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REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS  
KAGAWARAN NG PANANALAPI  
**KAWANIHAN NG INGATANG-YAMAN**  
(BUREAU OF THE TREASURY)  
Intramuros, Manila 1002

**Press Release**

**Bureau of the Treasury Starts 2020 with Successful Offering of Three-Year Retail Treasury Bonds and Bond Exchange**

**MANILA, Philippines, 12 February 2020** – The Bureau of the Treasury (BTr) settled yesterday P310.8 billion worth of three-year Retail Treasury Bonds (RTBs) at the rate of 4.375% p.a. RTB tranche 23 consisted of P250.0 billion in new subscriptions and P60.8 billion from the bond exchange program. Following the enthusiastic reception of the BTr's maiden offering of the Premyo Bonds late last year, the first RTB offering for 2020 was met with overwhelming demand from the investing public, with the issuance going 10x oversubscribed from the planned minimum issue size of P30.0 billion. The public offer period, which began on January 28, was cut short, closing on February 4 instead of the original schedule of February 6.

The BTr was able to award P134.0 billion at the primary auction held last January 28, 2020. An additional P176.8 billion, sourced from new subscriptions and effected via bond exchange, was raised during the public offer period. The BTr conducted roadshows in key cities nationwide to educate and inform interested investors on the terms and benefits of the RTBs and to encourage holders of RTB 3-08 (RTB 19), issued last April 2017, to participate in the bond exchange at an exchange ratio of 1.001.

*"Kasama mo sa pag-aseño"* was the theme for RTB 23, underscoring the BTr's advocacy of encouraging investment among Filipinos. RTBs generally cater to small investors as a minimum placement is only P5,000. At its core, the marketing and issuance of RTBs promote financial literacy and inclusion by making safe investments accessible to retail investors.

This is also the first time an RTB offering was coupled with an exchange offer. The bond exchange was well-received, with 38% of the outstanding amount of RTB 19 swapped for RTB 23 bonds, following the BTr's financial literacy efforts and encouragement. This is mutually beneficial as investors gain a sure channel for their funds while simultaneously extending the average maturity of government debt.

As with the BTr's recent offerings, the online ordering facility via the Treasury website provided an effective and convenient channel for investors and even overseas Filipinos to avail of the product.

“Market liquidity, great timing and our attractive interest rate were the drivers of success for this year’s offering of RTBs. As our economy expand and as more people become financially capable to save, it is rewarding for the BTr to see a wider set of the public put their trust in our fund raising exercise,” stated National Treasurer Rosalia V. De Leon.

Proceeds from the issuance will partially fund the 2020 budget, including key programs on infrastructure development and social services.

The Development Bank of the Philippines and the Land Bank of the Philippines were the joint lead issue managers for the RTB 23 offering, with BDO Capital & Investment Corporation, BPI Capital Corporation, China Bank Capital Corporation, First Metro Investment Corporation, PNB Capital and Investment Corporation, RCBC Capital Corporation and SB Capital Investment Corporation as joint issue managers.

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