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# The DBM Bulletin

The Official Newsletter of the Department of Budget and Management

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*Merry*  
*Christmas*

FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS





# THE SECRETARY'S CORNER. CHRISTMAS MESSAGE



## *Bakit nga ba may Pasko?*

Christmas is a story of giving. Christmas tells us of the most precious gift of God to humanity. As a sign of His never-ending love, He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).

And this is why every season is a perpetual reminder that Jesus, who was born of the Virgin Mary, is the Savior who came to Earth to restore our dignity, lost through sin and disobedience. His birth is the supreme expression of the greatest love from heaven, a gift to humanity, that every human being should treasure and share.

To my DBM family, may we never forget that God watches over us despite all the pains and struggles that we experience. He listens to our prayers, guides our decisions, and answers even the most difficult questions or doubts we have in mind. These are just some of His many ways to make us feel that we are loved and are, in turn, capable of loving.

Keep this in your heart: Christmas is love. And because love is not seasonal, we have to remember to celebrate Christmas every single day of our lives.

Christmas is you, me, and all of us, waking up happily in the morning, thanking God

for another day to enjoy life. It is seen in the smile we give to our co-workers and clients, and in the way we treat them – in the way we want to be treated.

Christmas is us, counting blessings more than shortcomings. It is acknowledging that struggles are an inevitable part of success, and having the faith and courage to face rather than escape these because He is by our side.

Christmas is us, working humbly to change the world in our own little way, making it a better place by being a kinder person to others. As public servants, this can be done by inculcating in our hearts that, we must at all times, be accountable to the people, serve them with utmost honesty, dedication, integrity, loyalty and efficiency, act with patriotism and justice, and lead modest lives.

Christmas is us being a gift to others – because we have received the gift of the first Christmas and we are a blessing to one another.

*Maligayang Pasko sa inyong lahat!*

  
WENDEL E. AVISADO



Gifts come in various shapes and sizes. For the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), it's foremost and always about giving the Filipino people a better quality of life through effective and efficient management and utilization of government resources. For 2019, the DBM led several reforms and undertakings to help ensure this goal. Here's a bite-size summary of our key undertakings:

### ENHANCED ALLOCATIVE EFFICIENCY AND ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

#### First Cash Budget Implemented

On April 15, the 2019 General Appropriations Act (GAA), the first cash budget in the history of Philippine Budgeting, was enacted. A few months later, on September 9 to be exact, President Rodrigo Duterte signed Executive Order No. 91 which provides for the adoption of the Cash Budgeting System (CBS) beginning fiscal year 2019. The CBS aims to promote faster delivery of government services through the proper allocation of funds and timely implementation of programs and projects.

#### 98.9% of the 2019 Budget Released as of November

The DBM has released PhP3.622 trillion, or 98.8% of the 2019 obligation program as of November 30, 2019. The bulk of the released funds, or PhP2.056 trillion, was composed of allotment releases to the line departments to implement their priority programs and projects.

#### Improved Fiscal Transparency: Key Budget Documents Published on Time

Committed to its goal of promoting transparency and public participation, the DBM was able to publish on time seven of the eight key budget documents required in the Open Budget Survey (OBS). These are the: 1) Pre-Budget Statement (2020 Budget Priorities Framework); 2) Executive Budget Proposal (2020 National Expenditure Program); 3) Enacted Budget

(2019 General Appropriations Act); 4) Citizens Budget (2019 People's Budget and 2020 People's Proposed Budget); 5) In-Year Reports; 6) Mid-Year Report; and 7) Year-End Report. The 8th required document, the Audit Report, is prepared by the Commission on Audit.

#### Back-to-Back Awards on FOI

This year, the DBM received three Freedom of Information (FOI) awards, two (as a top performing agency and for its efforts to promote the FOI advocacy under the Open Government Partnership platform) during the 2019 FOI Awards organized by the Presidential Communications Operations Office and one (FOI New Generation - Most Collaborative National Government Agency Award) from the Youth Alliance for Freedom of Information.



