

PRECEPTORS' VIEW



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DANGLING Gem

By: Michelle M. Felstead, EdD

SDO Dagupan is once again smitten with fortune to welcome at its helm a gifted mentor and zealous education leader whose dynamism and vision bring sparks and infuses certitude in response for change under the new normal.

Good leaders, like precious gems, are to be treasured. They are rarely found. They are polished by challenges, experiences and difficult lessons. Having one is a treasure more valuable than precious stones to keep.

On November 11, 2020, the Schools Division Office of Dagupan City acquired a rare treasure as it welcomes its new Officer-in-Charge in the office of the Assistant Schools Division Superintendent, in the person of Madam Ma. Criselda De Guzman Ochang, more fondly called by everyone as "Ma'am Dang".

Ma'am Dang was the Education Program Supervisor, in-charge of English, Senior High School, Early Grades Language, Literacy & Numeracy Program, Special Program in Foreign Language, and LAC Program in the Regional Office from November 2015 until November 2020. She was also a former School Head in the SDO I of Pangasinan from March 2013 to November 2015, and a former Master Teacher for five years in the same division.

She started teaching at the age of 19, and her more than couple of decades of experience as a classroom teacher made her more conversant with the understanding of the role of teachers in the learning process inside the classroom.

Being a natural achiever, Ma'am Dang accumulated meritorious awards and grants. She received Region I FIRST from the DepEd Regional Office I last December 16, 2020. Her distinction does not only confine in her workplace, but also in her community as she was awarded by the Municipality of Binmaley as an Outstanding Binmaleyan last February 2, 2019. Her love for continuous learning and improvement has earned her a Scholarship Grant from the Civil Service Commission (ROI) as CSC-Master's Degree Courses Grantee, Curriculum Year 2012.



Being a mother of five did not hinder her in developing passion towards public service. In fact, she was one of the volunteer workers of Pangasinan Rural Initiatives in Community Empowerment and Sustainable Agriculture (PRINCESA) where she lit the burning passion towards public service.

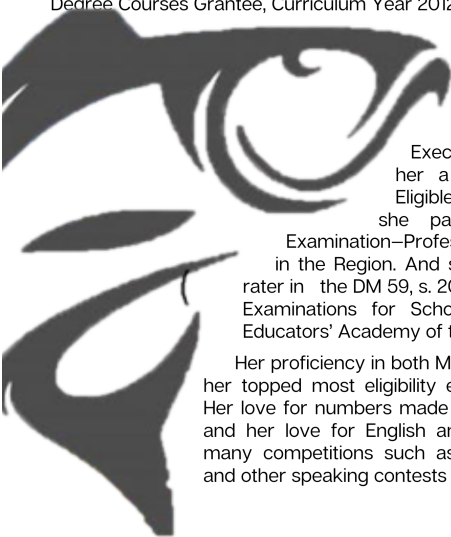
The way she was raised also contributed to that sense of leadership and service that she upholds. She grew up in Binmaley, Pangasinan, and she is the only girl among the five children of Mr. Conrado and Mrs. Eustaquia De Guzman. However, being the only girl, little Dang did not grow up as a spoiled highly-favored princess; rather, she demonstrated courage and strength just like one of the boys.

As she continues her tenure in SDO Dagupan City, she looks forward of serving Dagupan like that of a service for a family. Likewise, family is a pioneer of love and guidance. It corrects when someone is wrong, and does not harbor resentments. It is untiringly serving family members for the betterment and continuous improvement.

"As a member of the Deped Dagupan family ask yourself, Am I doing good for Dagupan?" she articulated.

From an outstanding and high-achieving woman; indeed, it takes an immense amount of humility to render service like a family, to be internally motivated to give one's vigor to others as a gift, to give selfless service and to attend as a mother giving a ray light to everyone.

Truly, Dagupan City is blessed to have a leader who is like a gem that dangles – enticing and motivating. Like a gem that underwent thorough heat and polishing to achieve rarity and aesthetic value, Ma'am Dang dazzles like a dangling gem.



Her strong drive for challenges made her took several examinations and eligibilities. Recently, she made it to the Career Executive Service Board making her a Career Executive Service Eligible (CESE). Also, remarkably, she passed the Civil Service Examination—Professional as Third Top Rater in the Region. And she did it again as third top rater in the DM 59, s. 2013 or the National Qualifying Examinations for School Heads by the National Educators' Academy of the Philippines, DepEd CO.

Her proficiency in both Mathematics and English made her topped most eligibility examinations she had taken. Her love for numbers made her outshine her Math class, and her love for English and Language made her win many competitions such as debates, oratorical speech and other speaking contests during her college years.

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