



Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL
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K TO 12 GRADUATION

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Good morning, everyone! Thank you for inviting me to the End of School Year Rites of the K to 12 Basic Education Program for school year 2017-2018. We are here to witness the completion of the kindergarten, the graduation of Grade 6, the completion of Grade 10 and the graduation of Grade 12. I am so pleased to be with you on this happy occasion and I thank you for the invitation. To the completers and graduates, let me be one of the first to congratulate you on your achievements and wish you all the best for the future. Congratulations are also due to all those who helped you on your way—your families and friends and the faculty and staff of your school. Completion or graduation is a time for collective celebration of individual achievements, and I am honored to be a part of this celebration.

Today, you stand on the brink of a new chapter in your lives. Take a moment to reflect on everything that you have achieved. Take a moment to look back and to see and appreciate just how far you have all come. Today is your opportunity to acknowledge your accomplishments.

Some may have achieved more than others with relative ease. Some may have had to work harder...may have had to dig deeper to find the resolve to continue to meet the challenge. Either way, today, you need to acknowledge where you are. You may find that your school years were years well spent. You may find that you regret some of the opportunities that you allowed to slip by. Acknowledge them, accept them and then prepare to move on...to tomorrow! You need to dare to dream to be all that you can be tomorrow.

Completion and graduation are one of those steps in life that defines a coming of age--the ending of one era of life, as a student or the one being shown the ropes, and moving on to a new stage in which you are a leader, a doer and an achiever in the wider world. I am sure many of you have firm plans and have a good idea of what's coming next, some of you have a pretty good idea of what you want to do next, a dream and a lot of hope to get you there. Well the coming times will be exciting, they will be trying but they will be all dependent on you and your determination.

We are all destined to make choices and those choices do largely control our actions. It is most fortunate and we are grateful that your school is filled with so many motivated people who make positive choices, which ultimately lead to so many meaningful and productive actions.

Because life throws so many obstacles and distractions in your paths on a daily basis, it is essential to have supportive and knowledgeable people to go to when needed. As the Completers and Graduating Class of 2018 you need to express your gratitude for the wonderful opportunities that you were exposed to. Your thanks must go to all the faculty, staff and the management of your school. You are privileged to have attended this school. I am sure that the fine education that you received will stand you in good stead—time and again.

You must also thank your parents and guardians. They have remained committed to your education, but more importantly, they have remained committed to you. They have stood by your sides, even

when things may have seemed a bit rocky—steadfast and constant—stability in a time of turmoil, hesitancy and your quest for independence.

Do not rest. Do not turn away from risk, and do not become complacent. If you have a goal, and you attempt to reach it, there is a possibility you will fail. However, if you attempt nothing, you are guaranteed never to achieve.

But, look where you are now after years of hard work. You have established yourselves and completed an education that has prepared you for the future.

So my dear completers and graduates, as you face and tackle the inevitable changes, hold true to yourself. Remember to hold onto your value system, your work ethic and most importantly, your humanity. It is these qualities that will guide you further on your journey.

Today's achievements may fade or even be forgotten. The applause may become a distant memory and your certificates and medals may gather dust on a shelf or in a drawer. But, you will always be remembered for caring enough, for helping someone, for making someone feel special and appreciated, and for being the kind of person that others enjoy spending time with.

Whatever rewards you seek, I wish you the best of times and the best of life. I send you forth with the hope and desire that you continue to strive for excellence in everything you do, that you live full and meaningful lives, that your contributions to society are productive and, above all, that you are true to yourselves and your potential. Congratulations and good luck!

Daghang salamat.

