



PAGSUBAYBAY

THE OFFICIAL EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER OF THE PROCUREMENT SERVICE – DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT
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PS WELCOMES THE APPOINTMENT OF SEC. MINA AS NEW DBM CHIEF

From when the former Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Assistant Governor Amenah F. Pangandaman accepted the invitation to serve as the new Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) on May 30, 2022, until she took her oath of office as sworn in by the newly-elected Philippine President on July 5, the Procurement Service (PS) has been preparing to welcome her as the new Budget Chief.

The DBM, in an official statement, said that the Department is confident that under the capable stewardship of Sec. Pangandaman — also referred to as Sec. Mina among her colleagues and peers — reforms will be introduced and sustained to get the country safely and surely through this crucial transition period of post-pandemic recovery, growth, and sustainability.

In a separate release, the PS-DBM recognized Sec. Mina's extensive work experience at the legislative and executive branches, notable for her progressive contributions to the Department as former Undersecretary and Functional Group Head of the Office of the Secretary under the helm of then DBM Chief Benjamin E. Diokno.

In the ceremonial turnover of leadership conducted on July 6 at the DBM Central Office in San Miguel, Manila — as reported by the DBM Budget Information and Training Service (BITS) — Sec. Mina said that her reform agenda will focus, among others, on the evaluation and streamlining of PS. This, she noted, will ensure "proper oversight and stricter controls, and thus, safeguard the integrity of the procurement process."

"Let us craft a budget that will be responsive to the needs of the Filipinos in this time of COVID and beyond," she added.

The PS-DBM commits to ensuring a smooth and orderly transition.

We look forward to working with you, Sec. Mina!

Read more about Sec. Mina in the DBM BITS eUpdates Vol. 9, Issue No. 50 emailed by the Communications Team on July 8, 2022 with the subject: OIC CANDA TURNS OVER DBM HELM TO NEW BUDGET CHIEF



Photo courtesy of DBM BITS



PS MEETS NEW ED

The future is bright for the PS employees and officials as they now begin to work under the leadership of the new Executive Director (ED), Atty. Dennis S. Santiago, whose expertise revolves around the performance of procurement advisory, review, monitoring, evaluation, and capacity development.

With a demonstrated history of working in international consulting firms, multilateral development banks, and various government agencies, Atty. Santiago — who also served as former ED of the Government Procurement Policy Board – Technical Support Office from 2011 to 2018 — is undeniably the best fit for the job. He brings to the table his proficiency in procurement reform; procurement policy making and rule drafting; procurement needs scoping, assessment and evaluation; procurement process analysis and improvement; project and procurement method matching; and procurement problem identification and solutions.

On July 1, 2022, the day that formally commenced the governance of the new administration, Atty. Santiago graced the flag lowering ceremony of PS. In a brief message to the crowd, he acknowledged the role of the agency in the time of a public health emergency.

“You are all heroes, *alam niyo ba ‘yon?* If you did not stand tall, *siguro wala tayong gamit* [CSE including COVID-19 response items],” he said.

But procurement, according to him, is not merely about buying. “It is also a service,” he emphasized — moreso for PS.

Atty. Santiago’s perceived heroism by his colleagues certainly evokes a sense of pride among the PS workforce. As he takes the helm of the agency that has been marred by issues and controversies last year, he only has one plea to his PS family.

“*Mahalin po natin ang trabaho natin...* I’m looking forward to working with you, *at sana ay tulungan ninyo ako.* Support me as much as you supported the previous EDs,” he said.



Know more about Atty. Santiago in the upcoming issue of PS Express soon.





Employees and officials of PS-DBM pose for a photo up following the successful conduct of their 2022 Strategic Planning. The photo was shared by the Department of PS-DBM.

PS-DBM conducts 2022 Strategic Planning in time for the agency's transition to the new administration

By Kevin Joshua G. Rebutan

Prior to the official proclamation of the newly elected Philippine President, made formal through the inauguration ceremony on June 30, 2022, the Procurement Service – Department of Budget and Management (PS-DBM) has been gearing up for the change in leadership to ensure a smooth and orderly transition.

On April 28 and 29, the PS-DBM conducted its 2022 Strategic Planning at the Royal Woods in Marilao, Bulacan. The two-day activity, attended by select employees and officials, served as the agency's operational and transition planning guide to meeting the organization's targets indicated in its Office Performance Commitment and Review (OPCR).

The opening session commenced by setting expectations, followed by a discussion on the critical problems that PS-DBM needs to resolve to address the OPCR targets – the determination of which was achieved through various activities and exercises facilitated by the guest speakers.

After a series of productive exchanges of insights, the major problems were identified concerning security of tenure; records management; out-of-stock and inventory management; operations manual and role clarification; and downtime of the website and the Virtual Store, along with other issues regarding its implementation. In a previous interview with then PS-DBM

OIC-Executive Director Atty. Jasonmer L. Uryan, he considered almost the same list of concerns during the early stages of his appointment as head of the agency.

In an open forum that proceeded, the concept of V.U.C.A. – which stands for Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity, and Ambiguity – was introduced. As the world ushers in the new normal that brought about unprecedented changes, encountering V.U.C.A. in any organizational pursuit is almost inevitable. But they can be dealt with accordingly, the speaker explained, by countering volatility with vision; meeting uncertainty with understanding; reacting to complexity with clarity; and fighting ambiguity with agility.

In relation, the theory of design thinking was presented. Defined as a set of cognitive, strategic, and practical processes by which design concepts are developed, design thinking is a problem-solving approach that emerges from concrete observation and understanding of the prevailing circumstances to be able to innovate solutions.

Guided by the moderators, participants incorporated such concepts and were successful in breaking down and synchronizing the agency's OPCR targets, individual and group goals, key result areas, and work plans.

Ultimately, the PS-DBM 2022 Strategic Planning aims to produce an Operational and Transition Plan document that identifies priority issues, proposes reforms in projects and initiatives, and secures the timely delivery of related outputs within the budget allocation, among others.

