



Women's BULLETIN

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Women do make Change work in the jail bureau

Women always strive for equal opportunities in the workplace. Some women exert more efforts than others to make their dent in whichever field they choose to tread.

Women working in the field of public safety, particularly at the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), are a rare breed. Their work involves safekeeping of inmates which requires arduous efforts and huge amount of time, working even beyond normal working schedule. One admirable truth that sets them apart from other regular desk jobs is the fact that women in the public safety sector risk their lives every day for the work and services needed to perform their function.

Despite the domination of male officers in the Bureau, some women have taken on the task and the possibility of working and eventually staying for good in a government agency dedicated to supervise all district, city and municipal jails nationwide.

In this issue of the DILG Women's Bulletin, we will feature two of the exceptional women jail officers from the Bureau who exemplify the real meaning of working towards women empowerment.



SJO3 Jocelyn Badillos-Riño



Supt. Ma. Annie A. Espinoza

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Jail Superintendent Ma. Annie A. Espinoza has been with the Bureau since 2012. She was recognized as the 2013 Best District Warden of the Year given by BJMP Regional Office IV-A, as well as a recipient of the 2014 Red Orchid Award given by the Department of Health. The award emphasizes the significant achievement of the Bureau in tobacco control, while advocating for a 100% tobacco-free environment.

"It is about time that women make a mark in whatever field they want to pursue and not simply fit in. Women should not be afraid to venture out of their comfort zone. Women should also succeed in their careers without losing themselves in the process and find time for their families," Espinoza said.

Being in the midst of a challenging male-dominated bureau, Espinoza nurtured her abilities and developed her professional skills in keeping with the BJMP's mandate of humane safekeeping and development. She proved them wrong on the perceived lesser physical prowess and lesser willingness to enter into physical confrontation of females and showed to them that female jail officers can indeed cope and exceed the challenges at hand.

"Inmates tend to trust female jail officers sooner than male counterpart so it helps a female jail officer to recognize, discover the skills of inmates and supervise them," Espinoza said.

She added that because of the innate tendency of women to be meticulous, women in the jail bureau contribute significantly to jail improvements.

She also explained that while it is very challenging for a female jail officer to introduce and implement development programs among male detainees, once their innate skills and artistic gifts have been unearthed, these can be put to the right work for the mutual benefit of the bureau and the inmates.

SJO3 Jocelyn Badillos-Riño

With a degree of Bachelor of Science in Criminology from the Philippine College of Criminology (PCCr), Senior Jail Officer 3 (SJO3) Jocelyn Badillos Riño is a licensed criminologist and has been with the BJMP since 1998. She started her career as a Jail Officer I and eventually rose from the ranks. Currently assigned at the Marikina City Jail Male Dormitory (MD), she is their Gender and Development (GAD) focal person.

In recognition of her achievements, Badillos-Riño was awarded the Plaque of Recognition for Inmates Welfare Development, Jail Non-Commissioned Officers (JNCO) category in 2014.

As a woman leader in the male-dominated sector, Badillos has been exposed to insecurities from the opposite gender. She has also experienced a lot of challenges in implementing the development plans and programs in the Bureau but through sheer characterization of the underlying principles of public service and her steadfast leadership, she was able to steer the pack towards a productive work performance.

Riño advised, *"Be determined to follow your goals in life, do your part and do it right and with faith."*

Thanks to women like Espinoza and Riño who chose to thread the more challenging path. Indeed, women can make a big difference. Women can make real change happen.

--- Paul Dominique D. Tejada, PACS