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The DBM Bulletin

The Official Newsletter of the Department of Budget and Management

Meet the new

SECRETARY

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MORE THAN A SECRETARY

By: Emil John T. Manguerra

Lawyer. Church minister. Boy scout.
Public servant.

Seemingly separate and disparate lives. And yet, interestingly though not quite surprisingly, the wisdom and experience from these lives – and roles – are what best equip Acting Secretary Wendel E. Avisado for the work that awaits in the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), and what will effectively connect him, as a leader, with his staff and co-workers in the agency.

A tireless leader through the years, Secretary Avisado readily acknowledges that he still has a lot of work to do. These include, most especially, helping other people, as certainly can be gleaned from the career and vocation paths he has chosen.

As a Lawyer. Secretary Avisado completed studies at the Ateneo de Davao University, and obtained his Bachelor of Laws in 1978. After passing the Bar the following year, he pursued further studies in development at the Asian Institute of Management and the Development Academy of the Philippines.

As a Church Minister. A licensed and recognized minister of the Church of Christ, Secretary Avisado has officiated marriages all over the country. His faith is deep, and evident in his daily life and dealings with people. He is quick to share the Word of God and his own reflections on them, and is wont to include appropriate bible verses in his speaking engagements.

As a Boy Scout. The DBM Acting Secretary is an active member of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines (BSP). He is the immediate past National President of the organization and currently serves as ex-officio member of the National Executive Board.

He was likewise former Chairperson of the ASEAN Scouts Association for Regional Cooperation and first Vice Chairperson of the Asia Pacific Regional Scout Committee of the World Organization of the Scout Movement.

As a true Scout, he has made the Scout Motto “Laging Handa” his own personal mantra. And this, he says, guided his decision in accepting this latest challenge in his career as a public servant.

As a Public Servant. Secretary Avisado brings to his new assignment the wealth of experience from a long and distinguished career in government service.

Prior to his appointment to head the DBM, he served as Presidential Assistant for Special Concerns to oversee the rebuilding and rehabilitation of the areas flattened by Typhoon Yolanda. He also served as Deputy Secretary General for the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council from September 2010 to April 2015, and as City Administrator of Davao City from 2004 to 2010. He was former Regional Director of the Department of the Interior and Local Government in Region XI from 1986 to 1993, Co-Chair of the Regional Development Council of Region XI, and was elected twice as City Councilor of the First District of Davao City.

As a Father for his Family, for the DBM. His life apart from public service and civic work is being a fulfilled father to two daughters. He was married for 39 years to Adoracion Cruz-Avisado, who passed away in November 2016. He looks back with gratitude for the happy years he had with her, raising their daughters and providing them with a comfortable life.

No doubt, trained and influenced by their parents, his children have followed paths close to his own. One has earned a master’s degree in Family and Marriage Counselling, and the other is a lawyer.

While he wears different hats for different roles, his most essential one at present is being the leader and father to more than a thousand DBM employees. As the head of the family, he assures every member that his leadership will be felt by everyone. That is, he will be a hands-on type of a leader and that his office is open to all his “children,” no need for an appointment.

“I will be open to discuss with you how we can do things, move forward, and move further. I will ensure that we accomplish all the tasks for the day, while recognizing the need for professional development among our officials and employees,” Secretary Avisado said.

“Your Acting Secretary will be a working leader who will share the tasks with you, no matter how big or small.”



IN THE KNOW

By: Rey Angelo Jose M. Gonzaga

Torrential downpours, like those that we have recently experienced, are always a rude reminder of the onset of the wet season in the country. And, of course, when the rains come, expect the inevitable announcements of class and work suspension, snarled and gridlock traffic, weather and water-borne illnesses, and all the inescapable consequences of seasonal natural disasters, including flash floods and landslides.

The Philippines is no stranger to these seemingly inexhaustible number of natural disasters over the years. In order to respond to such hazards, the Government earmarks readily available funds for calamities and other natural and human-induced hazards.