Pursuant to the DBM Office Order No. 207, s. 2022, pertaining to the conduct of its bureaus', services', and offices' Annual Planning, Performance Evaluation and Assessment Review (APPEAR), the inputs from 2022 Strategic Planning will be cascaded among all PS-DBM employees when the agency determines its APPEAR schedule in the second half of the year.

The APPEAR aims to institutionalize the inclusive planning, employee engagement, and the systems and methods review of the office which will necessitate the accomplishment of documentary requirements such as reports, updated Project Procurement Management Plan, and other commitments.





Ceremonial signing of MOA with DICT for cybersecurity.
Face masks were removed for the purposes of photo op only.

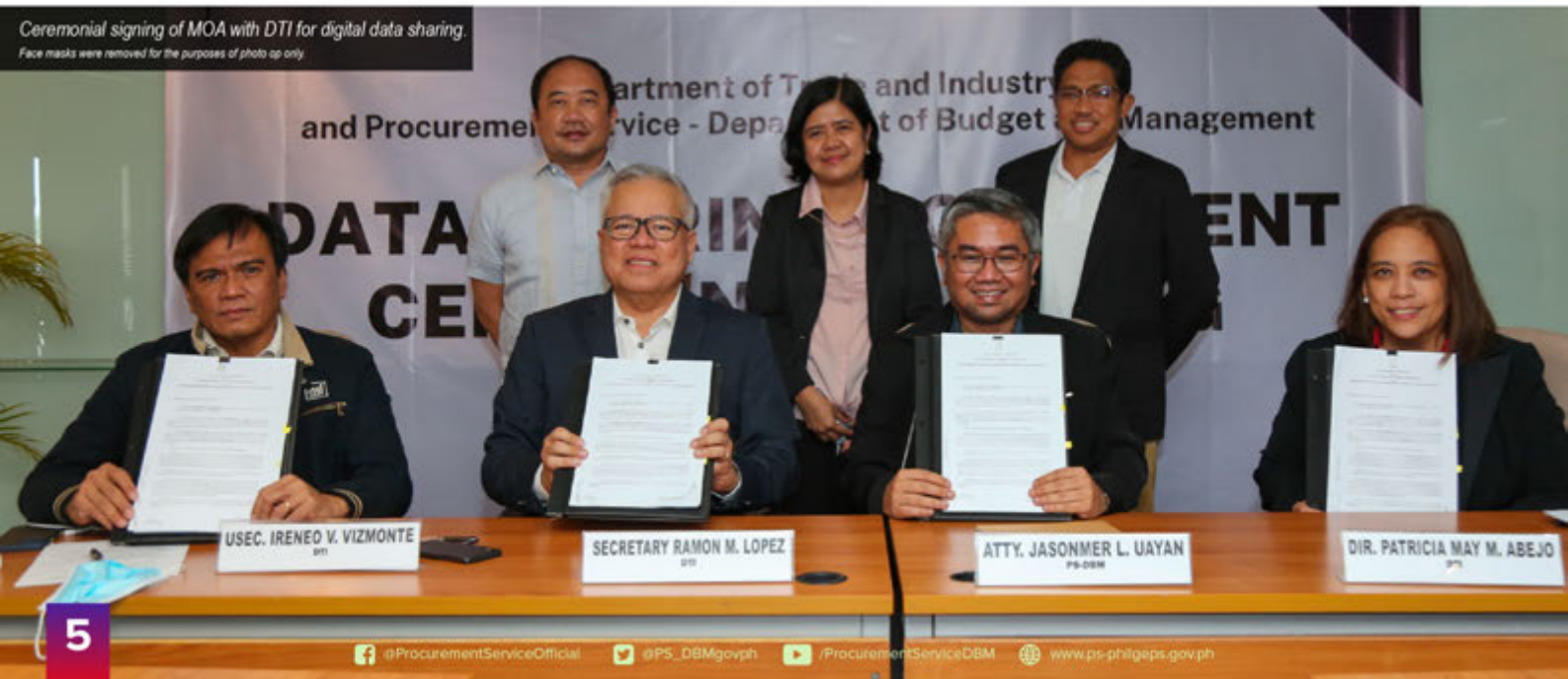
PS-DBM SIGNS MOA WITH DICT, DTI TO BOLSTER THE AGENCY'S DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE

By Kevin Joshua G. Rebutan

The Procurement Service - Department of Budget and Management (PS-DBM) through its Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) Group signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) to strengthen the agency's ICT operations in the areas of cybersecurity and digital data sharing.

The events were held on June 14 and 22, 2022, respectively, attended by representatives from all concerned government instrumentalities.

In light of the "new normal" amid the COVID-19 pandemic, all industries including the government sector have been compelled to digitize its operations and transactions. As the single, central electronic portal that serves as the primary and definitive source of information on government procurement, the PS-PhilGEPS welcomes these partnerships that came at an opportune time.



Ceremonial signing of MOA with DTI for digital data sharing.
Face masks were removed for the purposes of photo op only.

USEC. IRENEO V. VIZMONTE
DTI

SECRETARY RAMON M. LOPEZ
DTI

ATTY. JASONMER L. UAYAN
PS-DBM

DIR. PATRICIA MAY M. ABEJO
PS-DBM

BOOSTING THE AGENCY'S CYBER SAFETY

In a bid to prevent and suppress cybercrime activities, the MOA signing with DICT recognizes the power of its Cybercrime Investigation and Coordinating Center (CICC) to call upon any government agency to render assistance in the accomplishment of CICC's mandated tasks as may be necessary for the proper implementation of Republic Act 10175, otherwise known as Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012.



Former PS-DBM OIC-Executive Director Atty. Jasonmer L. Uayan, in his message after the ceremonial signing, said that the PS-DBM is willing to take part in the CICC's facilitation of capacity development programs relative to the local and international efforts to curb cybercrime — especially aware of agency's susceptibility to cyber-attacks or criminal activities carried out by means of computers or the Internet.

"As the world continues to modernize, the promises of further advancement come with undeniable threats... Even before the outbreak of COVID-19, the global society has long been battling the cybercrime pandemic," he added.

