



AMENAH F. PANGANDAMAN
Secretary
Department of Budget and Management

456 words, 4-minute read



As the Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), Ameh F. Pangandaman offers diversity and fresh perspective to an otherwise male-dominated team of economic technocrats.

A Maranao with roots from the south, Pangandaman always aims to give Mindanao a voice in her capacity as a public servant in the different branches of government. Having served in the Legislative, Executive, and the central bank, she has a unique perspective on the Philippine bureaucracy and a deep understanding of the interplay among the different sectors and agencies in the economic sector.

Prior to her appointment as the Secretary of Budget and Management, Pangandaman served as Assistant Governor, Concurrent Head of Strategic Communication and Advocacy and Executive Offices Coordinator. In that capacity, she was a key implementor of the Bangko Sentral's strategic initiatives aimed at bringing the central bank closer to the Filipino people. She also championed financial inclusion and digital transformation and steered the execution of major projects supporting the Governor's goals within and outside the halls of the BSP. With her extensive experience in the Legislative branch, she likewise advocated for the enactment of the BSP's priority legislative measures.

Pangandaman is not new to the budget process. She was Undersecretary at the DBM during the Duterte Administration. Acting as the functional group Head of the Office of the Secretary, she directly supervised the Department Liaison Office and Budget Technical Bureau. During her stint at the DBM, she pushed for crucial budget reforms and was a key mover in the preparation, implementation, and monitoring of the General Appropriations Act. She also oversaw the implementation of Green, Green, Green—a budget assistance program for local government units to develop sustainable public open spaces. Prior to her appointment in the DBM, she oversaw the enactment of budget laws as the Chief-of-Staff to Former Senate President Edgardo J. Angara and Committee of Finance Chairperson Senator Loren B. Legarda

As the chief of the DBM, Pangandaman vows to support the incoming administration's mission towards a broad-based and inclusive economic recovery, bringing the Philippines back on track to achieving a high-middle income status. In this line, she aims to pursue prudent management of the government's fiscal resources, the modernization of the budget system, incorporation of sustainability and green principles in government spending, and finally, the promotion of sustainable economic growth through strategic investment in high-impact infrastructure and human capital development.

She has a degree in Economics from the Far Eastern University and a diploma and master's degree in Development Economics from the University of the Philippines. She was pursuing her Executive Master of Public Administration from the London School of Economics but is currently on leave to serve the DBM.