National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund

One basic source of funding to respond to the effect of natural disasters is the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund (NDRRMF), formerly known as the calamity fund. The NDRRMF is a lump sum fund appropriated under the General Appropriations Act (GAA) to cover aid, relief, and rehabilitation services to communities or areas affected by natural or human-induced disasters. Said Fund is also intended for disaster risk reduction, mitigation, and prevention and preparedness activities.

The releases from the NDRRMF are made directly to the appropriate implementing national government agencies (NGAs), government-owned and/or –controlled corporations (GOCCs), and local government units (LGUs), in accordance with the recommendation of the National Disaster and Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) and upon approval of the President of the Philippines. (See *NDRRMF Process Flow*)

For 2019, PhP20 billion had been allotted for the NDRRMF. Of this amount, PhP3.5 billion was allocated for the Marawi Rehabilitation and Recovery Program. As of July 31, 2019, PhP3.7 billion has already been released to the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) to support various rehabilitation projects and cover the implementation of various calamity-related programs. On the other hand, PhP506 million is earmarked for the Department of Agriculture to support the implementation of various agriculture projects in the areas affected by typhoon “Ompong” as well as El Niño affected areas in Regions VIII and XI. Meanwhile, PhP192 million is earmarked for the DPWH to cover the implementation of various calamity-related projects in Mt. Province and Leyte, which were damaged by typhoons “Urduja” and “Rosita” in 2017 and 2018, respectively. The remaining NDRRMF for 2019 stands at PhP12.1 billion.

Quick Response Fund

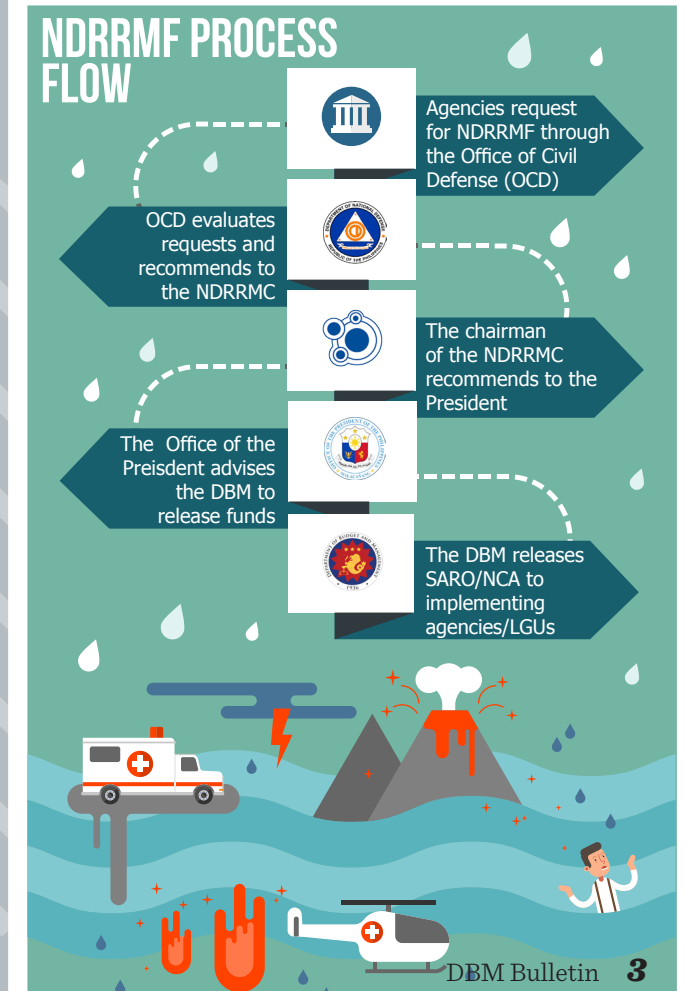
Another source of funding is the Quick Response Fund (QRF) set aside for agencies to immediately assist areas afflicted by catastrophes or disasters. It is a standby fund intended for the rehabilitation and relief programs, to normalize the situation of calamity-affected communities.