Echoing the same, PhilGEPS Director Rosa Maria Clemente affirmed the timely collaboration between the two agencies. "We look forward to working closely with all of you... in strengthening our cyber-resilience and safeguarding our critical processes and information. Let us all combat cybercrime together," she said in her closing remarks.



Officials of PS-PhilGEPS and DICT sign the MOA after reviewing the provisions.



Representatives of PS-PhilGEPS and DTI observe basic health protocols in the conduct of the ceremonial MOA signing.

IMPROVING THE ELECTRONIC PROCUREMENT PROCESS

A fast-tracked public procurement process is among the anticipated outcomes of the data sharing agreement between PS-DBM and DTI, diminishing red tape and corruption while increasing efficiency and transparency.

The MOA enables PhilGEPS and DTI to share data with each other by linking the latter's Business Name Registration System with the former's portal which maintains a centralized electronic database of all registered manufacturers, suppliers, distributors, contractors, and consultants. Guaranteed by Republic Act 10173, otherwise known as the Data Privacy Act of 2012, the MOA stipulates that all shared information will be treated with utmost confidentiality and will be used strictly for review, verification, and validation purposes only.

The digitization of these data makes pertinent information related to public bidding readily available online. In this age of digital transformation, Atty. Uayan believes that the use of ICT is not only essential but necessary. "Navigating our way through the virtual realm is the only path to take. With restrictions in mobilization and physical interaction posed by the threat of the COVID-19 pandemic, cyberspace is our new workspace," he said.

"This will also enhance people's confidence towards public institutions," former Trade Secretary Ramon Lopez added.

As the central procuring arm of the whole of government, the implementation of the activities and projects in these collaborations aids PS-DBM in providing digitally smart and cybersafe procurement solutions.



Former DTI Sec. Lopez (left) with former PS-DBM OIC-Executive Director Atty. Uayan (right).
Face masks were removed for the purposes of photo op only.



Officials of PS-PhilGEPS and DTI sign the MOA after reviewing the provisions.
Face masks were removed for the purposes of photo op only.

PS-DBM partners with the Ombudsman to raise **ANTI-CORRUPTION AWARENESS**

By Pam Candice V. Medina



By virtue of Proclamation No. 591, s. 2004, the month of May is declared as Anti-Graft and Corruption Awareness Month. But the efforts to maintain honesty and integrity in the public service should be timeless, especially that many forms of corrupt practices at whatever extent persist to exist.

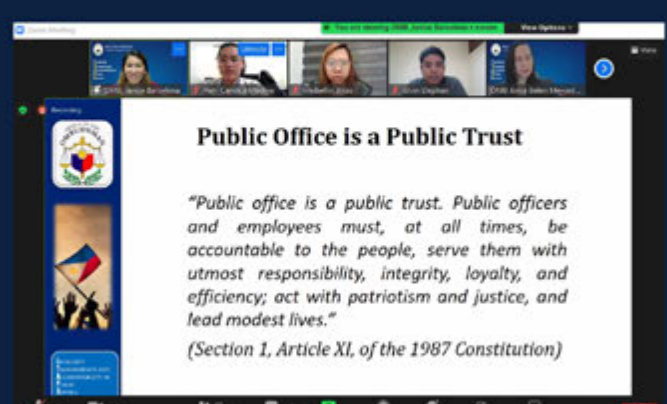
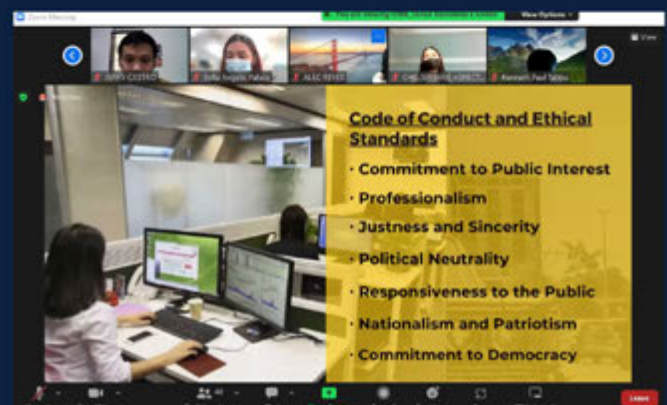
In partnership with the Office of the Ombudsman, the Procurement Service – Department of Budget and Management (PS-DBM) upholds its commitment to reinforce the fight against graft and corruption by taking part in related activities.

In June 2022, PS-DBM employees attended the online sessions of the **e-Integrity, Transparency, and Accountability in Public Service** seminar, also known as e-ITAPS, conducted by Ombudsman's National Integrity Center.

The participants were immersed in a three-day asynchronous mini course consisted of both facilitator-led and self-paced learning modules, which focused on understanding corruption; upholding accountability in public office; and integrating integrity in public service. Real-life caselettes aided the discussions during break-out room activities for a more interactive and in-depth discourse.

Apart from the measures to determine and identify corrupt behavior, the sessions also tackled sexual harassment, the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees, and the threefold (civil, criminal, and administrative) liability rule, among others.

The workshop concluded with a Pledge of Service to reiterate the teachings.





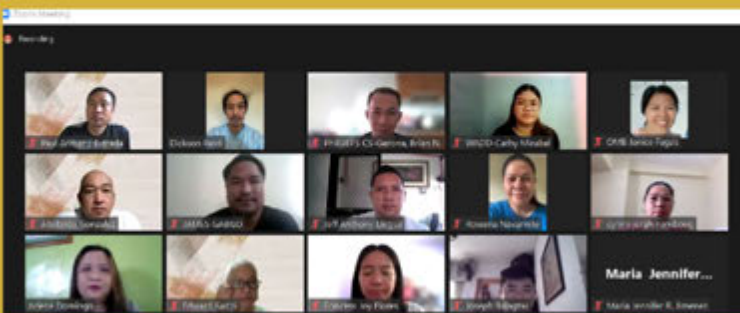
Earlier in the same month, those who have already attended the previous iterations of ITAPS took part in the Anti-Corruption Laws Lecture Series (ACLS) conducted also by the Ombudsman. It aimed to educate participants on anti-corruption laws and the consequences for violations.

