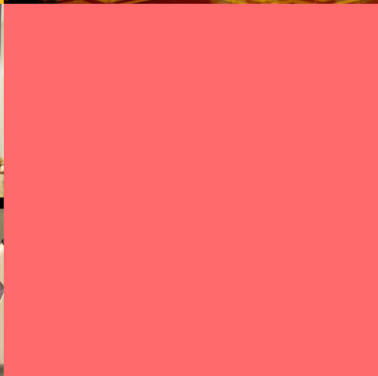
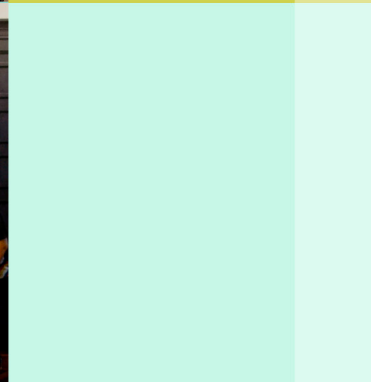




# The DBM Bulletin

The Official Newsletter of the Department of Budget and Management



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# ANNIVERSARY MESSAGE



## The Secretary's Corner

*Speech of DBM Secretary Benjamin E. Diokno during the DBM's 81<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Gathering held on May 8, 2017 at the DBM Fitness and Recreation Center*

**G**ood morning everyone and welcome to our simple gathering.

Today we conclude our agency's 81<sup>st</sup> anniversary celebration, which has the theme "Nurturing Relationships."

This celebration encourages us to reflect on the importance of forging good relationships with our colleagues — how it helps us accomplish our tasks and become capable of doing more than what our job demands from us.

The first point I would like to make is that as a team, our effectiveness is measured through our collective effort — never through our individual work.

We therefore succeed as a team, or fail as a team.

Second, a team with good rapport fosters unity and achieves its goal more easily than a team divided.

In other words, we must nurture our relationship with our colleagues. Build bridges instead of walls, as they say. When we understand and sympathize with the individual personalities of our colleagues, we work with them more effectively. This is key to raising our performance as an agency.

Now, let me take this opportunity to mention some of our recent accomplishments as an agency, proving that through team unity and good relationships, we can do great things for our government and for our countrymen.



We achieved a 100% response rate in the eFOI (or Electronic Freedom of Information) Portal. This demonstrates our transparency, sincerity, and dedication to public service.



In the last few months, we successfully held the Open Government Dialogues in the Visayas and Mindanao. The Luzon leg will be held on

May 18. The Open Government Dialogue is one of the government's means of bridging the communication gap between the country's leaders and the public. Through these public consultations, we learn how we can better serve our countrymen while also encouraging them to participate in governance.



We are also making great progress in pushing forward the National Government Rightsizing Bill. This Bill is a measure of our strong commitment to make our bureaucracy a modern, efficient, and effective one. I am confident that this will be passed into law very soon as it is widely supported in Congress. With Rightsizing, we will "trim down the fat in the government," as President Duterte said.



On April 18 and 25, we participated in the successful and powerful "Dutertenomics" forum. Through this event, we were able to reach out to the public and give them hope by sharing with them the big projects of the government that are all meant to deliver real change in the Philippines.

These are wonderful accomplishments that we must celebrate together with our agency's anniversary.

Also, later in today's program, we will honor our officemates who have served for many years in our agency, demonstrating their loyalty and devoted service in DBM and to our country. They deserve recognition for remaining steadfast despite the many challenges that come with being a civil servant.

Let this celebration today motivate us to create deeper and more meaningful connections with our officemates and give more than our best to our work.

Thank you and happy anniversary to all of us. ■

*Benjamin E. Diokno*

**BENJAMIN E. DIOKNO**  
Secretary

# DBM Marks 81<sup>st</sup> Birthday

**T**he Department of Budget and Management celebrated its 81<sup>st</sup> Anniversary with a week-long festivity that kicked-off on April 24, 2017, culminating in a thanksgiving mass, launching of day care and lactation facilities, and the battle for voice, fitness, and raffle draws on the night of May 8.



Left: Kids, with DBM officials and staff, smile at the camera during the launching of the DBM Day Care and Lactation Center; Right: Food products for sale during the DBM Anniversary Bazaar

On April 24, food stall contingents courtesy of the Anniversary Bazaar opened for business and gave extra flavor, spice and color for the entire duration of the celebration. Other activities during the day included a blood-letting activity with the Philippine National Red Cross and tours to the Malacañang Museum and Library.

