MORNING COFFEE THOUGHTS

HOW TO FOLLOW THE 2027 BUDGET

A one-page reference for ordinary readers

TOTAL PROGRAM	₱7.20019T	The proposed overall expenditure program.
PROGRAMMED	₱4.49409T	New annual spending with identified funding.
AUTOMATIC	₱2.70610T	Authority already provided by existing laws.
UNPROGRAMMED	₱111.98B	Conditional authority for identified purposes.

THE DOCUMENT TRAIL

1. NEP - Executive proposal
2. House action - House changes
3. Senate action - Senate changes
4. Bicameral conference - reconciled version
5. Enrolled bill - sent to the President
6. Presidential action - approval and vetoes
7. GAA - enacted appropriations law
8. Execution - allotments, obligations, disbursements

THE MONEY FLOW

proposed → appropriated → allotted → obligated → disbursed

An amount in the GAA is legal authority. It is not automatic proof that the full amount was released, committed, paid, or used effectively.

WHY THE NUMBERS OVERLAP

The ₱4.49409-trillion programmed amount appears in both the Total Expenditure Program and New General Appropriations calculations. Do not subtract ₱4.60607 trillion from ₱7.20019 trillion and label the difference an unexplained fund.

WHAT EACH TERM PROVES

TERM	MEANING
Appropriation	Legal authority to use money for a stated purpose.
Allotment	Authority for an agency to incur obligations.
Obligation	A commitment government has entered into and must pay.
Disbursement	The actual payment of government money.

A CHANGED NUMBER

If an item is ₱24.2 billion in the NEP and ₱51.6 billion in the final GAA, the documents prove that the amount changed during the process.

They do not identify, by themselves:
• who first proposed the change;
• the stage where it entered;
• whether it was fully released;
• whether it was paid; or
• whether an irregularity occurred.

2027 CONTEXT

The program rises by ₱407.02 billion, or 5.99%, from FY 2026. Automatic Appropriations rise by ₱315.75 billion and account for 37.58% of the proposed program. The National Tax Allotment is about ₱1.31983 trillion; projected interest payments are about ₱1.11426 trillion.

FIVE QUESTIONS TO ASK

1. Which document contains the number?
2. Is it proposed authority, enacted authority, a release, a commitment, or an actual payment?
3. Which earlier document is being used for comparison?
4. Can the records identify who originated the change, or only that it occurred?
5. Is the claim describing evidence, or adding a conclusion the documents do not prove?

PRIMARY SOURCES

1. DBM, FY 2027 NEP - Introduction
dbm.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/NEP2027/Introduction.pdf
2. DBM, BESF 2027 - Glossary
dbm.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/BESF/BESF2027/GLOSSARY.pdf
3. DBM, FY 2027 Unprogrammed Appropriations
dbm.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/NEP2027/UA.pdf
4. DBM, National Expenditure Program FY 2027
dbm.gov.ph/index.php/2027/national-expenditure-program-fy-2027

READ THE FULL MCT GUIDE

morningcoffeethoughts.org/commentary/i-tried-to-understand-the-7-2-trillion-budget

This sheet explains the documentary trail. It does not determine the legality, necessity, or effectiveness of a particular appropriation.