programs and projects critical to the achievement of the current Administration's 10-point socioeconomic development agenda. About 40 percent of the proposed budget, or PHP1.345 trillion, was set aside for social services to address the people's basic needs such as healthcare, education, social protection, and housing, while PHP923.95 billion was provided for economic services to stimulate job creation, particularly in the countryside.



## FIRST ISO QMS SURVEILLANCE AUDIT HELD

A year after its ISO 9001:2008 certification, the DBM underwent its first Surveillance Audit in August and September in four (4) DBM Regional Offices. In October and November, selected bureaus, services, and offices in the Central Office underwent the same. The audit was conducted by the Certification International Philippines, Inc.

The surveillance audit is a requirement for the continuing certification to ISO 9001. It is conducted to ensure the continued compliance of the organization to the ISO quality management system standards.

## CA CONFIRMED DIOKNO AS BUDGET SECRETARY

The Commission on Appointments (CA) confirmed Economist Benjamin E. Diokno as Budget and Management Secretary on September 29. He is the first member of the Duterte Cabinet to get the bicameral body's nod.

## REVISED DBM ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE IMPLEMENTED

Pursuant to Department Order No. 20, dated October 3, 2016, the DBM underwent another organizational restructuring to make it more responsive to the thrusts of the new Administration and to ensure the effective and efficient implementation of public financial management (PFM) reform initiatives.

Some of the functional and organizational shifts undertaken were the following:

- Transfer of the Budget Technical Bureau (BTB) from the Budget Preparation and Execution Group to the Office of the Secretary;
- Establishment of a Legal and Liaison Group to strengthen the link of the DBM with Congress, the Judiciary, and the other Departments; and
- Redefinition of the functions of the Public Expenditure Management Bureau and its renaming into a Local Government and Regional Coordination Bureau.







## NEW IRR ON PROCUREMENT LAW ISSUED

The Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB) issued in October the revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the Procurement Law (Republic Act No. 9184) to fast track project implementation. One of the new provisions in the IRR allows procuring agencies, which do not have the proficiency or capability to undertake a particular procurement activity, to outsource the same to hasten project implementation. (Section 7 item 7.3.3)



## WOMAN APPOINTED AS HEAD OF THE PROCUREMENT SERVICE, BROKE MORE THAN THREE DECADES OF MALE LEADERSHIP

Former DBM Director and Pasig River and Rehabilitation Commission Executive Director Bingle Gutierrez was appointed as Executive Director of the Procurement Service (PS) effective October 1, 2016. She is the third Executive Director of PS following Atty. Jose Tomas Syquia and Mr. Estanislao Granados.



## EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2 (FREEDOM OF INFORMATION) IMPLEMENTED

One hundred twenty (120) days after the effectivity of Executive Order No. 2, 29 government entities, including the DBM and the Government Procurement Policy Board-Technical Support Office, were able to present their respective Freedom of Information (FOI) Manual during the launching of the FOI online portal ([www.foi.gov.ph](http://www.foi.gov.ph)) in Malacanang on November 25, 2016. The DBM is one of the first few government agencies that was able to draft its own People's Manual in time for the implementation EO No. 2.



## FIRST FINANCIAL BLUEPRINT OF THE DUTERTE ADMINISTRATION SIGNED

President Rodrigo Duterte signed on December 22 the PHP3.35 trillion Budget, the first Budget of his Administration.

The 2017 Budget is anchored on the 10-Point Socio-economic Agenda of the President and embodies the pro-people and equitable growth thrust of the government.





# Real Change in the Eyes of Ordinary Folks

(Last of Two Parts)

**“With my children in school, it will really be a Happy New Year”**

By: Jesselynn G. de la Cruz

The Philippines holds the distinction of having one of the longest and most colorful Christmas celebrations in the world – starting in September, with the onset of the “ber” months, and sometimes extending way into February, till the Chinese New Year or Valentine’s Day.

Within this Yuletide Season is the New Year celebration, an equally vibrant festival that marks the crossing over from one year to the next, an occasion that traditionally focuses on newness. Rebirth. Renewal. Reform. Starting over or starting anew. A time for hope. A readiness for change.

While it’s true that many Filipino families welcome the Christmas Season as a time of gift-giving and receiving, and the New Year as another occasion for goal-setting and optimistic planning, there remains a sector of society which finds it difficult to anticipate any major positive change in their lives. And we know and see where they are. Sometimes in the city, but at the fringes, struggling to keep body and soul together in makeshift dwellings they still call home. But often in what we call GIDAS – in geographically isolated and depressed areas, in the most remote barrios of far-flung towns.