The ACLS served as an advanced course that covered pertinent legal provisions such as functions and jurisdictions of the Ombudsman; Anti-Graft and Corruption Practices Act; Act Defining and Penalizing the Crime of Plunder; and Common Crimes Committed by Public Officers based on the Revised Penal Code.

In his opening remarks, former PS-DBM OIC-Executive Director Atty. Jasonmer L. Uayan stressed that corruption is a crime, and that it must always be condemned and never tolerated.

“To become good and trustworthy public servants is what the officials and employees of PS-DBM aspire, because we understand that trust is the single most important factor in personal and professional relationships, and that we are at all times accountable to the people,” he added.

Throughout the online sessions of both ITAPS and ACLS, the Ombudsman repeatedly inculcated that public office is a public trust. PS-DBM employees know this government mantra by heart — contributing to the development of an integrated society-wide anti-corruption plan that mitigates the negative impact of corruption on the country’s socio-economic, political, and moral stability.





PS-DBM JOINS THE GLOBAL CALL TO LET THE EARTH BREATHE

By Sittie Laila A. Guinomla

The Earth Day is celebrated annually every April 22nd. This year's commemoration is ever more relevant following the recent climate change protests staged by no less than some scientists themselves.

Several posts about these protests have made rounds online — one of which is a video recording of a scientist breaking down in tears while delivering a speech. This has since gone viral on social media.

"We only have a few years to save the earth," they warn, even risking arrest in a desperate call for humanity to act on the climate crisis that poses an extreme existential threat worldwide.

The Procurement Service – Department of Budget and Management (PS-DBM) heeds the call by instigating policies and programs to help protect and preserve the planet. As the country's lead implementer of the Green Procurement Program, PS-DBM offers some products and services with green specifications.

The agency also continues to adopt additional measures to help conserve energy. In compliance with the Energy Efficiency and Conservation (EEC) Act which aims to reduce at least 10 percent of monthly electricity consumption of every government agency, the PS-DBM's General Services Division (GSD) reminds employees to turn off and unplug their laptops, computers, and other non-essential electrical equipment every weekend or last day of the week.

The solar panels installed onto the PS-DBM Main Office rooftop in 2015 are still being utilized, resulting in a reduced electricity bill of the agency as reported by the EEC Program of GSD. The use of reusable utensils and mugs instead of plastic cups, and the proper disposal of waste through labelled trash bins are also encouraged within the office.

The Earth Day 2022 bannered the theme, "Invest in our Planet," and the PS-DBM takes conscious effort to incorporate green initiatives in its operations.

Aside from raising awareness, every one of us is capable of exerting constant and consistent efforts to mitigate the effects of global warming, climate change, pollution, loss of biodiversity, and public health issues. More than our compliance with any agency-initiated efforts, it is our moral responsibility to fully commit to developing daily habits that would guarantee a sustainable lifestyle.

In the same way that any enduring and nurturing mother would need to take a rest, Mother Earth needs to breathe, too.

The claim that nature is rapidly deteriorating is a fact, but the assertions that we can still prevent the planet from dying are just as true.

Together, we can still make a difference.



A LOOK BACK AND AHEAD: PS-DBM ENGAGEMENTS IN THE “NEW NORMAL”

By Pam Candice V. Medina

For the first time since the implementation of the Metro Manila lockdown in 2020, the Marketing and Sales Division (MSD) of the Procurement Service – Department of Budget and Management (PS-DBM) facilitated an in-person training for the use of the Virtual Store (VS) on April 28, 2022 before a crowd of Metropolitan Trial Court (MeTC) of Manila employees.

Derived from the on-going Virtual Client Connection (VCC), another MSD-led project which was conceived during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic to keep in touch with client-agencies, the recently conducted training was in support of the digital transformation efforts to transition the same government agencies from walk-in to digital transactions.

Apart from the in-depth walkthrough and live simulation of VS, participants also got to be informed about the legal bases for the establishment of PS-DBM; systems of and registration to the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS), its modernized portal and E-bidding facility; and submission of the Annual Procurement Plan for Common-use Supplies and Equipment, among others.

Robert Humarang, a Procurement Management Officer of MSD and the division's lead trainer for the VCC, attests that while virtual engagements are part of the “new normal,” face-to-face events are an entirely different kind of experience.

“Nothing replaces in-person banter and interactions where you can see up close facial nuances and reactions. [These are] a good way to see if you are sending the message across and to measure to some extent if the participants are able to absorb the lessons and appreciate the activity,” he says.



MSD lead trainer Humarang presents before a crowd of MeTC employees.

The VCC continues to serve as hands-on training on how to use the VS conducted regularly by the MSD. In-person training sessions, on the other hand, are initiated based on invitation from government agencies, subject to the prevailing health protocols. Participants for both programs receive certificates upon completion of post-training documentary requirements.



Organizers and awardees of the AO25 Appreciation Night pose for a photo op following the successful conduct of the event. Face masks were removed for the purposes of photo op only.

Humarang, in another in-person event, represented PS-DBM not as a trainer who issues certificates but as one who accepts it. On June 2, 2022, he took part in the Administrative Order (AO) 25 Appreciation Night event held at the Development Academy of the Philippines Conference Center in Tagaytay.

With him were other PS-DBM representatives including PhilGEPS Director Rosa Maria Clemente, PhilGEPS IT Research and Planning Division's Mary Jane Dacumos, PhilGEPS Customer Service's May Ann Chan, and MSD Deputy Chief Omar Bernal. They form part of the validating agencies for the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Harmonization of National Government Performance Monitoring, Information, and Reporting Systems — the creation of which was made official through AO25, s. 2011.

In Memorandum Circular No. 2022-1 issued on March 24, the guidelines on the grant of the Performance-Based Bonus for Fiscal Year 2022 included government agencies' APP-CSE submission and PhilGEPS posting.

The Appreciation Night served as “thanksgiving for the invaluable efforts and contributions” of the invitees. Apart from the recognition of awardees, dinner, and socials, a “Kapihan Session” was also held for the sharing of experiences on the implementation of the Results-Based Performance Management System.



