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DILG Female Personnel on Why *Women's* Vote Counts



The right of suffrage was granted to Filipino women in 1937. Since then, Filipinas have come a long way and two of them have already been elected president. This *DILG GAD Bulletin* sounds out some of our Department's empowered female personnel's thoughts on the value of women's vote this coming May 2022 national and local elections.

With the significant number of women voters in the Philippine electorate, I believe if women can or will solidify their votes for one candidate, it will become instrumental in bringing about the change we all yearn to happen.

My criteria for choosing my candidate include competence, character, and conscience—all with equal value. Based on the level of the people's political awareness of women's rights and their significant role in nation-building, plus the recognition that women gained in several parts of the world either as trailblazers in their chosen fields or rational-emotive but better leaders, I would say that female candidates now have better chances of getting elected; provided, they have an effective political strategy and adequate resources to run their campaign.

I agree that government employees should not dip their toes in any overt partisan political activities. After all, government employees swore an oath to the public whom they should serve with utmost dignity and professionalism and not to any elective official temporarily occupying a seat of authority.

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Before we demand good governance from our elected officials, we must ensure that we have done our part and responsibilities for our country, especially in exercising our right to vote.

The women's vote can make a difference and bring about change because it represents their ideals, which may be overlooked by others, such as gender equality and women empowerment in the country. We deserve to vote and to be heard because regardless of gender, everyone will be affected by the outcome of the elections

My candidates must be

- ✓ **Matino**, with no history of corruption issues;
- ✓ **Mahusay**, with a commendable track record, and do not lie about their accomplishments; and
- ✓ **Maaasahan**, with ideal management and decision-making skills, focuses on inclusive leadership.

It is not given that all female candidates will perform better than male bets, but their being 'female' should never be a disadvantage in holding national and local positions. They can equally lead, manage, perform, and inspire and some female leaders can even do better than their male counterparts.

More than the gender of voters, I think what's important is that every sector of society is represented well in the voting population and that they are well informed and educated about how the government works, the services offered to them by the state, and what they should be expecting from the government and our politicians, and how important their participation is.

The candidates I will most likely choose to vote for are those who are sensible, compassionate, have a vision for the country that makes sense to me (while ideal, it has to be backed by an achievable plan), and generally have good taste. I also like candidates who can turn ideas and concepts that benefit and uplift the citizens' welfare and wellbeing, into reality.

If we want real change in terms of gender and development (GAD), we need to stop looking at whether one gender will be superior or will thrive better than the other. We must also shun those who are running only for selfish interests. In the spirit of fairness and *delicadeza*, I agree that government employees should not campaign for any candidate, or at the very least, refrain from mentioning names or very specific references for certain candidates.



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Powerful words from truly empowered women! To all DILG Iskas, Isays, and Annas and all women voters out there, we hope you get inspired to go out and vote in the May 2022 polls. Let your votes be counted.

As 28th US President Woodrow Wilson once said: "**Women suffrage is going to prevail...it is not merely because women are discontented. It is because the women have seen visions of duty, and that is something which we not only cannot resist, we do not resist. There is a force behind you that will beyond any peradventure be triumphant.**" ■ **Edgardo S. Tugade**

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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**".