Dir. Yolanda Reyes and Ms. Marianne Fabian receive the FOI awards for the DBM during the 2019 FOI Awards.



Ms. Fabian receives the Most Collaborative National Government Agency Award for the DBM.



# FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS OUR GIFTS IN 2019



## Open Government Promoted

Working closely with civil society, the Philippine-Open Government Partnership (PH-OGP) published PH-OGP National Action Plan (NAP) 2019-2021 which contains 10 game-changing commitments. One of these is the establishment of an efficient and effective technology enabled participatory validation and reporting mechanism for selected infrastructure projects. It will be done through an online platform called DIME Transparency. The Plan was publicly launched on December 19, 2019.



DBM Assistant Secretary Rolando Toledo responds to questions during the public launch of the NAP.

## A MORE TECHNOLOGICALLY SAVVY GOVERNMENT

### BTMS Rolled Out to Government Agencies

The Budget and Treasury Management System (BTMS) has been rolled out to 119 government agencies out of 266 as of December 2019. The BTMS, a combined effort of the DBM, the Bureau of the Treasury (BTr), and the Commission on Audit (COA), is an integrated and web-based Financial Management Information System built on a centralized database to support the Public Financial Management (PFM) processes of the government. To prescribe the guidelines on the adoption and use of the BTMS for Budget Utilization, the DBM issued Circular Letter 2019-4 in January 2019. And, to support its roll-out, the BTMS e-Learning System was also launched in 2019 to aid in the training of 15,000 BTMS users.

### From Imaging to Information: Project DIME Rebranded

In June 2019, the DBM, led by the Project DIME Team, rebranded the Project to Digital Information for Monitoring and Evaluation (DIME) to put more emphasis on information.

Project DIME, which now stands for Digital Information for Monitoring and Evaluation, makes use of existing technologies such as satellites, drones, LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging), and geotagging software to monitor the status, financing, and implementation of big-ticket government projects such as the Health Facilities Enhancement Program, the National Greening Program, and Farm-to-Market Roads. Through the use of digital imaging, Project DIME aims to make available accurate and regularly generated monitoring information on the physical status of the program/project. This kind of information is important, particularly to project managers and budget officers/specialists, as it will support decisions in terms of adjustments in implementation, expansion or discontinuance of the program/project, and level of budgetary allocation, among others.

During the first anniversary of the Presidential Anti-Corruption Commission held last March 2019, Project DIME was recognized as an important tool in the transparency and accountability efforts of the government.

### Modernization of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System Pursued

Consistent with the objective to provide and implement a total e-Government procurement solution and achieve transparency in all stages of government procurement, the DBM and the Procurement Service-Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PS-PhilGEPS) Group expanded the functionalities of the PhilGEPS through the Acquisition and Modernization of an Electronic Government Procurement System or the modernized PhilGEPS (mPhilGEPS).

One of the mPhilGEPS' functionalities is the Virtual Store (VS). This Store allows agencies to view, search, select, and procure Common-Use Supplies and Equipment 24/7. It was initially implemented in September 2018 in three agencies – the DBM, the PS, and the Government Procurement Policy Board-Technical Support Office. Currently, it is being rolled out to various national government agencies and government-owned and/or -controlled corporations. As of November this year, 15 agencies have placed their orders through the VS.

## CAPACITATED & WELL-COMPENSATED GOVERNMENT WORKFORCE

### Partner SUCs Roll Out PFMCP

To help capacitate about 20,000 PFM practitioners nationwide, the DBM and the Bureau of the Treasury (BTr), partnered with state universities and colleges (SUCs) to make the Public Financial Management Competency Program (PFMCP) more accessible to those in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao.

Five of the six partner SUCs are already rolling out the PFMCP in their respective locality/region. The UP-NCPAG formally launched the first rollout of the PFMCP Foundation Track in July 2019, where 77 participants attended. The Foundation Track, a prerequisite for the specialized courses of the PFMCP, aims to build the foundation for developing the competencies vital to all PFM practitioners. The Bicol University started its PFMCP rollout last March 2019.