The QRFs are built-in budgetary allocations released directly to various agencies under the General Appropriations Act (GAA). For 2019, the PhP6.3 billion allocation for the QRF is lodged under the following agencies:

Department of Education	PhP2.0 B
Department of Agriculture	PhP1.0 B
Department of Public Works and Highways	PhP1.0 B
Department of Social Welfare and Development	PhP1.25 B
Department of Health	PhP500 M
Department of National Defense-Office of Civil Defense	PhP500 M
National Electrification Administration	PhP20 M

Unlike the NDRRMF, the QRF can be used immediately or as the need arises, without having to seek recommendation from the NDRRMC or approval of the President. This ensures prompt delivery of assistance and relief to the disaster-stricken communities. Furthermore, additional funding may be provided to the respective agencies’ QRF, if it reaches a critical level, subject to the approval of the Department of Budget and Management.

As the third most disaster-prone nation globally, it is crucial for the Philippines to promote efforts towards establishing an effective disaster risk management system. And adequate funding for these initiatives is vital for efficient disaster response operations.



THE ADMINISTRATION'S LEGACY

LAW, PUBLIC ORDER, AND SAFETY

- AFP Modernization Program
- Capability Enhancement Program (DILG-PNP)
- PAMANA Program
- Normalization Program (OPAPP)
- Philippine Anti-Illegal Drugs Strategy

EDUCATION AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

- Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education
- Unconditional Cash Transfer
- Basic Education Facilities
- Education Assistance and Subsidies
- School-based Feeding Program
- *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program*
- Social Pension for Indigent Senior Citizens
- Financial Assistance
- Sustainable Livelihood Programs
- Cash Gift for Centenarians
- Social Health Protection
- Medicines and Vaccines
- Medical Assistance for Indigent Patients
- Health Facilities Enhancement Program
- Rice Subsidy

GOOD GOVERNANCE AND JUSTICE

- Smooth Transition to the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
- Justice Sector Convergence Program
- Anti-Trafficking in Persons Enforcement
- Witness Protection Program

AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES, AND RISK RESILIENCY

- Agriculture Development Program
- Risk Resiliency

CONSTRUCTION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Infrastructure Development
- Export Development Program
- Tourism Development Program

YOUTH AND THE MARGINALIZED

- Early Childhood Care Development
- Special Programs for Youth and the Marginalized

FY 2020 PROPOSED BUDGET

By: **Rey Angelo Jose M. Gonzaga**

After President Rodrigo Duterte and his Cabinet approved the proposed 2020 National Budget on August 5, 2019, the Duterte Administration formally submitted the National Expenditure Program (NEP) to Congress on August 20, 2019, well within the 30-day constitutional deadline.

In the past year, the proposed 2019 National Budget was submitted shortly after the President delivered his State of the Nation Address. Despite this, the Government was forced to operate on a reenacted budget for more than three months due to the impasse on the 2019 General Appropriations Act. This year, the Congress has vowed to avoid a repeat of such delay and ensure that the 2020 National Budget would be ratified by the President before December 31, 2019.

The PhP4.100 trillion proposed National Budget for FY 2020 is 12 percent more than the 2019 appropriation of PhP3.662 trillion, constituting 19.4 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). This is the first time the proposed budget exceeded the 4-trillion mark, making it the biggest budget yet.

Sustaining the Gains and Preserving Fiscal Sustainability

The Proposed 2020 National Budget is the financial program that would boost the Administration's course for its second and final half. The budget theme "*Continuing the Journey to a More Peaceful and Progressive Philippines*" aptly reflects the Administration's agenda of ensuring the nation's course towards peace and progress for its people.

For 2020, the Administration is steadfast in sustaining the "change" brought about by the landmark legislative and political milestones in the Administration's first half. As underscored by President Duterte in his budget message, "the 2020 National Budget will aim to build on the fruits and gains of the previous annual expenditure programs of the Administration, not only to ensure but to consolidate the gains."

The continued adoption of the Cash Budgeting System is also supported in next year's Budget. It will be the second cash budget of the Government, solidifying the Administration's efforts of reforming and modernizing the country's budgeting system.