OTHER PS-DBM ENGAGEMENTS IN THE 2ND QUARTER OF 2022

(L-R) Mary Jane Dacumos, Omar Bernal, Dir. Rosa Maria Clemente, Robert Humarang, and May Ann Chan during the AO25 Appreciation Night.
Face masks were removed for the purposes of photo up only

APRIL

Presidential Communications Operations Office
"For Your Information" Program
Modernized PhilGEPS Training (on-going)
Google Workplace Administrator Training
Google Champion Training

MAY

Philippine Open Government events

JUNE

RA 9184 and its IRR for Micro and Small Enterprises Training
Data Literacy Workshop for Open Government

The PS-DBM has been relentless in implementing various mechanisms in order to provide a safe work environment that is partly attributed to the successful implementation of its recent engagements, whether virtual or in-person.

From when the agency's workforce was inoculated against COVID-19 in June 2021, other measures were put in place such as the continuous digitization of its platforms and services, as well as the implementation of alternative working arrangements with enhanced restrictions.

As we continue to transition to the "new normal," coinciding with the change of leadership in the administration, the PS-DBM constantly gears itself up to adapt to whatever is up ahead.

OUTTAKING CEREMONIES FOR THE
SUCCESSFUL 2020/21 BAR CANDIDATES
Held on July 21, 2022
At the National Shrine of St. Padre Pio

All Rise: Meet the New Lawyers of PS

By Kevin Joshua G. Rebutan

Somewhere at the National Shrine of St. Padre Pio in Santo Tomas, Batangas was a woman who, in the middle of her rosary novena prayer, received a call.

"Anak ko, abogado ka na! Proud na proud kami sa 'yo," she was told.

By this time she missed several other calls. At that moment, though, her mother's message was all that she needed to hear. It took a while before the news dawned upon her. She stayed at the church for around two more hours, until she mustered the strength to drive again. She was bawling her eyes out the entire trip.

"I felt numb. I don't know what to feel. I really couldn't believe that my dream just turned into reality," she recalls.

It was like a scene straight out of a movie — only it wasn't. On April 12, 2022, the Supreme Court (SC) released the results of 2020-21 Bar Examinations, the first test to be digitized and decentralized due to COVID-19. Of the 11,402 hopefuls, the woman was among the thousands of passers on the list.

The woman is Melbellin M. Anzo, and despite her previous attempts to quit, she is now a full-fledged lawyer.

Atty. Anzo currently serves as the Deputy Chief of the Procurement Service — Department of Budget and Management (PS-DBM) Legal Division (LD). The journey to get where she is today was by no means a walk in the park.

A registered pharmacist who graduated from Centro Escolar University — Manila in 2014, Atty. Anzo's childhood dream was to become a doctor. It was during her stint as a Quality Assurance Officer for a manufacturing firm when she first cast doubts on her intent to pursue medical school.

On the day of her visit to San Beda College (SBC) in Manila — now a University — to inquire about its College of Medicine's enrollment process, she found herself gravitating towards the Law Dean's Office. Little did she know that this detour was what would pave her way to an entirely different route. To make a long story short: with some convincing from her brother, she pursued a Bachelor of Laws degree in SBC Alibang instead, and successfully finished the program in 2020.

"Even after I graduated, I cannot brag that law school is easy because it really is not... Many people used to say that I wouldn't be able to finish it because of my happy-go-lucky attitude, but here I am. By God's grace," she says.

Much to her sense of adventure, Atty. Anzo could now only jest about her audacity to sustain monthly travels, frequent drinking sessions, and other on-semester escapades all while being a full-time law student. These may have raised eyebrows among her peers, but Atty. Anzo, 28, was guided by this personal mantra: *Gagala pero hindi a-absent*.

"I used to go out, but was never absent just to travel. Hindi ko rin alam actually paano ko na-handle... It takes not just hard work and perseverance but a lot of prayers. *Maging madalasin ka talaga!*" she says, admitting to have had a tough time adjusting to law school considering her undergraduate study.

"The manner of exams is different from what I used to take in Pharma. There were also a lot of readings that require extra patience and discipline," she adds.

When her review for the Bar began, life had more in store for Atty. Anzo. At this point, she was sitting at the juncture of her work in PS-DBM and her own business with her partner. The fear, pressure, and mental distress brought about by the pandemic were altogether a different battle, too, resulting in the postponement of the Bar Exams twice.

Her colleagues must have understood her case. "PS-DBM, especially LD, was supportive. Despite the workload, they let me prioritize my review," she says.

Their support, along with that of her family's and friends', was not up in vain. And no one can take away her sense of pride that came with her triumph.

"I am proud to be one of the #BestBarEver2020/21 babies... Some claim that it was the easiest exam... [but] with all the uncertainties and risks that we had to overcome, I don't believe it's true," she states with conviction.

**Some quoted statements from the subjects were edited for brevity and clarity of thought.*



Atty. Anzo with her proud parents after the Signing of the Roll of Attorneys.
See her on page 14 in issue 2 of July 2022.



Atty. Anzo, a registered pharmacist, with her partner at their pharmacy.
See her on page 14 in issue 2 of July 2022.



Atty. Anzo's SBC Alibang College of Law graduation picture.
See her on page 14 in issue 2 of July 2022.



Atty. Homerer during the new lawyers' Distinguing Ceremonies at the Mall of Asia Arena



Atty. Homerer (left) with his mother, Cathi (in white Filipiniana) and his wife, Kim (in green blouse)

Miles away from Batangas, at around the same time when Atty. Anzo was shedding tears of joy upon learning the results, the clouds over some parts of Tacloban in Leyte were crying, too. A storm signal was raised, and the gloomy weather seemed to have imitated 39-year-old Ceferino B. Homerer, Jr.'s grim mood.

Homerer knew someone who was at the SC grounds taking pictures of the names of passers, and on the list sent to their group chat, his was not included.

"I lost hope and felt depressed. *Hindi na ako kinakabahan, walang gana,*" he says.

Homerer stopped watching the coverage, and turned on their television to distract himself from the negatively overwhelming thoughts. Not long after, he heard his wife, Kim, frantically shouting — having been told by her officemates that her husband, in fact, passed the Bar.

