

PAGSUBAYBAY

THE OFFICIAL EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER OF THE PROCUREMENT SERVICE – DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT

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YEAR-END SPECIAL

2 MANAGEMENT'S MESSAGE | 3 2021 YEAR-END ASSESSMENT
5 NEW YEAR REFLECTIONS | 7 43RD ANNIVERSARY | 11 PIONEERS IN SERVICE
13 MENTAL HEALTH | 16 TEACHER COLLEAGUES | 18 LATEST NEWS | 21 GAMES

MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGEMENT

(As delivered by the Executive Director and the Functional Group heads in the first official Christmas Office ID of PS-DBM launched on 17 December 2021)

To all the officials, employees, and personnel of the Procurement Service – Department of Budget and Management (PS-DBM) in the PS-PhilGEPS offices in Manila and in the Regional and LGU depots nationwide, thank you for staying with us throughout the year, and for your continued trust in PS-DBM amid the many changes and challenges that we overcame together.

Sa kabila ng mga pagsubok na sama-sama nating hinarap ngayong taon, pinanghugutan natin ng lakas ang isa't isa.
Salamat sa inyong ipinamalas na katatagan at tibay ng loob.

Your unrivalled dedication and relentless hard work empower our colleagues to remain committed to providing excellent public service. Nagkaroon man ng mga balakid, hindi tayo tumigil sa paglilingkod. [This message of gratitude] also extends to our client-agencies, partner merchants, other stakeholders, and the general public.

May this strengthen our faith and devotion to the Almighty. May we always be reminded that we would not have come this far if not through His grace and guidance. Patuloy nating ipanalangin na mas pagtibayin Niya ang ating mga sarili hindi lamang bilang lingkod-bayan kundi bilang isang buong pamilya.

As the year draws to a close, let us look back on all the relationships we forged, and hold on to the memories we will certainly never forget. Taon lang ang natatapos, hindi ang mga nabuong samahan. At sa pagpapatuloy ng mga ito, walang kahit na anong hamon ang hindi natin kayang harapin.

The future remains uncertain, especially that the COVID-19 pandemic continues to be a health threat worldwide. But time and again, we have proven that together we are stronger. We have come so far, and we will continue to make it through this journey together — because we are stronger than ever.

It has been one heck of a ride. The spread of the COVID-19 virus brought unprecedented challenges not only in our country but to the rest of the world. The role that PS-DBM played in our country's response to combat the pandemic will not be forgotten by our fellow countrymen. We did our part and secured the necessary supplies needed to address the threat of the COVID-19 virus.

Despite the issues raised against us, [we are] humbled by the fact that you all stood firm and continued to do your respective jobs. For that, [we are] truly grateful and honoured to have served all of you.

We wish everyone a prosperous New Year.



Atty. Jasonmer L. Uayan
OIC-Executive Director



Rosa Maria M. Clemente
Director, PhilGEPS Group



Atty. Earvin Jay I. Alparaque
OIC-Director, Procurement Group



Engr. Jaime M. Navarrete, Jr.
OIC-Director,
Operations Group



Joshua S. Laure
OIC-Director,
Administrative and Finance Group



Dave Y. Valderrama
OIC-Director,
Regional Operations Group

PS-DBM CONDUCTS 2021 YEAR-END ASSESSMENT IN TIME FOR THE “NEW NORMAL” HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

By Kevin Joshua G. Rebultan

Pursuant to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Office Order (OO) No. 556, s. 2021, which details the conduct of its year-end activities, the Procurement Service (PS-DBM) held its annual year-end assessment (YEA) from December 16 to 17, 2021.

The YEA aims to raise awareness and understanding among employees on each division's accomplishments in 2021 and targets and commitments for 2022. It also serves as the avenue to identify gaps; review and analyze issues, concerns, and risks; take actions to address them; and discuss lessons learned for areas of improvement.

The imposition of public health restrictions due to the onslaught of COVID-19 has limited in-person interactions and other social gatherings such as the annual YEA, but it pushed through nonetheless, just in time for the holiday season at PS-DBM under the “new normal.”

Reflecting the same theme it bannered for its 43rd Anniversary on October 18, the PS-DBM proved that it is “stronger than ever,” as the prevailing circumstances did not dampen the employees' enthusiasm in sharing the spirit of the season.

“2021 took us on a roller coaster ride with all the ups and downs along the way. As the year comes to a close, it is within our power to end it on a high note,” read the online invitation from the Human Resource Development Division (HRDD).

The HRDD, in coordination with the PS-DBM Gender and Development Focal Point System and with assistance from the General Services Division, organized various activities for December 2021. These included conduct of film showing, sports fest, provision of Christmas baskets, online Christmas Party for the children of PS-DBM personnel, on-site bazaar featuring key government agencies' booths, and some fun games. A Christmas lantern or parol-making contest initiated by the PS-DBM Youth Representatives was also held.

Adherence to health protocols was enforced in the conduct of the activities that required physical presence.



The 2021 YEA banners the theme “Stronger than Ever.”

On December 17, a short program took place to conclude the 2021 YEA. DBM Assistant Secretary Achilles Gerard C. Bravo, who was recently designated as the DBM Liaison Official to PS by virtue of OO No. 582, s. 2021, graced the event together with other PS-DBM officials. In his remarks, ASec. Bravo shared that several plans and proposals are in the pipeline mainly to improve the agency's operations.

“Rest assured that my liaising with PS will hopefully make our relationship better,” he said.



The production team behind the Christmas Office ID.
(L-R): PhilGEPS Leunam Kriz Andres, Aubrey Bodestyne, Dir. Rosa Maria Clemente, Rigor Baldemos

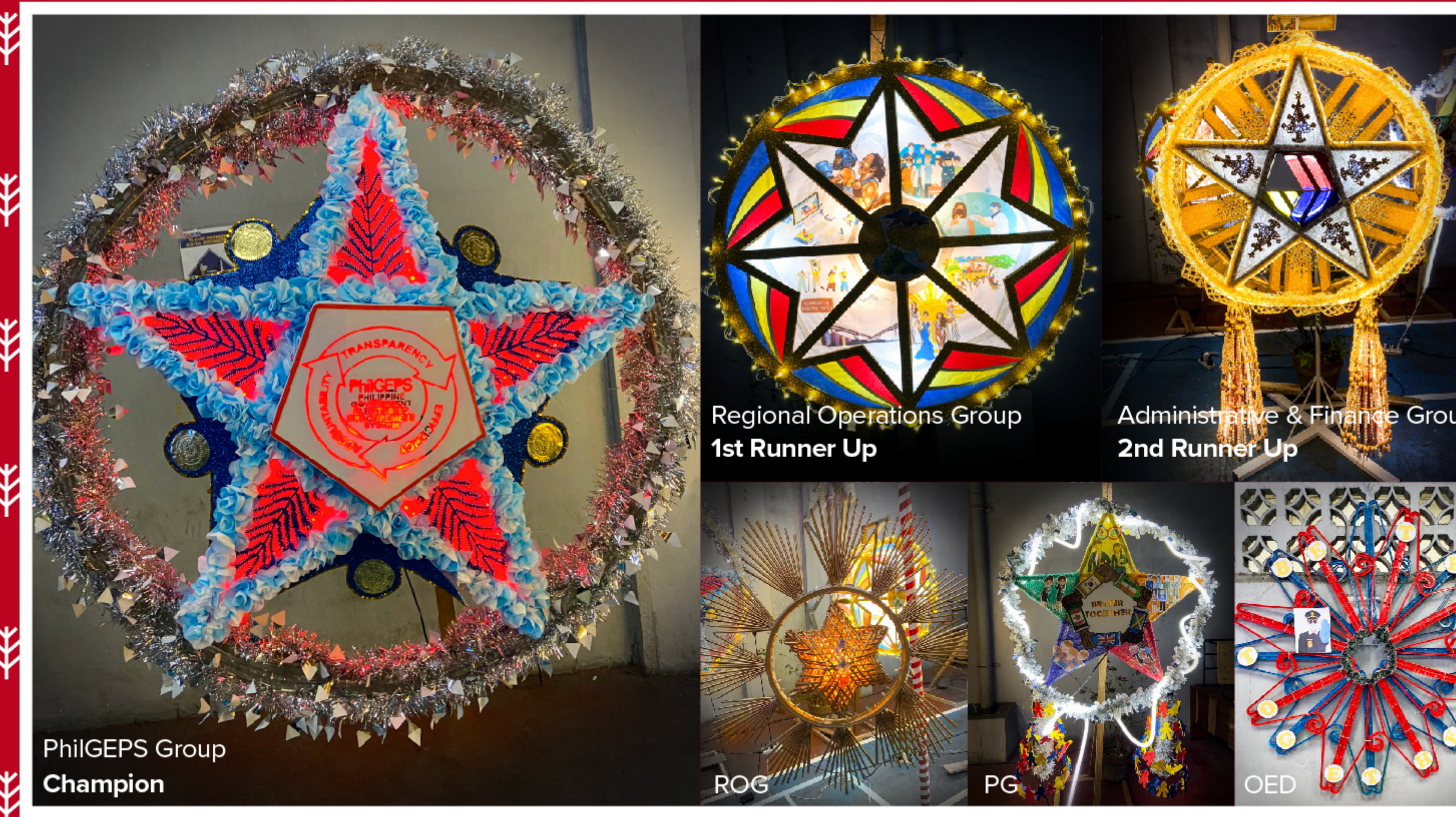
Another highlight of the program was the launch of the first official Christmas Office ID of PS-DBM. In the video, OIC-Executive Director Atty. Jasonmer L. Uayan, together with the heads of the Functional Groups, delivered inspiring messages to their colleagues. Previous leaders of PS-DBM, in a separate showing, also expressed messages of support for the agency.

The conduct of the 2021 YEA and other December activities in the new normal is definitely a historic milestone, especially considering the issues and controversies that PS-DBM has confronted, and will continue to overcome. It was not, however, a walk in the park.

From preparation to its culmination, challenges in manpower, health and mobility restrictions, and time management hounded the organizing team. But these struggles, along with employees' cooperation and apparent enjoyment of the celebration, made the entire experience all the more memorable.

“The event would not be possible without all your help, your talents, creativity, and tireless dedication... [especially] the ones who offered to help... Cheers to more successful events in the future!” lead organizer Judy Mark Aquitar said.

Indeed, it was only the year that ended. But the journey together continues.