Not that they are devoid of hope or that they have lost faith in the possibility of a better future. Rather, they perceive that the opportunities for a better life have always been and remain beyond their grasp. They envision a better life for their children, and are willing to put in the effort needed to achieve that. However, they have been shackled too long by poverty and the dearth of opportunities that would make even the slightest positive impact on their situation.

High on the list of these opportunities that Filipino parents seek, of course, is education – if not for themselves, then for their children. The latest SOLAR (Study of Lifestyles, Attitudes and Relationships) on the spending habits of Filipino families, which aimed to establish the financial priorities of Filipinos with and without dependents, found that among those with dependents, children’s education emerged as a top priority or, as defined by the study, the

first source of financial worry (35%), with family health (20%) and food (16%) a rather distant second and third.

This was the reality lived out for a decade by Me-Anne, 42, who has always considered as home whatever structure of discarded GI sheets, scrap wood and tarpaulin streamers her husband Lito would put up for her and their five children, close to his construction jobsite. They had met in Manila but moved back to Iloilo when they married and the children started coming. In the beginning, the yield from farming his father’s small field and the pay from working in others’ land was enough for a small family. But as his family grew, Lito decided to move back to Manila to find more regular work. Without even a high school diploma to arm him, he had a very little chance of getting a dependable, regular job, and had to contend with part-time construction work. Later, as it seemed more convenient to bring his family to wherever the jobsite was instead of shuttling back to the province, Me-Anne and the children followed him into the shanty and they had more children.

Though always struggling to make ends meet, Me-Anne has always had a positive disposition, taking on laundry and cleaning jobs to add to the family’s income. “Somehow we have always been able to feed and clothe the children,” she shares in her dialect, “But I used to get so depressed and felt so hopeless realizing that the children may not be able to finish schooling because we won’t be able to afford it.”

But now, for the first time in many years, she continues, she feels hopeful that the New Year – the start of 2017 – will really usher in a meaningful change in their lives. Lito and Me-Anne’s family is among the beneficiaries of 4Ps (Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program) – the national government program that provides conditional cash grants to the poorest of the poor, to improve the health, nutrition and education of children 18 years and below.

It’s not the first time that the family has been part of a social welfare or charity program, whether of the government or



the church. But, as Lito explains, it’s the first time that they feel this program will really have a positive impact for them. “It’s not just about giving us money,” he adds, “We are made to feel responsible for that assistance, by making sure that it will have a positive effect on the future of our children.” This is why, Me-Anne adds, she makes sure that she fulfills her role in the program. “It’s not just for compliance, but because I know that the objective is really to improve the mental and physical health of our kids. With a program like that, how can I not do my part?”

Such positive outlook for the coming year is most likely shared by the 4.4 million beneficiaries of the CCT so far. Especially so since poverty alleviation has acquired an even higher priority under the Duterte Administration, which has allocated PhP78.2 billion – more than half of the 2017 budget of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) for the conditional cash transfer program. To date, the Pantawid Pamilya Program includes 11 million children aged 18 and below. The positive change in the lives of these children will embody the real change that the nation aspires for.

“You’re asking me what that campaign promise means – that change is coming? I may not understand politics or economics too well, or all the workings of government,” Me-Anne answers sheepishly when asked what ‘change’ she expects from this Administration. “I only know that if my children are assured a chance to go to school – never mind if we live in a barong-barong for now – then their lives will change. And I think this is the first time in so many years that we can really look forward to what will truly be a happy new year!” ■

## Centers for Heroes

By: Haydee Lyn Teresa Toledo

In a move aimed at expressing concrete appreciation to overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), the government has initiated the establishment of one-stop centers that will bring together in one location all agencies that cater to the needs of OFWs.

President Rodrigo R. Duterte has directed all government agencies involved in servicing OFW workers to expedite processes and services specific to their needs. This, he underscored, would be a fitting tribute to the men and women whom the country considers its modern-day heroes, but who very often do not get optimum service from government agencies or who are unnecessarily burdened by regulations and procedures related to their overseas employment.

In response to the President’s directive, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) opened a One-Stop Service Center for OFWs (OSSCO) at the POEA office in Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City on August 15, 2016. The effort is spearheaded by the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA).

