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DILG Sustaining Change for Women

Every March, the Philippines observes the National Women's Month Celebration (NWMC) to highlight achievements for women and girls, evaluate gender equality efforts, and determine steps that must be taken to promote sustainable development in women's empowerment. Most importantly, the celebration aims to acknowledge the important roles and achievements of women.

"In our country, we are going beyond ceremonies. We are practicing it. We are actualizing it. As the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) observed, the agenda for gender equality in the Philippines is well advanced as compared to other countries in Asia," said DILG Undersecretary for Local Government Marlo L. Iringan in a video message during the online flag ceremony of the DILG Central Office (CO) on February 28, 2022. "Nevertheless we should not rest easy."

According to the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW), in terms of closing the gender gap, the Philippines remains "the top country in Asia".

The Commission cited the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2020 wherein it shows that the Philippines has closed 78% of its overall gender gap, garnering a score of 0.781 (down by 1.8 percentage points from .799 in 2019).

"With this, it ranked 16th out of 153 countries with the narrowest gap between men and women, dropping by eight notches from its place last year. Notably, it remains as the sole Asian country that made it to the top 20 tiers," the PCW said in its report posted on its website.

DILG Secretary Eduardo M. Año acknowledged the valuable contributions of women in advancing good governance noting that the Department is fortunate to have women within its ranks.

"Mapalad ang pamahalaan dahil napapaligiran ng matitino, mahuhusay, maaasahang mga kababaihan na lingkod-bayan. For without you, our efforts to guide and exact accountability from our local leaders and attached agencies would have been lacking. You gave voice to the Juanas all over the archipelago with the creation of our policies and thrust for peace and development," he said in a video message.

From 2017 to 2022, the theme of the Women's Month Celebration is "We Make Change Work for Women," highlighting the active role of women as contributors to progress. As this year culminates the theme, one may reflect: "Did we make change work for women?"

The Shadow Pandemic

Undersecretary Marjorie N. Jalosjos, the chairperson of the DILG CO-Gender and Development (GAD) Focal Point System or GFPS Executive Committee, admits that the COVID-19 pandemic had a great impact on the progress of empowering women in the country.

She raised concern on the "shadow pandemic" or the global increase in domestic violence amid the COVID-19 health crisis.

"Sa mga isyu na kinakaharap ng ating bansa, papaano papasok si Juana at ang mga kakamping Juans, ang mga kalalakihan? Sa taong ito, bibigyang pansin natin ang boses at ambag ni Juana sa pagsulong sa kamalayan ng mga napapanahong isyu sa lipunan na dapat pagtuunan ng pansin ng ating gobyerno," Jalosjos said.



She said that it is important to tackle women's issues, especially during the election season to make the next administration aware of such.

To further the efforts of promoting GAD and women empowerment, the DILG CO - GFPS will conduct activities every Monday this March 2022:

- Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) Campaign Launch on March 7;
- DILG Online Reorientation on GEDSI on March 14;
- Presentation and Awarding Ceremony of #PurpleYourProfile2022 campaign on March 21; and
- DILG NWMC Culminating Activity and Awarding Ceremony on March 28.

Jalosjos noted that such "actions must be taken" so the GEDSI progress will not suffer from "backsliding."

"Women must be the architects as well as the beneficiaries of efforts to build stronger and better response to these highly visible fault lines," she emphasized during the flag ceremony welcoming the NWMC. ■

DILG-CO Quality Policy

We, the DILG-Central Office, imbued with the core values of Integrity, Commitment, Teamwork and Responsiveness, commit to formulate sound policies on strengthening local government capacities, performing oversight function over LGUs, and providing rewards and incentives. We pledge to provide effective technical and administrative services to promote excellence in local governance and enhance the service delivery of our Regional and Field Offices for the LGUs to become transparent, resilient, socially-protective and competitive, where people in the community live happily.

We commit to continually improve the effectiveness of our Quality Management System compliant with applicable statutory and regulatory requirements and international standards gearing towards organizational efficiency in pursuing our mandate and achieving our client's satisfaction.

We commit to consistently demonstrate a "Matino, Mahusay at Maasahang Kagawaran Para sa Mapagkalinga at Maunlad na Pamahalaang Lokal".