"Is this a prank?" he remembers asking. Kim did not need to answer, as an influx of congratulatory messages and calls confirmed that he is, indeed, among the 8,241 successful aspirants. This, SC records show, translates to a 72.28 percent passing rate — a record high number.

"*Ang mali ko, hindi ko tiningnan 'yung website para sa full list. I found out that the list forwarded to me was for those who were recognized as exemplary... So tiningnan ko 'yung full list, nandoon nga 'yung pangalan ko,*" he recalls. He then went straight to the small altar at their home and prayed.

Raised by a family of farmers, becoming a full-fledged lawyer is not his dream alone, as it is his father's, too. He finally got to pursue it after finishing his Master's Degree in Management from the University of the Philippines - Visayas, with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accountancy from Eastern Visayas State University he obtained in 2004.

Aware of their life status at a young age, never did Atty. Homerer think of stopping. It took him six years before finishing law school in 2020 because he was consciously taking his time.

"I did question myself many times on why I decided to study law. I did slack as a student, who on some occasions did not come to class and failed some subjects, but I never wanted to quit... I was not rushing myself to graduate," he says.

Atty. Homerer himself acknowledges that he was not the best student, so much so that his batchmates from Dr. V. Orestes Romualdez Educational Foundation (DVOREF) were surprised that he actually passed. "*Talaga?*" was the usual response when he broke the news. "They didn't believe *na makapasa ako,*" he adds.

But this feat, as much as it is a personal milestone, was achieved partly because he is in a work environment that allows him to maximize his potential. Working as a Procurement Management Officer in PS Tacloban Depot for more than three years, Atty. Homerer attests to the support he received from when he was in law school until he reviewed for the Bar.

"*Kailangan talaga mag-devote ng oras to read without compromising work and your time with your family... Balanced dapat... My colleagues were very supportive and understanding,*" he says.

Having gone through the challenging moments of adapting to the realities of the "new normal," and dealing with other grueling circumstances along the way, Atty. Homerer's perseverance is a testament that he lives by his personal mantra, "*Perdi undang.*" This statement in Waray language translates to, "*Ang bumtaw ay talo.*"

"I will take things as they unfold... No matter how slow it is, *'wag ka lang bibitaw. Ang buhay ay patagalan, hindi pabilisan,*" he concludes.

"Some quoted statements from the subjects were edited for brevity and clarity of thought."



Atty. Homerer's DVOREF graduation picture



Atty. Homerer (in blue) with his classmates as they prepare for a Moot Case presentation in 2019



Atty. Homerer (third from left) with his supportive colleagues at the PS Tacloban Depot



Up close with the new attorneys



What were your most memorable moments in law school?

Anzo: Every recitation was an embarrassing moment... In general, it would be the emergence of COVID-19 in our final year. We were initially happy about the class suspension, until it prolonged our race to the finish line.

Homer: Law school is filled with both embarrassing and delightful moments. Most memorable would be an encounter with the first professor who failed me. I was asked to recite the circumstances affecting criminal liability, to which I responded with a long pause of silence. It ended with him saying, "This is the second time you will be graded 5 (lowest), next time, *sardinas ka na*."

What notions about being a law student did you realize to be untrue?

Anzo: Hindi totoo 'yung need mag-memorize ng [all] articles. I hate memorizing and fortunately, you need more of understanding the law than memorizing it.

Homer: *Laging batas ang pinag-uusapan kahit on break. In our case, hindi naman ganoon. Parang naka-ka-burnout 'yon.*

Who do you look up to as a lawyer and why?

Anzo: My brother. I look up to him for being humble at all times, for never bragging about himself as a lawyer, and for being a person of integrity in this profession... *kasi* it reflects not necessarily one's educational background or record as an attorney, but how the person was raised at home and grew as an individual.

Homer: SC Associate Justice and Best Bar Exam 2020/21 Chairperson Marvic Leonen. He showed compassion and fairness during the exams. His penned cases, decisions, and dissenting opinions are well-written. *Madaling maintindihan.*

What was your go-to food during review?

Anzo: Mcdo all the way, especially the shake shake fries. Any coffee also, *basta* iced.

Homer: None in particular. My wife and kids are my eating buddies.

What was your favorite activity when you were on a break from review?

Anzo: I go home *sa* parents *ko*. My family is my comfort zone.

Homer: Play with my kids and watch case discussions online, as well as news items and updates. I would binge-watch movies, too. *Nagagalit nga asawa ko minsan kasi hindi na ako nag-aaral.*

If you are neither a lawyer nor a PS employee, what would be your job?

Anzo: A healthcare professional.

Homer: An accountant or a farmer.

What's next for you, Atty.?

Anzo: Give back to those people who helped me reach my dreams, especially my parents. I also intend to continue my mini-outreach programs that I have already initiated. I would like to prioritize a career that would satisfy not just my needs but also my well-being. Ultimately, the main goal is to serve people with integrity and fairness. *Para sa bayan.*

Homer: I would like to teach while practicing law. I will evaluate my options and look into opportunities that will provide me with career growth in public service, in line with my personal plans and goals.

Any message to struggling, aspiring lawyers?

Anzo: I don't have any high-flown words of advice to give you, other than to trust yourself and have faith in God. *Ora et Labora!* Be a blessing to others, *Pañeros and Pañeras*. You are all going to make it!

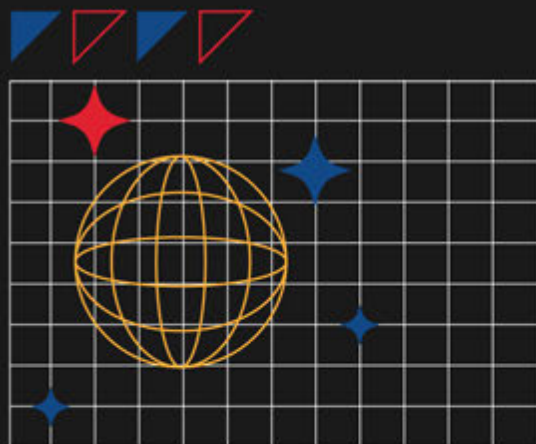
Homer: Decide and commit, because the road ahead is tiring. It will test your character. The profession is fulfilled not only by being intelligent, but by having the heart and commitment to pursue it. Your purpose must exceed your personal aspirations.

