



Women's BULLETIN

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More REASONS TO CELEBRATE Womanhood

Being a woman is getting better and better with time.

It's so easy to be pretty nowadays using the right skincare and makeup that are *hiyang* to you whether they are local or imported and affordable or pricey products.

But physical beauty is just on the surface. What's really empowering women are legislations that change and impact lives when implemented right.

Ahead of the 2019 National Women's Month Celebration (NWMC), groundbreaking laws are out and fresh from the oven. Moms can now enjoy the 105-day maternity leave (that's practically 3.5 months!) and the new universal health care law will benefit women and families.

This year, do you know that the Magna Carta of Women (MCW) turns a decade-old? It is the comprehensive women's human rights law that seeks to eliminate discrimination through the recognition, protection, fulfillment, and promotion of the rights of Filipino women.

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) is at the forefront of "fully implementing the MCW down to barangay level" as directed by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte in his first and second State of the Nation Address.

Now that the MCW is 10-year old, the *DILG Women's Bulletin* sets a short chatter with Assistant Secretary for Mindanao and Special Concerns Marjorie N. Jalosjos, the Chairperson of the reconstituted DILG Central Office – GAD (Gender and Development) Focal Point System (GFPS).

As the Chair of the DILG CO GFPS Executive Committee, what are your major plans in steering Filipino women empowerment?

We will localize the MCW down to the barangay level using films as medium of our advocacy and the women's caravan as our vehicle to touch base with every community.

I also plan to re-energize our VAWC (Violence Against Women and Children) Desks through massive capacity development programs for ground implementers and the creation of a more accurate and responsive monitoring system.

What can DILG employees expect or look forward to now that the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) is under the supervision of the DILG, pursuant to Executive Order No. 67, s. 2018?

Even before the PCW joined the DILG family, my leadership in my areas of assignment has always been diverse and creative. In March 2018, we have institutionalized the CineMarya, the Philippines' First Women's Film Festival.

Now with the PCW onboard, we expect a more colorful and extra meaningful advocacy drive in pushing for women's rights and welfare, empowerment, and full and equitable participation in nation-building.

This year's Women's Month Celebration is something that we can all look forward to - we are launching the six-year Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) Plan and its compendium, the International Women's Month celebration, and the *Takbo ng Kababaihan para sa Kalikasan* (Run for Manila Bay) as culminating activity.

In your view, how can DILG employees contribute to championing GAD in their own professional capacities and as individual citizens?

A genuine program should run and end with a genuine cause. I believe championing GAD is not just about workshops and planning. It's not just about mapping and writing of compendium. More so, it's not just about printing marketing collaterals, displaying banners, and conduct of rallies and celebrations.

Championing GAD must come from the heart. Wherever we are, whatever we do, we put our best foot forward for women and children, we respect lives and the gender and sexes that come with it.

Jalosjos, fondly called by the GFPS members as the 'DILG GADdness', also advises women and men alike to exercise their right to suffrage this coming midterm elections on May 13.

"Vote for national and local candidates that have a proven track record as *matino*, *mahusay* at *maasahan* in 'making change work for women' through enabling policies, programs, projects, and activities," she said. ■

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DILG SHARED VISION

A strongly determined and highly trusted Department committed to capacitate and nurture local government units, public order, and safety institutions to sustain peaceful, progressive and resilient communities where people live happily.



ASEC. MARJORIE N. JALOSJOS
Assistant Secretary for Mindanao and Special Concerns
and concurrent Chairperson of the reconstituted
DILG Central Office – GAD (Gender and Development)
Focal Point System (GFPS)

HAPPENINGS IN THE DILG CO FOR THE 2019 NWMC

- A Talk on Unpaid Care Work...to be led by BLGD
- Bazaar...to be organized by ISTMS
- Orientation for New Employees and Gender Sensitivity Training...to be led by AS-HRMD
- Media Activity or Interviews...to be arranged by PACS
- A Symposium on Championing Women Empowerment thru Media and Communications...to be led by PACS
- *Takbo ng Kababaihan Para sa Kalikasan* on March 31...to be led by the Office of Asec. Jalosjos