



Official Statement on the Signing of the 2026 National Budget

(January 6, 2026)

The Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (FINEX) recognizes the signing into law of the 2026 National Budget by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.

At a time when the economy faces both global challenges and domestic constraints, government spending remains a strong tool to boost growth, protect jobs, and support vulnerable sectors. When used effectively, the national budget can build confidence, attract private investment, and promote inclusive development.

However, FINEX emphasizes that governance quality will decide if the budget creates real economic impact.

We express concern about the scale and use of unprogrammed appropriations, which inherently create uncertainty, weaken fiscal discipline, and heighten governance risks if not subject to strict, transparent conditions. Without clear triggers, safeguards, and public disclosure, unprogrammed funds risk undermining budget credibility, distorting spending priorities, and eroding public trust.

In this context, FINEX welcomes the President's decision to veto ₱92.5 billion in unprogrammed appropriations, as well as his clear statement that unprogrammed funds must not be used as a backdoor for discretionary spending and that releases will occur only after careful validation and with full transparency.

This commitment sends a strong signal to markets, taxpayers, and institutions that fiscal discipline and accountability remain priorities. Economic stimulus should not come at the expense of transparency, and every peso, whether programmed or unprogrammed, must be guided by clear objectives, measurable outcomes, and strong oversight.

We also emphasize that the 2026 budget should be judged not by its size, but by its capacity to uplift all Filipinos through targeted investments in education, health, infrastructure, food security, and climate resilience, especially for sectors and regions most in need.

FINEX is prepared to collaborate with government and other stakeholders to promote sound fiscal management, disciplined execution, and strict governance standards. A budget that boosts the economy while maintaining transparency, accountability, and the rule of law is essential for building investor confidence and achieving long-term, inclusive growth for the Philippines.

Catalyzing Confidence: Leading Capital, Integrity and Innovation for the Nation