



SIGAY KA

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IN THIS ISSUE

PICPA COTABATO CITY CHAPTER OFFICERS:
GET TO KNOW THE DRIVING FORCE OF THE CHAPTER
PAGE 2

THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS IN GOVERNMENT INTERNAL AUDITING:
UPHOLDING MORAL GOVERNANCE IN BARMM
BY: HASMIENE D. IBRAHIM, CPA
PAGE 5

PICPA COTABATO CITY CHAPTER UPDATES:
EVENTS, ACTIVITIES, AND ACHIEVEMENTS
PAGES 3 TO 4

NAVIGATING MELS:
A QUICK GUIDE FOR NEW AND EXISTING MEMBERS
PAGE 6



OFFICERS FY 2024-2025

ATTY. UBAIDA C. PACASEM

President

Atty. Pacasem is a Member of the Bangsamoro Transition Authority Parliament, and is currently the Minister of Finance and Budget and Management of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. He holds several key positions within the Bangsamoro Government, including as:

- *Chairperson*, Inter-Governmental Fiscal Policy Board
- *Member*, Inter-Governmental Relations Body, Philippine Congress-Bangsamoro Parliament Forum, Bangsamoro Sustainable Development Board
- *Chairperson*, Committee on Amendments
- *Vice-Chairperson*, Committee on Finance, Budget and Management, Committee on Health, and Committee on Ways and Means
- *Vice-Chairperson*, Bangsamoro Barter Trade Council
- *Ex-officio Governor*, Bangsamoro Board of Investments



NAILA Z. DIMARAW, CPA

President-Elect

President-Elect Naila Dimaraw is the current Bangsamoro Treasurer and is also a Member of the BARMM Islamic Finance Technical Working Group.



ALMANSOR A. PENDATUN, CPA, CIA, REB, REA, MDM

VP for Membership

Almansor Pendatun is currently employed as State Auditor IV at the Commission on Audit (COA)-BARMM. In 2024, Pendatun worked as an external auditor for the International Labor Organization (ILO) Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, during the Spring Year-End Financial Audit. He is also a member of the Pool of Auditors for the United Nations.



ATTY. YASMIN M. H.ABDULKARIM, CPA

VP for Professional Development

Atty. H.Abdulkarim is currently employed as Attorney V at the Civil Service Commission (CSC) for BARMM.



MOMENA K. LAMPATAN, CPA

Secretary

Momena Lampatan is currently connected with Bangsamoro Budget Office under the Ministry of Finance, Budget and Management.



JEANETTE C. LU-MALICDEM, CPA, RN, CTP

Assistant Secretary

Jeanette Lu-Malicdem is currently employed in the Bangsamoro Treasury Office.



ATTY. SHAREEN S. ISMAEL, CPA

Assistant Secretary

Atty. Ismael is the Executive Assistant of MP Dr. Kadil "Jojo" Sinolinding, Jr. who is the Minister of Health.



MADEENAH T. MADID, CPA, MBA

Treasurer

Madeenah Madid is the current Chief of the Accounting Section at the Ministry of Public Works.



FAHAD S. ALI, CPA

Assistant Treasurer

Fahad Ali is currently employed by MFBM-BARMM, with over 10 years of experience in Public Financial Management. As a seasoned Public Finance Practitioner, he successfully completed the Public Finance Management Competency Course offered by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and obtained the Associate Qualification in Islamic Finance (AQIF).



ATTY. HAISAM S. HASHIM, CPA

Auditor

Atty. Hashim is currently employed in COA-BARMM.



OMAR E. AKMAD, CPA, MPA

Assistant Auditor

Omar Akmad is currently employed by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), recently received his transfer order to RDO 110, General Santos City. In 2022, Akmad was recognized as the BIR's Best Employee for Ethical Behavior.



BAINALYN R. ABUTAHER, CB, CPA

Public Relations Officer

Bainalyn Abutaher is currently employed by the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Kabuntalan, Maguindanao del Norte, BARMM. Abutaher has successfully passed the written examination for Career Executive Service Eligibility and the Basic Competency on Local Treasury Examination (BCLTE).



ABU JAHIL L. MODIARAT, CPA, MPA

Assistant Public Relations Officer

Abu Jahhil Modiarat is currently employed by the City Government of Cotabato.