Aside from shortening the processing time for the release of documents needed by the overseas workers, the one-stop center also aims to reduce the expenses of OFWs since the services of government agencies concerned can



already be availed of in just one location. For vacationing OFWs, this will mean more time for rest and bonding with their family members and friends.

The government has always highlighted the economic contribution of its overseas work force, which has collectively remitted \$26.92 billion (PhP1.20 trillion) to the Philippines in 2015, up by 6.2 percent from \$25.35 billion (PhP1.13 trillion) in 2013. These 10 million overseas Filipino workers' (OFWs) remittances contributed as much as 8.5 percent to the Philippine gross domestic product (GDP) last year.

At the OSSCO, government frontline services are made accessible to Filipinos who are currently working or planning to work overseas. The OSSCO operates from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., Mondays to Fridays. As of the second week of November 2016, 11 OFW centers have already been established which have served 157,735 clients.

The government agencies at the OSSCO are the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), POEA, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA),

Home Development Mutual Fund (HDMF), Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), Social Security System (SSS), Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), Bureau of Immigration (BI), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA), Philippine National Police (PNP), and Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR).

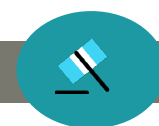
Coinciding with this, the POEA has launched its 24/7 hotline that receives inquiries and complaints and serves as an assistance center for OFWs. For added convenience of the OFWs, the facility is also equipped with Wi-Fi connectivity.

According to Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III, similar centers will also be set up in all regions, spearheaded by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Regional Offices, in coordination with the regional offices of the agencies cited above, local government units, and other partners and stakeholders.

For 2017, an estimated PhP10 million has been allotted by DOLE for the operation of the existing centers and the setting up of additional ones in other strategic locations.



The One-Stop Service Center. (Photo courtesy of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration)



## LS NOOK

Prepared by the Legal Service

### SUBJECT: Query<sup>1</sup> on the Payment of Back Salaries

ISSUE: **May the payment of back salaries include a twelve percent interest (12%)**

#### DISCUSSION:

In 1998, the Basilan Provincial Hospital was converted to the Basilan General Hospital pursuant to Republic Act No. 8543<sup>2</sup>. This resulted in the transfer of the previously devolved personnel from the Province to the Department of Health (DOH). The position of Dr. Agnes P. Yu was among those reclassified, from Public Health Officer (PHO) II to Chief of Hospital II. However, she was made to retain the position of PHO II.

On August 1, 2003, then DOH Secretary Manuel M. Dayrit appointed Dr. Domingo Remus A. Dayrit to the position of Chief of Hospital II. This prompted Dr. Yu to submit a letter of protest<sup>3</sup> to the Civil Service Commission (CSC), claiming that she has a vested right to the position of Chief of Hospital II upon conversion of the Basilan Provincial Hospital.

On June 7, 2004, the CSC granted Dr. Yu's protest and revoked the appointment of Dr. Dayrit as Chief of Hospital II. Upon reconsideration, the CSC, however, reversed its earlier decision. Upon elevation of the case to the Court of Appeals, the decision was again reversed in favor of Dr. Yu and she was granted the salaries and benefits which she would have received as Chief of Hospital from December 2001 to August 2004. Finally, the CSC filed a petition for certiorari before the Supreme Court (SC), where the SC<sup>4</sup> ruled:

"Considering, however, that Dr. Yu had already retired on August 24, 2004, we uphold the following finding of the appellate court, to wit:

xxx in as much as a re-appointment is no longer feasible due to her retirement, petitioner should at least recover her salaries for the services rendered. However, petitioner admitted that she received her salary as PHO II converted to Chief of Hospital for the period August to November 2001. Therefore, **she should have received her salary and benefits as Chief of Hospital from December 2001 up to her retirement in August 24, 2004**" (Boldface provided).

Thereby, the CSC, in Resolution No. 1400106<sup>5</sup>, ordered the DOH:

"Pursuant to SC Decision dated July 31, 2012, the DOH is directed to **pay Yu, the salaries**

**and benefits corresponding to the position of Chief of Hospital II of the Basilan General Hospital (BGH) computed from December 2001 to August 24, 2004.** The benefits enumerated and claimed by Yu, in her motion for execution, shall be subject to the submission of supporting documents to the DOH." (Boldface ours)

The amount requested by the DOH amounting to Four Million Eight Hundred Thirty One Thousand Three Hundred Eighteen Pesos and 4/100 (PhP4,831,318.04) includes a twelve percent (12%) interest, equivalent to Two Million Nine Hundred Thirty One Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Four Pesos and 9/100 (PhP2,931,274.09).

