The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) issued Budget Circular (BC) No. 2020-4 last July 17, 2020, effectively increasing the salary of entry level nurses working and will work in public health institutions beginning January 1, 2020.

Under the BC, entitled Upgrading of the Entry Level of Nurse Positions, Nurse 1 positions will be upgraded by four salary grade (SG) levels, from SG 11 to SG 15. The increase for nurses in national government agencies is equivalent to PhP32,053 to PhP34,801 per month, from the previous rate of PhP22,316 to PhP24,391. A budget of PhP3.0 billion has been earmarked under the FY 2020 Miscellaneous Personnel Benefits Fund to finance the said increase.

With this, the position attributes of the remaining nurse positions are modified, but only in their respective numerical suffix as there will be no diminution in the salary of the present incumbents of the positions. This modification is needed to preserve the hierarchy in the series of Nurse positions, otherwise, both Nurse I and Nurse II positions will have the same salary grades – SG 15.

The increase in the salary is pursuant to Section 32 of Republic Act No. 9173 or the Philippine Nursing Act of 2002 which provides a minimum base pay of not lower than salary grade (SG) 15 for nurses in public health institutions. The Supreme Court (SC) upheld the validity of Section 32 of RA No. 9173 in its Decision in ANG NARS Party List, et. al. vs The Executive Secretary, et. al (G.R. No. 215746), which became final and executory on December 13, 2019.
Last July 22, 2020, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) published a handbook by Undersecretary Janet B. Abuel, head of the Legal and Legislative Liaison Group, which features a compilation of selected Supreme Court decisions related to local government budgeting.

The Handbook on Case Digests on Local Budgeting and Other Related Matters is the approved output of Undersecretary Abuel for her Re-Entry Action Plan (REAP) under the Australia Awards and Alumni Engagement Program-Philippines.

“When local government units and other stakeholders are confronted with issues on local budgeting and related matters, aside from referring to the DBM and other oversight agencies, much reliance is given on relevant decisions of the Supreme Court. While these decisions are available online, searching is rigorous and time-consuming. Hence, I have chosen this as my REAP output as it could serve as a ready focused reference for everyone,” Undersecretary Abuel explained.

Undersecretary Herman B. Jumilla, head of the Local Government and Regional Operations Group, welcomed the release of the publication, noting that the Handbook can be a practical companion for the Budget Operations Manual for Local Government Units, and as reference in the conduct of trainings or lectures on local government budgeting.

The Handbook can be accessed in the website under the DBM Publications tab or through this link.
The GPPB has approved the adoption and use of the 6th edition of the Philippine Bidding Documents (PBDs) for the Procurement of Goods and Infrastructure through Resolution No. 15-2020 dated July 28, 2020. The PBDs for the Procurement of Goods have been reduced to 40 pages from 112, and for Infrastructure Projects, down to 35 pages from 113.

The said PBDs have been published in the Official Gazette last September 21, 2020, and shall take effect after fifteen (15) calendar days or by October 6, 2020. On the same day of its publication, the GPPB-TSO held an online unboxing event together with Secretary Avisado, followed by a webinar to discuss the contents of the PBDs and clarificatory questions.

The GPPB came up with the simplified version of the previous edition to address the confusion and varied interpretations of the procuring entities and bidders on the clauses of the 5th edition PBDs in relation to the 2016 revised Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA No. 9184, the associated issuances, and the generic procurement manuals.

The simplified PBDs will also be used for the GPPB Online Portal which is currently being developed for online bid submissions to facilitate the effective conduct of public procurement until the completion of the mPhilGEPS.
A total of 18 employees from the Department of Budget and Management have joined 11 more from other government agencies on a 9-week course on the Process Review and Reengineering for Integrated Financial Management Information Systems (IFMIS) which started this August.

Said employees are from the Budget and Management Bureau (BMB) – D, BMB-F, Budget and Treasury Management System-Project Management Office, Information and Communications Technology Systems Service, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Office of the Undersecretary for Budget Policy and Strategy Group, Budget Information and Training Service, DBM-National Capital Region, and DBM Regional Offices I, V, VI, and XII.

Participants are expected to gain fundamental Business Process Management (BPM) competencies in order to undertake process review and re-engineering for IFMIS, as well as develop practical outputs for their Re-entry Action Plans.

The short course is funded by the Australian Government through Australia Awards and will be delivered by the Queensland University of Technology (QUT).
On August 25, 2020, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), led by Secretary Wendel E. Avisado, submitted to Congress the PhP4.506-trillion National Expenditure Program (NEP) for FY 2021. The proposed budget is equivalent to 21.8% of the country’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and is bigger by 9.9% than the PhP4.1 trillion budget this year.

The Duterte Administration’s financial plan for next year lays out the government’s programs and projects that will help the country recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Bearing the budget theme “Reset, Rebound, and Recover: Investing for Resiliency and Sustainability,” the government bares a three-pronged approach for 2021 that is focused on containing the spread and mitigating the effects of the virus while restarting the economy to help the nation reset, rebound, and recover from the crisis.