Sustaining the momentum and strengthening what has already been laid out is the Administration's goal for the next three years. This underlies the proposed 2020 National Budget — it complements such goal and augments the Administration's thrust of achieving its growth targets through investments in priority programs, while preserving balance with the finite fiscal resources of the Government, as well as considering long-term fiscal sustainability.

TAKING IT A NOTCH HIGHER: From Fiscal Transparency to Public Participation

Disclosure of public information is essential in fostering good public financial management (PFM) governance.

Experts say, however, that this is not enough to exact accountability from government. Thus, focus is now being directed on civil society engagement as a means to further promote accountability.

In July of this year, the International Budget Partnership (IBP) and the Global Initiative for Fiscal Transparency (GIFT) co-hosted a two-day Workshop on Public Participation in Budgeting, held on July 9-10, 2019 in Washington, District of Columbia, U.S.A.

The workshop brought together a small group of experts on public participation and representatives from budget agencies of selected countries such as the Philippines, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Indonesia, Mexico, and South Africa. The Philippines was represented by DBM-Budget Information and Training Service Division Chief Joy S. Almazan.

It provided an opportunity for these participating countries to learn from the experts, who shared their experiences in implementing public participatory practices. Among these practices are social audit, where both the government and the public monitor a government program/project; public policy council, an administrative board created by the government to foster inclusive civil society participation; deliberative mini-public, which brings together representatives of the public, who are randomly selected based on demographic criteria, to discuss issues or public policies; and, random ample, a representative mechanism for national budget participation, which uses random sampling to get an "ample" response from various stakeholders.

While all of these mechanisms have varying strengths, weaknesses, and challenges, they all espouse the principle of inclusiveness or the pro-active engagement of citizens and non-state actors, including the vulnerable groups and those whose voices are seldom heard.

These participatory mechanisms likewise require comprehensive dissemination of relevant information to stakeholders concerned to enable them to effectively participate and/or come up with an informed decision.



GIFT's Network Director Juan Pablo Guerrero (center) with Almazan (2nd from right) and the rest of the workshop's participants and speakers

NEWS BRIEFS

By: Joy S. Almazan

Partner SUCs Roll Out PFM Competency Program

Partner State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) have started conducting regular classes of the Public Financial Management Competency Program's (PFMCP) Foundation Track (FT) and specialty tracks such as Budget and Performance Track (BPT), Cash Management, and Internal Audit.

In July of this year, the University of the Philippines-National College of Public Administration and Governance (UP-NCPAG) conducted its first roll-out of the FT, participated in by 77 PFM practitioners for Class 1 and 94 for Class 2.

Bicol University, meanwhile, is now on its 5th FT Class this September. It has also conducted Cash Management and Internal Audit Classes in August and BPT (Courses 1-3 & 6) in May.

West Visayas State University has likewise been active in conducting FT classes, with its 4th FT Class scheduled on the last week of September. Mariano Marcos State University has rolled out 2 FT Classes; while the University of Southern Mindanao is expected to conduct its first FT Class in October.

From March to September, about 543 PFM practitioners have already participated in the PFMCP tracks conducted by the SUCs. Sixty-six of whom have finished at least one specialty track.

The PFMCP was developed by the DBM and the Bureau of the Treasury (BTr) to enhance the competency of PFM practitioners. These two agencies tied up with select SUCs to widen the reach of the program. Prior to the SUCs' roll-out of the Program, transition classes were conducted by the DBM and the BTr to guide the partner SUCs in the effective delivery of the Program.

For updates and schedule of classes, check out the PFMCP Facebook page (@PFMCP).



SBMS Merika dela Peña assists a group in an FT Class conducted by UP-NCPAG.



The Philippine delegation, led by former DBM Secretary Benjamin Diokno, shares a light moment with OGP CEO Sanjay Pradhan and his team from the international OGP Support Unit during a bilateral consultation at the sidelines of the OGP Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting held in Seoul, South Korea last November 6, 2018.

BRINGING GOVERNMENT CLOSER TO THE PEOPLE

By: Crispin Mahrion B. Abacan

If it takes a village to raise a child, as the widely-quoted African proverb goes, then it must certainly take an entire population – the leaders and the masses, the government as well as the governed – to raise a nation.