It is clear that the SC made no pronouncement for the payment of a twelve percent (12%) interest. What was ordered was the payment of what Dr. Yu would have received as Chief of Hospital from December 2001 up to her retirement on August 24, 2004.

In the landmark case of *Gregorio Sarasola vs. Wenceslao Trinidad, Collector of Internal Revenue of the Philippine Islands*<sup>6</sup>, Justice Malcolm as ponente wrote "(i)t is well settled both on principle and authority that interest is not to be awarded against a sovereign government, as the United States or a State, unless its consent has been manifested by an Act of its Legislature or by a lawful contract of its executive officers. If there be doubt upon the subject, that doubt must be resolved in favor of the State."

Thus, the government cannot be required to pay interest in the absence of a statutory provision allowing the same or unless we have agreed through contractual stipulations to pay interest. A case in point is *Collector of Internal Revenue vs. Antonio Prieto*<sup>7</sup>, where the Court ruled that in the absence of a statutory provision expressly directing or authorizing payment of interest, the National Government cannot be required to pay the same.

The security of tenure provision under Section 2, Rule IX of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA No. 7350<sup>8</sup> cannot be made basis for the grant





## PROFILES

## BREAKING THE GLASS CEILING

## Lady Exec Heads the Procurement Service



Almost a full four decades since its creation as an agency to manage and oversee an integrated procurement system for the national government, the Procurement Service (PS) welcomed its first woman chief executive last October.

Former DBM Director Bingle B. Gutierrez took over the helm of the PS, following her appointment by DBM Secretary Benjamin B. Diokno. She is the organization's third Executive Director, following Atty. Jose Tomas Syquia and Mr. Estanislao Granados.

As the new PS head, Executive Director (ED) Gutierrez will continue to push for innovations and strive to ensure accessibility, transparency, and convenience in government procurement.

Prior to her appointment, ED Gutierrez served as the Deputy Managing Director for Operations of the Millennium Challenge Account-Philippines (MCA-P), an office set up as the central point of contact for the Philippine Compact Program. The program ran for five years in the Philippines and ended in September 2016. During her stint at the MCA-P, she was designated as the government representative to the MCC-GPH Technical Evaluation Panel in the procurement of a Fiscal Agent for the Compact Program, and participated in the resolution of procurement issues as a member of the MCA-P Management Committee.

ED Gutierrez is not new to the DBM Community since she served as Director of the DBM's Budget and Management Bureau-C and of the Corporate Planning and Management Service.

She was also appointed as Executive Director of the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) from 2000 to 2006. She chaired the agency's Inter-agency Bids and Awards Committee during her incumbency therein. ED Gutierrez holds a master's degree in Development Studies from the International Institute of Social Studies in The Hague, Netherlands and a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of the Philippines.

When she's not at her desk, on the computer or poring over government papers, ED Gutierrez spends time with her family, husband Jesus Gutierrez and their three children, and makes time to read, write, work on crossword puzzles, and watch movies and television. She also swims and plays volleyball and pingpong.



Thanks to PS-PhilGEPS, particularly to Director Joele Eayte, Ms. Leah Valdez, Mr. Paul Jasper de Guzman, Ms. Francis Marie Palomo, and Ms. Joan Pascual for their inputs and assistance.



## GAD CORNER

## Gov't Vows to End VAW



"Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004." More specifically, the violations include 18,413 cases of physical abuse; 127 cases of sexual abuse; 6,884 cases of psychological abuse; and 1,979 cases of economic abuse.

Most disturbing, instead of decreasing, the number of VAW cases reported to the PNP has increased by over 500% in the past 16 years.

Existing data indicate that VAW is a pervasive social problem in the country. Due to the sensitivity of the issues and its impact on women and their families, many cases of violence against women often go unreported. In fact, many Filipinos still have the mindset that violence inflicted by the male spouse on the wife or live-in partner is considered a domestic matter or "usapang mag-asawa," thus others should not meddle.

According to the United Nations' Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, VAW is a manifestation of historically unequal power relations between men and women.

VAW is divided into two main categories: physical and psychological/emotional abuse. It may take different forms at the individual, community, and the societal level. The most common forms of violence include rape, domestic violence, stalking, sexual harassment, human trafficking, forced prostitution, state violence, and female genital mutilation.

VAW has become a worldwide phenomenon. To help combat this and to emphasize that VAW is a human rights violation, the United Nations (UN) launched in 1991 the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, linking November 25 (International Day Against VAW) and December 10 (International Human Rights Day).