Sectorial Representatives:

PRECIOUS LOVE Y. ESQUILLO, CPA, MBA

Government

Precious Love Esquillo, the youngest Finance Officer at Cotabato Regional Medical Center, currently serves as its Chief Administrative Officer for Finance Services.



MEMILANIE D. TENAJEROS-ALTA

Education

Memilanie Tenajeros-Alta is the Program Head of the Accountancy Department - College of Business and Accountancy of Notre Dame University.



NARCISO C. YU EKEY

Commerce and Industry

Known to be one of the pillars of the business chambers of Cotabato City, Narciso Yu Ekey is the Deputy Mayor for Chinese of Cotabato City. A former Member of the Parliament, he is also an active member of the Bantugan Masonic Lodge #223 and Rotary Club Cotabato.



CONRADO L. PIOQUINTO, JR., CPA, JD

Public Practice

Conrado Pioquinto is a practicing accountant operating his own firm, the CL Pioquinto Accounting Office.



**PICPA COTABATO CITY CHAPTER UPDATES:
Events, Activities, and Achievements**

PICPA Cotabato City Chapter Celebrates Accountancy Week with Diverse Activities
July 14-20, 2024 | Cotabato City

To commemorate Accountancy Week, the PICPA Cotabato City Chapter (Chapter) organized a series of events:



Motorcade: The week began with a motorcade attended by officers, members, and newly passed CPAs.

Tree Planting Activity: In partnership with MENRE-BARMM, the Chapter conducted PICPA TANIM, a tree planting initiative in Sitio Lumboy, Barangay Awang, Maguindanao del Norte (MDN).

Free Vaccination Drive: The Chapter provided free vaccinations for flu, pneumococcal, and HPV at the COA-BARMM Covered Court.

Community Outreach: The Chapter partnered with the Office of MP Ubaida C. Pacasem to conduct a community outreach event benefiting Markazul Aytam Cotabato orphanage and Cotabato Bahay Maria, Inc.

Sports Fest: The Chapter organized an Accountancy Week Sports Fest featuring basketball, volleyball, badminton, and table tennis.

These activities showcased the Chapter's commitment to professional development, community engagement, and environmental stewardship.



PICPA Cotabato City Chapter Celebrates Leadership Transition and Accomplishments

July 15, 2024 | Grand Pagana Hall, Cotabato City

The Chapter held its 2024 General Assembly, Induction, and Turnover Ceremony, featuring informative sessions, networking, and fun activities. Atty. Arifa A. Ala, Assistant Governor of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, was the guest speaker and officiated the oath-taking ceremony for new officers. The chapter thanked all speakers, sponsors, and members for their participation and support.



PICPA Cotabato City Chapter President Fosters Collaboration with Government Agencies

July 2024 | Cotabato City

Chapter President MP Ubaida C. Pacasem visited key government officials in the region. He discussed the importance of CPAs in local governance and financial transparency with City Mayor Mohammad "Bruce" A. Matabalao, BARMM Chief Minister Hon. Ahod E. Ebrahim, Al Haj, and MDN Governor Abdulraof A. Macacua. Under his leadership, the officers also paid a courtesy visit with COA-BARMM RD Rasdy D. Guiling, CPA. The visits aimed to strengthen partnerships and promote collaboration between PICPA and government agencies.

