The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) has released around PhP4.31 trillion as of end-November, exceeding the government’s full-year budget due to additional allocations for COVID-19 response and recovery efforts. This exceeds the PhP4.10 trillion program for FY 2020 by some PhP209 billion.

This is also PhP15.4 billion more than the PhP4.16 trillion released as of end-October, and 19 percent higher than the PhP3.62 trillion in the same period last year.

Of the total, PhP2.28 trillion went to line agencies to fund various programs/activities/projects (PAPs), accounting for 97.6 percent of the PhP2.33 trillion adjusted program for departments.

On the other hand, the DBM has released PhP455 billion from Special Purpose Funds, which are budgetary allocations in the General Appropriations Act (GAA) for specific socioeconomic purposes. This corresponds to 89.4 percent of the PhP508.78 billion revised program.

Allotment releases for automatic appropriations or appropriations programmed annually hit PhP1.23 trillion, 98 percent of the PhP1.26 trillion program. Furthermore, the DBM has released PhP96.12 billion from the continuing appropriations of the FY 2020 GAA for line departments and releases from SPFs.

PhP180.12 billion has likewise been released from Unprogrammed Appropriations, which are standby appropriations authorizing additional agency expenditures for priority programs and projects when revenue collections exceed the resource targets or when additional grants or foreign funds are generated.

The DBM reports the release of PhP209.3 billion in additional allotments, which came from unprogrammed appropriations and special appropriations, pursuant to Republic Act No. 11494 or the Bayanihan to Recover as One Act. Essentially, the higher-than-programmed releases were additional funds released to support the operations of the National Government to address the COVID-19 pandemic.
On December 28, President Rodrigo Duterte signed into law the PhP4.506 trillion National Budget for FY 2021, which serves as the government’s financial blueprint to recovery in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The PhP4.506 trillion budget, which is equivalent to 21.8 percent of gross domestic product, is the country’s largest national budget to date, larger by 10 percent than the FY 2020 budget.

The FY 2021 National Budget seeks to revive the economy ravaged by the COVID-19 pandemic and improve the country’s response to the crisis. It will help the nation reset by addressing the pandemic, rebound by boosting infrastructure development and by generating job opportunities, and rebuild by assisting the Filipino people adapt to the post-pandemic life.
RECOVER: Adapting to the post-pandemic life

**Food security**
- National Fisheries Program PhP3.9 B
- National Rice Program PhP15.5 B
- Rice Competitive Enhancement Program PhP10.0 B
- Irrigation services (NIA) PhP31.7 B

**Social Protection**
- Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program PhP106.8 B
- Social Pension for Indigent Senior Citizens PhP23.5 B
- Supplementary Feeding Program PhP3.8 B
- Sustainable Livelihood Program PhP4.3 B

**Industry and Livelihood**
- Tulong Trabaho Scholarship Program PhP1.0 B
- Livelihood and Emergency Employment Program PhP20.4 B
- Training for Work Scholarship Program PhP4.1 B
- Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Development Program PhP2.4 B

