

## THE ROLE OF PUBLIC SERVICE IN FULFILLING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)

*by:*

**Eleanor B. Feria**

*Teacher III, Pablo Roman National High School*

In order to fulfill the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and ensure the inclusion of marginalized groups such as children, youth, persons with disabilities, older persons, refugees, and others, it is imperative for public institutions to adopt innovative approaches in service delivery and provide extensive training to enhance the skills and awareness of public servants. This requires bold and innovative efforts from public institutions and their employees. As stated by UN DESA's Under-Secretary-General Wu Hongbo, the inventive contributions of civil servants are paramount in addressing contemporary challenges (United Nations, 2016).

However, governments remain challenged in providing efficient public services and in fulfilling the SDGs, regardless of the level of their country's development. To effectively accelerate the completion of SDGs, Meuleman (2021) proposed four focus areas to guide research and policy crafting. First, they suggested a strategic synthesis of efforts and enhancement of policy coherence. Additionally, they suggested the importance of building efficient public administration and governance in strategic policymaking. Cultural sensitivity must also be incorporated in governance in order to reach integration between SDGs and country targets. Finally, they highlight the exploration of a mission-oriented rather than efficiency-driven public administration.

While it is good to prove that these suggestions can impact the Philippines, more localized research should investigate the narrative behind our progress in SDG completion. As one of the countries labeled as "lagging in UN development targets," (United Nations, 2023, in Inquirer, 2024) we should come together in pushing for more

urgency and accountability from our national leadership in addressing the problems that served as the very origins of the SDGs.

## *References:*

Meuleman, L. (2021). Public administration and governance for the SDGs: Navigating between change and stability. *Sustainability*, 13(11), 5914.

Inquirer. (2024, January 2). PH among countries lagging in UN development targets. Retrieved February 20, 2024, from

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1882816/ph-among-countries-lagging-in-un-development-targets>

United Nations. (2016). UN highlights importance of public service in achieving SDGs.

Retrieved February 20, 2024, from

<https://www.un.org/en/desa/un-highlights-importance-public-service-achieving-sdgs>