### Service Recognition Incentive Granted

Per recommendation of the DBM, President Duterte signed in December 2019 Administrative Order (AO) No. 19 which authorizes the grant of a one-time Service Recognition Incentive (SRI) to government employees for 2019 at a uniform amount not exceeding PhP10,000. Said incentive aims to recognize government employees for their collective efforts and continuous participation in improving public service delivery.



### Salary Adjustment Proposed

The DBM and the Governance Commission for GOCCs, with the help of an independent firm, conducted a compensation study to benchmark the pay of civilian government personnel with private sector workers doing comparable jobs. As a result of said study, the DBM submitted a proposal for salary adjustment to the Office of the President (OP) for the President's approval. The proposal was approved by the President and was transmitted to Congress. Some PhP31.1



billion was lodged under the Miscellaneous Personnel Benefits Fund in the proposed 2020 Budget to implement the first tranche of the salary increase.

### Knowledge Resources Enhanced

The DBM signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) last June to be part of the BSP's Knowledge Resource Network (KRN). The move is in line with the Department's efforts to improve its knowledge collections particularly on public finance.

The KRN fosters better understanding of economic and financial concepts and financial literacy through the exchange of information resources between and among its network members. As a KRN partner, the DBM has provided a corner in the DBM Library to display the BSP KRN collections which include inflation reports, statistical publications, annual reports, brochures, and other learning materials. These collections were turned over by the BSP to the DBM last August 13, 2019.





## Moving Beyond TRANSPARENCY

By: Crispin Mahrion B. Abacan

In 2016, a local media company released “The 10 Bureaucrats You Meet When There is No FOI (Freedom of Information),” a series of infographics illustrating the struggles, and to some extent hilarious experiences, of its researchers in requesting data from the Philippine government. It was released following the signing by President Rodrigo Duterte of Executive Order (E.O.) No. 2 on FOI, a landmark E.O. of his administration, within days of his assumption into office in 2016.

The Executive Order upholds the right of the people to information on matters of public concern, directing and providing the guidelines for the transparency and disclosure of government records involving public interest in all agencies under the Executive Department. Since its implementation, more than 22,000 data/information requests to 478 agencies have been logged in the eFOI portal as of December 2019.

For the 2017 FOI Annual Awards, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) was recognized as the sole FOI Champion (Department Category) for its outstanding commitment in ensuring transparency in public service. But even prior to the issuance of the FOI Order, the DBM had already been strongly advocating for transparency.

### Transparency as a DBM Policy

The International Budget Partnership (IBP), an international institution that “promotes transparent and inclusive government budget process as a means to improve governance and service delivery,” asserts that the government has the primary duty to provide the public with timely and comprehensive budget information.

The DBM commits to this responsibility. In fact, part of the Department’s Vision responds to this – to be an implementer of world-class budget and management systems that enhance transparency, accountability, and public participation in governance.

“As we give citizens access to information, we give them recognition that they have a stake in government concerns, that they have the right to know, to understand, to be heard, to participate, and to help make the government more efficient and effective,” explains Undersecretary Janet B. Abuel, speaking on the value of transparency in government work. Indeed, the DBM knows this by heart.

“Opening up timely, comprehensive, and relevant financial management information to the public ensures that citizens are able to make informed decisions, collaborate and engage with public officials in enhancing public policies, and ultimately influence how their government is run,” adds Marianne Fabian from the Fiscal Planning and Reforms Bureau and the Country Point of Contact of PH-OGP.

Eventually, years of system reforms have led the Philippines to where it is now - 1st in Transparency in Asia under the 2017 Open Budget Survey (OBS). The DBM, which is responsible for seven of the eight essential budget documents, managed to produce all of these documents on time for the 2019 OBS. Hence, the Department is optimistic in gaining a substantial increase in its Open Budget Index (OBI) Score.



THE PEMNA PARTICIPANTS

### Learning from Others

As part of its commitment to foster network linkages with local and international counterparts, the DBM actively participates in international events such as the Public Expenditure and Management Network in Asia (PEMNA), a peer-learning network of public financial management (PFM) officials and experts in the Asia-Pacific region.