**Education**
- Basic Education Learning Continuity Program PhP17.0 B
- DepEd Computerization Program PhP5.9 B
- Implementation of and registration to the Philippine Identification System PhP4.3 B
As of December 19, 2020, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) has released a total of PhP107.96 billion to various government agencies for their respective COVID-19 related response programs, pursuant to RA No. 11494 or the Bayanihan to Recover as One Act. To facilitate the immediate release of funds, the President delegated to the DBM Secretary the authority to approve budget requests under Bayanihan II. With this, the DBM has released PhP103.24 billion out of the PhP140.0 billion allocation under RA No. 11494 and additional PhP4.7 billion charged from regular funds to the following departments and agencies:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department/Agency</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)</td>
<td>6,000,000,000.00</td>
<td>To cover funding requirements for the implementation of various COVID-19 response and recovery interventions such as Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situations (AICS) and Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE)</td>
<td>16,402,500,000.00</td>
<td>For the implementation of various cash-for-work programs including: (1) COVID-19 Adjustment Measures Program (CAMP); (2) Tulong Panghanapbuhay Para sa Ating Displaced/Disadvantaged Workers (TUPAD) Program; and (3) Abot-Kamay ang Pagtulong (AKAP) Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Health (DOH)</td>
<td>22,469,828,189.99</td>
<td>For the implementation of health-related responses such as the hiring of human resources for health, provision of special risk allowances and hazard duty pay to private and public health workers, augmentation for operations of DOH hospitals, as well as procurement of test kits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Finance (DOF)</td>
<td>12,026,135,637.00</td>
<td>To cover funding requirements for the implementation of various COVID-19 response and recovery interventions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Agriculture (DA)</td>
<td>23,293,650,000.00</td>
<td>For the Agriculture Stimulus Package to support agri-fishery enterprises, farmers and fisherfolk registered under RSBSA and agricultural cooperatives through cash or loan interest rate subsidies and the Plant, Plant, Plant Program, among others</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)</td>
<td>3,558,732,350.00</td>
<td>For the hiring and training of contact tracers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department/Agency</td>
<td>Amount</td>
<td>Purpose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------------</td>
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<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of National Defense (DND)</td>
<td>1,319,550,618.00</td>
<td>To cover the operating requirements for various Coronavirus 2019 facilities nationwide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Education (DepEd)</td>
<td>4,300,000,000.00</td>
<td>To cover funding requirements for the implementation of Digital Education, Information Technology and Digital Infrastructures and Alternative Learning Modalities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commission on Higher Education (CHED)</td>
<td>3,300,000,000.00</td>
<td>To cover funding requirements for subsidies and allowances to qualified students of public and private tertiary education facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA)</td>
<td>820,000,000.00</td>
<td>To cover the augmentation of Assistance-to-Nationals Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)</td>
<td>1,100,000,000.00</td>
<td>To cover funding requirements for the implementation of Balik Probinsya, Bagong Pag-asas Program through the Shared Service Facilities (SSF) Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP)</td>
<td>28,371,099.00</td>
<td>Augmentation from Management Supervision of the Comprehensive Peace Process under Operations to General Administration and Support to support the role and engagement of OPAPP Secretary as the Chief Implementer against COVID-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH)</td>
<td>2,841,000,397.00</td>
<td>To cover the funding requirements for the replenishment of the FY 2020 Quick Response Fund and the funding requirements for the implementation of rehabilitation/reconstruction of tourism roads leading to tourism destinations under the Tourism Road Infrastructure Program of the DPWH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Transportation (DOTr)</td>
<td>10,309,014,349.00</td>
<td>For the implementation of various COVID-19 interventions under the transportation industry: to assist critically-impacted transport businesses; setting up of temporary livelihood programs to displaced workers through service contracting of public utility vehicles; and to support the development of sidewalks and bicycle lanes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of the Philippines</td>
<td>15,000,000.00</td>
<td>To cover the funding requirements for the establishment of a computational research laboratory in the University of the Philippines Diliman Institute of Mathematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippine Sports Commission (PSC)</td>
<td>180,000,000.00</td>
<td>Allowances for national athletes and coaches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>107,963,782,639.00</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: DBM*
COVID-19 HEALTH FRONTLINERS
GRANTED ACTIVE HAZARD DUTY PAY
AND SPECIAL RISK ALLOWANCE

Frontline health workers whose services are essential in the fight against COVID-19 and who are exposed to health risks and hazards are set to receive additional benefits.

The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the Department of Health (DOH) issued on November 25, 2020 Joint Circulars No. 1 and No. 2, in relation to the guidelines on the grant of Active Hazard Duty Pay (AHDP) and Special Risk Allowance (SRA) under the Bayanihan to Recover As One Act.

Under Joint Circular No.1, frontline health workers in the public sector, including civilian employees occupying regular, contractual or casual positions, and workers directly engaged by government agencies or local government units through contract or service or job order, will receive an Active Hazard Duty Pay of PhP3,000 per month.

Joint Circular No. 2, meanwhile, states that public and private health workers providing critical and urgent services to respond to the COVID-19 health crisis are entitled to a special risk allowance not exceeding PhP5,000 per month.

Both grants are apart from similar benefits under existing laws and shall be exempt from income tax.
President Rodrigo R. Duterte has authorized the grant of a one-time Service Recognition Incentive (SRI) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020, at a uniform amount not exceeding PhP10,000 for each qualified government employee.

The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) issued on December 22, 2020 Budget Circular No. 2020-6 containing the guidelines on the grant of the SRI for government employees for FY 2020.