The following day showcased sports talents during the DBM Exhibition Games for volleyball and the Bingo Para

sa Anibersaryo, with proceeds going to the Department's outreach program through *Balik-Handog* for the benefit of the Correctional Institution for Women in Mandaluyong.

On April 26, the DBM community was treated to an interstellar adventure with tours to the National Planetarium in Ermita, Manila, while the DBM Exhibition Games for basketball were held later in the day.



Left: DBM employees had a blast touring the National Planetarium; Right: DBM employees participated in the Balik-Handog program at the Correctional Institution for Women.

The DBM Bulletin staff pays tribute to those who made the 81<sup>st</sup> DBM anniversary celebration a success, especially to the tireless rehearsals by performers, emcees and technicians. Credit also goes to the commitment and leadership of the Internal Management Group which made sure that all branches of the festivity worked like clockwork and went smoothly. ■

## Budget Reform Bill Now in Congress

**T**he Department of Budget and Management (DBM) held the initial briefing on the Budget Reform Bill (BRB) to the House Committee on Appropriations on May 18, 2017, nine days after its filing in Congress.

Also known as House Bill 5590, the BRB aims to modernize the Philippine budgetary system by institutionalizing reforms in budgeting, promoting fiscal sustainability, strengthening the Congress' power of the purse, instituting an Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS), and increasing budget transparency and participation.

The new budget reform will shift the validity of appropriations from 2 years to one year, and the mode

of budgeting from obligation to cash-based. These shifts will make budget execution faster, transparent, credible, and more accountable.

Under the cash-based budget, faster payment of goods and services is expected to be attained, thus improving the ability of the government to deliver better services to the people.

Likewise, the BRB introduces the "Extended Payment Period" which will give agencies a three-month period of the following fiscal year, from January 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup>, to pay for the goods and services that were delivered, inspected and accepted by the end of the year. ■  
(*Ria Consuelo C. Mendoza*)



## PEMNA Highlights “Better” Educ Spending to Address Key Issues

Addressing poverty and inequality took the center stage at the 2017 Public Expenditure Management Network in Asia (PEMNA) Plenary Conference held on May 8-10, 2017 in Densapar, Indonesia, which had for its theme, “Public Expenditure on Education – Upgrading Human Capital in Addressing Poverty and Inequality.”

PEMNA, as a peer-learning network, provides a venue for public financial management practitioners to share their knowledge in order to build stronger national budget and treasury systems across the region. From the experiences of other countries, participants are expected to help their respective governments manage their reforms and resources efficiently.

Hosted by the Ministry of Finance of Indonesia, the Conference gathered more than a hundred practitioners from 13 countries to discuss how improved education spending can help reduce problems associated with poverty and inequality.

The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) was represented by Assistant Secretary Amelita Castillo who is also a member of the Leadership Team and the current Chairperson of the Budget Community of Practice (B-CoP) of the PEMNA, Regional Directors Nenita Failon and Ruby Esteban of RO I and NCR, respectively, and Ms. Benjieleth Zuñiga, Supervising Budget and Management Specialist of BMB-B. Both Zuñiga and Esteban presented the Philippine situation in education while Asec. Castillo facilitated some B-CoP sessions.

During the discussions, one of the common government strategies being employed by member-countries to fund education is through the centralization-decentralization approach. Centralization is a condition where government provision and delivery are concentrated at the national level, while decentralization is a situation where provision and delivery are both at the local level.

In the Philippines, Esteban and Zuñiga confirmed the roles being played by both the central and local governments in successfully implementing programs and projects for the four education subsectors, namely: early childhood

education, basic education, higher education, and technical vocational education.

For instance, while LGUs fund the operational requirements of the Barangay Day Care Centers, subsidies to implement programs of these centers such as the DSWD’s Supplemental Feeding Program are provided by the national government.

World Bank Indonesia Manager Rolande Simone Pryce said that East Asian countries hold a strong belief in the importance of education as reflected in the high levels of spending devoted to the sector. However, the relationship between public spending and actual learning outcomes is not linear. Hence, she emphasized that, “How we spend the money is often just as important as how much we spend.”