Public administration (PA) and governance have come a long way since the days of civil service reforms. Scholars have mapped the developments and changes in the field, both in theory and practice. But perhaps, the changing meaning or scope of “public” in public administration remains to be one of the more interesting developments in the field.

Against the traditional PA, where “public” refers to the government per se, current developments view public as the government and other state actors such as the market, the civil society, and the citizens. They, the publics, are now active partners of the government and not just passive recipients of goods and services and policies as in the past. Today, the values of transparency, accountability, and participation, among others, have become critical elements in good governance.

However, as PA continues to evolve, the complexity of problems grows as well, calling for a different approach in addressing these problems. In this case, a multi-agency and multi-sectoral approach draws attention to and underscores the potential of collaborative governance, a growing global trend. And expectedly, the Duterte Administration has ridden the wave.

Embracing the concept of collaborative governance and adopting the multi-agency and multi-sectoral approach to problem-solving, the Administration has created the Participatory Governance Cluster (PGC) in the Cabinet. Established by virtue of Executive Order No. 24, with the Philippine Open Government Partnership (PH-OGP) as its main consultation platform, the primary aim of the PGC is to enhance citizen participation across all levels of governance and to bring the government closer to the people. The DBM has been designated as Chair of the PH-OGP and Co-Chair of PGC, and manages the Secretariats of both.

“Personalizing” Public Service

With the DBM, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), and the the Presidential Communications and Operations Office (PCOO), the PGC launched a series of Open Government and Participatory Governance Townhall Meetings to facilitate public dialogues between citizens and senior officials of the government. Dubbed “*Dagyaw* 2019,” based on the Hiligaynon term for “*bayanihan*,” the townhall meetings capture the nature and seek to fulfill the goals of the PGC and PH-OGP.

The government held its first leg of *Dagyaw* last July 2, 2019 in Pampanga (Region III), and has recently completed a nationwide campaign for the program. As a platform, *Dagyaw* works to promote and disseminate information on the open government and participatory governance initiatives of the Duterte Administration, among others. In each townhall meeting, the PGC aims to bring together at least 800 stakeholders and convene various frontline service delivery agencies in a one-stop shop that offers assistance to the people.

But what separates *Dagyaw* from other participatory initiatives is its objective – to make each regional dialogue focus on area-specific issues and problems. The topics

of the townhall sessions are identified by the Philippine Information Agency (PIA) based on data from their Daily Regional Issues Digest (DRID), which include local issues and concerns that are regularly gathered by the PIA Government Information Center and coordinators on the ground.

Musings of a Young Blood on the Public Sector Reform Advocacy

“My favorite experience on the job will always be having had the opportunity to listen to and collaborate with so many public sector reform champions and experts at all levels,” said Marianne “Yanne” Fabian, 28, Project Development Officer of the Fiscal Planning and Reforms Bureau, of her job of six years. Yanne is currently the working level country Point of Contact of OGP in the Philippines and also the Lead Technical Secretariat of the PH-OGP and PGC.

“Easily, if you attend any OGP activity, you always get to take home a solid dose of inspiration and practical learnings on how to do your work better,” she added.

More than an event, *Dagyaw* is a continuing process and trust-building exercise between the government and the citizens, Yanne said.

“Anchored on the Philippine Development Plan Pillar of *Malasakit*, the aim of *Dagyaw* is to build a high-trust society. Through these kinds of activities, the PGC and PH-OGP hope to contribute to efforts in restoring the Filipino people’s faith in government,” she explained.

Fortunately, the efforts and hard work are paying off for the team. Yanne shared that *Dagyaw* 2019 was received well in the regions, with participants calling for further localization of the activity down to the barangay level.

DILG Regional Director Leocadio Trovela and DBM Regional Director Imelda Laceras have heeded the call. Up for the challenge, they initiated the localization of the *Dagyaw*

process in Region VII and launched the first “*Dagyaw sa Barangay*” in Negros Oriental last August 14, 2019.