PICPA National CSR Day: Donation Drive for Flood Victims

July 20, 2024 | Matanog, Barira and neighboring areas in MDN

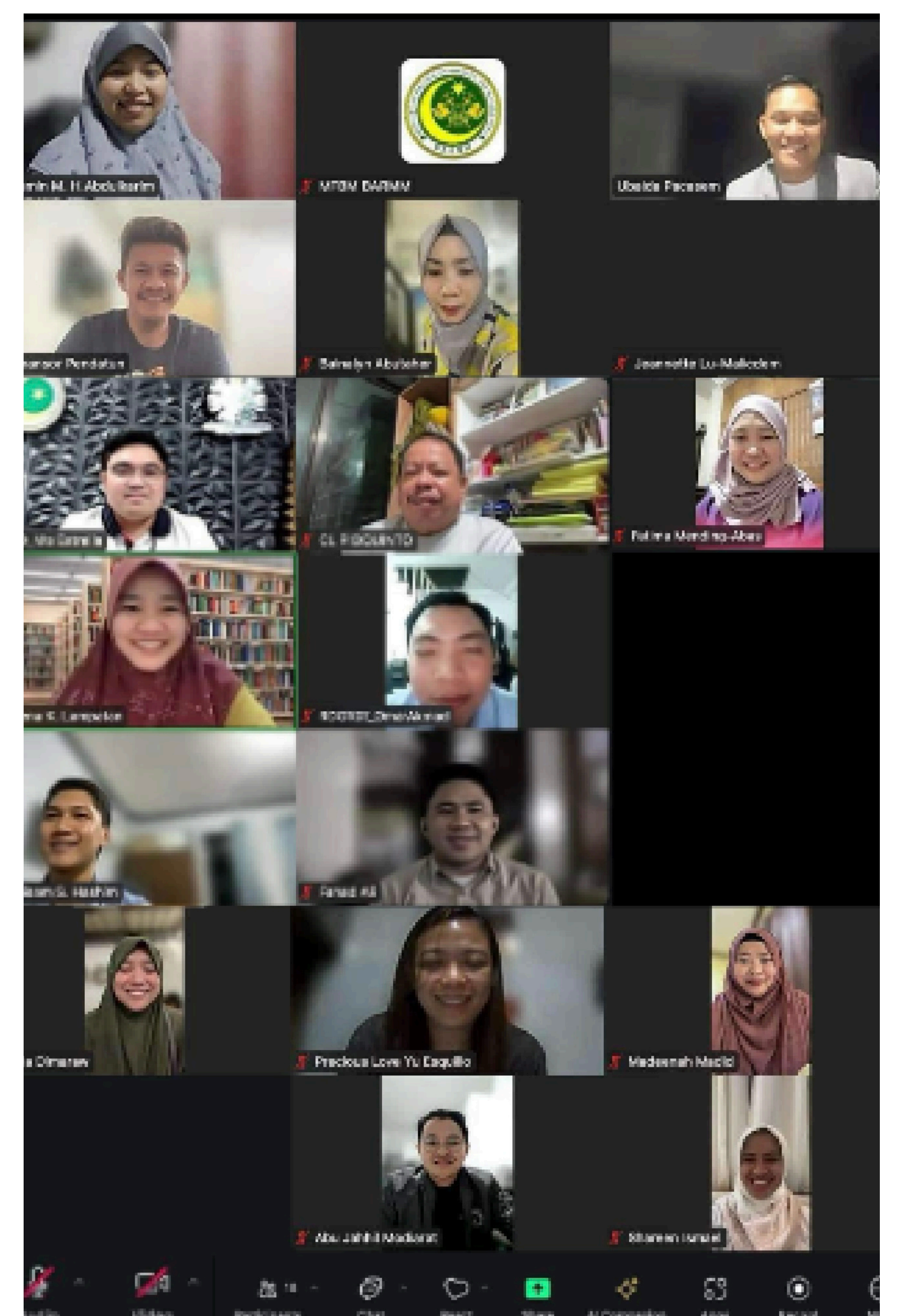


The Chapter provided relief assistance to flood victims in Matanog, Barira, and neighboring areas in MDN. The Chapter collected cash and in-kind donations to purchase essential supplies for the affected families. These supplies included food, hygiene items, blankets, and other necessities. The relief efforts were distributed to a total of 160 affected families in both municipalities.

PICPA Cotabato City Chapter Officers Virtual Leadership Training

July 31, 2024 | Virtual

The Chapter successfully conducted a leadership training program for its officers. The training featured Atty. Mohammad Muktadir Ahmad Estrella, Bangsamoro Director General for the Ministry of Social Services and Development (MSSD), as the resource person. Atty. Estrella emphasized the importance of understanding Moro history and culture for effective leadership in BARMM. He also discussed the principles of moral governance and the dual roles of leaders and followers. The training aimed to equip officers with the skills and knowledge needed to lead with integrity and contribute to the development of the region.



PICPA COTABATO CITY CHAPTER UPDATES: Events, Activities, and Achievements



PICPA Cotabato City Chapter President Officiates CPA Thanksgiving and Oath-Taking Ceremony

August 24, 2024 | Notre Dame University - JHS Theater, Cotabato City

During Notre Dame University's Thanksgiving and Oath-Taking Ceremony for its 13 new CPAs, Atty. Ubaida C. Pacasem, Chapter President, inducted the Chapter's newest members. In his message, he emphasized the importance of recognizing entries at the right time, being flexible and detail-oriented, and prioritizing values above all else in the accounting profession. The Chapter welcomed the new members and wished them success in their careers.