In the Philippines, the education sector is assigned the highest budgetary priority as mandated by the constitution. For this, Esteban said that there should be regular spending reviews to ascertain efficiency of budget usage and whether or not the targeted beneficiaries are reached.

Furthermore, since poverty alleviation is an ultimate development goal of the country,

Esteban added that the government’s role gears largely towards improving accessibility to education and addressing inequality issues. “How education can best serve as a potent way to addressing poverty matters most not only to the DBM but to the people, especially the poor and the less privileged,” she said.

Treasury of Indonesia Director General Dr. Marwanto Harjowiryo called for the participating countries to bring about better expenditure policies to enable them to support their people’s needs. Harjowiryo said that providing, among others, education, skills, and health facilities to the people will address the inequities and likewise improve their chances of upgrading their living standards.

Meanwhile, sharing her takeaway from the conference, Failon said the event widened her understanding of other countries’ situations. “Their practices and reforms in budget allocation and monitoring can be adopted in our system. The learnings will be beneficial in my official function, to think that the biggest chunk of our functional jurisdiction in the region is devoted to the education sector.” ■ (Crispin Mahrion B. Abacan)



Chairperson of the Budget Community of Practice (B-CoP) of the PEMNA, Assistant Secretary Amelita D. Castillo opened and set the tone for the B-CoP sessions. (Photo from Regional Office I Director Nenita Failon)



Esteban (left) and Zuñiga (right) on stage listening to one of the speakers before their presentation.



## BTMS Budget Execution Phase Goes Live in DBM and BTr

The green light is on for the budget execution module of the Budget and Treasury Management System (BTMS).

The two-month Parallel Go Live, which started on April 3, 2017 per BTMS Advisory No. 1, involves the pilot spending agencies<sup>1</sup>—the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the Bureau of the Treasury (BTr)—recording their financial transactions using the old system (either manual, semi-automated, or automated) and entering the same data in the BTMS. The parallel run incorporates concepts and components of a full implementation on the functional scale, including breadth and user impact, to test the functionality of the BTMS and validate the accuracy of its generated data vis-à-vis data generated using the old system.

Under the parallel run, officers and staff are directed to enter into the system all transactions from April 3 onwards which were manually prepared using the forms: Purchase Request, Purchase Order, Goods Received/Return Note, Obligation Request, Disbursement Voucher, Revenue Voucher, Revenue Receipt Voucher, and Journal Entry Voucher. However, there was a gap between the transactions logged into the BTMS and the actual transactions manually processed in the Accounting Division for the months of April and May. To ensure consistency and uniformed compliance, the BTMS Steering Committee, led by Undersecretary Lilia

Guillermo, issued on May 24, 2017 the operating guidelines and catch-up procedures to handle the aforementioned transactions to be recorded into the BTMS before the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2017.



The Commission on Audit (COA), on the other hand, will participate as an oversight agency, performing audit functions. During the briefing for COA auditors and staff COA Commissioner Isabel D. Agito expressed her support, saying, “Thank you for sharing the [BTMS] processes! We hope to be an active partner [in this undertaking] and be of help to DBM and BTr.”

As of June 1, 2017, the BTMS Budget Execution Module covering all regional offices of DBM and BTr has already gone live. ■ (Crisanto Gastardo Jr. of the Budget & Treasury Management System)

<sup>1</sup> The pilot run covers the DBM Central Office and three selected Regional Offices (i.e., NCR, Region IVA, and MIMAROPA), and the BTr Central Office and two selected Regional Offices (i.e., NCR and Region III).

## Quick Guide to URS Now on DBM Website

By: Haydee Parras-Toledo

How to make URS as easy as ABC? Well, one option is to give its ABCs...

The Unified Reporting System (URS) is an application developed and maintained by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) to provide a facility for online data entry and submission by national government agencies and their operating units of various reports required by both the DBM and the Commission on Audit.

The URS enables the two oversight agencies to monitor and/or evaluate agency performance versus plans and targets which serve as bases for sound policy decisions.

Prior to the development of the URS, the preparation, consolidation and submission of multiple financial reports and statements by agencies had been difficult and redundant.

The application also offers a consolidated view per report type, namely: Budget Execution Documents, Budget and Financial Accountability Reports, and Summary Performance Monitoring Report.