ICT UPDATES 2022 2ND QUARTER

A recap of the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) updates issued by the Information Technology Research and Planning Division (ITPRD) to keep the PS-DBM employees in the loop about new technologies and trends in the industry, as well as cyber security threats, tips, and solutions.

The PS-DBM commemorated the **National ICT Month** in June as declared by the Department of Information and Communications Technology not only by highlighting the availability of ICT equipment offered as common-use supplies and equipment, but also by continually featuring articles classified into **Cyber Security Updates/News, ICT Security Tips, and What's New** categories, emailed to all personnel every two weeks.

In line with the theme — Spark, Strengthen, and Sustain: Advancing the PH Digital Agenda — the PS-DBM supports all efforts to boost the national digital transformation initiatives that ultimately contribute to nation-building amid these challenging times.



ICT Update No.	Date of Email	Featured Articles
25	Jan. 5, 2022	Cybersecurity in the Philippines How to Go Incognito Mode Converge Connects Typhoon-Hit Siargao Island Using Satellite Technology
26	Jan. 12, 2022	COMELEC Servers Hacked: Downloaded Data may Include Information that Could Affect 2022 Elections Little Tips to Increase Productivity with Google Workspace The Government's Role in Promoting 5G Cybersecurity
27	Jan. 19, 2022	BSP: Cybersecurity Standards are Updated as soon as 'The Need Arises' Top 10 Secure Computing Tips Mober Backs IKEA's Goal of Delivering 100% Electric Vehicles by 2030
28	Jan. 26, 2022	LandBank Denies System Hack, says Teachers Lost Funds due to 'Isolated' Phishing Schemes PH Records Faster Internet Speeds in December, up 9 Notches for Fixed BB 6 Sure Signs Someone is Phishing you- besides Email
29	Feb. 3, 2022	How to Report a Facebook Hack Gmail to get 'Integrated View' from February 8: Here's what will be new DOJ, Banks Set 'Coordinated' Crackdown on Cybercriminals
30	Feb. 9, 2022	Google Opens 'Project Shield' to Protect PH Elections from Cybersecurity Threats Kaspersky Launches Video Game to Boost Cybersecurity Awareness PCCI, DICT Partner for Satellite Broadband Connectivity
31	Feb. 17, 2022	Stop Online Criminals in this New Cybersecurity Game in PH How to Avoid Online Dating Scams, according to a Cybersecurity Firm SpaceDC to Build Hyperscale Data Center in PH
32	Feb. 23, 2022	Flexibility in Working Hours the Most Important Hybrid Work Arrangement to Workers in the PH - Qualtrics 5 Information Security Prediction for 2022 Israel Shares Cybersecurity Expertise with Philippine Financial Sector
33	Mar. 2, 2022	Landbank Brushes Off DICT in Probe of OTP System Mobile Number Portability: How Does it Work? Google Workspace Users to Migrate from Hangouts to Chat in March
34	Mar. 9, 2022	The Philippines Central Bank Expects Digital Transactions to Continue Rapid Growth Upskilling Filipinos for Career in Tech The ARTA's Role in Digital Transformation
35	Mar. 16, 2022	Banks Warn 'Money Mule' Scams are Rising in the Philippines Cyber Security Expert Offers Tips to Avoid Cyberattacks PayMaya power e-Government Digital Payments
36	Mar. 24, 2022	New Cybersecurity Hub for Asia-Pacific 10 Basic Netiquette Rules Wondering what it's like to Live in a Smart Home?
37	Mar. 30, 2022	PH 4th among Countries Most Targeted by Web Threats Alternative Web Browsers other than Google to Use 11 Things to Consider in Upgrading Your Digital Life
38	Apr. 6, 2022	Globe Warns Public vs. Phishing Attacks Amid Russia-Ukraine Conflict Tips to Improve Security following Government Survey on Security Breaches in Charities Blockchain firm Equidem and Nokia Building Exchange to let Patients Sell Healthcare Data
39	Apr. 13, 2022	Hackers Steal Over \$600 Million from Videogame Axie Infinity's Ronin Network Here's How to Spot, Avoid Phishing - Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas PHL to Test Satellite Internet Services this Year
40	Apr. 21, 2022	Cybersecurity leads boardroom agendas among ASEAN organizations Common Cybersecurity Measures DICT supports new one-stop mobile app to promote sustainable innovation and PH economic recovery
41	Apr. 27, 2022	Millions of Android Users at Risk of Attack after Widespread Security Issue Uncovered Google Removes Android Apps that Harvested Precise Location, Emails, and more 6 Ways you could be Ruining your Windows PC
42	May 4, 2022	UnionBank and Asia Pacific College team up for cybersecurity and information security education REvil Ransomware Gang is back in the game DepEd, Microsoft Philippines engage students, teachers through game-based learning
43	May 13, 2022	Carbon Footprint of the Digital Age Deleting Emails Might Help Lower Your Carbon Footprint The Philippines Deploys Smart Technology to Save Energy
44	May 20, 2022	BSP reminds public to use cyber security features for online transactions Sophos survey reveals the 2022's state of ransomware Unified approach to address cybercrimes in the Philippines
45	May 25, 2022	Hackers can Hack your Online Accounts Before you even Register them Five Tech Trends that will Shape Business in 2022 How to Remove your Personal Information from Google Search Result
46	June 2, 2022	Enhancing Filipinos' Cybersecurity Learning FluBot Android Spyware Taken Down in Global Law Enforcement Operation PH's 1st 'science for change' facility to rise in Bicol
47	June 8, 2022	On World Password Day, Google reminds us to keep our passwords secure Looking for a Unified Approach to Address Cybercrimes in the Philippines Cyberattacks pose clear and present danger to PHL
48	June 15, 2022	SMEs and Government Agencies Get Cybersecurity Assistance 15 Things you should Never, Ever Share on Social Media NTC raises alarm vs. fake job text scams, orders telcos to warn subscribers of a fraudulent scheme
49	June 22, 2022	7 Ways to Spot Phishing Email Globe warns customers against new phishing threats, blocks 203 sites in Q1 of 2022 DICT celebrates Nat'l ICT Month 2022
50	June 29, 2022	Android Spyware 'Revive' Upgraded to Banking Trojan Key priorities in securing hybrid IT DOST e-library to be available in rural areas via datacasting

POSTSCRIPT

A rundown of the latest news in PS-DBM.
Manatiling nakasubaybay.