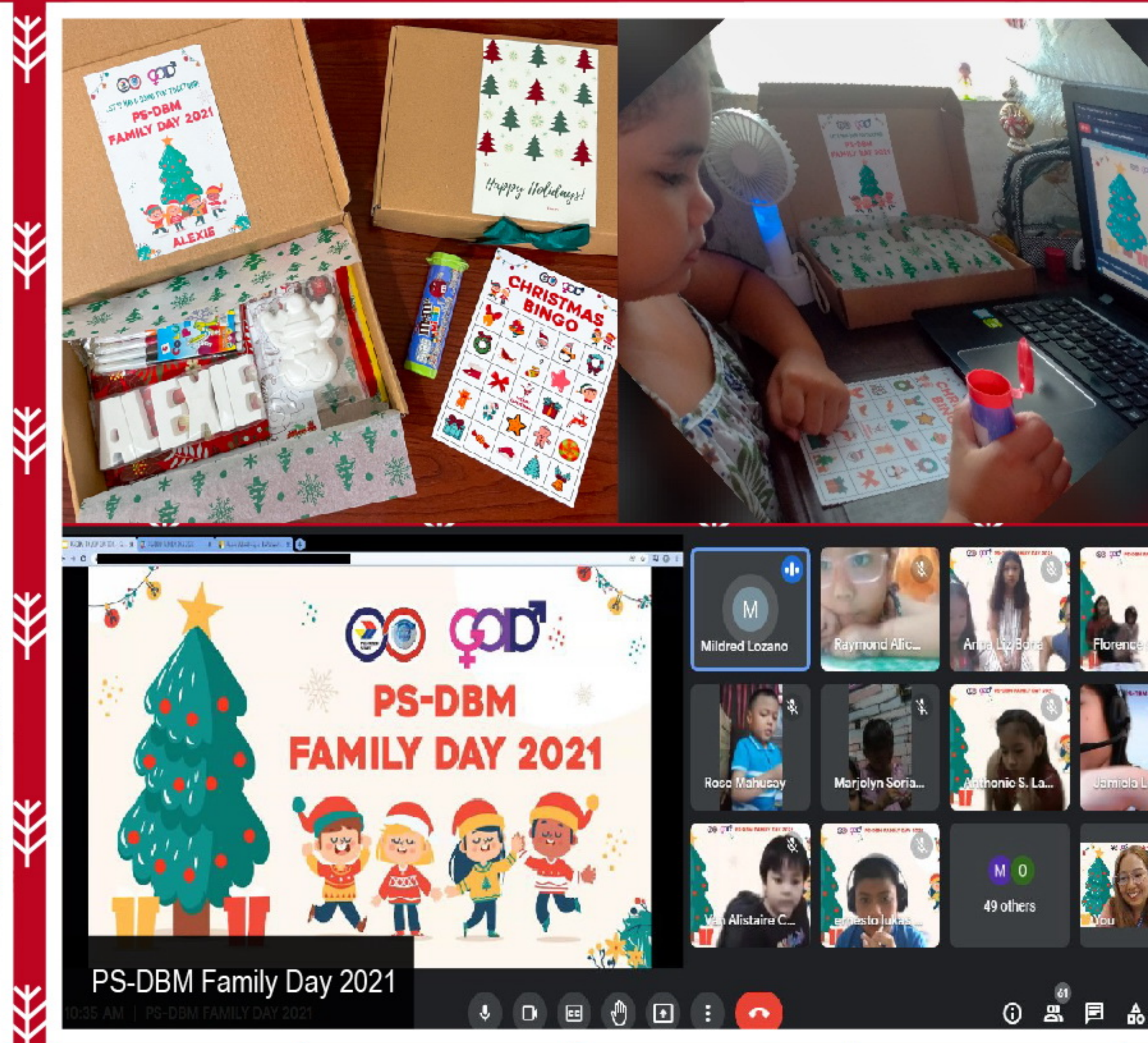


Regional Operations Group
1st Runner Up

Administrative & Finance Group
2nd Runner Up



OIC-Executive Director Atty. Jasonmer L. Uayan (center) with OED staff.



PS-DBM employees actively participate in games.



PS-DBM employees form teams to compete in the 2021 YEA Sportsfest.

Look Back, Move Forward: Reflections on 2021 and Hopes for 2022

As 2021 drew to a close, ushering in 2022 is an opportune moment for a fresh start. And in every new beginning, looking back is essential to move forward. Reflections on the past guide us to see our way through the future.

Following a year that has stirred a whirlwind of emotions, we asked some of our colleagues at the Procurement Service – Department of Budget and Management (PS-DBM) about their random musings on these changing, challenging times.

What lessons did you learn in 2021, and what do you look forward to in 2022?

“Although 2021 was a letdown in terms of the continuing pandemic and the criticisms that our organization received, we should still remain strong, forward-looking, and reflective. We should all learn from the lessons 2021 has taught us and emerge more resilient and focused on the important mandate given to us. Even though fear and uncertainty continue to grip us, we shall find comfort in the love and support of family, friends, and colleagues.

The new calendar year prompts us to think about what we have accomplished and what we hope to do next. This purposeful energy should inspire us to revisit the goals and dreams we have for our loved ones and the organization.

PS should continue to strive for providing smart procurement solutions to our agencies and foster strong relationships with partner-merchants that will be beneficial to the country and the Filipino people.”



Leah M. Valdez
Marketing and Sales Division

“The year 2022 is a time to say goodbye and a time to say hello; a time to let go and a time to learn new things; a time to be a better version of ourselves.

This 2022, I hope that I may be favoured in family, friends, workmates, organization, health, peace, love life, and social life. Furthermore:

- Spend more time with family and friends
- Travel more often
- For mental wellness: be more positive, avoid stress, meditate, stay calm
- Strive to be of value to the organization and the society
- Stay focused on goals
- Hoping that everyone will be there for one another, to care for and help each other as fellow members of humanity
- Always be grateful to God”



Brian N. Gerona
PhilGEPS Customer Service

“The awful things that happened yesterday do not make me grim about the future. For the coming year, I want to stay optimistic. Start with a good night's sleep to wake up with a clear mind. Talk to myself about how to be productive for the day. Approach unpleasant situations positively. I hope this pandemic will be over soonest so that we can all move forward and be our normal selves again.”

Imelda D. Diola
PS Butuan



"I have personally witnessed people getting infected by COVID-19 in this time of pandemic. Some even lost loved ones. Friends and families were disconnected due to social distancing and quarantine restrictions. I never fully understood that interpersonal contact and socialization play a huge part in our lives until recently. We suffer from the absence of human interaction and the lack of access to outdoor activities. Many lost their jobs. People are scared, stressed, and depressed because of the prevailing health threat and the uncertainty it brings. But during these times of isolation, I learned a few things.

1. There is no one else in the world who will have your back like family members. Knowing that they will be there for you no matter what is almost always guaranteed. When my wife and I tested positive, we received a lot of love and support (moral, financial, and physical) from our relatives that we never expected. They went out of their way, even risking their safety and exposing themselves to the virus, just to make sure we are nursed and that my kids are taken care of.
2. Your better half is your rock and support system. There is a feeling of security in knowing that someone out there always watches your six. But keep in mind that your spouse can bring out the best or the worst in you, especially during these trying times, so it is wise to invest in your marriage. Spend time together. Constantly communicate with each other. Plan your future and build your dreams together. As for me, with or without the pandemic, I find happiness in spending more time with my family. I choose to prioritize them over anything.
3. Pets are family. Having pets kept us all sane during isolation. We have a dog and a cat in the household. They radiate joy and unconditional love that relieve our stress. They also helped ease out the loneliness of my kids brought about by the quarantine. You can either find a hobby or get a pet. Or both. They are good for your mental health with plenty of other benefits.
4. Friends are indispensable. Invest in friendship and surround yourself with people who share the same interests. Quality over quantity.
5. It is paramount to be nice to everyone and to be humble. As the saying goes, "...because life can take a turn very fast and you will never know whose help you will need." I don't know why being nice seems like a challenge for some people these days. Let us learn to respectfully agree to disagree.

Before the pandemic, I took many things for granted because I expected that life wouldn't change as much as this. But it did, on a grand scale. With these lessons and realizations, I am now more focused on the things that I find contentment and satisfaction in doing. These help me enjoy life and remind myself that life is always worth living."



Abelardo P. Gonzales
Procurement Division VIII

"In my 12 years of working in PS-DBM, I have encountered and met a lot of people with different personalities. Despite such differences, they became a family to me. We were able to learn from each other's strengths and improve each other's weaknesses. I always look forward to reporting to work because I know they are always willing to help and teach me, especially on tasks that involve technology which I admit to be lacking enough skills to operate. I appreciate their efforts to allow me to learn new things daily.

Their efforts are not limited to the workplace. Not too long ago, my family and I experienced a devastating event that almost made us lose hope. A nearby river overflowed due to heavy rainfall, and a flash flood destroyed our home. We were left with nothing, but I remain grateful because we were all safe. PS-DBM immediately contacted and informed me that they were able to solicit contributions and donations to help us recover. I realized that we are not simply colleagues but are a family. My commitment to serve our clients is constantly renewed because of my co-workers who are also friends.

The PS-DBM taught me invaluable lessons and made me encounter remarkable experiences. I look forward to learning more from this journey and to growing as an individual who takes up space at work, the community, and the country."



Elizabeth M. Santillan
PS Cebu

**Some quoted statements from the respondents have been edited for brevity and clarity of thought.*



PS-DBM IS STRONGER THAN EVER

By Kevin Joshua G. Rebutan

Amid the controversies hurled against the agency, and following a series of other unfavourable events, the Procurement Service – Department of Budget and Management (PS-DBM) keeps its head up. In full cooperation with other government bodies, the PS-DBM consistently responds to legislative inquiries accordingly.

After all that has transpired thus far, the PS-DBM emerged from these adverse circumstances stronger than ever. This was the inspiration behind the theme of the 43rd Founding Anniversary of PS-DBM on 18 October 2021.

With collaborative efforts of the PS-DBM Gender and Development (GAD) Focal Point System, Human Resource Development Division, and the General Services Division, various activities were initiated to remind employees of the values that the agency stands for, especially in these challenging times: solidarity, care for personnel, and gender-inclusivity.

Anniversary shirts and some goods were distributed. A sportsfest including arcade games was organized. GAD-related films were shown. The PS-DBM Tiktok Contest, successfully pioneered only in 2020, returned for its second iteration to create videos that encapsulate the “Stronger than Ever” theme. These programs were conducted in hybrid mode — a combination of physical and online gathering

The culmination of the week-long celebration took place on the day of the anniversary, October 18. In a message to the PS-DBM community, OIC-Executive Director Atty. Jasonmer L. Uayan reminded employees to persevere despite the hardships brought about by the issues hounding the agency.

