



26 February 2018

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 18

Series of 2018

T O: All Vice Presidents
All College Deans
All Directors
All Department Heads
All Office/Unit Heads
All College GAD Coordinators

R E: 2018 Women's Month Celebration

The Philippines observes March as the National Women's Month (NWM). The Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) has identified that for the next five years, 2017-2022, the theme for the annual celebration is "We **Make Change Work** for Women". The theme highlights the need to continue efforts towards the empowerment of women as well as the responsibility of government to provide the services needed for their development. Moreover, this pursuit of development under the new administration is also anchored on the commitment of "Malasakit at Pagbabago" or True Compassion and Real Change (PCW, 2018).

In VSU, the celebration will open with the conduct of 1st VSU's Women Inspiring Women Forum with Finance Asst. Secretary Maria Teresa S. Habitan as Guest Speaker on March 1, 2018, (9AM – 12NN) at the ISRDS Training Room. At 1:00 PM, there will also be a free film showing of the award-winning Filipino Indie film "Boses" at the RDE Hall.

All College Deans, Directors, Center/Department/Office Heads and College GAD Coordinators are requested to include in your monthly staff meeting for March an input on the NWM and to encourage the participation of your faculty, staff, and students in all the activities. Attached is the concept note enumerating the month-long activities in VSU for your reference.

The external campuses are enjoined to send representatives to the March 1 activities at the Main Campus.

Everyone is enjoined to participate actively in the NWM celebration towards a more gender-responsive VSU.

Please be guided accordingly.


EDGARDO E. TULIN
President

2018 National Women's Month Celebration

Theme: We Make Change Work For Women

Thursday, March 1, 2018 to Saturday, March 31, 2018

This concept note is based on the guidelines set by the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW), the premier policy-making and oversight government agency influencing development efforts towards gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls.

BACKGROUND

The National Women's Month Celebration every 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 under the new administration is also anchored on the commitment of "Malasakit at Pagbabago" or True Compassion and Real Change.

ELEMENTS OF THE THEME (PCW)

- **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 development efforts. This can be made possible by empowering women – enabling them to meaningfully engage with other development stakeholders, and by fully implementing the MCW.

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.

AGENCY-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

A. Informing and engaging women as stakeholders of VSU programs and services

1. **PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF IEC MATERIALS (March 1-31)** – As provided under Section 26 of the Magna Carta of Women (Right to Information) “Access to information regarding policies on women, including programs, projects, and funding outlays that affect them, shall be ensured.”. In view of this mandate, VSU's concerned offices such as the VSU Hospital, ODAHRD, USSO will produce materials on their services, particularly, women-focused services to include among others, health issues such as teenage pregnancy, cervical and breast cancer prevention, Hiv and Aids, and mental health. The GAD Program will reproduce and distribute the Magna Carta of Women brochure of the PCW for the information of its constituents.
2. **SERBISYO PARA KAY JUANA (March 8,19 & 27)** – The activity enjoins agencies that offer direct services and other transactions with the public to offer treats like freebies, discounts, or distribution of IEC materials on March 8 and any chosen dates within March, making the celebration more publicly known and felt.

The VSU Hospital will provide free FBS tests on all Tuesdays (March 6, 13, 20, 27) and Thursdays (March 8, 15, 22). Pap smear tests will be conducted on March 19 and 27. Those who will avail of the pap smear test will only pay for the laboratory fee of P300 since the samples are brought to an external laboratory for analysis.

3. **NATIONAL WOMEN'S MONTH POSTER-MAKING CONTEST (March 23)** – The poster-making contest aims to promote awareness among VSU students on women's rights issues across the country. The contest is open to both college, senior high, and high school students. The Department of Development Communication (DDC) will spearhead the activity.

B. Creating and facilitating platforms to discuss good practices, gaps, challenges, and commitments in pursuing GAD

4. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF NATIONAL WOMEN'S MONTH CELEBRATION (NWMC) IN FLAG RAISING CEREMONY (February 26 and March 5)** – The announcement on the NWMC celebration will be done on the February 26 and the March 5 flag ceremony celebrations. The GAD Focal Point System will explain the objectives, theme and activities in achieving the objectives of the national celebration.