“The system is slow. It is not easy to submit our reports online... It’s difficult to remember all the deadlines of the numerous reports that are required to be submitted... Is our agency’s system compatible with that of DBM’s to enable us to comply with the URS?”

These are but some of the usual concerns and complaints of government agencies regarding the URS.

To address agency concerns, the DBM through its Information and Communications Technology Systems Service (ICTSS) produced the URS Primer and uploaded it to the DBM website. The primer contains basic information such as technical system requirements, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), schedule of submission of the required reports, and the like.

The URS Submission Calendar provides information as to when agencies need to submit the Budget Execution Documents (BEDs), Financial Accountability Report (FAR), Budget Accountability Report (BAR), and Summary Performance Monitoring Report (SPMR).

To facilitate the submission of reports by agencies, a “How To” on the creation of a URS account is included. And, to clarify the roles of designated users, a workflow is presented and the different roles in the system are defined.

The URS also supports uploading of downloadable report templates, allowing agencies to work offline, including those with limited internet access.

So visit the DBM website now at [www.dbm.gov.ph](http://www.dbm.gov.ph) to make URS as easy as ABC! ■

## Nurturing Relationships in DBM

# Unity in Diversity

DBM employees of the shuttle service traversing the Fairview-DBM route enjoying a breakfast treat courtesy of one of its passengers.



***“We are, of course, a nation of differences.  
Those differences don’t make us weak.***

***They’re the source of our strength.”  
-- Jimmy Carter***

It was on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April in 1936 when the then Budget Commission was formed to “carry out the President’s responsibility of preparing the budget.”<sup>1</sup> This year, what is now known as the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), enters its ninth decade of service with the theme, Nurturing Relationships.

The word “nurturing” itself means caring or encouraging the growth of anything. In this case, it is about relationships. Relationships, on their own, cannot survive without nurturing. We nurture relationships with others in order to create a healthy environment, while making a conducive learning place for everyone.

The people with whom we usually interact or have chitchats with over lunch are all once unknown faces. How they found places in our lives from “nameless faces” to friends is how relationships are gradually built.

In the DBM, different types of relationship exist. However, a special, one-of-a-kind relationship is formed the moment one starts working for the Department, transcending the usual boss-subordinate, casual co-workers, and work-family relationships that can be observed in the office.

One thing to note about these relationships is that they do not only stay inside the workplace— they further extend outside the office. Marissa Mata of the Budget and Management Bureau-C can attest to this, having experienced it first-hand. Marissa’s

former boss used to give her family gifts, which would make her feel very touched by the generosity shown to her.

Getting something done can be really tough with everyone having to deal with different personalities. Problems usually arise if one fails to spend time understanding the behavior of others. However, this is not the case in the DBM. People, including those we have not talked to yet, will smile at us when we cross paths along the corridor or at the cafeteria of Building II, or at the gates as we report for work or leave for home.

A case in point are the ever-reliable shuttle services which represent the microcosm of a nurtured relationship—DBM style. There are no boring and

silent rides inside a DBM shuttle. Its passengers develop strong bonds through time, treating each other as one big happy family.

With the public keeping a tight watch on the whole Department serving as the budget arm of the government, nurturing relationships is indeed important—and this is what makes a team!

Reiterating Secretary Diokno’s words, we should always remember that DBM’s “effectiveness is measured through collective effort — never through individual work. The Department therefore succeeds as a team, or fails as a team.” ■  
(Ria Consuelo C. Mendoza)

<sup>1</sup> [www.dbm.gov.ph/?page\\_id=352](http://www.dbm.gov.ph/?page_id=352)



## ISSUE: Whether or not a contractual employee is already entitled to Uniform/Clothing Allowance on his sixth month of service



### DBM Response:

Pursuant to Budget Circular No. 2012-1, uniform/clothing allowance (U/CA) shall be granted to civilian government personnel, regardless of employment status, who have already rendered services for six (6) months, and are expected to render services for at least six (6) more months in a particular fiscal year, including leaves of absence with pay.

Said provision was based on Section 305, Article 5, Volume I of the Government Accounting and Auditing Manual which states that the annual clothing allowance shall be given to all employees who are in service for at least six (6) consecutive months, provided they serve the agency for another six

(6) months from the day they receive the allowance.