“Although mahirap ‘yung trabaho natin, ipagpatuloy niyo lang... All your efforts will not go unnoticed... for as long as you do things right and within the rules,” he said.

Atty. Uayan also encouraged his colleagues to remain trustful to the Management, for they guarantee that employees’ welfare is always taken into account.

“I hope you will not lose heart. Gawin niyo lang trabaho niyo... Continue to work hard and be proud that you work for and with the Procurement Service,” he concluded.

Atty. Uayan, along with the Functional Group heads, issued statements for the 43rd Founding Anniversary celebration of PS-DBM. Please read “PS-DBM 43RD ANNIVERSARY – MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGEMENT” emailed by PS-DBM Communications on 18 October 2021.



43 QUESTIONS WITH 43 EMPLOYEES

By Sittie Laila A. Guinomla

In celebration of the PS-DBM 43rd anniversary, we asked 43 random employees with 43 random questions. Let us foster a spirit of camaraderie as we get to know some of our colleagues beyond their professional identity.

1. What is your happiest memory working in Procurement Service?
"Every anniversary at kapag may deliveries."
-Reynaldo Tumang, WADD
2. Would you prank your boss for 10,000 pesos?
"No. But on the second thought, it depends on the prank. Haha."
-Abram Earl Pedida, ITSD
3. Have you ever developed a crush on a co-worker?
"No. Loyal ako."
-Alex Pasuquin, WADD
4. What is a life-lesson you learned from a child?
"It doesn't matter how many times you fail as long as you keep trying until you succeed."
-Anna Liz Bona, MSD
5. What is the most beautiful place you've ever seen?
"Subic. Maraming unggoy na nanghahablot ng cellphone."
-Marcial Alcala Jr., GSD
6. What is your ideal date?
"Trip to Japan/Korea kasama si Ai."
-Christopher Bantaya, HRDD
7. What are the 3 countries you'd like to visit?
"1. USA 2. Amsterdam, Netherlands 3. New Zealand."
-Maria Jennifer Jimenez, PD IV
8. Which would you prefer: time travel, read minds, or never feel lonely?
"Time travel."
-Ruel Macaspac, WADD
9. What book changed your life?
"The Bible and RA 9184 and its IRR 6th edition."
-Emmanuel II Buagas, PD X
10. Which would you prefer in a partner: good looks, filthy rich, or sense of humor?
"Sense of humor."
-Niña Marie Louise Protacio, PD V

11. What is the stupidest thing you've ever done?
"When I graduated from college in 2018 and not immediately took board examination for Psychometrician."
-Hannah Mae Bigtas, DOD
12. If you could change your name, what would you change it to?
"Gabrielle."
-Rhazel Rigoroso, PD X
13. What are your 3 wishes?
"Pandemic to end the soonest; good health; abundance in life for me and everyone around me."
-Christine Colina, PS Cebu
14. Have you ever fallen for a scam? What was it?
"Law school horror story po: 'Di na daw ako on deck sa recits since natawag na ako in the previous week but una akong tinawag just last night. Scammer Prof."
-Ariane Adajar, PS Koronadal
15. What is your fondest memory of high school?
"Graduation Day because it's priceless and the food trip and gala with my beshie after the ceremony."
-Rhealyn Valdez, PBD
16. What event changed your perspective in life?
"When my only son graduated from college. I felt very satisfied with what I have achieved... as if ako rin graduated. Then after several months came my twin grandsons. Na-realize ko that life is really too short. You can never tell what will happen next. Focus na sa family, secondary na lang ang work."
-Joseph De Sales, PD VIII
17. What is the strangest thing in your refrigerator?
"Charcoal."
-Renzo de Leon, PBD
18. Name a movie that made you cry.
"Seven Sundays."
-John Ramil Resurreccion, ID
19. If you could have dinner with a celebrity, who would you choose?
"Si Tekla kasi gusto ko masaya lang."
-Ariel Adap, ID
20. What is the funniest movie you've watched?
"Scary Movie."
-Boycie Tarca, DOD

21. If you had the world's attention for 30 seconds, what would you say?
"2 Peter 3:18 But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and forever."
-Erica Santos, OD-PG
22. What is the proudest moment of your life?
"Coming into terms with who I really am had been a rollercoaster ride. As a kid, I hated myself for being different because I was forced to feel that way by the people around me. Throughout my teenage years, I had never been truly happy because I knew that I was just putting up a mask. I had no choice but to lock myself in a dark, dull, and sad closet. I had been like this most of my life not until I met people who accepted me for me and assured me that it's not wrong to be me.

Little by little, I have gained the confidence I lost throughout the years and began to live a more colorful life. To answer the question, my proudest moment in life is when I finally gather the fortitude to live my truth. Sorry ang daldal ko!"
-Darwin A. Cinco, PD VI
23. If you won 100-million peso worth of lottery, how will you spend it?
"For my family and poor people in need."
-Gideon T. Badua, GSD
24. Spontaneity or Stability?
"Spontaneity is the best kind of adventure. Char!"
-Jonas Bacho, OED
25. What is the best decision you made so far?
"Going back to working out!"
-Mirra Reyes, OD-OG
26. What is the best compliment you have received?
"One time a friend/colleague came up to me and opened up regarding personal matters. She said I was a great listener and trustworthy. Being recognized as an emphatic person made me more perceptive in dealing with others."
-Eunice Garvida, PhilGEPS-CS
27. What is your go-to karaoke song?
"Migraine by Moonstar88."
-Jyzel Factor, PD VII
28. What was the last show you binge watched?
"ONE Esports."
-Jhon Eric Mariscotes, ID
29. What is the weirdest food you've eaten?
"Palong ng manok."
-Felipe Dorado, MSD
30. What made you smile recently?
"Nagpapasalamat ako una sa Diyos inabot ako ng 15 years sa PS at naging part ako ng anniversary. Of course, sa mga blessings din, at doon sa mga taong nakasama ko noon up to now. Hehehe."
-Virgilio Suarez, LD

31. If you could give your past self an advice, what would it be?
"Don't drive after drinking liquor."
-Jade Edwin Apin, PD IX
32. What do you do to turn things around when you're having a bad day?
"Pray."
-Dominic John Lebico, HRDD
33. If you could trade lives with someone, who would it be?
"My Father... spare him the suffering."
-Arnold Bondoc, PS Pampanga
34. What are you most looking forward to in the next 10 years?
"It is my hope to be still part of PS Depot Region I rendering exemplary service (I mean, maraming stocks to serve to our clientele) in its new building/warehouse."
-Haydee A. Agsiweng, PS La Union
35. What item do you collect?
"Photographs."
-Joanne Marie Alicbusan, OED
36. What totally outrageous luxury would you love to have in the office?
"An ergonomic genuine leather chair with lumbar support and massage function."
-Frances Salvador, MSD
37. What is one thing that you're most grateful for that happened this year?
"In the midst of the pandemic, I am truly grateful for the gift of life and the people around me. My family and friends who became the source of my strength to survive and fastly recover from COVID-19 for the 2nd time."
-Keithlyn Mae DC. Vigilia, GSD
38. Who is your celebrity look-alike?
"Zendaya. Kayo na bahala humusga."
-Sylvia Villa, CD
39. If you could learn one skill instantly, what would it be?
"Play saxophone."
-Jeffrey Bertumen, WADD
40. What is your favorite holiday tradition?
"Christmas Eve because this is the time when our family gathers together even when all of us are living far from each other. It's also the time when we receive gifts."
-Jennifer Mae Reyes, IAD
41. Why do you think bad things happen to good people?
"Bad things happen to everybody whether you belong to the good or bad people. How you take it and what you make of it defines where you really belong."
-Clifford Dagoyen, PS Baguio
42. What gift would you like to receive on your birthday?
"Motorcycle."
-Hans Christian Icuspit, ID
43. What do you wish your coworkers knew about you?
"I'm approachable. Sometimes they think I'm suplada. Friendly po ako."
-Mylene Quiambao, DOD

*Some of the respondents are no longer with PS-DBM, but were asked when they were still employed.
*Some quoted statements from the respondents have been edited for brevity and clarity of thought.

PIONEERS IN SERVICE

By Gideon A. Betito

A company's greatest asset lies in its workforce. As the Procurement Service – Department of Budget and Management (PS-DBM) celebrated its 43rd Anniversary on 18 October 2021, we turn the spotlight on its most-tenured employees.

Meet the longest-serving personnel of PS-DBM, as they take us on a journey to their years of service.

JEMUEL P. SENADOS

Administrative Aide VI,
39 years in service



A native of Surigao del Norte, Jemuel P. Senados or “Kuya James” as his colleagues know him, had no other business in Manila but to fetch his brother. Little did he know that an entirely different fate was waiting to unfold for him upon setting foot in the nation's capital back in 1985.

“Yung kapatid ko kasi nagpunta ng Maynila. Sabi ng nanay ko sunduin. ‘Yun pala ako ang masasarapan sa Maynila,” he recalls.

Senados was 18 when he eventually ended up working as a security guard at the University of the Philippines – Diliman. At the same time, he was taking Marine Engineering at the Technological University of the Philippines. He did not, however, finish his degree.

It was when he met with a close relative of the then PS Executive Director Estanislao C. Granados, Jr. that he received an offer to work for the agency.

The rest, as they say, was history.

“Nag-apply ako as Emergency Laborer... Mga three years ata natuto na ako magmaneho hanggang ngayon,” he says. Senados now forms part of the PS-DBM motorpool tasked to provide shuttle services for employees. To him, what makes his job most enjoyable is he gets to travel to different places and to attend official events around the

country. Tuguegarao, Tacloban, and Bacolod are the farthest places he has been to so far.

Apart from the opportunity to travel that comes with his official duty, Senados admits that the benefits and incentives the PS-DBM affords its employees keep him committed to the agency.

“Halimbawa Christmas Party, ang saya-saya ‘di ba? Anniversary... may natatanggap tayo. Malaking tulong sa pamilya ko rin ‘yun,” he adds.

Asked about his retirement plans, Senados was quick to dismiss the thought of him resting on his laurels already.

“[Pa-retire] na sana ako. Pero medyo nagbago. Malakas pa naman. Mga two years pa siguro,” he says.

In his 39 years of service, Senados could not thank the PS-DBM enough for all the opportunities it opened for him. As expression of gratitude, he makes sure that he gets his job done in the best of his abilities, “Malaki ang utang na loob ko sa PS dahil dito ako tumagal sa pagtatrabaho... Umabot ako ng ganitong taon dahil inayos ko ang trabaho ko.”