The All-Women Cast Lupang Hinirang Video will be used during the Flag Raising Ceremony and VSU's NWMC activities.

5. **“We Make Change: Women Inspiring Women” Forum (March 12)** – The Eastern Visayas Association of GAD Focal Persons (EVAGAD) is organizing this forum to share best practices in gender mainstreaming in the academe among the HEIs in the region and to encourage private HEIs to establish their own GAD Focal Point Systems. Representation in the EVAGAD is institutional and it is currently headed by VSU. Venue for the forum is at Hotel La Rica, Tacloban City
6. **Workshop on Implementing Gender-responsive Research and Extension Programs (March 14)** – In compliance with CHED Memorandum Order No. 1, series of 2015 on mainstreaming gender in the functions of the HEIs, there will be a follow-up workshop on implementing Gender-responsive Research and Extension Programs. The workshop objective is to familiarize the VSU researchers and extensionists on various tools for mainstreaming gender in RDE projects, particularly the Harmonized Gender and Development Guidelines (HGDG) and on the preparation of gender-responsive RDE project proposals.
7. **Planning Workshop for the VSU Gender Center (March 16-17).** To ensure that VSU’s gender mainstreaming efforts become institutionalized, the University is formalizing its GAD Program to become the basis for the VSU Gender Center. Towards this end, a two-day planning workshop will be conducted with members of the GFPS ExeCom/TWG and the ISRDS faculty to produce a draft proposal/strategic plan for the Center for approval of the VSU Board of Regents.

C. Inspire and empower women and girls to be agents of change

8. **WOMEN INSPIRING WOMEN SERIES (March 1, 9 AM)** –This activity aims to celebrate women’s journey by sharing inspiring stories of change in their chosen fields to encourage their fellow women to be empowered change agents. VSU will conduct its 1st Women Inspiring Women Forum with Asst. Secretary Maria Teresa S. Habitan of the Department of Finance. ASec. Habitan’s extensive experience in government service as a career executive official and the various leadership roles she has taken on in the field of economic policy, gender and development, and transparency for development will be an inspiration to our young faculty and staff to do their share in nation building.
9. **FILM SHOWING(March 1, 1 PM)** – VSU is screening the award winning (Golden Screen Award for Best Motion Picture, 2009), PCW-endorsed Tagalog Indie film “Boses” which tackles the issue of child abuse and violence, very relevant issues affecting the Filipino family.
10. **Women’s Fair (March 28).** This activity is primarily intended for information and advocacy on women’s rights, women’s laws, reproductive health issues, counselling concerns. The VSU Hospital (Health workers) and the USSO Guidance Service (counsellors) will be tapped to spearhead this activity which we hope our female students will access.

MARCH

2018

VSU NATIONAL WOMEN'S MONTH CELEBRATION

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1 9 AM Women Inspiring Women Forum 1 PM BOSES film showing	2	3	4
5 Flag Ceremony announcement PCC Gender Sensitivity Training	6 Serbisyo Para Kay Juana (Free FBS) @ VSU Hospital	7	8 Serbisyo Para Kay Juana (Free FBS) National Conference	9 on GAD in the Workplace @ UEP, Catarman	10	11
12 EVAGAD Women's Forum @ La Rica Hotel)	13 Serbisyo Para Kay Juana (Free FBS)	14 Workshop on Gender-responsive RDE Programs @ RDE HALL	15 Serbisyo Para Kay Juana (Pap Smear) (Free FBS)	16 Planning Workshop for	17 VSU Gender Center	18
19	20 Serbisyo Para Kay Juana (Free FBS)	21	22 Serbisyo Para Kay Juana (Free FBS)	23 Poster-making contest	24	25
26	27 Serbisyo Para Kay Juana (Pap smear) (Free FBS)	28 VSU Women's Fair @ Eco-Park	29 HOLY THURSDAY	30 GOOD FRIDAY	31 HOLY SATURDAY	

