

ELEMENTS OF THE WOMEN'S MONTH THEME – “We Make Change Work for Women”

- **We** stands for Women' Empowerment – empowering women enables them to confidently and meaningfully engage with appropriate institutions to ensure that they contribute to and benefit from development and changes. Thus, women's empowerment will make the change that we are espousing or any development effort responsive of women's concerns.
- **Make Change Work** = MCW = Magna Carta of Women – making change work for women necessitates strengthening the implementation of the MCW at all levels. It means putting in place functional mechanisms as well as implementing and making known to citizens, programs and services that address strategic gender needs of women.
- **Change** – also means **Compassionate** and **Harmonized Actions** and **Networks** for **Gender Equality**.
- **We / us or “kami / tayo” in Filipino** – who is going to pave the way for an enabling environment for women to be empowered? Who is going to ensure that the MCW is implemented at all levels? Who is going to make change work for women? It all of us, in our various capacities whether as government officials and employees, members of the private sector, the academe, non-government organizations, or as private individuals can be partners for a change that is gender-responsive. It emphasizes our collective effort, collaboration and participation to ensure that women will not be left behind in the pursuit of change.

The theme emphasizes that women should be active drivers in bringing about positive changes, and that they should also reap from fruits of development efforts. This can be made possible by empowering women – enabling them to meaningfully engage with other development stakeholders, and by fully implementing the Magna Carta of Women (MCW).

BACKGROUND

The Month of March is part of the worldwide observance of the International Women's Day (IWD).

The following issuances serve as legal bases for the annual activity:

- [Proclamation No. 224 s. 1988](#) declaring the first week of March each year as Women's Week and March 8 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
- [Republic Act \(RA\) 6949 s. 1990](#) declaring March 8 of every year as National Women's Day.

2017-2022 THEME

In [2017](#), the PCW Board Members and Inter-Agency Technical Working Group identified the NWMC theme "We Make Change Work for Women", which shall be used from 2017-2022. It highlights the empowerment of women as active contributors to and claimholders of development. This pursuit of development is also anchored on the commitment of "Malasakit at Pagbabago" or True Compassion and Real Change.

OBJECTIVES

Consistent with Proclamation No. 227 s. 1988, the annual conduct of the National Women's Month Celebration (NWMC) aims to give due recognition to the contributions of Filipino women in our society.

Specifically, 2018 celebration aims to:

1. **inform and engage** women as stakeholders of government programs and services – to promote citizen-centric governance and make “change” a conscious effort to know, understand, and provide what ALL citizens need;
2. **create and facilitate** platforms to discuss good practices, gaps, challenges , and commitments in pursuing gender and development (GAD) – to strengthen implementation of the Magna Carta of Women; and
3. **inspire and empower women** and girls to be agents of change – to contribute in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of all women.

Why should we **celebrate Women's Month** annually?

Why do we need a special month to celebrate and remember women when they now **hold the purchasing power**, they are the **top earners** and decision **makers** in the workplaces, unlike before when they are unrecognized and discriminated.

We celebrate Women's Day / Month for the following reasons:

- To **celebrate** the incredible **success and achievements** of strong women all over the globe.
- To honor and **pay tribute** to the females who **dedicated their lives** to ensuring that women were granted equal rights to men.
- To **remember** and acknowledge the **discrimination and inequality of women** in the past, as well as how much of it still remains in many cultures today.
 - To **show our support** for the movements dedicated to **female empowerment**.
- To **educate the masses** not only about **female-related struggles**, but **about diseases and other afflictions** such as female cancers that affect women both young and old.
- To **express our love and appreciation** to the women who make a difference in our own lives **as a wife, a mom, a sister or as an office-colleague**.