In an interview, Kuya James candidly shares his experiences that led to him joining PS-DBM.

JOCELYN F. CAYAGO

Administrative Assistant V,
39 years in service



Jocelyn F. Cayago, fondly known as “Mommy Jo” at work, was 21 when she started as a Clerk II at the Warehousing Division of the then Procurement Service - Ministry of Budget in 1982.

At present, she works as Administrative Assistant V at the General Services Division. After many years in service, Cayago could attest that maintaining a positive disposition allows her to consistently find joy in all that she does.

“Lahat ng ginagawa ko bilang empleyado ay ine-enjoy ko, lalo na ‘pag may bagong ipagagawa sa akin. Pero ang pinaka-nagustuhan ko ay noong ginawa akong point person sa DMS (Document Monitoring System) at Intranet. Excited ako laging... mag-upload lalo na ‘pag nababalitaan kong binabasa [‘yung uploaded documents],” she says.

With almost four-decade experience in PS-DBM, Cayago’s recollection of unforgettable moments in service is ingrained as core memories — such as that time when the agency was at the brink of closure during the Snap Elections in 1986.

“Nag-iiyakan kaming lahat na nakapalibot sa aming Director. Hinding-hindi ko ‘yon makakalimutan. ‘Yon ang nagpatatag sa amin para gawin ang aming makakaya para lalo pang tumatag ang PS,” she recalls.

Eventually, late President Corazon C. Aquino requested for a report from PS to decide on its fate. Not too long after, Executive Order No. 285, s. 1987, was signed and issued, allowing the agency to continue its operations.

“Hinding-hindi ko makakalimutan na ako po ang nag-type ng report (electronic typewriter pa lang ang aming gamit noon). Iyon ay ipinasa nila Director Granados kay Pres. Cory Aquino,” she adds.

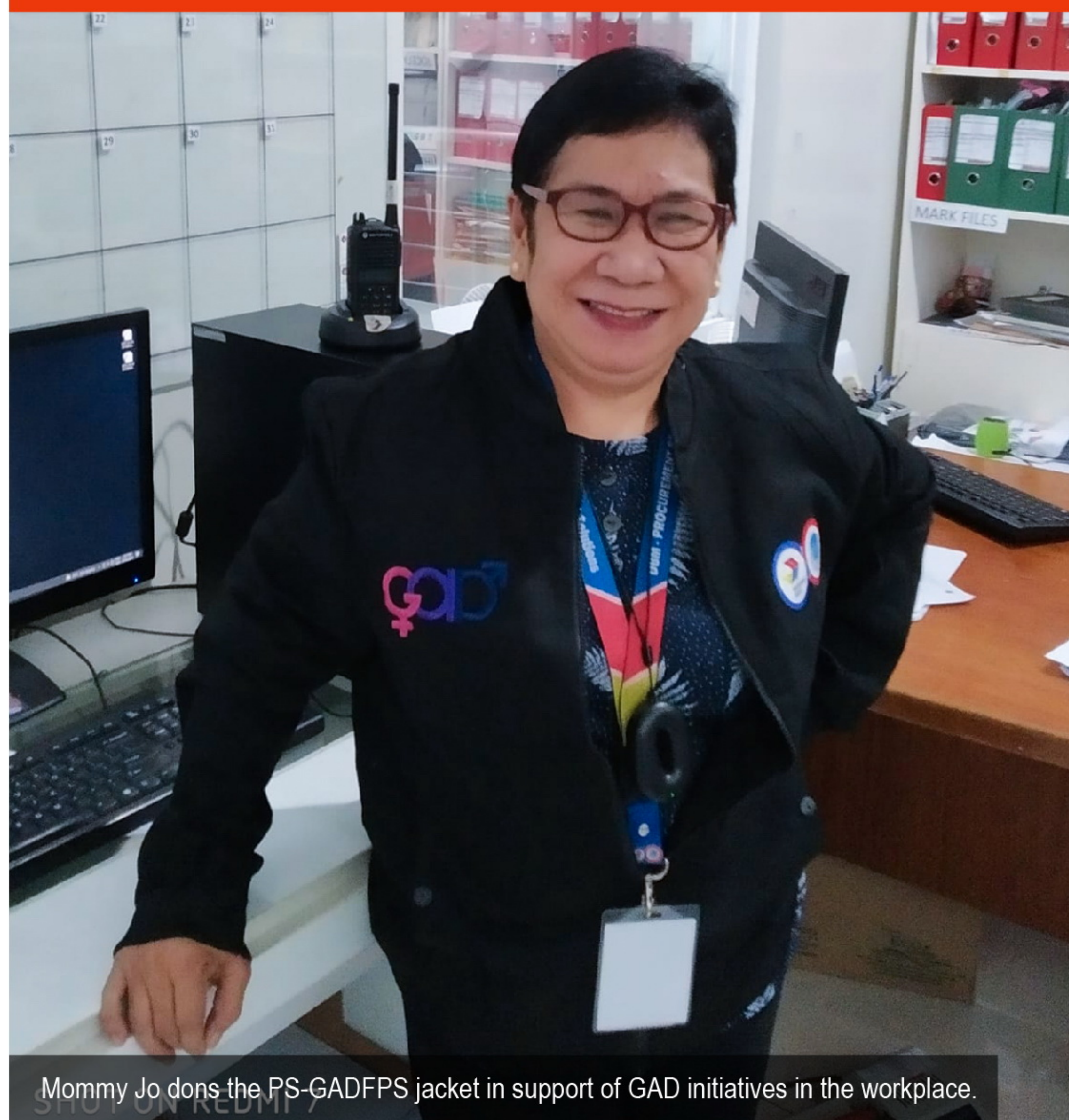
Cayago can now only look back on these remembrances. But she remains hopeful that more meaningful memories will be created as she stays with the agency that helped her provide for herself and her family.

“Masasabi kong ito talaga ang bread and butter ko kasi wala naman akong ibang naging trabaho. Ang sinasahod ko dito ang tanging pinagkukunan ko ng pang-araw-araw lalo na sa pagpapaaral sa aking mga anak. Ito ang unang naging trabaho ko at masasabi kong huli,” she says.

Cayago admits to considering retirement these days. From when she began entertaining such a thought, she has been preparing herself to finally hang up her hat at work.

“Hindi naman natin mapipigilan ang oras, ika nga. Maraming beses na akong nagpapaalam na mag-retire, pero ‘pag dumarating na ‘yung araw na itinakda ko, hindi ko mapigilang hindi maluha. Siguro matatagalan bago ko matanggap na kailangan ko na rin mag-retire at iwan na ang Paraiso ng Serbisyo, [pero] kailangan,” she laments.

Asked about her retirement plans, Cayago instantly lightens up her mood, “Gusto ko nang maging full time Mommy Jo para sa aking asawa, mga anak, at sa aking mga apo.”



Mommy Jo dons the PS-GADFPS jacket in support of GAD initiatives in the workplace.

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

KUMUSTA KA?

PS-DBM Mental Health Program sa Panahon ng Pandemya

By Pam Candice V. Medina

“Okay lang ‘yan.”

“Papansin!”

“Puro drama!”

“Ang sensitive mo masyado.”

“Nako, marami d’yan, mas mabigat pa ang problema.”

These are only a few of the remarks that people with mental health condition may hear when they open up about their thoughts, feelings, sentiments, or what have you. The same people are usually portrayed as weak for being vulnerable or too sensitive for being emotional.

Humans naturally go through waves of emotions every now and then. Some quickly cope — getting into new hobbies, developing new habits, making new friends — while others don’t. Understanding this is not easily grasped by many, resulting in misconceptions, desensitization, and unfortunate cases of discrimination.

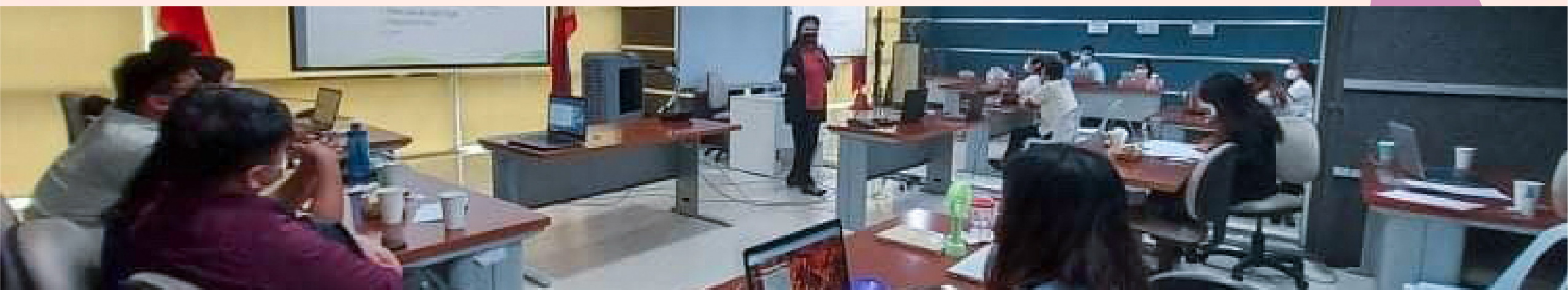
The Philippines is relatively new to this discussion, having passed RA 11036 only in 2019, the country’s first Mental Health Act that established a National Mental Health Policy for the Purpose of Enhancing the Delivery of Integrated Mental Health Services.

RA 11036 also tasks work places, whether private or public, to implement their own mental health programs within the confines of their offices to educate and raise awareness among employees.

At the Procurement Service - Department of Budget and Management (PS-DBM), the Mental Health Program (MHP) was officially launched in December 2020. Its establishment came right in time as employees were beginning to be mentally affected by the detrimental impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Even prior to that [creation of MHP], we have always been aware of the importance of caring for mental health and have continuously been implementing programs to support our employees,” says Jose Rafael Magno, OIC-Chief of the Human Resource Development Division (HRDD).

Numerous activities had taken place since the launch of MHP, and employees’ support for and participation in these initiatives proved their success. These include training, workshops, and distribution of mental health kits, among others.



Psychological First Aid Training Workshop

June 2021

Attended by 34 participants, the Psychological First Aid Training Workshop was a definite success, garnering the most engagement with favorable feedback from the attendees.

