



Women's BULLETIN

2017

The Official Publication of DILG Gender and Development Program

“You’re absolutely right, ‘yan lang ang tingin mo sakin, taga-handa ng isusuot mo, ng kakainin mo, taga-ayos ng bahay mo. Taga-salo sa mga problema mo. I was never your partner. I’m just your wife.”

These famous lines in the late 1990s Filipino movie “Madrasta” have stuck into the memories of many Filipinos not just because of actress Sharon Cuneta’s prolific acting, but perhaps it has somehow shed light on the issue of gender inequality, at least in homes or between a husband and wife.

This March, gender equality, gender mainstreaming, or generally Gender and Development (GAD) take center stage again as the country observes the National Women’s Month Celebration (NWMC) with the theme, “WE Make Change Work for Women.”

According to the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW), the theme is in line with President Rodrigo Roa Duterte’s directive during his first State of the Nation Address (SONA) wherein he ordered all agencies, oversight bodies, and local government units down to the barangay level to fully implement the Magna Carta for Women (MCW).

The elements of the theme are:

- WE stands for Women Empowerment – empowering women enables them to confidently and meaningfully engage with appropriate institutions to ensure that they contribute to and benefit from development and changes.
- Make Change Work = MCW = Magna Carta of Women –strengthening the implementation of the MCW at all levels and putting in place functional mechanisms as well as implementing and making known to citizens, programs and services that address strategic gender needs of women.
- Change – also means Compassionate and Harmonized Actions and Networks for Gender Equality.

making Change WORK FOR WOMEN

• We / us or “kami / tayo” in Filipino –All of us, in our various capacities whether as government officials and employees, members of the private sector, the academe, non-government organizations, or as private individuals can be partners for a change that is gender-responsive.

Women empowerment

But what exactly does women empowerment mean for some DILG-Central Office employees?

Israel Jiel F. Fedelicio, LGOO IV in the National Barangay Operations Office said, “I believe a woman is empowered when she has self-awareness of her rights, she is able to exercise those rights, and she is capable of helping other women do the same.”

“As for my wife, I believe she is empowered because she is able to do these and she does her own ways to contribute to our goals as partners,” he added.

Atty. Benjamin J. Zabala, Jr., Officer-in-Charge of Internal Audit Service- Operations Audit Division also gave his thoughts. “An empowered woman is recognized in society. She can do what a man does. She can show and express her emotion and worth.”

For women themselves, Atty. Rose Shayne T. Duazo of the Legal and Legislative Liaison Service and Maria Louise P. Valbuena of the Bureau of Local Government Supervision, proudly claim that they are empowered because they are exercising self-determination, that is being able to decide for themselves and having their own resources.

Like Shayne and Louise, you can also make change work for you! --- **Nesreen C. Abdulrauf**

mark your calendar

DILG-CO GAD Activities to Look Out For this March 2017

- PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATION SERVICE’s “Promoting Gender-Fair Language in the Interior and Local Government Sectors: A Lecture on GAD”
- ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE-HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DIVISION’s “Orientation for New Employees cum Gender Sensitivity Training and Seminar Workshop”



Did you know?

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osa/gf/conceptsanddefinitions.htm>
GENDER EQUALITY refers to equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities of women & men and girls & boys. Equality does not mean that women and men will become the same, but that women’s & men’s rights, responsibilities and opportunities will not depend on whether they are born male or female. It implies that interests, needs and priorities of both women and men are taken into consideration, recognizing the diversity of different groups of men and women.

[United Nations (UN) Women]