

## BLE joins in Celebrating 2022 National Women's Month



The DOLE-Bureau of Local Employment (BLE) together with other government agencies join to celebrate the 2022 National Women's Month with the culmination of its 6-year theme "We Make Change Work for Women" and a sub-theme "Agenda ng Kababaihan, Tungo sa Kaunlaran" which aims to celebrate the freedom of women in making choices and speaking up for their rights.

This year's celebration of BLE was launched by its Gender and Development Team, headed by Ms. Grace Baldoza, by encouraging all the employees to wear purple on Tuesdays as a display of solidarity to all women. Decorative materials are also installed as a show of support to the event —displaying pictures of Filipino women in the likes of Aimee Carandang, Hidilyn Diaz, Maria Ressa, Carina Dayondon, Lea Salonga, Janelle Mae Frayna, Catriona Gray, among others, which emphasize their achievements and contributions in their chosen field. The team also designed and distributed stickers to employees with illustrations promoting women competency.

To further advocate for as well as to broaden everyone's understanding about gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE), the Bureau took part in the International Women's Day virtual celebration through the online forum named after the sub-theme, hosted by PCW on 8 March 2022 as well as in a webinar organized by the Bureau of Workers with Special Concerns (BWSC) titled "DOLE GAD Webinar: Review of Concepts and Mandates on 24 March 2022. Moreover, the BLE GAD Team set up to show series of short films highlighting the rights of every woman which should at all times be protected.

According to the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW), studies and data reveal that development toward gender equality has been greatly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Collective efforts in recognizing the role of women in nation-building will be the way toward inclusive and sustainable development. With the aforementioned, this year's celebration calls on the stakeholders from both the government and private sector to:

- Assess the gains already achieved towards GEWE and prevent sliding back as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and other national issues;

- Inspire actions to promote a gender-responsive pandemic recovery; and
- Draw attention to the priority gender issues that must be addressed by future public servants, as outlined in the recently updated GEWE Plan, which spans until the year 2025.

The celebration of National Women's Month is pursuant to Proclamation No. 224 s. 1988 dated 1 March 1988 in commemoration of the struggle of Filipino women for national freedom, civil liberty, equality and human rights, and Proclamation No. 227 dated 17 March 1988 which provides for the observance of the month of March as "Women's Role in History Month".