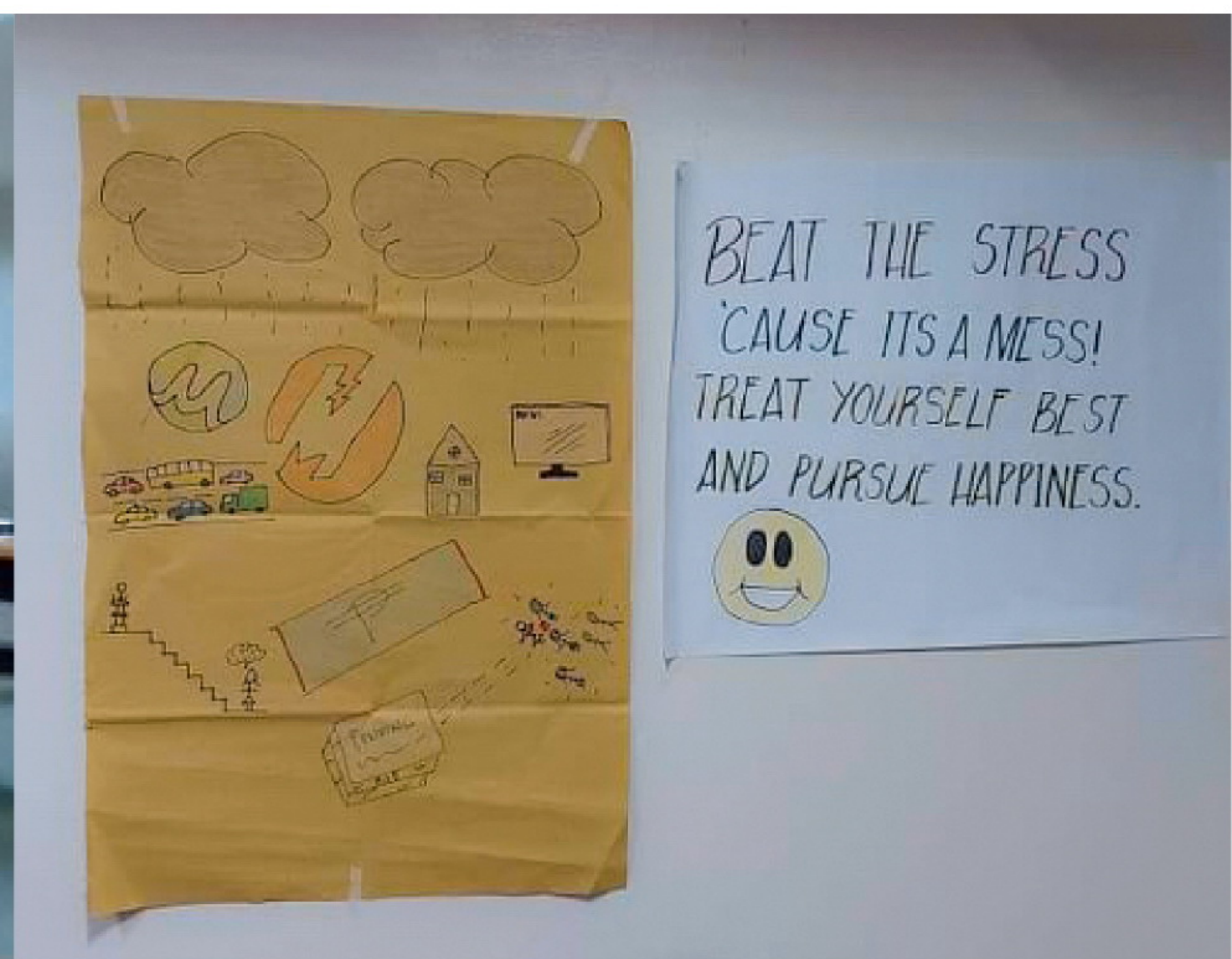
“In Psychological First Aid, it is important that you know how to communicate (verbal or non verbal) with a victim. The key to a successful PFA is knowing how to start handling a victim through communication. I appreciate this initiative... It shows how much they care for the well-being of their personnel.”

Kate Mengullo
PS Tacloban

“It was fun-filled and interesting... Being part of the Psychological First Aiders of PS-DBM is an opportunity I am very much willing to take. Thank you to all the people behind the success of this training (from the PS-DBM staff to the speakers) and thank you PS-DBM for all your efforts to mainstream mental awareness programs.

Mental Health matters.”

Ailyn Engalan
PS Butuan



Stress Management Workshop

July, September, October 2021

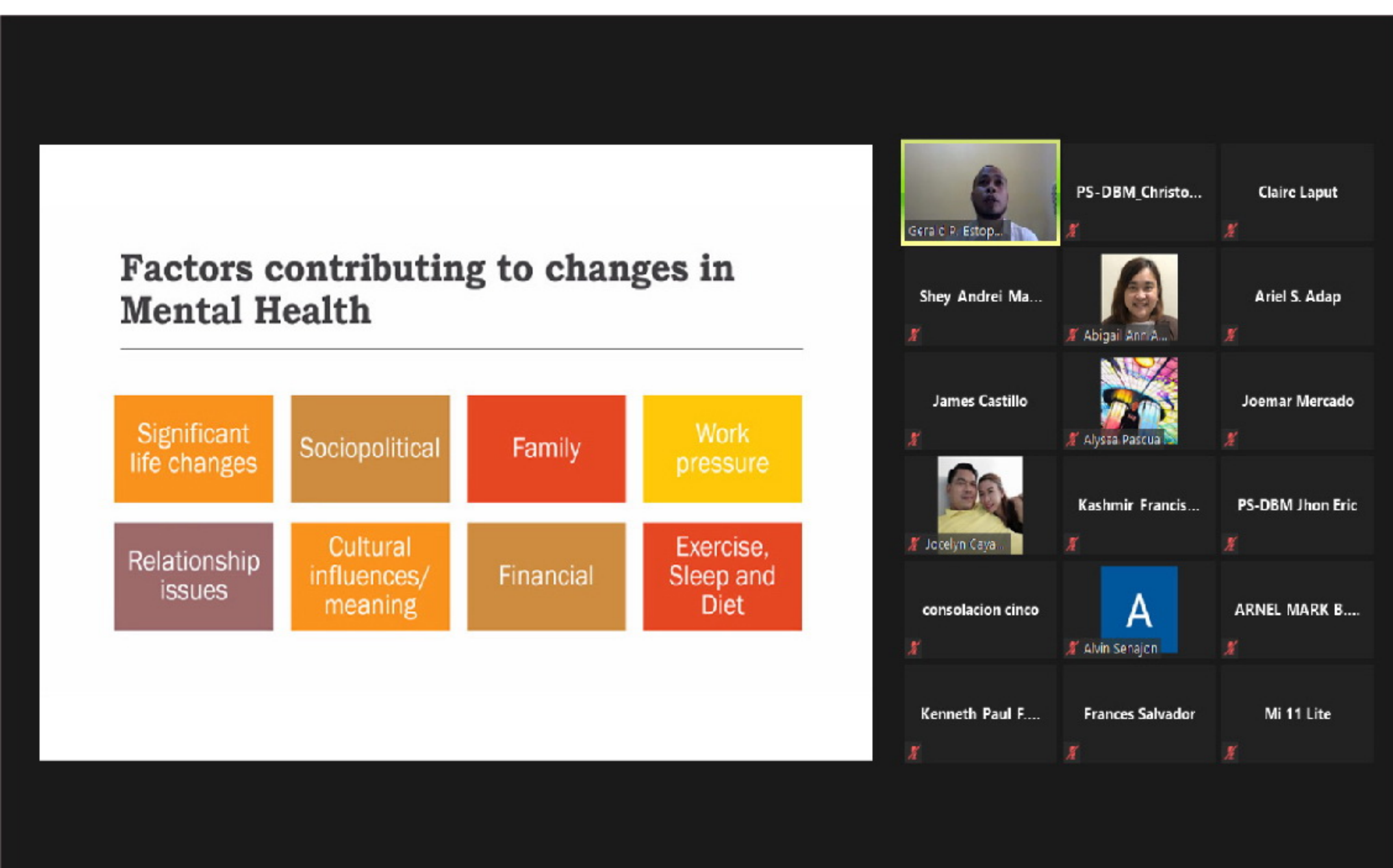
The Stress Management Workshop was conducted in four batches. The first batch was among the first face-to-face training sessions held at PS-DBM since the onslaught of the pandemic. The rest were facilitated online. Two days were designated per batch.

"I really appreciate the effort [through different workshops/activities] for employees to cope with the new normal. Some of us are strangled with health issues, loss of loved ones, and other circumstances that cause mental health problems. With this workshop, we can help ourselves to deal with it."

PS Davao employee

"The workshop provided information about handling stress in our professional and personal life. I felt good [to have attended it]."

Hannah Mae Bigtas
Depot Operations Division



Filipino Psychology Online Orientation

October 2021

The Filipino Psychology Online Orientation was conducted in time for the celebration of the Philippine Mental Health Week observed every second week of October.

The discussion focused on mental health awareness of society in a localized context. It also provided a real life setting of mental health during the time of the pandemic, as well as coping with mental health within ourselves, our families, and our work environments. 38 participants attended the said workshop.

"These workshops are timely and much needed especially now that most of us are facing difficulties because of the pandemic, to assess/evaluate the mental health of employees as mental health condition has great impact to one's performance... Any person having mental health condition needs understanding and not judgment. A little empathy for those suffering from it may/- can help lighten up the load... The PS-DBM MHP is young yet it created a strong foundation for this advocacy."

PS Koronadal employee

Distribution of Anti-stress Kit



5-Minute Work Routine Break



Targeted to be conducted once every week, the five-minute routine break allows employees to take a brief break from office tasks right at their workstations by following stretching exercises and by receiving “appreciation snacks with mental health notes.”

Although the MHP already covers the PS-DBM regional depots, PS Butuan has initiated one of its own, titled “Webinar on Mental Health Awareness and the Impact of the ‘New Normal’ on Women.”

Imelda Diola of the Region 13 depot emphasizes that “the main goal was for everyone to understand that mental health awareness is very important and everyone's reaction or experience is valid and no one should invalidate anyone's feelings.”

