



NEWSSCOOP10

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Department of Environment and Natural Resources

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Making women's rights real. A walk for women's rights at The Fort (left picture) and at the Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (right picture) and opening of the MCW and Filipina achievers exhibit at the NAMRIA Lobby with guest of honor Commissioner Benitez-Reyes

NAMRIA unites with the whole nation in celebrating Women's Month with the theme "*Babae, tagumpay ka ng bayan!*" The celebration highlights women's achievements in pursuing advancement and empowerment through the Magna Carta of Women (MCW), a comprehensive women human rights law that seeks to eliminate discrimination against Filipinas (especially in the marginalized sectors) by recognizing, protecting, fulfilling, and promoting their rights.

Twenty employees joined representatives from other government agencies, local governments, and the private sector in the nationwide kick-off ceremony *Walk for Women's Rights* at the Bonifacio Global City last 01 March. Later held inside the NBC Tent were talk shows on the MCW; health, beauty, and wellness; business options; and livelihood training. There were also booths on free services for women such as bone screening, medical consultation, legal counselling, and civil registry.

NAMRIA's observance commenced during the flag-raising ceremony last 02 March with Philippine Commission on Women Commissioner Dr. Amelia Lourdes Benitez-Reyes as guest speaker. She congratulated Administrator Diony A Ventura for giving recognition to women. Her message contained (1) the concept of *womenomics* which encompasses providing women access to digital economy, work-life balance measures, and economic opportunities; and (2) the three areas of spirituality which are faith in the unseen, love or passion for work, and service beyond duty's call. She also reminded the audience to "be happy even if you are having difficulties because a smiling face, a happy family, [and] a happy agency will make miracles for those who come to you for their kind of work."

Other activities slated for the month-long celebration this year include an exhibit on MCW and Filipina achievers; gender-sensitivity trainings; entrepreneurship summit; cooking demonstration and competition; all-women fun run; and lectures

on violence against women, women with disabilities, and depression and anxiety interventions.

The MCW includes provisions on protection from all forms of violence; protection and security in times of disaster, calamity, and other crisis situations; participation and representation; equal treatment before the law; equal access and elimination of discrimination against women in education, scholarships, and training; equal participation in sports; non-discrimination in employment in the field of military, police, and other similar services; non-discriminatory and non-derogatory portrayal of women in media and film; comprehensive health services, information, and education; two-month leave benefits with full pay for undergoing gynaecological disorder surgery; and equal rights in matters relating to marriage and family relations.

In other news, NAMRIA joined the DZMM *Takbo para sa Kalikasan* last 28 February. The advocacy run for the rehabilitation of Pasig River had around 60 participants from the agency. The event was held at the Quirino Grandstand in Manila.

Xenia R. Andres

Schedule of Activities

- March 4 & 25 - Gender Sensitivity Training, 8am-5pm
- March 8 - Women Entrepreneurship Summit, 8am-5pm
- March 8 - Julius Maggi Kitchen Cooking Demo, 9am-12noon
- March 10 - Lecture on Violence Against Women, 8am-12noon
- March 13 - Pinay in Action Fun Run, 6am-8am
- March 15 - Women Achiever's Day, 8am-12noon
- March 18 - NAMRIA Iron Chef Competition, 1pm-5pm
- March 29 - Lecture on Women with Disabilities, 8am-12noon
- March 30 - Lecture on Depression/Anxiety/Stress Management, 8am-12noon