Last October 16-17, 2019, the PEMNA Budget Community of Practice held its second meeting for the year in Jakarta, Indonesia. It focused on the conference theme “Fiscal Transparency and Public Participation.”

Mr. Jethro Anaen and Mr. Crispin Mahrion Abacan from the Fiscal Planning and Reforms Bureau and the Budget Information and Training Service, respectively, represented the DBM.

Some 46 others from 12 PEMNA member-countries and speakers from multilateral development banks, as well as New Zealand, the top country in the 2017 OBS, discussed topics on fiscal transparency and capacity building, fiscal risk disclosure, public participation and public awareness, and effective communication with the Parliament.

“What I found most enriching about the event was the opportunity to interact with your counterparts from other countries. You get to learn from how they run things there, and perhaps pick up good practices that can be implemented or integrated in the Philippine Budgeting system,” shared Abacan.

Meanwhile, during the plenary sessions, speakers urged member-countries to focus on what matters most – ensure that the benefits of transparency initiatives are maximized and are felt by the people, and to not just work on improving transparency scores.

“Promoting budget transparency is not about improving the OBI score. It is about creating conditions for a better informed public debate on budget policies,” said Anjeli Garg of the IBP.

### Moving Forward

In advocating and implementing fiscal openness reforms, or any kind of reform, the DBM has learned that political will, bureaucracy support, and sustained demand from citizens and other sectors are important. Understanding this and integrating it as a conscious effort lies in the recognition that transparency is a prerequisite for public participation, and both are integral parts of the budget cycle.

To sustain the momentum or keep the ball rolling, so to speak, the DBM has set the following targets in the medium term:

1) Institutionalize transparency and participation in the budget process through the enactment of a law. The DBM is currently updating and revising its proposed Budget Modernization Bill towards the institutionalization of budget data disclosure, civil society participation in budgeting, and all necessary ingredients of a modern budget system.

2) Achieve a score of 71 in the OBS by 2021, from 67 in 2017, by publishing all eight budget documents on time and ensuring its comprehensiveness.

3) Produce a Citizen’s Budget in all four stages of the Budget Cycle. For the first time, the DBM has published a People’s Budget as Implemented, based on the data under the Year-end Report.

4) Continue the feedback mechanism, such as a regular readership survey, to engage the public in improving transparency practices.

In the end, when these mechanisms are in place, we hope this will build trust - trust between and among government, non-government sectors, development partners, and most importantly, trust between government and citizens.”

- Assistant Secretary Rolando U. Toledo

MR. ANAEN OF THE FPRB



## ISSUE

Whether or not the following personnel of Agency X are entitled to receive free quarters or quarters allowance, as provided under National Budget Circular (NBC) No. 571 (Guidelines on the Provision of Free Quarters Allowance to Certain Officials) dated December 4, 2017:

- A rank and file employee whose expertise is needed and who has been transferred to another office within Agency X;
- A rank and file employee designated as Officer-in-Charge of a Regional Office of Agency X;
- An appointed director transferred to a different position as a result of the implementation of the agency's Rationalization Plan; and
- A rank and file employee who applied for and has been appointed to a third level position.

## DBM RESPONSE

Item 3.0 of NBC No. 571, s. 2017 states that the guidelines therein shall apply to the following officials and those of equivalent rank who are assigned or transferred to a place other than that of their domicile and do not own houses or rooms therein, by virtue of agency policies on reshuffling or rotation:

POSITION	CATEGORY
Department Regional Directors	A
Department Assistant Directors	A
Bureau Regional Directors	B
Bureau Assistant Regional Directors	B

Item 5.2 of said NBC also stipulates that where there is not enough space in government premises to be used as quarters, the agency may rent houses or rooms which shall serve as quarters at reasonable rates based on the prevailing cost of rental in the area or locality but not to exceed the following rates:

AREA/LOCALITY	CATEGORY	
	A	B
National Capital Region	PhP5,500	PhP5,000
Highly Urbanized Cities/Capital Centers	PhP4,500	PhP4,000
Others	PhP4,000	PhP3,500

Relatedly, as provided under Section 61 of the General Provisions (GP) of the FY 2019 General Appropriations Act (GAA), free quarters within an agency's/office's premises are provided to officials who transferred from one station to another by virtue of agency policies on

reshuffling or rotation of personnel and do not own houses or rooms therein.