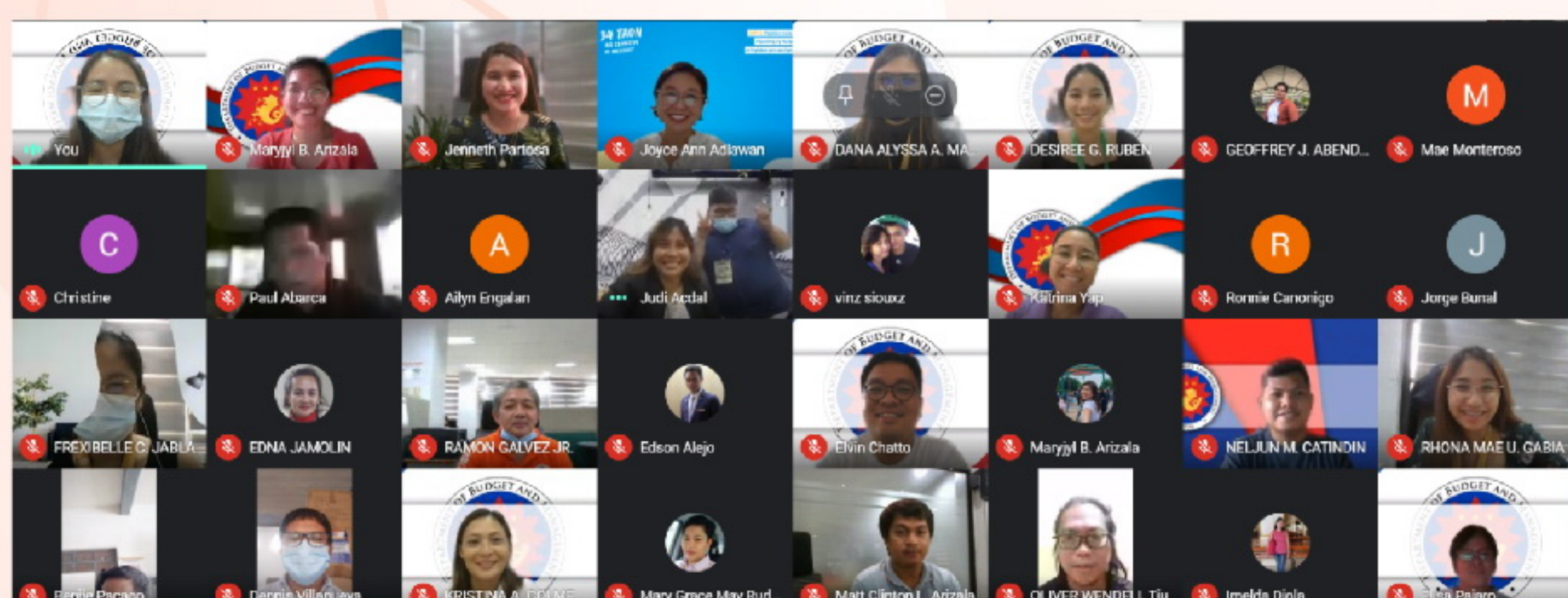
These insights and reactions from PS-DBM employees show promise in terms of their level of awareness and engagement. Magno, however, is aware that much improvement still needs to be done, “We at HRDD are happy with the support and participation/openness of the employees... [but] we have much work to do... The intentionality of MHP has to be improved; for whom and why is it implemented, and what goals are to be achieved and how.”

He adds that a thorough needs assessment for the 2022 MHP must be developed in order to streamline the activities and make them more tailored to the needs of the employees.

As we continue to carry on, especially with the uncertainties posed by the days to come, let us not forget to keep safe by taking care of our health — body and mind. When we take a break, let us also take the opportunity to check in on our loved ones.

A random “kumusta ka?” could save lives.

Mental Health Awareness and the Impact of the ‘New Normal’ on Women May 2021



**Some quoted statements from the respondents have been edited for brevity and clarity of thought.*



CALL OF DUTY:

From the Office to the Class

By Kevin Joshua G. Rebultan



It was sometime in July 2021 when Reygienald Nacario, who then just finished his Master in Public Management and Governance degree from Universidad de Manila, posted a photo on social media to mark his personal milestone. Congratulatory messages flooded the comment section, but one Facebook friend went beyond reacting to the post.

“My research professor sent me a message,” he recalls. What he expected to be an exchange of felicitations turned out to be an offer of a promising employment opportunity. Not long after he exited graduate school, Nacario found himself venturing into another academic institution. This time, however, he did not enroll in classes — he would teach some.

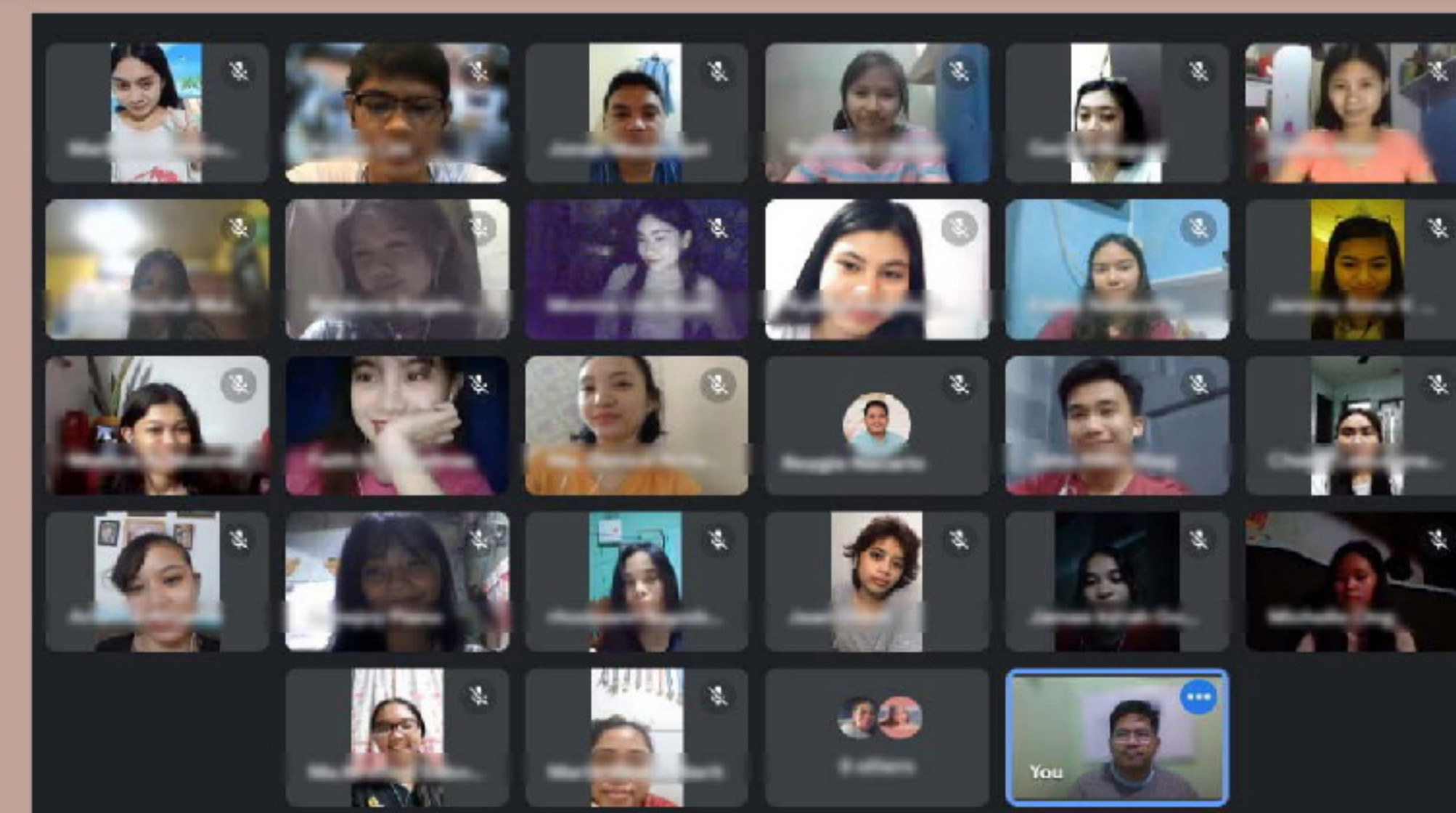
A few weeks after the celebration of World Teachers’ Day on October 5, Nacario officially became a college instructor at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP), his alma mater. He currently teaches Principles of Public and Customer Relations and Foundations of Basic Shorthand (Stenography) for Academic Year 2021-2022 under the school’s Open University System (OUS).

The OUS is the non-traditional, distance learning unit of PUP whose enrollees are mostly working-students. Aware of their predicaments worsened by the adverse impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, Nacario attests that patience is truly a virtue, especially in dealing with the students’ excuses for absences and tardiness.

“They are working-students trying to get themselves a diploma and a degree... I want to be that type of teacher whom my students trust with any concerns affecting their studies,” says Nacario, who establishes himself as a jolly instructor yet reasonably authoritative during his two-hour Saturday classes.

At work, Nacario is deemed just as that. Having been with the Procurement Service – Department of Budget and Management (PS-DBM) Marketing and Sales Division for more than four years, he learned how to properly manage time and set priorities. For as long as he gets his job done, while fostering camaraderie with colleagues, the agency sees no issue with his teaching stint.

