



METROPOLITAN
WATERWORKS &
SEWERAGE
SYSTEM
REGULATORY
OFFICE

GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Republic Act (RA) No. 9710, otherwise known as “The Magna Carta for Women” (MCW) mandates all government offices, including government-owned and controlled corporations and local government units to adopt gender mainstreaming as a strategy for implementing the law and attaining its objectives. It also mandates planning, budgeting, monitoring, and evaluation for gender and development.

As such, the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System Regulatory Office (MWSS RO) ensured that gender mainstreaming is an integral part of its projects, programs, activities, and processes to attain a gender-fair and gender neutral working environment. Furthermore, the MWSS RO ensured a safe workplace so that gender-based violence and discrimination could not prosper by coordinating all Gender and Development (GAD) related policies, issuances, memoranda, and laws to all its staff.

In line with this, the MWSS RO has implemented, supported, and attended various activities in 2021 in support of gender mainstreaming and gender development in the agency, as it is committed to achieve gender equality and women’s empowerment in the country.

The actual accomplishment of the MWSS RO for the year 2021, in implementing its programs, projects, and activities in addressing the gender issues, gender gaps, inclusivity, and women empowerment in compliance with Republic Act 8760 or the General Appropriations Act of 2000.

On 01 June 2021, the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) endorsed the 2021 Annual GAD Plan and Budget (GPB) of the MWSS RO amounting to PhP 30,958,907.16 or 11.16% of the agency’s total budget appropriation for the year.

Below are the significant accomplishments in the implementation of GAD-related activities:

Capacity Building

- Gender Sensitivity Training
 - 1st batch – 3-4 March 2021
 - 2nd batch – 2-3 December 2021
- Deepening Session on Harmonized Gender and Development Guidelines
- Assessment Using the Enhanced Gender Mainstreaming Evaluation Framework
- GAD Planning and Budgeting



National Women's Month 2021

One of the highlights of 2021 was the celebration of the National Women's Month pursuant to Proclamation No. 224, s. 1998 declaring the first week of March each year as Women's Week and 8 of March as Women's Rights and International Peace Day; Proclamation No. 227, s. 1988 providing for the observance of the month of March as Women's Role in History Month; and RA No. 6949, s. 1990 declaring 8 of March of every year as National Women's Day.

The 2021 National Women's Month Celebration serves as a tribute, platform, and call to action that highlights the extraordinary roles of ordinary Juanas in the society as trailblazers and harbingers of change. This celebration is also a venue to discuss and address the issues that women continue to face so empowerment can be fully achieved. The campaign is also a call for concrete, sustainable, and inclusive actions towards gender equality.

The MWSS RO supported, attended, and conducted various activities that promotes women empowerment and gender equality. The theme of the 2021 National Women's Month was "*Juana, Laban sa Pandemya; Kaya!*" which highlights women's participation in battling the COVID-19 pandemic as well as discusses gender issues exacerbated by the pandemic. This served as an avenue to a meaningful conversation about the significant and extraordinary contribution of women, challenges faced and conquered by women and men, and the inspirational stories during the pandemic.

Pride Month Celebration 2021

Pride Month is important because it marks the start of huge change within the LGBTQ+ community, as well as the wider societal implications. Although attitudes and injustice still remain, the LGBTQ+ community has come a long way since the Stonewall riots of 1969 and by continuing in this long-standing tradition, they continue to raise awareness, improve the attitudes of society, and encourage inclusiveness. For the very first time, the MWSS RO joined the nation in celebrating the Pride Month with various activities conducted which participated by fourteen (14) women and twenty-four (24) men employees. The whole Pride Month celebration aims to:

- Raise awareness among MWSS RO employees and other stakeholders about various concepts and concerns related to Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression (SOGIE) and the rights of the persons of diverse SOGIE;
- Shed light on the LGBTQ+ issues in the Philippines;
- Increase knowledge of MWSS RO employees and other stakeholders on the SOGIE bill, its status and implications, and other SOGIE-related policies; and
- Provide a discussion on the importance of diversity and inclusion in the workplace.

This is a remarkable celebration for the MWSS RO, being part of the Pride Month celebration was a great venue for a meaningful conversation and creating a safe space

for the LGBTQ+ community, this also means that the MWSS RO is gearing towards gender inclusivity and achieving gender equality.

Family Thanksgiving 2021

In observance of the Family Thanksgiving Day pursuant to Proclamation No. 847 dated 12 August 1996 and the Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR) of the Magna Carta of Women (RA 9710), the MWSS RO through its GAD Committee conducted the Annual Family Thanksgiving Day on 26 September 2021 with thirty-nine (39) women and forty-nine (49) men participants.

This is a celebration of the importance of strengthening and promoting unity, solidarity, and stability of the Filipino family as the basic unit of society and for whose well-being, all national development efforts are directed, the MWSS RO Family Thanksgiving Day also seeks to raise awareness on gender issues within the family such as the promotion of gender equality and sensitivity in order to prevent gender-based disadvantages and limitations which deny or restrict women's access to enjoyment of opportunities, benefits, or privileges.

18-Day Campaign to End Violence Against Women (VAW) 2021

The 2021 End VAW campaign is pursuant to the R.A. No. 10398 or "Declaring November 25 of every year as the National Consciousness Day for the Elimination of VAW and Children"; Proclamation 1172, series of 2006, "Declaring 25 November to 12 December as the 18-Day Campaign to End VAW."

Government agencies enjoined to take part in the nationwide observance of the 18-Day Campaign to End VAW for 2021 with theme "*VAW Free Community starts with ME*" and a sub-theme "*Filipino Marespeto; Safe Spaces, Kasali Tayo*", this aims to promote awareness on the Safe Spaces Act (RA 11313 or SSA) and to intensify awareness raising on the core provisions of the law, the penalties, and mechanism in place as the country continues to fight the COVID-19 pandemic which breeds various forms of VAW, especially online with many spending their time in the digital realm.

The MWSS RO took part on this observance and conducted various activities to promote safe spaces and educate its staff in the elimination of any forms of violence in the workplace. On the average, these activities were participated by Thirty-seven (37) women and Forty-eight (48) men.


Year-End Assessment

The MWSS RO conducted the Year End Assessment led by the GAD Committee in order to strengthen the working relationship among 51 men and 40 women of the MWSS RO and attain a high-level of teamwork and productivity, assess the GAD programs, activities, and projects conducted throughout the year, and to recognize the efforts of the MWSS RO employees in the attainment of committed targets in 2021 Performance


Scorecard and in sustaining the MWSS RO's ISO Certification under 9001:2015 Standards.

All of these are the testament of MWSS RO's unwavering support and continued commitment to gender and development mainstreaming of activities to achieve gender equality and women empowerment.

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