Said Section of the GP of the FY 2019 GAA added that where there is not enough space to be used as quarters, the agency may rent buildings or rooms which shall serve as quarters for said officials. For those who opt for more expensive quarters other than those rented by their agencies, such preferred quarters may be secured provided that the difference in amount between the one preferred by the officials and that rented by their respective agencies shall be paid by the officials.

Moreover, said Section states that government personnel who are not entitled to quarters privileges but are allowed to use government quarters shall be charged the corresponding cost of rentals.

In view of the foregoing and consistent with the provisions of Section 61 of the GP of the FY 2019 GAA and NBC No. 571, s. 2017, free quarters or quarters privileges shall only be granted to Agency X Regional Directors and those of equivalent rank who are transferred from one area to another by virtue of the agency's policies on reshuffling or rotation and are reassigned to places other than those of their domicile.

On the other hand, those rank and file employees who accepted assignment, detail, or promotion to positions in another work station, branch or regional office of the Agency are not covered by said Circular.

## ENTITLEMENT TO TERMINAL LEAVE BENEFITS<sup>1</sup>

A prison guard of the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) was found guilty of gross neglect of duty and was meted the penalty of dismissal from service with forfeiture of retirement benefits on January 13, 2000. On June 27, 2017, the Head of the BuCor recommended the lifting of the accessory penalty of forfeiture of retirement benefits on the basis of Section 71,<sup>2</sup> Rule 14<sup>3</sup> of the Civil Service Commission (CSC) Resolution No. 1101502.<sup>4</sup>

Pending favorable recommendation of the CSC, BuCor endorsed to the Department of Budget and Management the request for Terminal Leave Benefits (TLB) of the said dismissed prison guard in the amount PhP98,947.91.

On the case at hand, the dismissal of the prison guard did not include the entitlement to TLB in the forfeiture of retirement benefits. Section 58<sup>5</sup> of the CSC Memorandum Circular (MC) No. 19, s. 1999,<sup>6</sup> provides that the penalty of dismissal carries with it the cancellation of eligibility, forfeiture of retirement benefits, and the perpetual disqualification for re-employment in the government service, unless otherwise provided in the Decision. The CSC had the occasion to rule<sup>7</sup> in an appeal by Juanito M. Ramos<sup>8</sup> for computation of leave credits, citing Domagas v. Malana,<sup>9</sup> that forfeiture of all retirement benefits does not include the monetary value of the leave

credits earned, if any, as a result of dismissal from service after having been found guilty of an offense. Further, in the case of Office of the Court Administrator vs. Sarah P. Ampong,<sup>10</sup> the Supreme Court noted that despite the Respondent's dismissal, she should be entitled to receive her accrued leave credits, pursuant to Section 58 of CSC MC. No. 19. Hence, it has been a standing rule that despite the dismissal from the service, a government employee is entitled to his/her leave credits. A dismissed employee may not be deprived of TLB earned prior to dismissal from the service.

The claim for TLB must, however, be brought within ten (10) years from the time the right of action accrues upon an obligation created by law in accordance with Section 38<sup>11</sup> of CSC MC No. 41, s. 1998, as amended by MC No. 14, s. 1999.<sup>12</sup> Applying this, the dismissed prison guard should have filed his claim for TLB from January 13, 2000, the date of his dismissal from the service until January 13, 2010. Having failed to do so, the period to file his claim for TLB has already lapsed.

The legal recourse of the dismissed prison guard is to request before the CSC if he may be allowed to claim his TLB beyond the allowable period.

