



Q2
2021

The DBM
Quarterly
REPORT



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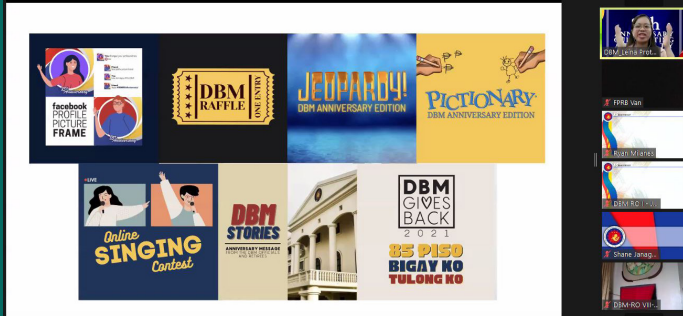
MARKING MILESTONE AMID PANDEMIC

DBM CELEBRATES HISTORIC 85TH ANNIVERSARY ONLINE

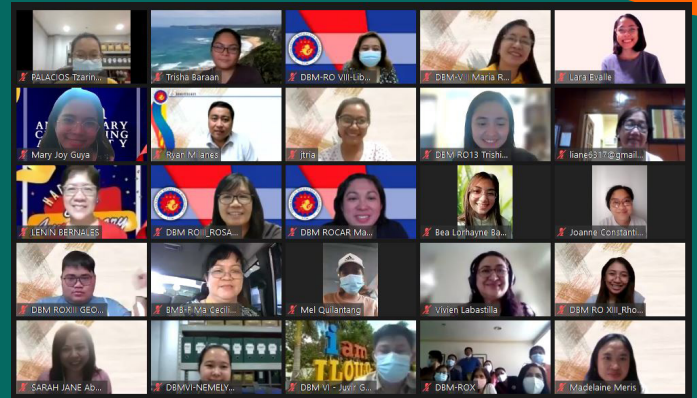
The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) marked the historic celebration of its 85th anniversary by gathering its employees across the country online.

The DBM, which was founded on April 25, 1936, carried out its milestone anniversary from April 20-30, 2021 through a series of virtual activities. Online activities include games which were participated in by employees and officials of the DBM and virtual singing contests, among others.

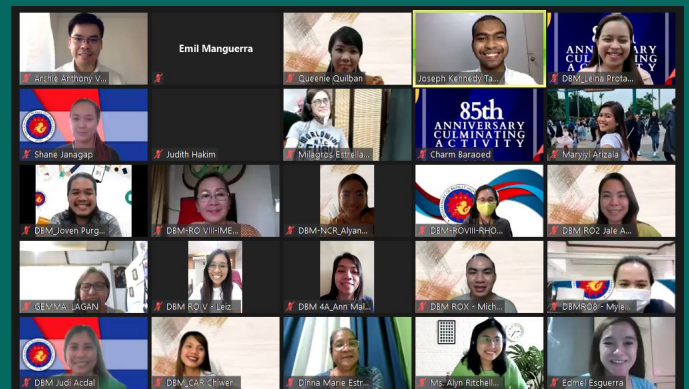
Since the safety and health of the DBM are of paramount importance in these trying times, the DBM gave away more than 700 health kits for its employees. The kits contain medicines, vitamins, alcohol, face shields and various dietary products.



The marking of the 85th founding year of the DBM is also a reflection of the genuine service and dedication of DBM employees to continue serving the public. For this milestone, some present and former officials and employees of the DBM shared their stories of success and struggles, making them proud to be part of the DBM family. These messages were collected to inspire and motivate employees especially when work tends to be more challenging in the time of pandemic.



The DBM also awarded the so called "DBM Warriors" and "DBM Vanguard." These awards were given to those individuals who "despite the very real dangers, put their own safety and well-being aside to be part of the DBM's skeletal workforce and provide critical on-site services" amid the pandemic.



UPGRADING SYSTEMS

MORE THAN 4,000 GOV'T WORKERS TRAINED ON THE USE OF SARO VIEWER

As part of the transition phase and preparation for the full implementation of the adoption of digital Special Allotment Release Orders (SAROs) and SARO Viewer to the entire bureaucracy, the DBM, led by the Information and Communications Technology Systems Service and the Budget Information and Training Service, conducted a series of training sessions for the authorized users of the SARO Viewer from the selected pilot agencies.

The SARO Viewer is a web-based application that facilitates the release of approved SAROs in digital format directly to the end-users of recipient agencies. It aims to eliminate the unnecessary steps of printing, physical signing, routing, and releasing the printed SAROs to agency liaison officers.

The training sessions, which were conducted from April to May 2021, were participated in by more than 4,000 government personnel from various agencies such as the Department of Education (DepEd), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of National Defense (DND), Commission on Audit (COA), and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA).



