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Salary increase doable or not?

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AMIDST the controversy that is brewing over the salary increases of policemen and the prospective salary increases of teachers – the present administration is compelled to look for ideas, means, and resources on how to implement the policy of increasing the emoluments of civil servants.

As a former government employee, I would like to offer some questions so that solutions can be found that will serve the best interests of our country, its employees, and our citizens. The first question is: Are there any limits to salary increases not merely on the basis of valuable service, peril to those doing their jobs or duty, but also to take into consideration the requirement of government investable funds to increase the national infrastructure (Build, Build, Build) such action encourages more private investment which expands employment and government income.

Of course, the answer is yes, there are limits even for the richest country of the world.

That being the case – how does a government organization increase its fixed salaries? What will be the basis – from ordinary laborers to clerks, teachers, soldiers, policemen, members of the judiciary, legislative and the executive branches of government? How about government-owned corporations that earn millions of pesos and make millions in profits? Will the salaries, especially of the high ranking officers, be compensated for their profit-making efforts that produce millions? Will these officers be given huge allowances and corresponding bonuses? How about the rank and file?

Before privatization, we had many state-owned banks like PNB, insurance companies like GSIS which is still government-owned, NPC (National Power Corporation), PNOC (Philippine National Oil Company) which owned Petron, Energy Development Corporation, the Geothermal Corporations, etc. What was the general policy? Now that many of these super corporations have been privatized, what is the government policy with regard to government-owned banks or state-run corporations like SSS?

I ask these questions because it has a lot to do with increasing salaries. Furthermore, there are laws that require the adjustment of retirees' pensions based on the current or new salaries of the newly appointed officers. For example when the salary of Comelec commissioners are increased, there is a corresponding increase in the pension of all retired Comelec commissioners based on the new increased salaries. The same is true for retired Supreme Court justices. What about retired AFP and PNP generals and personnel?

Is there enough money for all the proposed and the other demands for an equivalent salary increase in the other sectors of government? I'm sorry to say that as of today I understand that even in the present retired AFP officers' fund, there's a shortage for the full payment of their pensions.

When will they be fully paid? I don't know!

*WAGES
* GOVERNMENT WORKERS