<sup>1</sup> Lifted from LS Opinion No. 2, s. 2018

<sup>2</sup> Section 71. Recommendation for Removal of Administrative Penalties or Disabilities; Requirements. In meritorious cases and upon recommendation of the Commission, the President may commute or remove administrative penalties or disabilities imposed upon officers or employees in disciplinary cases, subject to such terms and conditions as he/she may impose in the interest of the service.

<sup>3</sup> Removal of Administrative Penalties or Disabilities

<sup>4</sup> 2011 Revised Rules on Administrative Cases in the Civil Service

<sup>5</sup> Section 58. Administrative Disabilities Inherent in Certain Penalties:

a. The penalty of dismissal shall carry with it that of cancellation of eligibility, forfeiture of retirement benefits, and the perpetual disqualifications for reemployment in the government service, unless otherwise provided in the decision. xxx

<sup>6</sup> Uniform Rules on Administrative Cases in the Civil Service

<sup>7</sup> via Resolution No. 020214 dated February 11, 2002

<sup>8</sup> former Clerk III of the Bureau of Immigration but was dismissed from service by reason of conviction for violation of RA No. 3019 or the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act

<sup>9</sup> 223 SCRA 359, June 14, 1993

<sup>10</sup> A.M. No. P-13-3132 dated June 4, 2014

<sup>11</sup> Period within which to claim terminal leave pay- Request for payment of terminal leave benefits must be brought within ten (10) years from the time the right of action accrues upon an obligation created by law.

<sup>12</sup> Additional Provisions and Amendments to CSC Memorandum Circular No. 41, s. 1998 [Amendments to Rules 1 and XVI of the Omnibus Rules (Implementing Book V of the Administrative Code of 1987)]



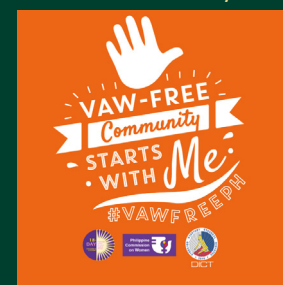
## GAD CORNER

# The Fight Against VAW

By: Rey Angelo Jose M. Gonzaga

### The “18-Day Campaign to End Violence Against Women”

The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) joined the rest of the country in the annual observance of the “18-Day



Campaign to End Violence against Women” held last November 25 to December 12. The campaign, mandated by Proclamation 1172. s. 2006, is in line with the government’s efforts to end violence against women (VAW) and achieve the vision of a VAW-free community.

Anchored on this goal, the campaign aims to raise awareness on VAW, support the protection of women’s human rights, and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls. By adopting the theme “VAW-free community starts with me,” the campaign is shifting gears to become a positive advocacy that aims to emphasize each and everyone’s commitment to pursue and achieve the vision of a VAW-free community.

This year, the campaign highlighted the significant role of the individual in ending VAW, with the limelight focused on “primary prevention” as the main approach towards reducing VAW incidents in the country. This can be achieved by informing and empowering individuals to know and claim their rights.

### “Orange Our DBM Community” Forum Calls to End VAW

In line with the nationwide campaign and recognizing that VAW is not only one of the most pervasive social problems in communities but also a grave violation of human rights, the DBM has launched and continues to implement various measures and mechanisms to address it.

One of these was the recently-conducted “Orange Our DBM Community: A Forum to End VAW” held on Human Rights Day, December 10, 2019, at the DBM Executive Lounge.

“Women’s rights are human rights. The fight against VAW isn’t just about violence – it also means fighting for women’s equal rights. Just like human rights, women’s rights should always be upheld.”

This was underscored by former Congresswoman Emmi de Jesus, a founding member and chairperson of the Gabriela Women’s Party and a recognized advocate of women’s rights. As one of the guest speakers for the forum, she discussed the programs, activities, and legislations promoting the awareness and prevention of VAW.

Among the programs and legislations discussed were the Expanded Maternity Leave Law, the Purple Rose Campaign, and the Voices of Women (VOW) against VAW Campaign. Former Congresswoman De Jesus emphasized that rather than punitive measures, prevention and information dissemination must be pursued instead.

According to a survey conducted by the National Statistics Office (now Philippine Statistics Authority), one in five Filipino women aged 15 to 49 has experienced physical violence since age 15.

