

JANUARY 06



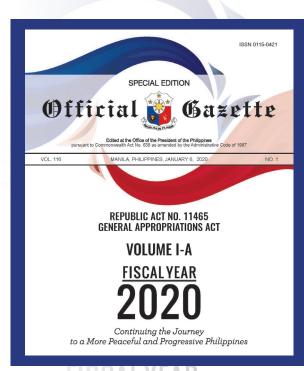
2020 National Budget Passed into Law

President Rodrigo Roa Duterte signed into law the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 General Appropriations Act (GAA) on January 6, 2020.

The 4.1-trillion Budget, which carries the theme "Continuing the journey to a more peaceful and progressive Philippines", is 12 percent higher than the FY 2019 National Budget.

It builds on the gains made over the first three and a half years of the Duterte Administration by continuing the thrust for genuine change, inclusive growth, and equitable development for the country and the Filipino people.

The 2020 National Budget will sustain the critical infrastructure, human capital development, and peace and order initiatives of the Administration to support socio-economic growth.



2020

Continuing the Journey to a More Peaceful and Progressive Philippines

Salary increase for gov't workers implemented

President Rodrigo Roa Duterte has signed into law a measure that increases the take-home pay of government employees, including teachers and nurses.

Republic Act (RA) No. 11466, otherwise known as the "Salary Standardization Law (SSL) of 2019," was enacted on January 8, 2020.

With this, civilian government employees will benefit from another round of salary increases starting January 2020 until 2023. The salaries, particularly of those in the rank-and-file, will be brought closer to, if not higher than, market-rate levels.

The SSL 5 likewise institutionalized the grant of the Mid-Year Bonus, which is equivalent to one month basic salary.





JANUARY



Duterte Administration's budget priorities tackled in DBM's Budget Fora



The month of January has been a period of gathering the officials, technical staff and vital clientele of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) for the conduct of the nationwide Budget Fora.

In January, the DBM Central and Regional Offices spearheaded series of Budget Fora for the FY 2021 Budget Preparation, FY 2020 Budget Execution, as well other procurement updates.

These Budget Fora have been an annual event of the DBM to set the parameters and procedures that will guide various offices/agencies in the execution of the 2020 National Budget and the preparation of their respective proposed budgets for 2021.

These events also targeted to attain a clear-cut understanding on how to effectively execute the priorities of the Duterte Administration through the 2020 National Budget, as well as its last full-fledged Budget come 2021.

Aside from the Budget Fora, the Government Procurement Policy Board-Technical Support Office (GPPB-TSO) has also conducted a Procurement Forum to, among others, impart insights on procurement policies and strategies to better manage procurement projects and increase efficiency and prevent failures in bidding.

12-19

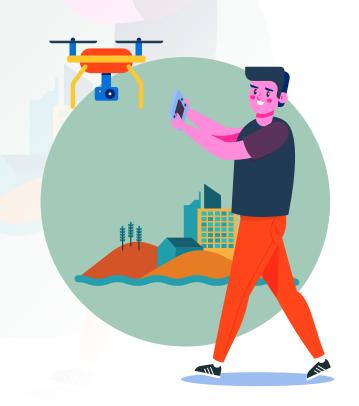


Project DIME highlighted in nationwide transparency caravans

The DBM has partnered with the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) in expanding its transparency initiatives through the Project DIME (Digital Information for Monitoring and Evaluation).

The DBM and the PCOO joined forces to carry out the 2020 Transparency Caravan. Among the DBM reforms, the Project DIME was able to reach more than a thousand students and faculty in Guimaras and in Borongan and Guluan in Eastern Samar from February 12 to 19, 2020.

Speakers from the DBM discussed, among others, the importance of Project DIME in upgrading government transparency and monitoring government programs and projects, especially those classified as high-value.



Appointment of Sec. Avisado as DBM Chief confirmed by CA

The Commission on Appoitments (CA) has confirmed the ad interim appointment of Sec. Wendel Avisado as the head of the Department of Budget and Management on February 26.