Despite these gains, much remains to be desired and done in terms of translating and linking participatory governance activities to more concrete and measurable results. In Yanne’s first years in the OGP portfolio, the terms “good governance” and “open government” seemed such big and abstract concepts.

“How do you effectively mainstream good governance principles in public sector processes, more specifically in national and local planning and budgeting? How do you operationalize open government? How do you measure the impact of good governance reforms? These are the questions that I have asked and still continue to ask until now,” she said.

Yanne feels like she still has to learn and experience more to get answers to these questions. “In fact, after six years of working on open government reforms, what I have now are more questions on more diverse governance issues that confront the public sector. Sometimes, it can get frustrating,” she admitted.

Open Government Wins

“But also, in the same amount of time, I have learned to break down the bigger concepts into more actionable tasks. We have also been able to recognize and leverage on the influence of the DBM in convening different sectors and making them sit together in one table to discuss issues—people who otherwise wouldn’t have given the time of day to meet each other, if it was another organization that called for them,” Yanne shared.

In Cebu’s *Dagyaw*, a representative from a local tourism organization asked if it is legal to ban Filipinos from entering, using recreational facilities, and accessing the surrounding beach area of establishments that are partially-owned or operated by foreigners. This comes after the “No Local” policy of some business establishments around Mactan, Cebu.

DTI Regional Director Asteria Caberte, who served as a panelist in the forum, immediately committed to conduct a site inspection of the identified establishments. “We cannot be discriminated in our own country,” she said.

In the last leg of *Dagyaw* held in Mamburao, Oriental Mindoro, after an Indigenous Peoples (IP) representative raised the issue of joblessness among the IP sector, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Regional Director Joel Gonzales likewise committed to organize a job fair specifically for the IP sector.

Like any reform, the *Dagyaw*, as a participatory governance platform, is still a work in progress. But Yanne is hopeful. “After six years of working in a bureaucracy that seemed to have mastered the art of working in silos for decades, to be able to see people from different agencies and organizations finally talking to each other and doing follow up work together to address an expressed gap in public service delivery, is truly inspiring. These important wins keep me hopeful. This is why initiatives like *Dagyaw* are powerful and must continue,” she shared.



Yanne

Dagyaw: Open Government and Participatory Governance Regional Townhall Meetings 2019 Concept Note

Robinson, M. (2015). From old public administration to the new public service: Implications for public sector reform in developing countries. UNDP Global Centre for Public Service Excellence.

A TALE OF TWO INTERNS

Summer break for most college students means the chance to get all the doze, catch the sun in more fun places than on the city sidewalks or streets, and binge-watch the movies and series missed during school days. But for some, especially those who are only a semester or two away from the much sought-after diplomas, summer break is no time for rest. Not when the end of classes is so near – and the opportunity is at hand to see and feel what life is like beyond college. That, of course, means getting and holding on to a job, and going to work to accomplish tasks – as close to the real thing as one can get as interns.

Every year, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) opens its doors to students seeking the right combination of professional training and character formation, without having to miss the fun part in between.

The DBM Internship Program

"In a nutshell, the DBM Internship Program aims to immerse students in a working environment. We hope to enhance their knowledge and skills and provide a venue for relevant experience, while gaining an extra hand, especially during the budget preparation season," said Ms. Lolita "Beth" Matias, Chief Administrative Officer of the Human Resource Development Division.

In the first half of 2019, the DBM had already made room for 56 students, and expects more in the coming months. For Ms. Matias, interns are vital for the Department because aside from providing the much needed extra help, the regular employees also learn from them.

"Every time there are new interns, *natututo rin kami*. Mutual kasi ang learning journey kahit small things lang. Nakaka-good vibes din, kasi bata pa sila at nakakahawa ang energy at enthusiasm nila," she shared.

In fact, the surge of students vying for a slot in the DBM Internship Program is no surprise for Ms. Matias.

"For me, the DBM is one of the best internship agencies because it is not an old school office in terms of working conditions. They are involved in other activities outside the regular functions of their respective offices. We try to ensure that they learn something from us. Otherwise, it defeats the purpose of the Program. That's why we have an exit exam to see if they learned something about the work and functions of the DBM," she explained.

