



REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON, KULTURA AT ISPORTS  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS

DECS Complex, Mendiola Avenue  
Quezon City, Philippines



Sanggunan ng Kagawaran  
Office of the Secretary

Samahin  
sa DECS

February 24, 1999

**DECS ORDER**

No. 17, s. 1999

**ON SIMPLE AND AUSTERE GRADUATION RITES**

To: Bureau Directors  
Regional Directors  
Schools Superintendents  
Divisional, Cluster, High School Principals  
District Supervisors  
Private Elementary and Secondary School Principals

1. This is to reiterate the Department's policy on simple and austere school activities regarding the holding of inexpensive but meaningful graduation rites. School heads are reminded to observe the following:
  - a. Contributions for graduations may be increased to not more than P150.00; however, in private schools, contributions may vary from school to school and may be allowed only in consultation with the PTA.
  - b. Graduation exercises must be held in the school grounds and graduation balls, compelling graduating students to participate and contribute excessive amounts are discouraged.
  - c. No extravagant special attire should be required and the annual yearbook should likewise be discouraged or be considered non-obligatory.
2. Immediate dissemination and compliance of this Order is directed.

*Andrew Gonzalez*  
**ANDREW GONZALEZ, FSC**  
Secretary

Reference: DECS Order No. 23, s. 1998

Allotment: I-3-(D.O. 50-97)

To be indicated in the Periodical Index under the following subjects:

**GRADUATION**

**POLICY**