President Duterte first appointed Sec. Avisado in August 2019, just as the Congress was about to deliberate the then proposed PhP4.1-trillion National Budget for 2020.

Sec. Avisado succeeded Undersecretary Janet B. Abuel, who served as the DBM's Officer-in-Charge following the appointment of former Secretary Benjamin E. Diokno as Governor of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.



26



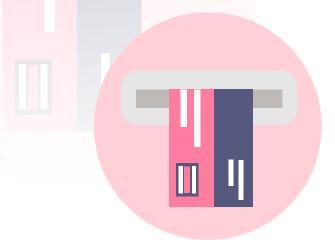
Release of funds assured amid 'enhanced community quarantine'

The DBM assured the public of its continued operations, especially the releasing of funds, amid the declaration of an "enhanced community quarantine" in Luzon.

This is in relation to the declaration of a State of Public Health Emergency throughout the country pursuant to Presidential Proclamation No. 922 dated March 8, 2020 and the issuance of the Memorandum from the Executive Secretary that the Executive Branch shall adopt a work-from-home arrangement and the formation of skeletal forces.

The DBM assured continued release of funds, especially for the Department of Health to address the COVID-19 situation and other urgent health concerns, funds

for infrastructure projects under the *Build, Build, Build* Program, and funds for the peace and order requirements of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Philippine National Police, and the Philippine Coast Guard, among others.



Salaries of gov't CO, JO workers continued amid COVID-19 pandemic

The DBM and the Commission on Audit issued Joint Circular (JC) No. 1, s. 2020, titled "Interim Guidelines Governing Contract of Service (COS) and Job Order (JO) Workers in the Government for the Duration of the State of Calamity and Community Quarantine Due to the Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19)."

Among others, JC No. 1, s. 2020 provides that COS and JO workers who will be required to work from home shall be paid their corresponding salaries/wages during the community quarantine period.

Further, COS and JO workers who will not be required to report for work due to work suspension and those who are not part of the agency skeletal workforce shall be paid their corresponding salaries/wages during the community quarantine period as exception to the "no work, no pay" principle but only for the duration of the community quarantine period due to the COVID-19.

Appropriate additional benefits may also be granted to COS and JO workers who will be part of the agency skeletal workforce and will be able to physically report for work during the quarantine period, as may be authorized by the Office of the President.



MARCH 20

Procurement process simplified to respond to COVID-19 pandemic

The GPPB has simplified the government procurement process in the conduct of their Procurement Projects under a state of calamity due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The GPPB released on March 23 the guidelines on Negotiated Procurement (Emergency Cases) to guide all Procuring Entities (PEs) to respond to COVID-19 pandemic.

Negotiated Procurement (Emergency Cases) are goods, civil work projects, as well as lease of real property or venues such as those used as quarantine centers, evacuation sites, medical relief and aid distribution locations, among others.



MARCH

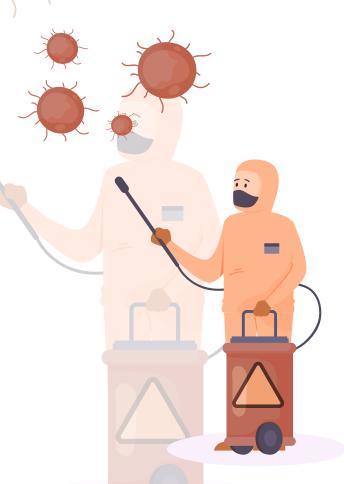
COVID-19 Hazard Pay granted to gov't workers

Government workers who physically report for work during the implementation of an "enhanced community quarantine" in their respective work stations will be granted a hazard pay.

The DBM issued on March 24 the guidelines on the grant of COVID-19 Hazard Pay to government employees, including those employed with contract of service (COS) or job order (JO) positions.

Qualified civilian and military personnel, as well as those employees in the Legislative and Judicial Branches, Local Government Units, and Local Water Districts, will receive an amount not exceeding PhP500 per person.

Said amount will be an additional pay aside from their regular salaries "since they are inevitably exposed to health risks and hazards" amid the threat of the COVID-19.



MARCH 24