'Everyday is Different'

One of those students who chose the DBM as a home for two months of summer was Ma. Cielo Magsael, a 4th Year Bachelor of Science in Accountancy student from Lyceum of the Philippines University - Cavite.

"To be honest, I was quite reluctant *na mag-government* for internship. *Gusto ko sana mag-firm talaga*. But then, my uncle convinced me to give it a try. *Nagpasa ako ng resume* and did some research. *Na-hook na* ako after knowing na being a DBM intern can give me a lot of competitive advantage," Cielo said.

Thankfully, the experience went well for her. "There was never a dull moment here at the DBM," Cielo said. She liked how each day in the office differed and was delighted with the variety of tasks given to her. To an extent, the DBM equipped her with skills she used to ignore before, such as being keen with details.

These are some of the few things that the DBM Internship Program would like to teach the interns. "We expect interns to be humble and come here to the office with an empty cup," said Ms. Matias, citing experience as the major bulk in the paradigm of learning.

The family-like environment, trust, and warm welcome made Cielo want to pursue a job at the DBM.

"The possibilities and opportunities here are endless. I know I can acquire the growth that I'm so thirsty for in this agency. The DBM inspires me to give my best in everything I do, not just because I'm pleasing my bosses, but because I'll never know where that specific task can bring me," Cielo added.

'Perfect Agency'

Like Cielo, Victor Joseph Batara, a 4th year Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration student from the University of the Philippines-Diliman also chose the DBM to fulfill his internship requirement. His curiosity for government budget allocation and finance management led him to the doors of the DBM.

"[My internship experience was] great! I learned a lot and enjoyed at the same time. I was taught a lot of things, especially on the requirements needed to receive a budget," he said.

An aspiring lawyer, Victor believes that his internship experience will be of great help to him. "From this, I have the opportunity to get further exposed to the functions of the government and the DBM is the perfect agency that can provide the experience I seek."

By the time this story is published, the interns will have gone back to their respective schools. Hours have been rendered, exit requirements submitted, and grades sent in! But to Cielo and Victor, and the rest of those who spent their summer with the agency, this is no goodbye to the DBM – but, perhaps in one way or another, "see you soon."

By: Camille Joyce G. Lita
Intern, BS Philippine Studies
UP Diliman

DBM INTERNSHIP PROGRAM'S STATISTICS 2013-2019

Table 1. Number of Student Interns in the DBM's Internship Program, 2013-2019

YEAR	NO. OF INTERNS
2013	36
2014	121
2015	60
2016	172
2017	41
2018	109
2019	56
USAID	28
Total	623

Table 2. Top 5 Schools with the Most Number of Student Interns in the DBM's Internship Program, 2013-2019

SCHOOL	NO. OF INTERNS
University of the East	64
Polytechnic University of the Philippines	62
San Beda University	46
University of the Philippines System	44
San Sebastian College	41



Processing of Terminal Leave Benefits

Ms. A resigned from government service effective August 31, 2008. Due to personal circumstances, she failed to immediately claim her terminal leave benefits (TLB).

After more than ten (10) years, or on September 25, 2018, she requested her former agency for the release of her TLB. Eventually, her former Office endorsed said request to the DBM for the release of funds to cover the payment of her TLB.

The DBM duly noted that the request for payment of TLB must be made within ten (10) years from the effective date of retirement, resignation, or separation consistent with Section 38¹ of Civil Service Commission (CSC) Memorandum Circular (MC) No. 41, s. 1998.²

It must be emphasized that the 10-year prescriptive period under Section 38 of CSC MC No. 41 pertains to the filing of the request for payment of the TLB by the retiree, and not on the submission thereof by the agency to the DBM. Hence, the filing of claim for payment of TLB by the retiree stops the running of the 10-year prescriptive period, insofar as the retiree is concerned.