Ms. Luna Javier, a Graduate Level 3 civilian Krav Maga instructor for the International Krav Maga Federation Philippines, stressed that one of the ways to avoid physical violence is through self-defense.

“For Krav Maga, instead of focusing on fighting, we focus on self-defense. It’s mainly about being able to go home safely and having a mindset on how to keep yourself safe outside or even inside your home,” she said.

To foster a culture of mindfulness among DBM employees, Ms. Javier discussed different scenarios wherein mindfulness plays a key role in avoiding physical violence. “Aside from training for self-defense, one thing a civilian can do is to simply pay attention. When walking, put your phone and earphones away and look around and pay attention to your surroundings. Paying attention can do so much and is the most effective way of removing yourself from an opportunity for crime,” she said.

The participants likewise openly discussed their own stories and other issues related to VAW in the open forum. They also sought the speakers’ advice on how individuals can commit themselves to the fight against VAW.

**Support the campaign. Share the information. Be a partner in achieving a VAW-free community. Let us all take part in the fight against VAW.**



## NEWS BRIEFS

### Writing, Graphics, and Photography Combined in DBM’s First Contributors’ Workshop

To further hone the skills of Department of Budget and Management (DBM) contributors in writing, creating infographics, and taking photographs, the DBM-Budget Information and Training Service (BITS) organized Ugnayan: The DBM Contributors Seminar-Workshop on November 14-15, 2019 at the DBM Library.

Twenty-six participants from the DBM Central and Regional Offices and the Procurement Service (PS) completed the capacity-building event. “All the topics are timely, relevant, and engaging. It also encourages the DBM community to take part in and contribute to various DBM publications,” said one of the participants. (Rey Angelo Jose M. Gonzaga, Information Officer I, and Emil John T. Manguerra, Information Officer II, BITS)

### Making History: DBM Helps Craft First-ever Bangsamoro Budget

The DBM assisted the Ministry of Finance, and Budget and Management of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (MFBM-BARMM) in crafting the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Bangsamoro Expenditure Program (BEP), the first budget ever conceived in Bangsamoro history.

The writeshop, which was held in Cotabato City, was led by the MFBM-BARMM’s technical working group (TWG). It was undertaken to consolidate and prepare the first financial program of the BARMM. It was also attended by DBM Regional Office (DBM RO) XII Director Akmad J.

Usman, as well as BITS OIC-Director Vivien V. Labastilla. Mr. John Lansangan, Ms. Vanessa Pamittan, Ms. Ria Consuelo Mendoza, and Ms. Jesselynn de la Cruz of BITS and some staff of the DBM RO XII also assisted in crafting the supporting documents for the FY 2020 BEP, such as the Technical Notes on the Proposed Bangsamoro Budget and the Chief Minister’s Budget Message.

Submitted by BARMM Chief Minister Ahod B. Ebrahim to the Bangsamoro Transition Authority Parliament last November 18, the proposed budget was signed into law as the FY 2020 Bangsamoro Appropriations Act on November 29, 2019. (Vanessa L. Pamittan, Information Officer III, BITS)

### GQMC Recognizes Anew 130 Government Organizations with ISO 9001:2015 QMS Certifications

Organized jointly by the DBM-Systems and Productivity Improvement Bureau and the Development Academy of the Philippines-Productivity and Development Center, the Government Quality Management Committee (GQMC) conducted its 7th GQMC Recognition Ceremony and Public Sector Quality and Productivity Improvement Forum last October 24 at the Philippine International Convention Center in Pasay City.

Around 130 government organizations composed of Departments and attached agencies, Constitutional Offices, Other Executive Offices, government –owned or –controlled corporations, local water districts, state universities and colleges, and local government units with original ISO 9001 Quality Management System (QMS) certifications which have yet to be recognized by the GQMC were conferred certificates of recognition during the event. (Karen Sunshine D. Quesea, Budget and Management Specialist II, Systems and Productivity Improvement Bureau)





MERRY  
*Christmas*  
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

THE DBM BULLETIN

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