“I commit to catching up on my backlogs while accomplishing my



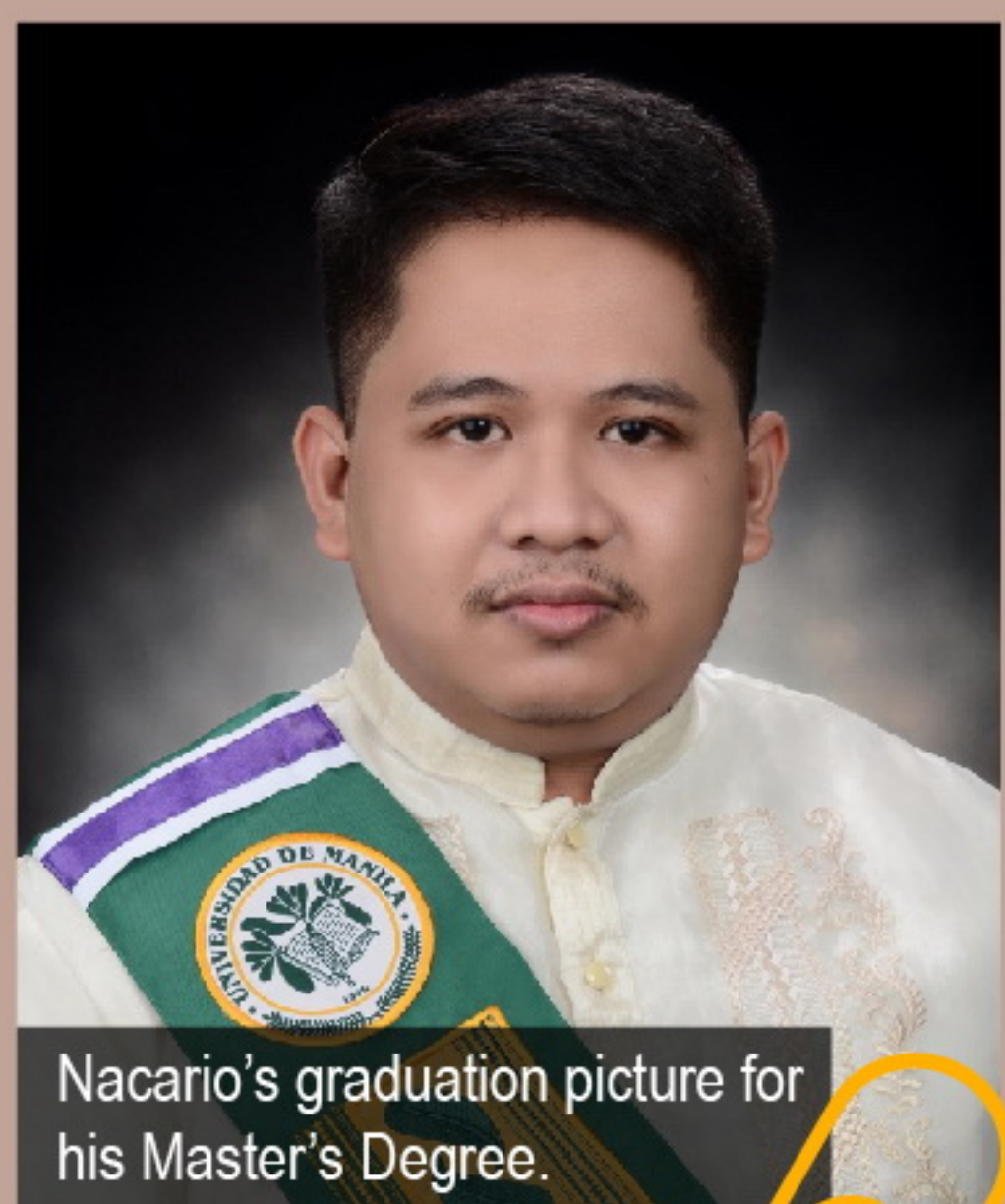
A screenshot of Nacario’s Foundations of Basic Shorthand virtual class.

workload on a daily basis. I also try to be at the office earlier than usual,” he adds.

At a relatively young age of 28, Nacario is aware of the magnitude of his role as a teacher. More than expanding his network and improving his credentials, “to be able to influence people by teaching them skills and knowledge... that they can use to better themselves and their family’s lives” is what inspires him to pursue this professional endeavour.

Only two months into undertaking this additional labor, he now admits to considering teaching as his fallback when he eventually decides to retire from government service.

If Nacario intends to cross the bridge when he gets there, the possibility for Hans Christian Icuspit to teach is always within easy reach. His father, who works as an instructor at the Technological University of the Philippines – Taguig, convinced him to take the chance. And he did.



Nacario's graduation picture for his Master's Degree.



Nacario (right-most) with his colleagues in the Marketing and Sales Division.

For only a term, which lasted from June to September of Academic Year 2021-2022, Icuspit served as a part-time instructor who taught Thermodynamics I to Mechanical Engineering college students of the same campus.

“[The decision] was mainly for experience and since the nature of work here at PS-DBM is not nearly relevant to the field of study I have finished, I thought that this was a chance to at least practice what I learned from my undergraduate study,” says Icuspit, a 28-year-old licensed chemical engineer who has been with PS-DBM for more than four years and is currently assigned at the Inspection Division.

With afternoon to evening classes every Wednesday, Icuspit found no other opportune moment except during weekends to prepare the lessons or check exams. He also had to make adjustments in his work schedule to ensure that his class hours were strictly followed. While he does not deny that this extra work

ate up his time supposedly for personal affairs, his students’ eagerness to learn made it all worth it.

“The most enjoyable part of being an instructor is to see that your students are learning,” he adds.

He had his fair share of frustrations, too. The prohibition of face-to-face classes compelled the academe to transition to distance learning, and with it came the ordeals that both students and teachers confront until today.

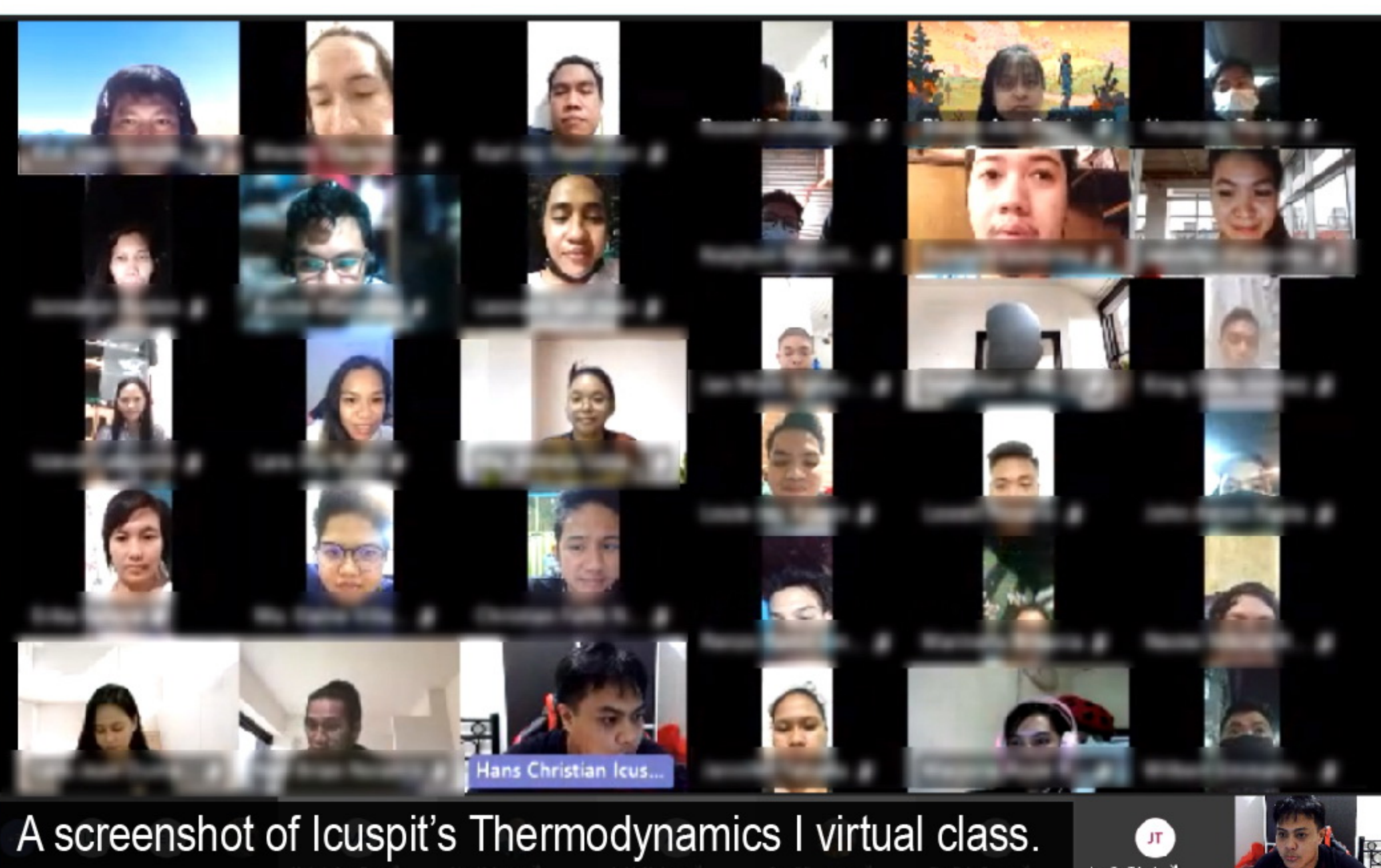
“Online class is difficult. You cannot see your students. You cannot interact with them normally unlike in a classroom setup. There were times that you want your students to interact by reciting, but since you cannot see them, you cannot demand them to answer,” he laments.

Having encountered these struggles, Icuspit was humbled by the experience, so much that if given another chance, and should there be available course subjects in the upcoming terms that align with his work schedule, he would want to teach again.

“Teaching is not as simple as what others see it... In PS, my work is done after the day; in teaching it does not end in class... It is hard. It requires dedication and a lot of time but it is very fulfilling,” Icuspit concludes.

To which Nacario adds, “Whether you are teaching because of passion or for additional income, remember that part of the future of your students is in your hands.”

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



A screenshot of Icuspit's Thermodynamics I virtual class.

The worldwide celebration of the Teachers’ Day in October bannered the theme, “Teachers at the heart of education recovery.” This was re-echoed through the local slogan, “Gurong Pilipino: Katuwang sa Hamon, Kasama sa Pagbangon.”

The PS-DBM recognizes the efforts and sacrifices of the teachers amid the challenges continuously brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, as it calls for support for educators to fully realize their contribution to the recovery process of the education sector, and to maximize their potential despite the unfavorable circumstances.