In this case, it may seem that she belatedly filed her claim. However, based on records, Ms. A filed her application for TLB on February 7, 2018. Applying the above provision in this case, she had until August 31, 2018 or 10 years from the date of her resignation to file her claim of TLB. Hence, the filing of claim on February 7, 2018 is well within the prescriptive period.

Accordingly, the DBM may still process the request for payment of the TLB of Ms. A.

- 1 Sec. 38. *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 to action accrues upon an obligation created by law.
- 2 Amendments to Rules I and XVI of the Omnibus Rules Implementing Book V of the Administrative Code of 1987 (Executive Order No. 292)

ISSUE:

What other allowable benefits could be provided to the members of the Governing Board of the Agency X in addition to honoraria?

Facts of the Case

The Governing Board of Agency X is composed of the following:

Chairperson:	Secretary of Department A
Vice Chairpersons:	Secretary of Department B Secretary of Department C
Members:	Secretary of Department D Secretary of Department E Two (2) representatives from the private sector

Budget Circular (BC) No. 2003-6¹ dated September 29, 2003 authorizes the grant of per diems to all members of collegial bodies covered by or following the Salary Standardization Law and members of the Board of Regents/Trustees of State Universities and Colleges.

Item 4.1 thereof also provides that the members of collegial bodies are entitled to the following per diem rates:

Per Diem of Members of Collegial Bodies

■ Chairpersons

Amount equivalent to **25% of the monthly Representation and Transportation Allowances (RATA) of the chief operating officer** of the collegial body for every meeting actually attended but not to exceed four (4) paid meetings in a month

■ Members

Amount equivalent to **25% of the monthly RATA of the second ranking official** of the collegial body for every meeting actually attended but not to exceed four (4) paid meetings in a month

Based on the existing organizational structure of Agency X, it is headed by an Executive Director (ED) V, SG-30 position and assisted by a Deputy ED V, SG-29 item. Accordingly, they are receiving monthly RATA of Php22,000 and Php20,000, respectively.

Pursuant to Item 2.2 of BC No. 2003-6, the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Governing Board of Agency X who are already receiving salaries and allowances in the performance of their respective functions are not entitled to per diem.

Relatedly, the ex-officio members of the Board, who are Department Secretaries, are also not entitled to per diem pursuant to the SC decision in G.R. No. 83896.

In this regard, only the private sector representatives in the Board are entitled to per diem per meeting attended in the amount equivalent to 25% of the monthly RATA (Php20,000) of the second ranking official of Agency X (Deputy ED, SG-29 position), but not to exceed four (4) paid meetings in a month.

1 Guidelines Relative to the Grant of Per Diems to Members of Collegial Bodies and Members of the Board of Regents/Trustees of State Universities and Colleges

Magna Carta of Women Law marks

10TH

ANNIVERSARY

By: Joy S. Almazan

GAD Corner



Around 500 participants from both the public and private sectors gathered at the Philippine International Convention Center on August 14, 2019 to celebrate the 10th year anniversary of the enactment of Republic Act No. 9710, or the Magna Carta of Women.

Said Law aims to eliminate discrimination through the recognition, protection, and promotion of the rights of the Filipino women especially the marginalized.

Among the salient provisions of the Law include the following:



Non-discrimination in employment in the field of military, police, and other similar services



Equal access and elimination of discrimination in education, scholarships, and training



Non-discriminatory and non-derogatory portrayal of women in media and film



Equal status given to men and women on the titling of the land and issuance of stewardship contracts and patents

Source: Philippine Commission on Women

A decade since its passage, the MCW scores key gains such as the creation of a Violence Against Women (VAW) Desk in every barangay, enactment of Republic Act (RA) No. 11313 otherwise known as the Safe Spaces Act, incorporation of a gender perspective in disaster risk reduction and management and acknowledgement of women's role in promoting environmental protection, passage of RA No. 11210 or the 105-Day Extended Maternity Leave Law, and the repeal of the provision in the Labor Code prohibiting women to take on night work, among others.

The event also highlighted the launch of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) + 25 Philippine Progress Report. The BPfA, which will mark its 25th anniversary in 2020, is considered a landmark document as it asserts that gender equality is a human rights concern and a requirement for development.

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