

Editor's Notes

Women have proven that they are capable of meeting or even exceeding the expectations of many—men included. This issue of the *Journal* illustrates some examples of women excelling in their chosen fields of profession. It also highlights the importance of congressional committees in the overall policymaking process, as seen in the formulation of the Anti-Rape Law. The issue gives us a preliminary assessment of the latest efforts in conflict resolution between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Moro National Liberation Front, and provides insights on local governance in Tanzania.

Proserpina Domingo-Tapales and Eden V. Santiago assess the political participation of women as local administrators in their article, "Elite Women as Public Servants: A Study of Female Local Chief Executives in the Philippines." The authors zero in on the following: (1) factors contributing to political winnability, specifically the role of family background; (2) awareness of women's issues and concerns; (3) constraints against women politicians and how to overcome this constraints; and (4) relationship between the awareness by the women local chief executives of women's issues and their responses to these issues through plans and programs.

There have always been disparities in access of women to opportunities for their career advancement, employment, technologies, recognition and incentives in science and other related fields. "Women in Science," by Amelia C. Ancog emphasizes that with the advent of globalization, it is important to assess the role of men and women in contributing to the growth of societies. In addition, it is also necessary to address the imbalances in the allocation of resources, and the problems of opening up vestibules of opportunities to women in (the) different endeavors.

Myrna N. Lavidés writes about "The Congressional Committee and Philippine Policymaking: The Case of the Anti-Rape Law," where she underscores the importance of congressional committees in the overall policymaking process. Sources of committee powers in the House of Representatives include (1) congressional rules and procedures as embodied in the House Rules; (2) committee's gate keeping power; (3) conference committees; and (4) the legislature's inherent powers as a means of checks and balances in relation to the powers of the Executive and the Judiciary. The case of the anti-rape law illustrates how compromises are made at the committee level and how these compromises affect decision at the Floor.

In "The GRP-MNLF Peace Agreement: A Preliminary Assessment of its Implementation," Macapado A. Muslim gives us interesting insights as to how far

did it achieve its objectives of bringing peace and development to the principal stakeholders. The article makes a preliminary assessment of the implementation of the 1996 peace treaty between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Moro National Liberation Front. It also illustrates how the Marcos and Aquino regimes approached and dealt with the conflict together with the salient features of the agreement. The acceptance by the great majority of MNLF members of the accord and their active participation in agreement-related peace and development efforts suggest the desire of the Bangsa Moro people for genuine peace. Moreover, it also confirms the argument that the contemporary Moro armed struggle is a struggle for responsive public governance.

In "The Dissolution of Dar Es Salaam City Council: Paradoxes to Local Governance in Tanzania," Sufian Hemed Bukurura illustrates the ambiguity of disproportionate disempowerment of the populace and exaggerated control by the central government. The dissolution of the elected council and its replacement with an appointed commission does not in the long term resolve the problem of empowerment and control of local government authorities in Tanzania.

This issue includes two book reviews of relevance to students and practitioners of public administration alike. Emmanuel de Dios reviews Victoria A. Bautista's *Combating Poverty Through the Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (CIDSS)*. In his short essay, he praises Bautista's solid documentation and assessment of the CIDSS as an anti-poverty program. He recommends that people in authority should take a close look at the result of Bautista's study of a government sponsored approach that has actually worked.

In the second book review, Lina Vyas evaluates *The Civil Service in Hong Kong: Continuity and Change* authored by Ahmed Shafiqul Huque, Grace O.M. Lee and Anthony B.L. Cheung. In her brief "The Civil Service in Hong Kong: Continuity and Change," she acknowledges the efforts of the authors in providing a comprehensive and encyclopedic overview of the organization, development, ever changing issues, problems and prospects of civil service in Hong Kong.