



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KAGAWARAN NG KAPALIGIRAN AT LIKAS YAMAN



BAGONG PILIPINAS

MEMORANDUM

FOR/TO : All Undersecretaries
All Assistant Secretaries
All Service Directors
All Bureau Directors
All Heads of Attached Agencies
All Heads of Office, Central Office
All Regional Executive Directors
All Regional Directors (EMB and MGB)

ATTN : The GAD Focal Persons

FROM : The Undersecretary, Finance, Information Systems and Climate Change, and The Chairperson, National Gender and Development Focal Point System

SUBJECT : NATIONAL WOMEN'S MONTH CELEBRATION (NWMC) ON MARCH 2024 AND REQUEST FOR LINE UP OF ACTIVITIES

DATE : 11 December 2023

Proclamation No. 224 dated December 16, 1977 ("Declaring the First Week of March Every Year as Women's Week and March 8, 1998 and Every Year Thereafter as Women's Rights and International Peace Day) and Proclamation No. 227 dated March 20, 1998 ("Providing for the Observance of the Month of March as Women's Role in History Month") enjoin the nation to celebrate and conduct activities that will highlight the participation and contribution of women to nation building as trailblazers and harbingers of change.

The NWMC recurring theme until 2028: "WE for Gender Equality and Inclusive Society" calls to women and everyone to promote equality; inclusivity; and encourage a society that overrides differences in SOGIE (sexual orientation, gender identity and expression), class, ability, generation, status, and culture, where every individual, each with rights and responsibilities, has an active role to play.

According to the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW), "WE" stands for "Women and Everyone" which emphasizes the role of women and everyone in the pursuit of gender equality. "WE" also stands for Women's Empowerment that can only be achieved when agencies, mechanisms, institutions, private partners, and duty-bearers from the national to the local level provide women equal rights and opportunities.

The NWMC for FY 2024 aims to inform and engage women and everyone to push for gender-responsive government programs and services; provide platforms to share good practices and address gaps, challenges, and commitments in pursuing gender and development (GAD); inspire women and girls to empower themselves and take on leadership roles, opportunities, and benefits toward maximizing their full potential; and to promote a society that ensures inclusion, protection of fundamental freedoms, diversity, and social justice and in which every individual is capacitated and encouraged to take an active role to play.

To pursue a green and blue economy and create green jobs towards a sustainable, inclusive and resilient economy, the DENR National Gender and Development Focal Point System (NGADFPS) promotes the theme, **“WE for Gender Equality, Inclusive and Resilient Society,”** for the 2024 celebration.

The DENR Gender and Development Office shall spearhead the celebration at the Central Office. All DENR Offices are urged to adopt the theme, and come up with your support activities for the month-long celebration, with focus on gender-responsive community-based disaster risk reduction activities. Said activities are proposed to primarily be conducted in economically-disadvantaged communities, such as climate vulnerable provinces (Masbate, Sorsogon, Catanduanes, Ifugao, Apayao, Kalinga, Mountain Province, Western Samar, Eastern Samar, Northern Samar, Southern Leyte, Negros Oriental, Siquijor, Saranggani, Dinagat Islands, Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur, Bukidnon, Zamboanga del Norte, Lanao del Norte, Maguindanao, North Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Sulu), priority major urban centers of the CCAM-DRR Roadmap (Metro Manila, Metro Cebu, Metro Iloilo, Metro Davao), water-stressed priority areas (Metro Manila, Angeles City, Baguio City, Metro Cebu, Bacolod City, Iloilo City, Cagayan de Oro City, Zamboanga City, Davao City), provinces with high exposure to climate impact drivers under the 2023 National Adaptation Planning Processes (Negros Occidental, Camarines Sur, Samar, Pangasinan, Masbate, Leyte, Bulacan, Cagayan, Quezon, Albay, Cebu, Pampanga, Iloilo, Capiz, Sorsogon, Zamboanga del Sur), and other typhoon- and landslide-prone and calamity-stricken areas. **Annex 1** lists possible activities that may be considered in these community engagement sessions.

The PCW also suggested activities for stakeholders include: 1) organizing virtual or hybrid activities to discuss gender issues that can be resolved or minimized; 2) produce and distribute information materials (via online and print) featuring the list of gender-responsive programs and services benefiting women; 3) play songs from the *MusikJuana Songwriting Contest 2021* and other PCW advocacy songs in respective office premises; and 4) offer direct services, transactions, and products to the public such as freebies, discounts, special lanes, and other promos for women and girls. Likewise, everyone is encouraged to join the *Girl Child Week*, observed every fourth week of March, which is led by the Council for the Welfare of Children, as well as the *Women with Disabilities Day* celebration spearheaded annually by the National Council on Disability Affairs.

We request your office to submit your own line up of support activities not later than February 15, 2024, through email at denr.gad@denr.gov.ph for consolidation. You may also view the PCW-organized activities and support activities for stakeholders on their website at <https://pcw.gov.ph/2024-national-womens-month-celebration/>.

Officials and employees are urged to support the Purple Wednesday campaign for the entire month of March. We also enjoin everyone to wear purple or its shade on March 4, 2024, Monday, for the opening program of the NWMC.

We look forward to your usual kind support. Thank you.



ATTY. ANALIZA REBUELTA - TEH