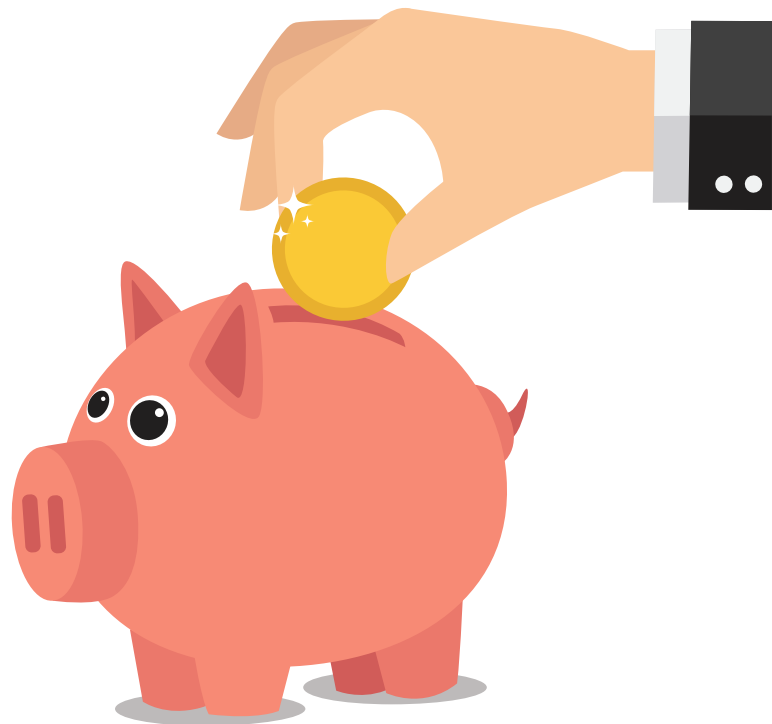
GOV'T AGENCIES TOLD TO SAVE, BEEF UP COVID-19 FUNDS

Given the budget crunch due to recession-battered revenue collection and bigger expenses to fight COVID-19, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) has ordered agencies to look for savings from appropriations in 2020 and prioritize pandemic response in their 2022 spending proposals.

Pursuant to Administrative Order (AO) No. 41 signed by President Rodrigo R. Duterte, the DBM issued National Budget Circular No. 586 which instructed agencies to identify items already released under their respective continuing 2020 budgets, which had not been intended for COVID-19 response but were unobligated as of May 15 this year.

In said Circular, DBM Secretary Wendel E. Avisado said that while the legislature and judiciary have been enjoying fiscal autonomy, they were also "strongly urged to adopt and implement" AO 41.

Likewise, the DBM issued National Budget Memorandum No. 140 which covers strategic programs to be prioritized for tier-two funding in light of the continued COVID-19 recovery efforts and the meager fiscal space.



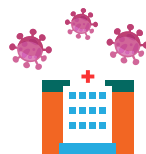
SOME STRATEGIC PROGRAMS FOR 2022



National Vaccination Program



National Government Assistance to Disadvantaged Local Government Units (LGUs)



Establishment of the Virology Science and Technology Institute of the Philippines



National Identification System and Interagency Integration



PH AMONG TOP NATIONS WITH COVID-19 ACCOUNTABILITY

The Philippines is one of the only four (4) countries that demonstrated an adequate level of accountability in its early COVID-19 fiscal policy responses. This was based on the rapid assessment survey conducted by the International Budget Partnership (IBP), covering the period of March to September 2020. The other three (3) countries sharing the same ranking with the Philippines are Australia, Norway, and Peru.

The rapid assessment on the transparency of COVID-related fiscal measures covered a total of 120 countries and used a set of 26 new indicators developed by international bodies to examine transparency, public participation and oversight of emergency fiscal policy packages introduced by governments in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The survey was answered by both civil society groups and central governments.

In particular, the Philippines was assessed based on its transparency measures, extent of public engagement, and oversight powers over its fiscal measures, as implemented under Republic Act No. 11469 or the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act. The measures evaluated include direct fiscal support, tax relief measures, as well as credit and liquidity support.

The main findings of the assessment show that the COVID-19 pandemic caused extensive pressure on governments around the world to adopt extraordinary fiscal measures in response to the health crisis and the ensuing economic crisis. As a result, about two-thirds of countries have provided limited or minimum levels of accountability in the formulation and implementation of their fiscal policy response. Nevertheless, the Philippine's practices of publishing and submitting weekly reports to the Congress and the conduct of public consultations on COVID-19 response policies and programs through the "Dagyaw 2020: Open Government Virtual Town Hall Meetings," among others, were lauded by the IBP.



DBM LEADS 2021 OPEN GOV WEEK CELEBRATION

Anchored on the global celebration of the Open Government Week, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), as the Philippine Open Government Partnership (PH-OGP) Chair and Secretariat, led the celebration of the 2021 Open Government Week on May 17-21 through the conduct of online activities.

This year's Open Gov Week (OGW) was designed as an opportunity to gather government reformers, leaders, and thinkers to share ideas, discuss solutions and commit to new levels of citizen participation in government to respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Bearing the theme, "Sustaining open and participatory government in the time of pandemic," PH-OGP featured activities that target to (1) engage citizens in the implementation of the current Action Plan and sustaining open government initiatives; (2) provide a platform to discuss emerging budget concerns to strengthen fiscal transparency; (3) open a dialogue with development partners on the role of citizen participation; and (4) highlight gender mainstreaming and inclusion.

