

DILG women execs speak of leadership edge



This Women's month, we are featuring the three feisty women Assistant Secretaries of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) who have shown that women are unfazed by their critical role in the bureaucracy.

"A woman has an innate compassion, enthusiasm and passion to serve, to work and to excel. She is lenient but firm, especially in decision-making," said Ester A. Aldana, the Assistant Secretary for Finance and Comptrollership and the concurrent Assistant Secretary for Administrative and Human Resource Development of the DILG.



A Sec. Ester A. Aldana

Aldana coordinates the preparation and finalization of the budgets of all major organizational units of the DILG, as well as the plans and programs related to efficient office administration and development of human resources of the DILG.

"The days of excessive and counter-productive conservatism are over...We should convey our gratitude to the recognition, respect and the opportunities and the rights afforded to us to be equal with men in the pursuit of a profession; in our career advancement and the best things life has to offer us – the women of today," she added.

Atty. Maria Perpetua B. Unico, the Assistant Secretary for Legal Matters and Affairs of the DILG, shares the same pride and gratitude. "The continuing emergence of women taking the reins and changing the landscape in the fields of public service is an affirmation that women are game changers and have long played significant roles."



Atty. Maria Perpetua B. Unico

Atty. Unico is in-charge of all legal matters and affairs of the DILG and its attached agencies

and local government units (LGUs). She monitors and supervises LGUs in the exercises of their ordinance powers.

"An edge for a woman executive is being able to strike a balance between making tough and firm decisions and maintaining a nurturing work environment," she said.

Another equally dynamic Assistant Secretary of the Department for Plans and Programs is Josefina Castilla – Go who is concurrently the Regional Director of the DILG Region IV-A.



A Sec. Josefina Castilla-Go

She oversees the Planning Service and the Bottom-Up Budgeting (BuB) Project Management Office.

Aside from these three distinguished Assistant Secretaries of the DILG, the training arm of the DILG, the Local Government Academy (LGA), is also headed by an illustrious woman in the persona of Marivel C. Sacendoncillo.

"Women exude a nurturing type of leadership.

Majority of us are mothers so we put in place our so-called psycho-social abilities or women's instincts in terms of mediation, coming up with win-win solutions, consensus building and decision making. As career executives, we are able to balance work over and above our family responsibilities," she said.



Dir. Marivel C. Sacendoncillo

She urges women to "continue the trend of women's excellence and champion the creation of women's spaces as significant partners in our nation's development."

Certainly, these four "Juanas" exemplify active, meaningful participation and leadership of women in Philippine government and keep true to the aspiration: Kapakanan ni Juana, Isama sa Agenda!

-Nesreen Cadar Abdulrauf, PACS

DILG-CO Quality Policy

We, the DILG Central Office, commit to formulate sound policies and provide effective technical and administrative services to promote excellence in local governance, strengthen local government capacities, and enhance the service delivery of our Regional and Field Offices.