As a yearly benefit, the purpose of the U/CA is to defray expenses for uniforms or distinctive clothing which are the required appropriate attire for employees in the regular performance of their work. The entitlement to the U/CA is contingent on the recipient meeting the required service requirement, both rendered and still to be rendered.

Accordingly, an employee, despite having served at least six months but is about to be separated within the six month period after the release of the U/CA, shall no longer be entitled thereto. Stated otherwise, if said employee is expected to remain employed for at least six (6) more months, he/she shall be entitled to the U/CA. ■

## MINDFUL LEADERSHIP: Major Factor for SPMS

By: **Marlyn A. De Guzman**  
Chief Budget and Management Specialist, SPIB



Fifteen DBM Directors and division chiefs participated in a seminar-workshop on “Mindful Leadership,” conducted by the Organization Development Practitioners Network Philippines, Inc. (ODPN) and Profiles Asia Pacific, Inc. at the Seda BGC Hotel, Taguig City last May 30, 2017.

The Course has been designed to improve emotional intelligence (EI) skills – which have been shown through researches to be critical starting skills for all leaders and sales managers wanting to strengthen their development.

The practical and skills-based course aims to improve the quality of leadership through the application of a set of mindfulness tools and techniques. Building EI through mindfulness will help leaders to be more effective and confident, thus allowing delivery of exceptional outcomes. This is consistent with the Strategic Performance Management System (SPMS) being implemented in the bureaucracy, which puts emphasis on the continuing development of employees to enhance the overall performance delivery of the organization.

The ODPN is an organization committed to advancing the practice of OD through continuing personal and professional growth of members, enabling them to positively influence their organizations and to contribute to knowledge through research, thereby creating opportunities for sustainable change and development in Philippine society and in the ASEAN region. ■



## Query<sup>1</sup> on the Payment of Back Wages and Other Benefits as a Result of Executive Clemency

### ISSUE

Whether or not an employee is entitled to receive payment of back wages and other benefits following his reinstatement to government service upon grant of executive clemency

### DISCUSSION:

On August 20, 1998, the Civil Service Commission (CSC) promulgated Resolution No. 98-2208 declaring “A” guilty of dishonesty and imposed upon him the penalty of Dismissal with accessory penalties. He then requested for reconsideration of said Resolution but the same was denied on November 13, 1998. He filed a Petition for Review with the Court of Appeals but the same was dismissed<sup>2</sup> due to technicality. Subsequently, he elevated said decision before the Supreme Court but it was likewise dismissed on technical grounds.

On December 12, 2002, “A” filed with the Office of the President a Petition for Executive Clemency but the same was denied in view of the unfavourable recommendation by the CSC<sup>3</sup>. In 2008, he filed anew, and this time, the CSC favorably recommended<sup>4</sup> the grant of executive clemency to him. The President<sup>5</sup> granted him executive clemency and the removal of administrative penalties and disabilities imposed upon him.

“A” then applied for a new appointment and was subsequently reinstated to his former position on March 2, 2015.

At the outset, we note that the grant of executive clemency to “A” has the effect of removing only the administrative penalty imposed upon him, i.e., dismissal from the service, as stated in the Resolution itself. Thus, it cannot be presumed that the grant of executive clemency includes award of back wages and other benefits.

The case of *Isabelo T. Sabello vs. Department of Education, Culture and Sports*<sup>6</sup> is instructive. The SC therein ruled that although reinstatement had been duly authorized in the case of a pardoned public officer, it does not necessarily entitle said officer to back wages, since such right is afforded only to those who have been illegally dismissed and were thus ordered reinstated or to those otherwise acquitted of the charge against them.

In another case<sup>7</sup>, the SC ruled that pardon does not generally result in automatic reinstatement inasmuch as the case offender has to apply for reappointment. Neither is he entitled to back wages. Accordingly, “A” had to apply for reappointment before he was reinstated to government service.

