



Gender and Development BULLETIN

VOLUME 18 NO. 4
MARCH 2022

2022

The Official Publication of Public Affairs and Communication Service on Gender and Development (GAD)



Feminine Perspectives on Working in the 'New Normal'

After two years of getting accustomed to the work from home (WFH) setup, the working population is now adjusting to reporting back to the office amid the easing to the lowest Alert Level 1 in the majority of localities in the country.

According to the Office of the President's **Memorandum Circular No. 96, series of 2022**, all national government agencies and government instrumentalities must adhere to the 100% on-site workforce in areas under Alert Level 1.

This National Women's Month Celebration, the *DILG GAD Bulletin* hears from female employees on their take about physically reporting to office while adjusting to the 'new normal' way of life.

POINT OF VIEW OF A DILG ELIGIBLE BACHELORETTE

For COVID-19 survivor **Sara Caliwagan** of **DILG-CALABARZON**, she is genuinely excited to go back to work, and do usual routines in the 'new normal.'



"Sobrang naapektuhan ng pandemic yung mental health ko. I realized na iyong pagiging strong, hindi lang siya iyong kaya mong harapin lahat mag-isa, pero dapat marunong kang i-admit sa sarili mo na kailangan mo ng help and eventually mag-reach out to people for help," she said.

Sara's advice to fellow DILG personnel is to embody the Department's brand values of being matino, mahusay at maaasahan. *"I vow to always personify those values. It's in the little details, the little things that we do. Iyong mga times na we are challenged to do the right things kahit walang nakakakita and walang nakaka-acknowledge. In those moments dapat we uphold our values."*

WORDS OF WISDOM OF DILG WORKING MOMS

For **Melissa Claire Gacute** of **Emergency 911 National Office**, she is happy to be with all her workmates but apprehensive because the virus has not been totally eradicated. A mother of a two-year old toddler, the WFH arrangement during the pandemic taught her two things.

"Una, ang maging malinis sa katawan at sa bahay. Naging ugali ko na ang palaging paghuhugas ng kamay. Pangalawa, naging madiskarte ako. Natutunan kong magbenta-benta online na hanggang sa ngayon ay napapakinabangan ko pa rin," she said.



If we want to make change work, Melissa Claire suggests to start with ourselves. *"Kung gusto natin ng pagbabago ay dapat umpisahan muna natin ito sating sarili bago tayo tularan ng ating mga katrabaho o ibang tao."*

Hopeful for a better future, **Vengie Panlilio** from the **Bureau of Local Government Supervision** says that it adds to her anxiety

whenever she sees people not following the most basic of health protocol of wearing a face mask.



"In following minimum public health standards (MPHS), isipin mo na lang na ginagawa rin ito ng iba, and because of that malalayo tayo sa sakit," she said.

Vengie urges her fellow civil servants to be conscientious and extra careful in public places. *"Mas maging maingat po sana tayo lahat. Don't just think about yourself. Wag iyong parang lax ka lang sa pagsunod ng MPHS. Think of other people na nag-iingat ng mabuti," she advised.*

A mix of gratefulness and trepidation, **Leilani Lindo** of the **Planning Service** says, *"I sense a mental fear of struggle since physically reporting back to work calls for us to put a little bit more effort as compared to the pre-pandemic period due to the anxiety of being re-infected, add to that the transportation issues and connectivity problems. But still, I feel happy and grateful since we were all given a chance before to multi-task and juggle work remotely," she said.*

"The pandemic taught us the balance we need in our lives. The emotional rollercoaster I experienced, being one of those that dealt with COVID-19 personally, made me discern that it boils down to just serving as an inspiration; hoping that somewhere, somehow, someone might see my contributions to the organization as a stimulus to achieving something greater," Lindo added.



She expressed her wish for the younger generation of DILG personnel. *"Let us not forget the lessons we have learned during the pandemic such as going back to the basics and searching for what is essential. Stick to your mandate, produce outputs, aim for impact and results. As we are now entering the new normal, towards a healthier and more resilient Philippines, lavarn lang, bes. Embrace change. Let us walk together and watch each other's back," she said.*

Indeed, such strong, insightful perspectives from DILG Isays and Anas on conquering the new normal and going back to the mainstream world. Remember that with resilience, faith, cautiousness, and a bright disposition, we are sure to overcome the challenges of the ever-changing world. ■ **Paul Dominique D. Tejada**

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"**.

Layout by: Ghie D. Tinawin