The government's vow to end VAW is embodied in RA 9262.

Since 2006, through Proclamation 1172, the 18-Day Campaign to End VAW has been observed annually from November 25 to December 12 to raise awareness among all stakeholders that VAW is a public issue of national concern. It supports the Philippine Government's goal to protect the human rights of women and its commitment to address all forms of VAW.

How long will it take you to defend your rights as a woman and human being? A split-second? A few minutes?

For Karen (not her real name), it took more than 10 years.

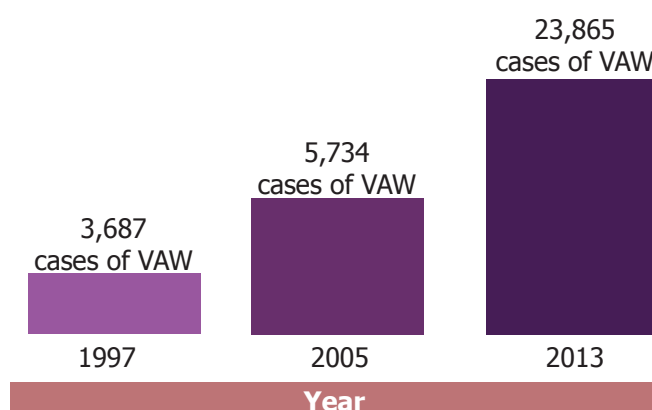
Like countless battered women, she accepted as fate the almost daily physical and verbal beatings from her abusive husband.

Until one morning when something inside her said "Enough" and she finally found the courage to file a case against him at the Barangay Violence Against Women (VAW) Desk.

Karen is but one of thousands of women who are victims of gender-based violence.

From January to September 2016 alone, the Philippine National Police (PNP) recorded a total of 27,403 incidents of violations of Republic Act (RA) No. 9262, known as the

**Reported cases of violence against women continue to increase from 3,687 in 1997 to 5,734 in 2005 and 23,865 cases in 2013 (Sources: NSCB, PCW)**





## LS Nook ...

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of interest because it is applicable only in case there is an illegal dismissal, to wit:

“Section 2: **In case a health worker is found by the Civil Service Commission to be unjustly dismissed from the service**, he/she shall be entitled to reinstatement without loss of seniority rights and payment of **back wages/salaries and other benefits with twelve percent (12%) interest** computed from the time such salaries and other benefits were withheld up to the time of reinstatement”. (Boldface ours)

In the case of Dr. Yu, there was no illegal dismissal to speak of since she continued her service as PHO II until her retirement in 2004. The Court allowed payment of back salaries and benefits representing only the difference in the salaries and benefits she received and what she would have received as Chief of Hospital.

Thus, without basis in law or in the judgment of the Court, the payment of a twelve percent (12%) interest on the back salaries and benefits of Dr. Yu is not legally tenable and should be denied. ■

<sup>1</sup>Through RO IX Memorandum dated September 9, 2015

<sup>2</sup>An Act Converting the Basilan Provincial Hospital in the Municipality of Isabela, Province of Basilan, into a Tertiary Hospital Under the Full Administrative and Technical Supervision of the Department of Health, Increasing the Capacity to One Hundred Beds and Appropriating Funds Therefor

<sup>3</sup>Dated September 3, 2004

<sup>4</sup>Civil Service Commission vs. Dr. Agnes Ouida P. Yu, G.R. No. 189041, July 31, 2012

<sup>5</sup>Promulgated on January 27, 2015

<sup>6</sup>G.R. No. L-14595, October 11, 1919

<sup>7</sup>G.R. No. L-11976, September 26, 1961

<sup>8</sup>Magna Carta of Public Health Workers

## Gov't vows ...

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President Rodrigo R. Duterte himself committed government to ending gender-based violence in the country. He articulated in his first SONA that under his leadership, all government agencies shall ensure that laws relative to VAW and the Magna Carta of Women will be implemented. He specifically mentioned that the government is committed to put in place and enforce policies and mechanisms to ensure that no woman or girl will become a victim of violence.

VAW is both a crime and a gross violation of human rights. Tremendous and significant progress has been made in addressing and eliminating VAW by both government and non-governmental organizations but much remains to be done.

To ensure victory, the country's vow to battle VAW must be sustained and fought not just by women but also by men. ■ (HPToledo)

## Mother and Child

Artwork by Nards Sunga



## THE DBM BULLETIN

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