Applying the foregoing in the case of “A”, the executive clemency granted to him resulted in neither automatic reinstatement nor the payment of back wages. The grant of executive clemency removed only the administrative penalty of dismissal and did not carry with it the award of back wages and other benefits because it did not erase the fact of the commission of the offense and the conviction therefore. Thus, it did not relieve the individual of the punitive consequences of such action<sup>8</sup>. On such consequence is his dismissal from the service which necessitates non-payment of his salary and other benefits during said period. This is consistent with the fundamental principle that a government employee is not entitled to any compensation if he/she has not rendered any service or the “no work, no pay” principle as enunciated by the SC in the case of *Eduardo Balitaosan vs. Secretary of Education*<sup>9</sup>. ■

<sup>1</sup> Query lifted from Department of Budget and Management LS Opinion No. 5 dated January 29, 2016 forwarded to DBM RO XIII (Memoranda dated November 6, 2015)

<sup>2</sup> On March 17, 1999

<sup>3</sup> In its CSC Resolution No. 04-0397 dated April 5, 2005

<sup>4</sup> In its Resolution No. 1100

<sup>5</sup> In OP Resolution dated August 31, 2012

<sup>6</sup> 180 SCRA 623 (1989)

<sup>7</sup> Merlinda Jacinto vs. Court of Appeals, 281 SCRA 57 (1997)

<sup>8</sup> The Supreme Court, the case of *Vicente Garcia vs. Commission on Audit*, 226 SCRA 356 (1993), held that if the pardon is based on the innocence of the individual, it relieves the party from all punitive consequences of his criminal act, thereby restoring to him his clean name, good reputation and unstained character prior to the finding of guilt. This signifies automatic reinstatement to the government service and entitlement to back wages.

<sup>9</sup> 410 SCRA 233 (2003)



We worked,



Team Spirit!



We played,



We conquered!



## LAUGHS AND LEARNINGS:

## The DBM Summer Stories

There is power in a group of people working together towards a common goal. In his anniversary message, DBM Secretary Benjamin Diokno emphasized the importance of teamwork in accomplishing the goals of the agency: "We therefore succeed as a team, or fail as a team."

This year's summer season, DBM employees held their assessment and team building activities to foster cooperation, interaction, and a harmonious relationship in the work place. From the untouched paradise of Palau Island to the remarkable waterfalls of Surigao del Sur, colleagues from the DBM Central and Regional Offices came together to showcase their creativity and determination in various activities.

The three-day escapade provided an avenue for employees not only to relax and have fun, but more importantly, to develop skills and values necessary to perform more effectively as a team.

**Trust and cooperation.** Team buildings create opportunities for members to learn more about each other, thus building trust and cooperation. For instance, the Budget Information and Training Service (BITS) held a "Getting to Know Each Other"

session where they discovered each person's preferences, strengths, and weaknesses – bringing the BITS family closer together. The Administrative Service (AS) also held several games that enhanced collaboration between teammates such as ball race, The Cone Master, and Find the Hole.

**Communication and creativity.** Effective communication boosts creativity and innovation. In their assessment exercises, the Organization, Position Classification and Compensation Bureau (OPCCB) brought out their creative juices to build towers out of drinking straws. On the other hand, colleagues at the DBM Regional Office (RO) VI were able to visualize and express their thoughts in the "Write a Letter to Your Future Self" activity.

**Leadership and problem solving skills.** Team buildings empower individuals to contribute to common goals. Members of RO I and RO VI showed their leadership and problem solving abilities as they overcame challenges in their Amazing Race and Egg Drop activities. The Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Bureau (PMEB) wore their thinking caps to form mathematical equations in their "We are One" game.

**Environmental and cultural awareness.** The DBM family learned to better appreciate their culture and the

environment as they reconnected with nature. As part of their team building activity, employees of RO V visited the Nayong Pilipino in Pampanga and the Manila Ocean Park. Likewise, the Cordillera Administrative Regional (CAR) Office saw the value of Filipino heritage as they went sightseeing at the Bahay na Bato in La Union.

Featured in this spread are photos that capture the exhilarating team building stories that each office has to offer.

What's your DBM summer story? ■  
(Vanessa L. Pamittan)

- 1 DBM-Regional Office (RO) I and PS Depot I in Palau Island, Santa Ana, Cagayan (March 22-24, 2017)
- 2 Budget Information and Training Service (BITS) in Palau Island, Cagayan (May 24-26, 2017)
- 3 Organization, Position Classification and Compensation Bureau (OPCCB) in Baguio City and Sagada, Mt. Province (February 22-24, 2017)
- 4 DBM RO VI in Bataan and Corregidor Island, Cavite (March 8-10, 2017)
- 5 Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Bureau (PMEB) at Nayomi Sanctuary Resort, Balete, Batangas (February 8-10, 2017)
- 6 Local Government and Regional Coordination Bureau (LGRCB) and Office of Undersecretary Janet B. Abuel (OUJBA) in Puerto Princesa City and El Nido, Palawan (March 22-24, 2017)

