

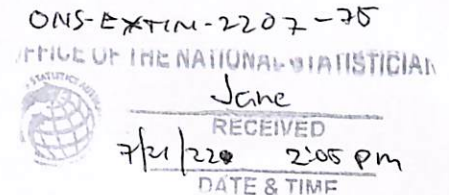


REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT
GENERAL SOLANO STREET, SAN MIGUEL, MANILA

29 JUN 2022

NATIONAL STATISTICIAN DENNIS S. MAPA

Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)
CRS Building, PSA Complex, East Avenue
Diliman, Quezon City



Dear **National Statistician Mapa**:

This pertains to the request of the PSA for the Department of Budget and Management's (DBM) opinion on the applicability of National Budget Circular (NBC) No. 486¹ dated March 26, 2003 on the proposed registration fees for the 2nd National Convention on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (NCCRVS), which will be conducted by the PSA from October 6 to 7, 2022.

As represented, the 2nd NCCRVS will serve as a platform to **inform** municipal/city registrars, solemnizing officers, academicians, statisticians, and other stakeholders concerned about the recent developments on civil registration and the vital statistics that are generated in the country.

It was added that the Convention's set-up will be face-to-face with a target of 2,500 participants from the different government agencies/offices, as well as from the international and private sectors. Thus, registration fees will be collected from the participants to cover necessary expenses related to the preparation and actual conduct of the 2nd NCCRVS, to wit:

Participants	Proposed Registration Fees
Government Agencies ²	₱2,800/day
Private Institutions	₱3,000/day
International (foreign embassies)	₱5,000/day
Students/Academicians	₱2,000/day

Please note that DBM NBC No. 486 was already amended by **NBC No. 563**³ dated April 22, 2016, which provides the updated guidelines and the allowable cost of participation of government officials and employees in conventions, seminars, conferences, symposia, and other similar gatherings.

¹ Amending National Budget Circular (NBC) No. 442, dated March 29, 1995 Relative to the Cost of Participation of Government Officials and Employees in Conventions, Seminars, Conferences, Symposia and Similar Non-Training Gatherings Sponsored by Non-Government Organizations or Private Institutions

² Per coordination with the PSA on June 27, 2022, government agencies refer to the civil registrars from the local government units. It was added that the technical staff and other personnel concerned of the PSA will only serve as facilitators.

³ Guidelines on Participation of Government Officials and Employees in Conventions, Seminars, Conferences, Symposia, and Similar Non-Training Gatherings Sponsored by Non-Government Organizations or Private Institutions

Item 2.1 of NBC No. 563 states that said Circular cover all activities requiring the payment of registration and related fees pertaining to the participation of government officials/employees in conventions, seminars, conferences, symposia, and other similar gatherings conducted/ sponsored by **non-government organizations or private institutions**.

Item 2.2 of the subject Circular likewise stipulates that said conventions, seminars, and the like refer to those that are being conducted for purposes of **sharing, discussing, or disseminating ideas/information** on the developments in a particular field or fields of interest and/or for common appreciation and resolution of certain issues.

As such, **Item 3.2** of NBC No. 563 provides that the registration or participation fee in said conventions, seminars, conferences, symposia, and other similar gatherings conducted by non-government organizations or private institutions **shall not exceed P2,000 per day for each participant**.

However, **Item 2.2 of NBC No. 563** further clarified that the Circular **excludes** in its coverage those **training programs** that are being attended by government personnel to **gain or strengthen their respective skills and technical or management expertise** in their areas of endeavor.

This is the case since such training programs are generally **developmental in nature** and are designed for, among others, the **enhancement of the skills/ competencies and technical capabilities** of the participants for them to become more effective and efficient in the performance of their duties and functions.

In view of the foregoing and inasmuch as the coverage of NBC No. 563 **excludes** those conventions, seminars, conferences, symposia, and other similar gatherings that are conducted/sponsored by **government agencies** such as the PSA, the P2,000 per day limit prescribed under NBC No. 563 on the registration or participation fees **will not apply** in the case of the 2NCCRVS.

May we also highlight that the PSA has previously requested clarification from the DBM of a similar undertaking when the agency spearheaded the conduct of the 14th National Convention on Statistics last October 2019.

As indicated in a DBM letter for the PSA dated February 28, 2019 (copy attached), we have clarified that **seminars, conferences and similar activities by government institutions are not covered by said Circular** since NBC No. 563 sets the allowable cost of participation and related fees to said gatherings conducted by non-government organizations or private institutions.

Accordingly, the DBM highlighted that the maximum amount of P2,000 per day per participant stipulated in the NBC **will not apply** in the case of government employees who will attend the PSA's 14th NCS.

We hope to have clarified the concerns of the PSA on the matter.

Very truly yours,



KIM ROBERT C. DE LEON
Undersecretary



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT
GEN. SOLANO ST., SAN MIGUEL, MANILA

NATIONAL BUDGET CIRCULAR

No. 563
April 22, 2016

TO : ALL HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS, BUREAUS, OFFICES AND AGENCIES OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES (SUCS); GOVERNMENT -OWNED OR -CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS (GOCCS); LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (LGUS); AND ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

Subject : **Guidelines on Participation of Government Officials and Employees in Conventions, Seminars, Conferences, Symposia and Similar Non-Training Gatherings Sponsored by Non-Government Organizations or Private Institutions**

1.0 Purpose

This Circular is being issued to update the guidelines and the allowable cost of participation of government officials and employees in conventions, seminars, conferences, symposia, and other similar gatherings, prescribed under National Budget Circular (NBC) No. 442 dated March 29, 1992 and NBC No. 486 dated March 26, 2003.

2.0 Coverage

2.1 This Circular shall cover all activities requiring the payment of registration and related fees pertaining to the participation of government officials/employees in conventions, seminars, conferences, symposia, and other similar gatherings conducted/sponsored by non-government organizations or private institutions in the Philippines.

2.2 For purposes of this Circular, conventions, seminars and the like shall refer to those conducted basically for purposes of sharing, discussing or disseminating ideas or information on the developments in a particular field or fields of interest and/or for common appreciation and resolution of certain issues. It includes, but is not limited to, those conducted by professional organizations or groups of common interest where government employees are members. It excludes those conducted for training purposes where participants are expected to gain or strengthen skills and technical or management expertise in their areas of endeavor.

3.0 **Guidelines**

- 3.1 Government officials and employees may be authorized to participate in conventions, seminars, conferences, symposia and such other activities conducted by non-government organizations or private institutions for a fee, as part of the human resource development program of the government, chargeable against government funds.
- 3.2 The registration or participation fee in said convention, seminar, etc. shall not exceed P 2,000 per day for each participant.
- 3.3 In cases where the convention is held out-of-town, authorized participants may be entitled to travel expenses and allowances as authorized under existing rules and regulations.
- 3.4 Membership and similar fees paid for personal or individual membership in a private organization shall be for the account of the member concerned and shall not be charged to government funds. On the other hand, institutional membership fees, i.e., agency membership may be charged to government funds.
- 3.5 As far as practicable, government officials and employees should avail of the early registration rates to avail of reduced costs of participation in conventions, seminars, conferences and the like.
- 3.6 All expenditures for the purpose shall be subject to the usual budgeting and accounting rules and regulations.

4.0 **Responsibility of Agency Heads**


Agency Heads shall be responsible for the implementation of the provisions of this Circular in their respective offices.

5.0 **Repealing Clause**

All other circulars and issuances or parts thereof that are inconsistent with this Circular are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

6.0 **Effectivity**

This Circular shall take effect immediately.


FLORENCIO B. ABAD
Secretary 