PS JOINS DBM IN CELEBRATING ITS 86th ANNIVERSARY

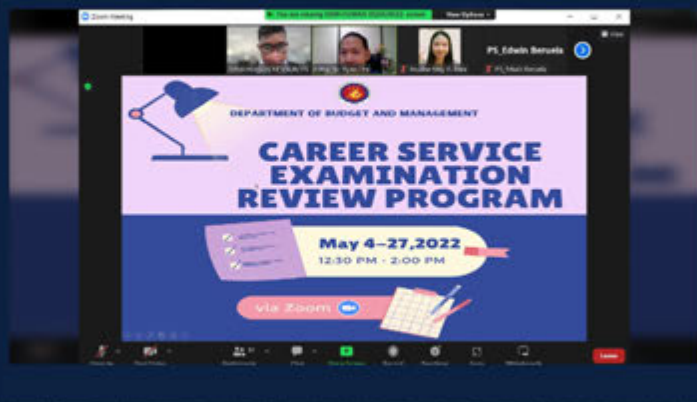
Bannering the theme, Stronger at 86, with a central message to face the “new normal” with strength and resilience, the DBM celebrated its 86th Anniversary in April 2022. Various activities including games and competitions; sporting events; charitable works; mass; performances and presentations; and awarding ceremonies, among others, were lined up for the DBM workforce. In the anniversary’s culminating activity on April 29, select PS employees graced the event and represented the agency in commemorating the milestone.



PS EMPLOYEES TAKE PART IN CSE REVIEW PROGRAM CONDUCTED BY DBM

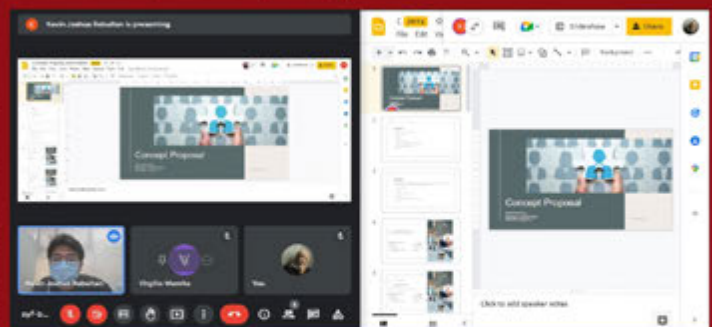
A series of free examination reviews made official through Office Order 039-2022 was conducted from May 4 to 27, 2022 by the DBM Central Office for all its personnel including PS employees who have not yet acquired a Civil Service eligibility. The initiative aimed to “supplement current knowledge and subsequently get a higher chance of passing the CS Examination.”

The review sessions were facilitated via Zoom during office hours by no less than DBM officials themselves, including former OIC-Sec. Tina Rose Marie Canda and Undersecretary Kim Robert De Leon.



PS-DBM RESUMES STUDENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM IN HYBRID MODE

In a memorandum issued by the Human Resource Development Division on May 12, 2022, the guidelines for the resumption of the PS-DBM Student Internship Program stated that the on-the-job training shall be conducted online, face-to-face, and a combination of both due to COVID-19. The program enables students — who meet eligibility and documentary requirements — to work alongside the professional workforce of the agency in the areas of procurement, human resource, information and communications technology, and marketing and sales, among others.



In the case of Marketing and Sales Division’s interns, Chantal Kaye Abiang and Virgilio Mermila, a concept proposal to establish a better client relations with the agencies was developed which required the on-the-job trainees to produce reports, publication materials, and write-ups, among others.



WE KNOW YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING TO SHARE, TOO!

We believe that your skills go beyond your professional competencies.
Get creative with us!

All PS-DBM employees at the Main Office in Paco, Manila and at the regional depot offices nationwide are encouraged to contribute.

Subject to our editorial guidelines, and in line with specific themes, you may contribute by submitting written pieces like **news and feature stories, essays, poems, or artistic works such as digital (or copy of) paintings and drawings, photographs, comic strips, and other illustrations.**

Please await email from communications@ps-philgeps.gov.ph for more details. For comments and suggestions, you may email the same.

We look forward to putting the spotlight on your work!



The PS-DBM celebrates the inclusiveness and diversity of its workforce with **PRIDE**.

To our colleagues who identify as members of the LGBTQ+ community, we are proud of you!

PAGSUBAYBAY

The Official Employee Newsletter of the Procurement Service - Department of Budget and Management

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SCAN ME!

We would like to hear from you. Please scan this QR code for a quick survey.



The second quarter of this year ushers in the second half of 2022. Take the chance to pave new beginnings. Get inspired by decoding each word using the number and letter codes.

aim, target, desired result	G	3	13	14	2						
to design, make, and build		9	11	15	14	12	15				
strength in the face of pain or grief		9	13	7	11	14	G	3	15		
motion, change, development		1	13	V	10	15	1	15	4	12	
being thankful and appreciative	G	3	11	14	12	16	12	7	18	15	
emerge, get or stand up		14	11	16	8	15					
to cause something to begin		16	4	16	12	16	14	12	15		
start or set in motion		2	14	7	4	9	6				
move forward or onward		5	11	13	G	3	11	15	8	8	
a gift bestowed by God		17	2	15	8	8	16	4	G	3	8

"Challenges are gifts that force us to search for a new center of gravity. Don't fight them. Just find a new way to stand."
- Oprah Winfrey

Employees who wish to join in on the fun may submit their answers to communications@ps-philgeps.gov.ph. Thank you for participating. Kudos to Ms. Jocelyn F. Cayago of the General Services Division for acing the game in the previous issue!