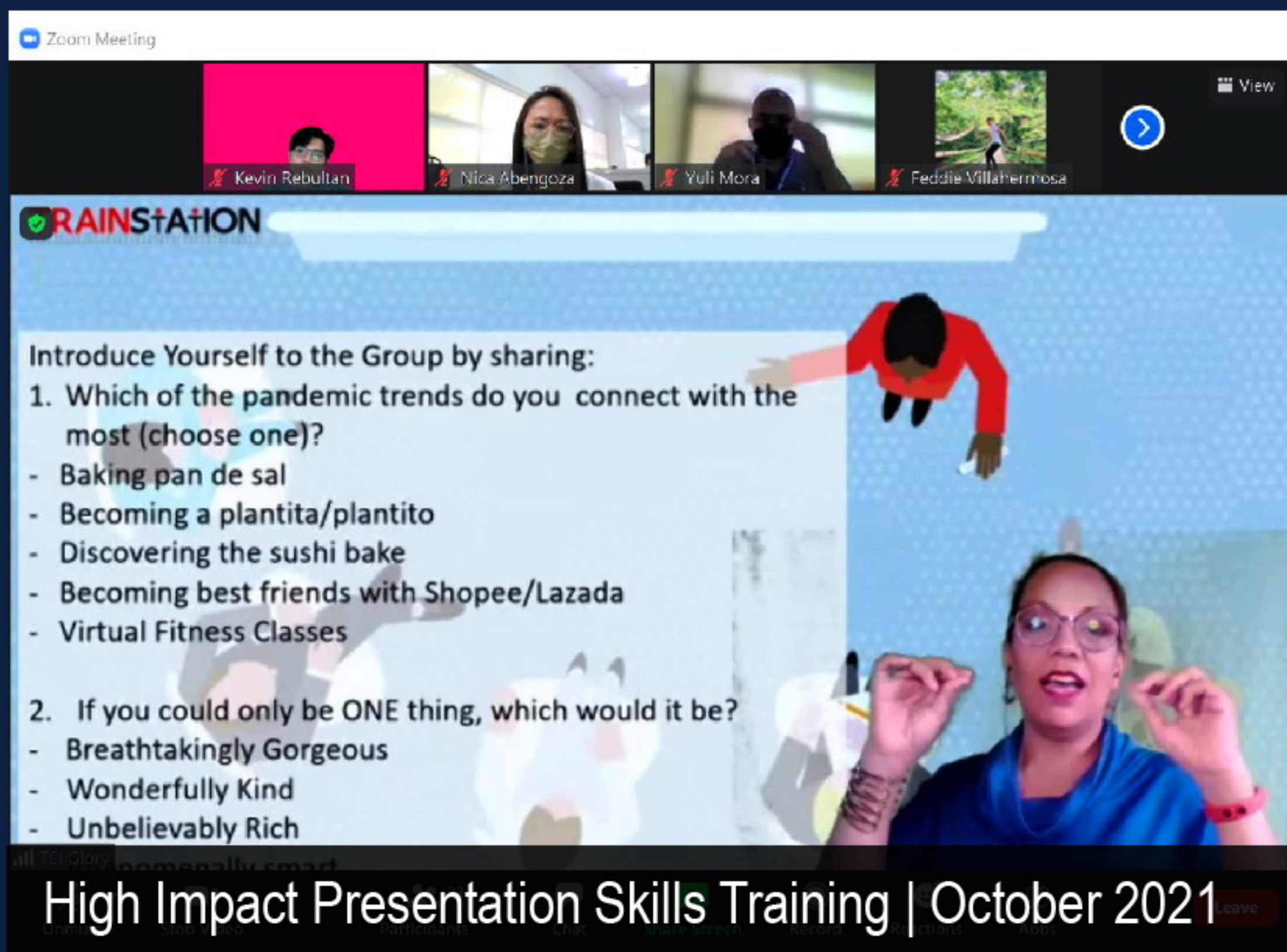
MALIGAYANG ARAW NG MGA GURO!

Pinasasalamatan ng PS-DBM ang lahat ng mga guro na sa kabila ng mga pagsubok na hatid ng pandemya ay patuloy na nagsisilbing katuwang sa hamon at kasama sa pagbangon ng kabataang Pilipino.

In a Facebook Post on World Teachers’ Day, the PS-DBM expressed message of support for all Filipino educators.

POSTSCRIPT

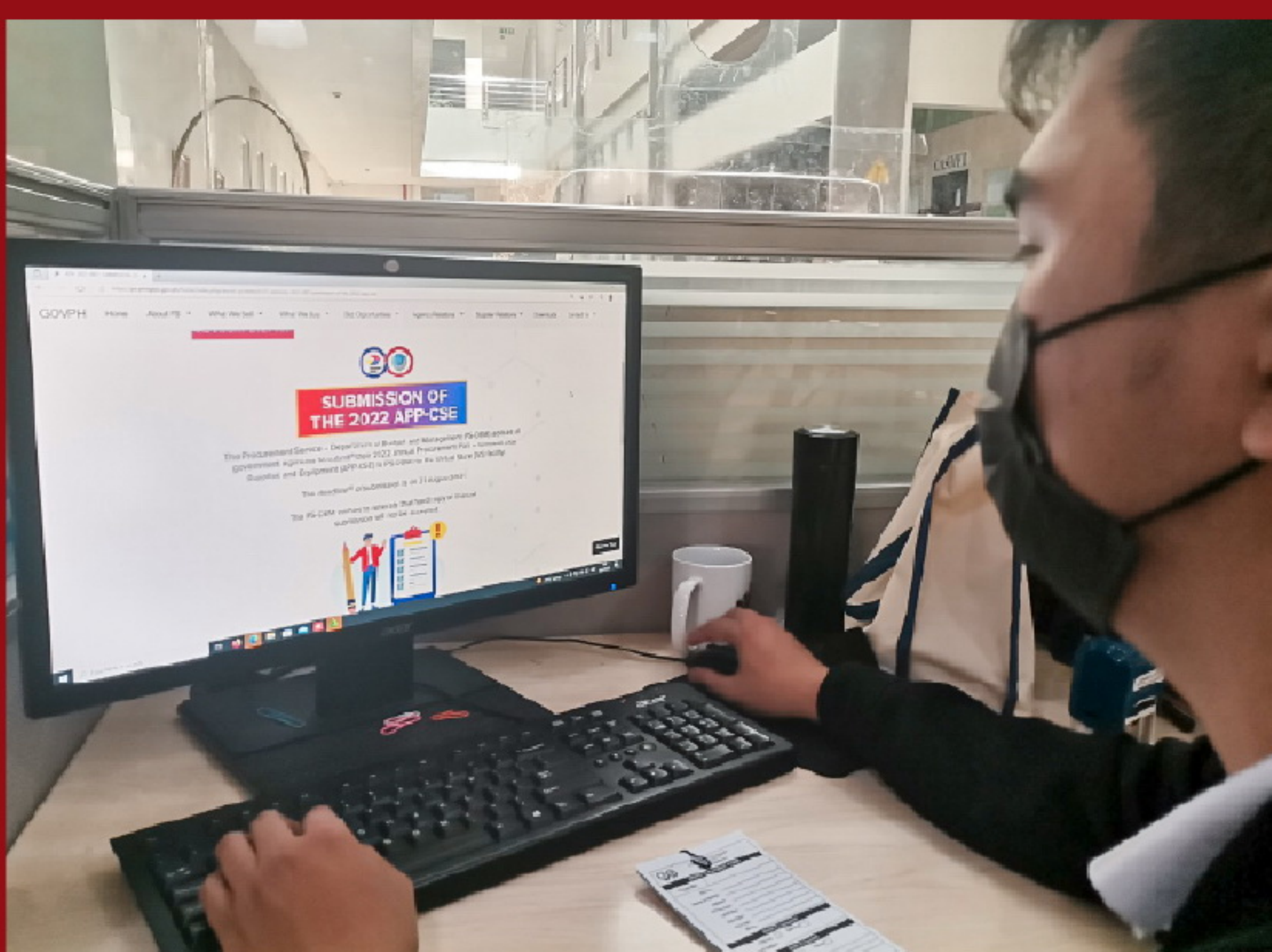
A rundown and recap of the latest news in PS-DBM.
Manatiling nakasubaybay.



PS-DBM ADDRESSES EMPLOYEES' COMPETENCY GAPS THROUGH TRAINING COURSES

2021 was a year-long journey for PS-DBM employees to pursue learning opportunities as the Human Resource Development Division (HRDD) tactically planned out its Learning and Development Plan (LDP) for the previous year, detailed in the Office Order No. 061-2021. The 2021 LDP offered activities and resources that align interventions with the strategic objectives of the agency, its core values, and mandates. These seek to address the workforce's weaknesses and skill gaps, improve personal efficiency and interpersonal effectiveness, as well as to prepare employees for possible promotion.

The training courses varied in fields of interest — from leadership, core, cross-functional, to technical in type and nature, most of which were conducted online in light of the prevailing health crisis. Within ten working days upon completion of the online programs, participating employees are required to submit a Post-training Report.



PS-DBM TALLIES RECORD NUMBER OF APP-CSE SUBMISSION

The PS-DBM received a total of 8,148 Annual Procurement Plans for Common Use Supplies and Equipment for 2022 (APP-CSE), the highest tally recorded so far by the Marketing and Sales Division. This came after the full implementation of the use of the Virtual Store which required agencies to virtually submit their APP-CSE, the final deadline of which was on 30 September 2021. The APP-CSE is one of the criteria for the grant of the annual Performance Based Bonus. Data collected from the same also serve as reference for demand forecasting and other procurement activities.



PS-DBM QMS TEAM LOCKS IN ON TARGETS TO EXPAND ISO CERTIFICATION

The newly-reconstituted PS-DBM Quality Management System (QMS) Team conducted its General Assembly on 12 October 2021 to spearhead the agency's compliance with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 9001:2015 and to assist in the maintenance and expansion of ISO-certified areas of PS-DBM. The standards set forth by ISO 9001 are used by organizations to consistently provide products and services that meet customer and regulatory requirements. As of writing, the scope of the agency's ISO certification covers Inspection, General Administrative Services, Human Resource Development, Legal, Information and Technology Services divisions, as well as the Customer Service of PhilGEPS Group.

Created on 29 October 2019 with the objective to develop the quality strategy, policies, processes, standards and systems for PS-DBM, the QMS Team is currently composed of Jose Rafael M. Magno (HRDD), Robert H. Humarang (MSD), Rhealyn T. Valdez (PBD), Aubrey C. Bodestyne (PhilGEPS-CS), Frances T. Salvador (MSD), and Boycie F. Tarca (DOD), led by Maria Joana Victoria L. Maglay (PBD).

PS-DBM INITIATES GAD ACTIVITIES TO ENSURE SAFE SPACES FOR WOMEN AT WORK

The PS-DBM joined the observance of the 18-day campaign to end violence against women (VAW) from November 25 to December 12, 2021. Spearheaded by the agency's Gender and Development Focal Point System, activities geared towards elevating the employees' knowledge of Republic Act No. 1131 or the Safe Spaces Act were initiated through the development, printing, and distribution of campaign and advocacy materials posted around the office premises. This proves that PS-DBM has no place for perpetrators of abuse in all forms.

Read the full story published in the website on 25 November 2021 titled the same.





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!

THANK YOU

to all those who accommodated the team's requests for information, insights, photos, and other materials used to accomplish this Issue.

The PS-DBM Communications looks forward to more collaborations with all of you.

PAGSUBAYBAY

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HOLI-MOJI

The holidays may be over, but the season's spirit remains. Relive the memories by guessing the Christmas songs as depicted by the emojis.

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Employees who wish to join in on the fun may submit their answers to communications@ps-philgeps.gov.ph. Thank you for participating!