This year's theme is focused on building governments, institutions and societies that are transparent, accountable, participatory and inclusive.



DAY 2: INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

MAY
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Session 1: Open Contracting Data on COVID-19 Purchases in the Philippines: How Can We Collaborate to Strengthen Procurement?

Session 2: It's about DIME: Extending Results-based M&E Through Participatory Monitoring

Session 3: Mainstreaming and optimizing extractive disclosures through data management tools

DAY 3: SPECIAL CONCERNS



Session 1: Ready, Set, FOGO! Feminist Open Government (FOGO) and Women Leading in the Better Normal

Session 2: Brigada Pagbasa Program - Sama-sama, tulong-tulong sa Pagtataguyod ng Kultura sa Pagbasa

MAY
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DAY 4: FISCAL TRANSPARENCY



MAY
20

Session 1: GIFT: Engaging Citizens for Fiscal Transparency

Session 2: IRA Noon at Ngayon: Alamin ang Magbabago!

DAY 5: EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

MAY
21

Session 1: Partnership Building: Open Government Dialogue with Development Partners

DAY 1: CITIZEN PARTICIPATION



MAY
17

Session 1: 10 Years of PH-OGP: Steering Committee in Focus

Session 2: Building-up Culture of Transparency with IP Communities

CARE FOR FRONTLINER WORKERS

GOV'T WORKERS GRANTED HAZARD PAY ANEW

President Rodrigo Duterte issued an Order on June 1, 2021 granting hazard pay for government personnel who physically report for work during the period of implementation of an Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) and a Modified Enhanced Community Quarantine (MECQ).

This amended a previous Order issued last year which granted hazard pay only to government workers who physically reported for work despite the country was under ECQ due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

According to the Order, national government agencies (NGAs), including state universities and colleges (SUCs), and government-owned or -controlled corporations (GOCCs) are authorized to grant the COVID-19 Hazard Pay amounting to Php500 per day. Also entitled to this additional benefit are contract of service employees and job order workers who are directly engaged by government agencies.



Meanwhile, the Order provides that payment of these benefits will cease once the area has been placed under GCQ or MGCQ.



CAPACITATING GOVERNMENT WORKERS

DBM TRAINS GOV'T INTERNAL AUDIT PRACTITIONERS

Thirty government internal audit practitioners participated in the capacity-building training on the Revised Philippine Government Internal Audit Manual (RPGIAM) which was launched by the DBM and the Office of the President-Office of the Deputy Executive Secretary for Internal Audit (OP-ODESIA) on June 18, 2021.

Participants are internal audit practitioners from the OP-ODESIA, DBM-Internal Audit Service, DBM-Office of Undersecretary Anthony Aguilar, Procurement Service, and the four government specialty hospitals, namely Lung Center of the Philippines, National Kidney and Transplant Institute, Philippine Children's Medical Center, and Philippine Heart Center.

The series of training sessions, which will run until July 14, is being done through a blended learning approach, which utilizes synchronous, asynchronous,

virtual, and face-to-face modes via Zoom and the DBM's Learning Management System as the primary training platforms. It is composed mainly of five modules to be delivered in 13 sessions that will take about 48.5 hours.

The training is being facilitated by the DBM-Budget Information and Training Service, DBM-Systems and Productivity Improvement Bureau, the DESIA and the pool of trainers who completed the training of trainers (ToT) in December 2020 up to January 2021.



STRENGTHENING LOCAL GOV'T UNITS

DBM LEADS FULL DEVOLUTION OF CERTAIN FUNCTIONS OF EXECUTIVE BRANCH TO LOCAL GOV'T UNITS

The implementation of the Supreme Court ruling on the Mandanas-Garcia cases will significantly increase the shares of local government units (LGUs) in the national taxes starting 2022. This presents an opportunity for the national government to empower the LGUs in the provision of basic goods and services devolved under Section 17 of Republic Act No. 7160, or the Local Government Code of 1991, and other legislative measures.

In line with this, the Department of Budget and Management has led the crafting of Executive Order No. 138, s. 2021 which covers the full devolution of certain functions of the Executive Branch to local governments and the creation of a Committee on Devolution (ComDev). Said EO was signed on June 1, 2021 by President Rodrigo R. Duterte.

According to the EO, the Secretary of the DBM shall be the Chairperson of the ComDev, the body

which, among others, oversees and monitors the implementation of administrative and fiscal decentralization goals of EO No. 138 and other related laws.



TOWARDS A HEALTHY WORKPLACE

MORE THAN 800 DBM EMPLOYEES VACCINATED

A total of 828 employees of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and its attached agencies such as Procurement Service - Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PS-PhilGEPS) and Government Procurement Policy Board – Technical Support Office (GPPB-TSO) received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine on June 21, 2021.

Led by the DBM-PS, the vaccination took place at the DBM Central Office.

This employee mass immunization is part of the COVID-19 #VaccineNation campaign of the local government of Manila which targets to immunize not only its residents, but also those who work at the nation's capital.

These employees will receive the second dose of COVID-19 vaccine on July 19, 2021.