Under Administrative Order No. 37, signed by President Duterte on December 18, 2020, the incentive will be received by workers in national government agencies, including those in state universities and colleges and government-owned or -controlled corporations (GOCCs), and those occupying “regular, contractual, or casual positions.”

Military and police personnel, as well as staff and officials of the Bureau of Fire Protection, the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, the Bureau of Corrections, the Philippine Coast Guard, and the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority will also get the incentive.

Furthermore, only personnel still in government service and those that have rendered at least four months of service as of November 30 will receive the cash incentive. Employees who have rendered less than four months of service are entitled to a pro-rated share of the SRI.

The SRI is being granted to government employees to recognize and further encourage their unwavering commitment and dedication in providing public service. It is also meant to reward them for their collective and unceasing participation and invaluable contribution to the Government’s continuing efforts towards the establishment of streamlined government processes, especially amid the COVID-19 pandemic.
Contractual, Job Order Gov't Workers Set to Receive Gratuity Pay

Contract of service (COS) and job order (JO) government workers will receive up to PhP3,000 in gratuity pay in recognition of their invaluable service, especially those part of the emergency COVID-19 response efforts.

On December 28, 2020, President Rodrigo Duterte signed Administrative Order No. 38 allowing a one-time gratuity pay for all job order and contractual workers who have rendered at least four months of satisfactory performance of services as of December 15, and whose contracts are still effective as of the same date.

Those who served for less than four months will still receive gratuity pay on a pro rata basis.

A maximum of PhP2,000 will be given to those who worked for three months or more but less than four months; not exceeding PhP1,500 for those who have worked for two months or more but less than three months; and not exceeding PhP1,000 for those who rendered services for less than two months.

The gratuity pay will be sourced from the operating budget of the government offices concerned. In case there is a deficiency for the funding, the agencies may request additional funds from the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) to be charged from the agency savings, subject to the approval of the President.

The order shall cover workers whose services are engaged by national government agencies (NGAs), state universities and colleges (SUCs), government-owned or -controlled corporations (GOCCs), and local water districts (LWDs).
Project DIME (Digital Information for Monitoring Evaluation), one of the reform innovations introduced by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), was featured as one of the government’s transparency initiatives during the 2020 Transparency Webinars conducted by the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) this year.

The 2020 Transparency Webinars focused on informing and engaging the public on the transparency initiatives and programs of the government, including the DBM’s Project DIME, the Freedom of Information Program, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)’s DevLIVE, DILG’s Full Disclosure Policy, the Department of Health’s COVID-19 Tracker, and the DataCollect Application.

Speakers from the DBM discussed the role of Project DIME as a more efficient and effective mechanism for the monitoring and evaluation of government programs and projects, the monitoring workflow, its initial gains, and the DIME Transparency Website, among others.

OUTLINE OF THE PRESENTATION

Mr. Kenneth Quisado discussing the role of Project DIME during his presentation
In response to the raging COVID-19 pandemic, the Philippine Open Government Partnership (PH-OGP) relaunched its co-created 5th National Action Plan (NAP) on December 16, 2020.

The PH-OGP NAP was initially launched in December 2019 and was implemented beginning 2020, but was hampered by the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in the first quarter.

The expected delays in implementation of Action Plans of member countries prompted the OGP Criteria and Standards Sub-Committee to issue a resolution allowing extension of the NAP implementation to another year.

Likewise, in order to address the unprecedented challenges brought about by the pandemic, the PH-OGP undertook essential steps to carry out necessary revisions on the 5th NAP commitments and to adapt its respective milestone activities to the new normal.

The NAP continues to embrace its 10 commitments, two (2) of which are related to COVID-19 initiatives. Twelve (12) government agencies and five (5) non-government organizations shall lead efforts and work together towards achieving the targets and milestones set under these commitments in the next two years.

Click here to access the revised PH-OGP NAP.
The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) was recognized as one of the champions of investor protection, capital market development, ease of doing business and good corporate governance during the 84th year anniversary ceremony of the Securities and Exchange Commission held last November 20, 2020.

The Organizational Development Champion Award was conferred to the DBM for its invaluable support to the Securities and Exchange Commission in the exercise of its fiscal autonomy for the modernization and improvement of its services.

The anniversary and recognition ceremony wrapped up the first-ever Investor Protection Week, celebrated every second week of November through Proclamation No. 846 in 2019.