PICPA Cotabato City Chapter Recognizes Omar E. Akmad's Top 3 Placement in National Design Contest

August 6, 2024 | Cotabato City

Omar E. Akmad, Revenue Officer II from BIR RDO 107 Cotabato City and Chapter Assistant Auditor, has secured a top 3 finish in the National Design Making Contest for the new BIR logo. The Chapter extended its congratulations to Akmad for this remarkable achievement.



Dugtong Buhay, Handog ng Lingkod-Bayan: PICPA Cotabato City Chapter Conducts Blood Donation Drive in Partnership with CSC-BARMM

September 12, 2024 | City Mall Activity Area, Cotabato City

In commemoration of the 124th Philippine Civil Service Anniversary, the CSC for BARMM, in partnership with the PICPA Cotabato City Chapter, successfully conducted a blood donation drive. The event garnered a resounding show of support from numerous civil servants who generously donated blood, resulting in the collection of 103 blood bags.



PICPA Cotabato City Chapter President Inducted as Southern Mindanao Region Council Member

September 7, 2024 | Grand Summit Hotel, General Santos City

On September 7, 2024, the PICPA Southern Mindanao Region held a successful Oath-Taking Ceremony for newly inducted officers and its 3rd Monthly Meeting. New regional council officers were inducted, including Atty. Ubaida C. Pacasem, President of PICPA Cotabato City Chapter. Under the theme "VALUES ABOVE ALL", the event celebrated the new leadership and their commitment to advancing integrity and excellence in the accounting profession.



PICPA Cotabato City Chapter and CRMC Partner for Productivity Seminar

September 23, 2024 | CRMC Cancer Institute Auditorium, Cotabato City

PICPA Cotabato City Chapter and CRMC jointly conducted a seminar on MS Excel and Google Sheets titled "Unlocking Maximum Productivity with MS Excel and Google Sheets: Proven Strategies and Techniques." The seminar aimed to enhance productivity among CRMC employees. Chapter Vice-President for Membership, Almansor Pendatun led the seminar, sharing expert knowledge and practical techniques. The seminar provided participants with tools to streamline their tasks and improve their work efficiency. Both organizations expressed gratitude to all participants and speakers for the successful event and look forward to future collaborations.



THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS IN GOVERNMENT INTERNAL AUDITING: UPHOLDING MORAL GOVERNANCE IN BARMM

By: **Hasmiene D. Ibrahim**

In the intricate tapestry of government operations, internal auditing is a pivotal mechanism for ensuring accountability, transparency, and efficiency.

At the heart of this process are Certified Public Accountants (CPAs) whose expertise and ethical standards are indispensable in navigating the complexities of public financial management. This role is especially significant in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), where Chief Minister Ahod B. Ebrahim's advocacy for Moral Governance is a guiding principle.

GUARDIANS OF PUBLIC TRUST

Certified Public Accountants (CPAs) possess a unique ability to act as guardians of the public trust due to their extensive training and adherence to strict ethical standards. Their role in internal auditing is more than just number crunching; it involves a comprehensive examination of financial statements, a pervasive assessment of risk management processes, and an extensive evaluation of the internal control system. By ensuring that government entities comply with legal and regulatory requirements while also operating effectively and economically, CPAs play a critical role in maintaining public trust.

In BARMM, this responsibility is closely tied to the principles of Moral Governance. With a strong emphasis on ethical conduct, integrity, and accountability in all government operations, CPAs are key players in realizing this vision. By ensuring that public funds are managed with honesty and transparency, CPAs reinforce the moral and ethical foundations of the BARMM administration.

ENHANCING ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

Accountability and transparency are of utmost importance in the government sector, where public funds are at risk. CPAs play a crucial part in upholding these principles. They accomplish this by conducting regular audits that provide independent and unbiased evaluations of management controls and operations performance. This helps in strengthening the mechanism for ensuring accountability and instilling public confidence in the government's ability to operate for optimum service delivery.