**Reset: Responding to the Pandemic**

To address the continuing threat of the pandemic, the government will prioritize health-related COVID-19 programs and projects, including the National Health Insurance Program (PhP71.4 billion), Medical Assistance to Indigent Patients (PhP17.3 billion), and Human Resources for Health Program (PhP16.6 billion), among others.

**Rebound: Reviving Infrastructure Development**

The government’s major infrastructure program – the Build, Build, Build, will remain a catalyst for economic activities in the Philippines, with the public infrastructure program totaling to PhP1.108 trillion (5.4% of GDP) of the proposed budget. Some of these programs are the Network Development Program (P124.6 billion), Flood Management Program (P101.6 billion), Rail Transport (P106.3 billion), and Land Public Transportation (P16.2 billion).

**Recover: Adapting to the Post-Pandemic Life**

The FY 2021 NEP will finance the further development of different sectors to provide the public more opportunities to pursue positive growth and support the public in the “new normal.” These include the irrigation services of NIA (PhP31.5 billion), development of the workforce through Training for Work Scholarship Program (PhP3.6 billion), and the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (PhP113.8 billion).
Welcome!

Use. Anthony S. Aguilar

Use. Aguilar is the newest senior official of the DBM who will supervise the Internal Audit Service of the Department. He has a bachelor’s degree in Commerce, major in Accountancy, and holds four Master’s degrees, including one in Public Administration from the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government.

Prior to joining the DBM, he was a Senior Partner at The Tax Offices of Romero Aguilar and Association, and has worked in the public and private sectors in various capacities. He also had a brief stint in the academe as a professor, teaching taxation, accounting, and business administration.

“I look forward to serving the public once again in this new and significant capacity, and to contribute my wisdom and expertise in enhancing the effectiveness of the budgetary functions and capabilities of the National Government. This is my way of giving back to the public what they rightfully and richly deserve, especially during this pandemic. I will endeavor to be the public servant worthy of emulation and inspiration.”
The Government Procurement Policy Board-Technical Support Office (GPPB-TSO) has shifted to online training in order to continue advancing innovative, responsive, and sustainable public procurement system in the country amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

A total of 12 webinars have been initiated by the GPPB-TSO through its Capacity Development and Performance Monitoring Divisions and some in collaboration with other agencies from April to August this year. They conducted the last webinar on August 26, 2020. Around 3,760 individuals from the government and the private sector participated in the webinar series, which were also streamed on Facebook with more than 50,000 combined views.

The GPPB-TSO designed the webinars to cover topics that are relevant to the new normal, which included emergency procurement under the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act (Bayanihan), updated procedure on negotiated procurement – emergency cases, efficient procurement measures, and simplified procurement reporting.

Executive Director Atty. Rowena Candice M. Ruiz and Deputy Executive Director Atty. Melissa A. Santiago-Yan headed the pool of speakers together with the invited GPPB recognized trainers.

On top of these, the GPPB-TSO and experts from various government agencies recently held webinars on Bayanihan 2 for Procuring Entities (September 30, 2020), and Suppliers (October 1, 2020) which had 144 participants and 10,000 views on Facebook. The webinars highlighted the rules on the application of domestic preference on goods covered under Bayanihan 2, and covered the procedures and requirements needed for suppliers to obtain Domestic Bidders Certificate, among others. Most domestic bidders for COVID-19 items are new manufacturers and suppliers who have adapted and transformed their business to respond to the pandemic.

Meanwhile, the Digital Learning Series will be launched this October to discuss updates on all streamlining efforts of the GPPB and its TSO over the year, and cover another set of Bayanihan 2 and basic modules on government procurement webinars.
The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) received the Kabalikat Government Partner Award for S&T Adoption in Good Governance during the 10th year anniversary commemoration of the Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Council for Industry, Energy, and Emerging Technology Research and Development (DOST-PCIEERD) this year.

The award is given to partner agencies that made substantial contributions in enhancing the country’s science and technology initiatives, through various collaborative activities under several sectoral concerns for the last five years.

Said partnership was through Project DIME (Digital Information for Monitoring and Evaluation) which aims to monitor selected high-value government projects using existing technologies such as satellites, drones, and geotagging.

“This recognition reflects the value we place on technology to improve the way we provide services, and equally important, the value of collaboration between and among agencies.”

-DBM Secretary Wendel E. Avisado
95.7% of the budget as of end-August released

As of end-August, the DBM has released PhP3.92 trillion, or 95.7% of this year’s PhP4.10 trillion budget, higher than the 91.4% recorded for the same period in 2019.

Click here to know more.
Addressing the COVID-19 Crisis Through Transparency, Participatory Initiatives

“We have continued to uphold budget transparency in our COVID-19 budget through proactive disclosure of the amounts augmented, reprogrammed, reallocated, and realigned to fund priority programs, activities, and projects (PAPs) being implemented in response to the pandemic.”

Sec. Wendel E. Avisado
Tatak ng Pagbabago 2020: The Pre-SONA Forum
July 15, 2020

As proof of its transparency efforts, COVID-19 releases can be accessed in the DBM website, specifically through this link.

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<th>FUNDING SOURCE</th>
<th>ALLOTMENT</th>
<th>CASH ALLOCATION *</th>
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*net of withholding tax
As of September 14, 2020