



## Education Programs Delivery Update (Vol. 2, Issue 3)

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### Clustered Conferences Stresses Readiness for Cash-Based Budgeting System

The Office of the Undersecretary for Finance-Budget and Performance conducted a marathon of conferences on 2018 Budget Execution and 2019 Budget Preparation last March 5-8, 12-15, 19-21, and 22-23 at the Pasig ACE Hotel, Clark Widus Hotel, Davao Grand Regal Hotel, and Cebu Crowne Regency Hotel respectively.

The regional hosts started the conference with opening remarks by their respective Regional Directors before proceeding to the conference proper led by Undersecretary Annalyn M. Sevilla. During her presentation of the Regional Budget Reports, Usec. Anne engaged the audience and gave guidance on the shift to the cash-based budgeting system by expounding on the proper use of savings.

Other members of the ExeCom also presented their respective program updates: Undersecretary Alain Pascua on his 5-year Masterplan, Undersecretary Lorna Dig-Dino on Updates on Curriculum and Instruction, Undersecretary Jesus Mateo on the Status of Creation and Filling-up of Positions, Assistant Secretary Revsee Escobedo on Procurement Issues, and Assistant Secretary G.H. Ambat on the Alternative Learning System and Public Affairs.

During Cluster 3 in Davao, Asec. G.H. highlighted the importance of close coordination with the school division in light of the peace and order situations in the said regions saying, "Please let us know what's going on in your division—near the schools or involving teachers. So we can act accordingly." Secretary Leonor Magtolis Briones also graced the Cluster 1 Conference at ACE Hotel and stressed the importance of the clustered conferences because the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) is no longer looking at budget obligation, but budget disbursement.

The Secretary said, "Utilization is what they're interested in. That is also the basis of DBM in evaluating our budget requests. *Kaya importante itong meeting ninyo ngayon. We have to do better.*"

With an aim to gear-up the implementation of DepEd Programs, Activities, and Projects (PAPs) and budget execution for 2018 and provide guidance on the preparation of 2019 budget proposal, following the shift from obligation-based to an annual cash-based budgeting system, the conference also identified program implementation bottlenecks, challenges, and constraints (BCCs) through a workshop facilitated by the Education Programs Delivery Unit (EPDU).

The workshop outputs were presented by the Regional Directors, followed by the ExeCom responses to issues raised thereof. To further facilitate the resolution of these issues, Usec. Anne assured the participants that the action on issues raised will be presented to them again during the next series of conferences, by mid or end of the year.

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## **DCP Procurement for 2017 a Success**

The procurement of 36,125 DCP packages containing desktop computers, laptops, projectors, and inkjet printers, among others were a success for fiscal year 2017.

With an obligation rate of 98.65% in December (based on FINAL SAAODB as of March 16, 2018), it's a 33% increase from the 2016 DCP obligation rate of 65.61%.

The DCP program is among the top 90% of programs based on allocation with an overall appropriation of 8.66B in the General Appropriations Act.

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## **Implementation of School-Based Feeding Programs**

DepEd has issued the guidelines for the School-Based Feeding Program (SBFP) for SY 2017-2022 with a primary goal to increase classroom attendance and the learners' nutritional values and behavior.

5.302-B was appropriated for 2018 and will not only cover Severely Wasted1, but also Wasted2 Kindergarten to Grade 6 pupils. The program also provides an extended feeding time as opposed to the 2011 Breakfast Feeding Program.

The salient features of the SBFP Guidelines include Adherence to Food Safety Standards in accordance to relevant D.O.s, Grant to Service Credits to Teachers who render beyond the required eight hours of service or during weekends, Partnership Building and Creation of Local Alliance, and Submission of Monitoring Reports in the implementation of the said program.

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