The insights provided by CPAs during internal audits are invaluable for policymakers, regulators, and administrators. They present a clear picture of the operational health of an organization and point out areas that require improvement. This, in turn, encourages a culture of accountability in which government officials are held responsible for their actions and decisions. In BARMM, this aligns well where every action taken by the government is examined for its ethical and moral implications.

PROMOTING EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS

Another vital contribution of CPAs to internal auditing is the promotion of efficiency and effectiveness in government operations. Through detailed audits and evaluations, CPAs can identify inefficiencies and recommend practical solutions to enhance operational performance. Their expertise allows them to pinpoint bottlenecks, streamline processes, and suggest cost-saving measures without compromising the quality of services provided to the public.

CPAs also play a crucial role in risk management. By identifying potential risks and assessing the effectiveness of existing controls, they help government entities proactively address vulnerabilities. This proactive approach not only safeguards public resources, but also enhances the overall resilience of government operations. In BARMM, promoting efficiency and effectiveness is not just about better management; it is also about aligning every process with the ethical standards espoused by Moral Governance.

DRIVING CHANGE AND INNOVATION

In an era in which the public sector is increasingly under pressure to deliver more with less, CPAs are instrumental in driving change and innovation. Their analytical skills and forward-thinking mindset enable them to provide strategic insights beyond traditional auditing. CPAs can identify emerging trends, anticipate future challenges, and recommend innovative solutions to address them.

Moreover, CPAs in the government sector are often at the forefront of implementing new accounting standards and practices. Their commitment to continuous professional development ensures that they stay abreast of the latest developments in the field, which they can then apply to improve the government auditing processes. In BARMM, this drive for innovation is essential for realizing the aspirations of Moral Governance, ensuring that the region not only keeps pace with modern practices but also sets a benchmark for ethical administration.