7 Organization, Position Classification and Compensation Bureau (OPCCB) in Baguio City and Sagada, Mt. Province (February 22-24, 2017)

8 Office of Undersecretary Gertrudo A. De Leon (OUGDL) in Coron, Palawan (March 1-3, 2017)

9 DBM RO III at Pradera Verde Wakepark, Lubao, Pampanga (April 26-28, 2017)

10 Budget Technical Bureau (BTB) in Bacolod City (February 15-17, 2017)

11 Office of Undersecretary Luz M. Cantor (OULMC) in Legazpi, Albay (April 10-12, 2017)

12 DBM RO IV-A in Mataas na Kahoy and Talisay, Batangas (February 15-17, 2017)

13 DBM RO XI in Cebu City (March 29-April 1, 2017)

14 DBM-Cordillera Administrative Regional Office (CAR) and Procurement Service (PS) Depot CAR in San Juan, La Union (February 15-17, 2017)

15 Administrative Service (AS) at Stilts Calatagan Beach Resort, Batangas City and Tagaytay City (March 1-3, 2017)

16 DBM RO V and PS Depot V in Metro Manila and Pampanga (March 22-24, 2017)

17 Office of the Secretary (OSEC), Office of Undersecretary Gertrudo A. De Leon (OUGDL), and Department Liaison Office (DLO) in Coron, Palawan (March 1-3, 2017)

18 Budget and Management Bureau E (BMB-E) at Thunderbird, Poro Point, La Union and Baguio City (March 29-31, 2017)

19 DBM RO X and PS Depot X in Bataan (March 29-31, 2017)

"We disconnect from the rest of the world sometimes."



## GAD CORNER

## Women in the Changing World of Work: 61<sup>st</sup> UNCSW's Assembly Empowers Working Women

The annual gathering of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW) puts the spotlight on the challenges of women in the changing “world of work.”

In its 61<sup>st</sup> session held on March 12–24, 2017 at the UN Headquarters in New York, international leaders, activists and youths from 162 member-countries addressed the persisting inequalities in the global labor pool that hold women back from getting equal footing with men amidst the innovation, globalization, and increasing human mobility.

The Philippine delegation, composed of 38 department and agency leaders, was headed by Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) Chair Rhodora T. Masilang-Bucoy, while DBM Undersecretary Agnes Joyce G. Bailen was designated as one of her alternate representatives.

Undersecretary Bailen urged women to maximize participation in the health and social workforce, citing the projection of the World Health Organization that there would be an “unprecedented growth” in the demand for 40 million additional



Philippine Delegates: (L-R) Sylvia F. Mallari of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Krissi Shaffina Twyla A. Rubin of the Commission on Human Rights, Dahlialyn D. Dait-Cawed of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) and Agnes Joyce G. Bailen of DBM.



Philippine delegates display the vibrant indigenous wear of the Philippines. (L-R: Dahlialyn D. Dait-Cawed of the NCIP, Lorna A. Villegas of the Department of Agriculture, Emmeline L. Verzosa of the PCW, Aurora Javate-de Dios of Miriam College, Agnes Joyce G. Bailen of DBM, Rhodora M. Bucoy of the Philippine Commission on Women, Rosalina L. Bistoyong of DAR and Donna Celeste D. Feliciano-Gatmaytan of the Department of Foreign Affairs.)

health and social workers by 2030. She also advocated the annual procurement of indigenous products from indigenous women using the UN Sustainable Development Goal Framework on Gender Equality (SDG5), as pushed by the United Nations Development Programme, to fast-track the resolution of issues on poverty and climate change by 2030.

Major issues discussed during the assembly included, among others, unequal compensation between men and women, gender bias, lack of social benefits, child and dependent care, workplace harassment, and gender-based violence.

With these concerns, delegates called for the passage of laws upholding the principle of equal pay for equal work, the enactment of paid parental leave and flexible work policies, and the implementation of laws that criminalize violence against women.

The UNCSW Assembly is one of the largest annual gatherings of global leaders, non-government organizations, private sector, UN partners and activists from around the world focusing on the status of the rights and empowerment of all women. ■ (Emil John T. Manguerra)

### The DBM Bulletin

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