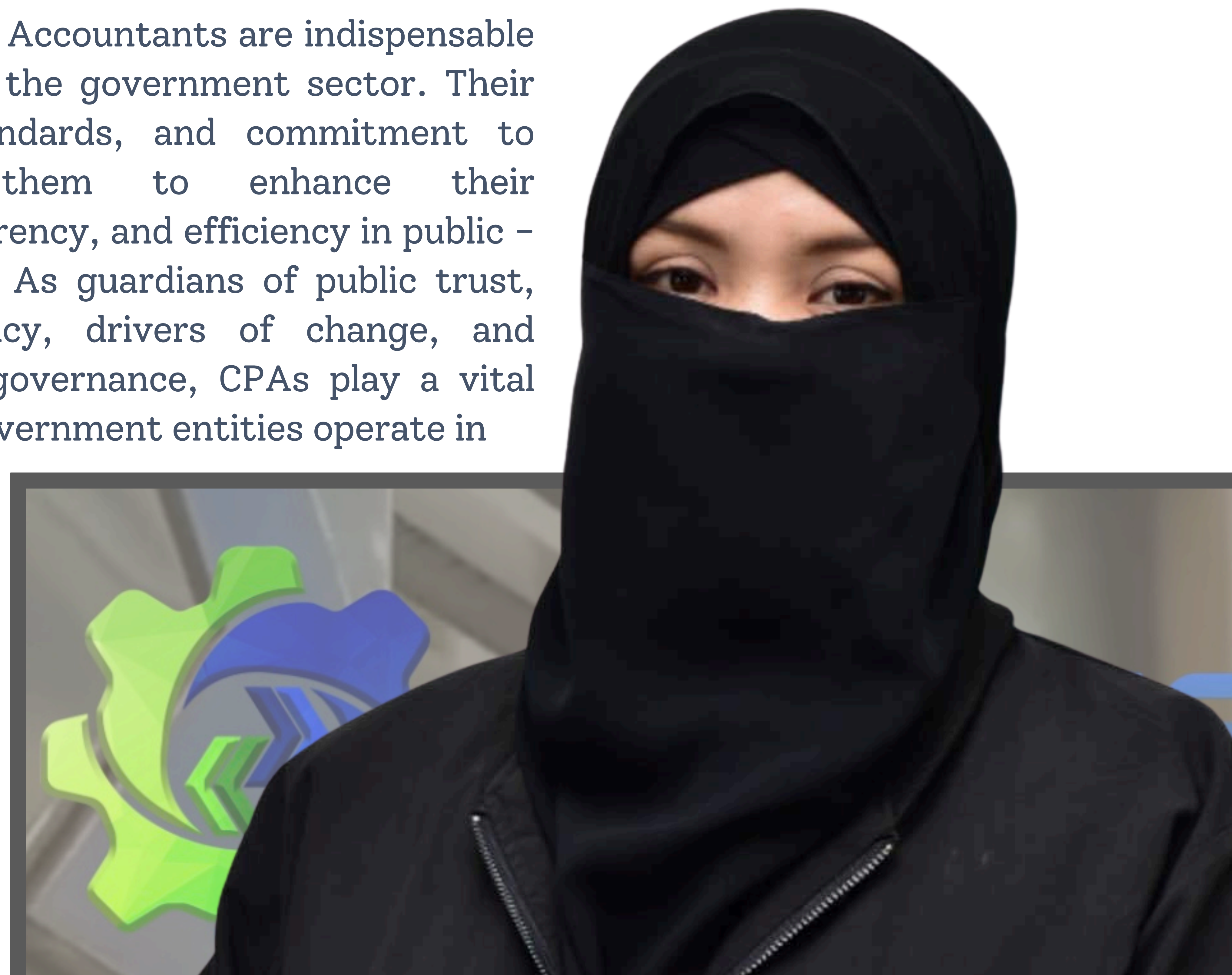
CHAMPIONING ETHICAL GOVERNANCE

Ethical governance is the cornerstone of a well-functioning government, and CPAs are their champions. The code of ethics that CPAs adhere to emphasizes integrity, objectivity, and professionalism. In their role as internal auditors, they bring these values to the forefront, ensuring that government operations are conducted with the highest standards of honesty and fairness.

This ethical foundation is crucial for building public confidence in governmental institutions. When the public knows that CPAs are involved in internal auditing, there is greater assurance that audits are being conducted impartially and that any issues identified will be addressed transparently. In BARMM, this trust is further reinforced by the Chief Minister's unwavering commitment to Moral Governance, creating a synergy where ethical practices are both expected and celebrated.

Indeed, Certified Public Accountants are indispensable to internal auditing in the government sector. Their expertise, ethical standards, and commitment to excellence enable them to enhance their accountability, transparency, and efficiency in public - financial management. As guardians of public trust, promoters of efficiency, drivers of change, and champions of ethical governance, CPAs play a vital role in ensuring that government entities operate in

the best interests of the public they serve. In BARMM, their role is even more pronounced, as they are key enablers in the realization of Chief Minister Ahod B. Ebrahim's advocacy or Moral Governance, ensuring that every action and decision is guided by integrity and ethical principles.



NAVIGATING MELS

A QUICK GUIDE FOR NEW AND EXISTING MEMBERS

As part of PICPA Cotabato City Chapter's commitment to improving member engagement and professional development, the Membership Events Learning System (MELS) has been introduced. MELS is designed to provide a seamless experience for managing memberships, registering for events, and accessing learning materials.

WHAT IS MELS?

MELS is a one-stop online platform where PICPA members can manage their membership, sign up for events, and engage with educational resources that support their professional growth.

IMPORTANT REMINDER FOR ALL PICPA MEMBERS

A Certificate of Membership in Good Standing is now required by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) before Certified Public Accountants (CPAs) can renew their licenses. This certificate can only be obtained via the MELS platform. As such, it is essential for every PICPA member to register with MELS and stay up to date with their membership dues.

FOR NEW MEMBERS: HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER

1. Go to the PICPA MELS Website:
Visit <https://picpasystem.com.ph>.
2. Click on the "Member's Login" button.
3. For new users, select "Register."
4. Complete the registration form. Fill out your details as required.
5. Verify your email address. A verification link will be sent to your email.

AFTER FOLLOWING THESE STEPS, YOU'RE READY TO EXPLORE THE VARIOUS FEATURES OF MELS AND START ENJOYING YOUR PICPA MEMBERSHIP!

FOR EXISTING MEMBERS: RECONNECTING WITH MELS

1. Go to the PICPA MELS Website:
Visit <https://picpasystem.com.ph>.
2. Click on the "Member's Login" button.
3. Enter your previous credentials and click "Forgot Password" to reset it.
4. Update your profile by completing the required information.
5. Verify your email address. Check your inbox for the confirmation link to activate your account.

For more information or assistance, check the [MELS FAQs](#) or reach out to us via the PICPA Cotabato City Chapter Facebook Page.

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