



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Education



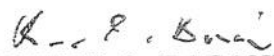
MAR 24 2008

DepED ORDER  
No. 20, s. 2008

ADDENDUM TO DEPED ORDER NO. 13, S. 2008  
(2008 Graduation Rites)

To: Bureau Directors  
Regional Directors  
Directors of Services, Centers and Heads of Units  
Schools Division/City Superintendents  
Heads, Public and Private Elementary and Secondary Schools

1. In line with the 2008 Graduation Rites, schools shall include in their Graduation Program the reading of Graduation Speech by School Principals in behalf of DepED Secretary Jesli A. Lapus. School Principals may choose the English or Filipino version of this speech. See Enclosure No. 1 for the English version and Enclosure No. 2 for the Filipino version. The message for the graduates is found in Enclosure No. 3.
2. Immediate dissemination of and strict compliance with this Order is directed.

  
RAMON C. BACANI  
Undersecretary

Encls.:

As stated

Reference:

DepED Order: (No. 13, s. 2008)

Allotment: 1—(D.O. 50-97)

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

CHANGE  
GRADUATION  
OFFICIALS  
SCHOOLS

# GRADUATION SPEECH<sup>1</sup>

JESLI A. LAPUS

My dear parents, teachers, students and guests:

"Education is the foundation of economic prosperity, individual liberty, justice and self-worth," so said President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

That pronouncement served as our marching order and it has since found concrete expression in every policy being drafted, in every reform being initiated and in every project being conceptualized at the Department of Education.

Under the administration of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, education has become a top priority in terms of resource allocation and focus of educational reforms through your Education Secretary Jesli Lapus.

With the full support of the president, we were able to increase budget to the education department at a high of P137 billion, with the private sector chipping in another P4 billion in 2007.

These new level of funding has enabled us to introduce policy reforms and pursue innovative projects focused in making quality basic education accessible to every Filipino.

Thus, under my watch, there was a marked increase in enrollment in preschool, elementary and secondary schools with figures nearing the 20 million mark.

Through our expanded Food for School program, we were able to reduce the incidence of malnutrition among pre-school to grade six pupils from 21% in 2006 to 17% in 2007. As a result, school attendance improved from 90% in 2006 to 95% in 2007.

New classrooms constructed and repaired in 2007 were a record-breaking 14, 600 and 10,600 respectively – a giant leap from the usual target of 6,000 classrooms every year.

The number of new teacher items created also recorded a high of more than 16,000 in 2007, the highest number in years. So were the number of principal items opened which totaled 3, 479 in the year 2006-2007.

The reforms we introduced in book procurement reduced the cost of textbooks by half and is expected to further go down. Moreover, DepEd's 5-level procurement program has been cited in the international circles -- including the World Bank -- as a best practice. This made possible the procurement and distribution of textbooks to all the millions of schoolchildren throughout the country.

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<sup>1</sup> Graduation speech to be read by school principals in behalf of DepEd Secretary Jesli Lapus

Of course, the welfare of our teachers remains in the center of my advocacy as your Secretary of Education.

Under my watch and true to my promise of giving due course to the clamor of teachers for dignified standard of living, we settled almost P3.4 billion in long-overdue and unpaid GSIS insurance and health premiums for the members of the DepEd family.

Together with retirement benefits, affordable housing loan and life insurance, as well as settling unpaid entitlements for loyalty pay and step increments, we continue to fulfill our vow to upgrade our teachers' living condition through monetary and non-monetary benefits.

In view of these accomplishments which we were able to accomplish in a year and a half at the helm, DepEd has received a record positive 61% approval rating from Pulse Asia Surveys, sharing the top government agency rating with DSWD.

Yes, DepEd is now recognized as one of the top performing departments despite the width and breath of the scope of its work and despite the seemingly insurmountable problems it faces.

And for that, we at DepEd are grateful. Such recognition is a reward in itself for the more than 24 hours we put in to manage the government's biggest bureaucracy. We are thankful for the public's appreciation for the kind of work we do.

We are also thankful for the economic reforms being initiated by the administration of President Arroyo which resulted in more resources now being channeled in the education department to make quality education for all a reality.

Again educating a nation..... nurturing the young to become productive and responsible citizens is not just a domain of the Department of Education. It is a societal concern; it is a responsibility of every Filipino.

Thus, we wish to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the continuing support of the parents, the teachers, the school administration for working together as one in giving our youth more than fighting chance to live a meaningful..... fulfilling life.

**ISULONG ANG KARUNUNGAN!**

Again, thank you and congratulations to the graduates of Batch 2008!

Secretary Jesli Lapus

# TALUMPATI SA PAGTATAPOS<sup>1</sup>

JESLI LAPUS

Minamahal na mga magulang, guro, mga mag-aaral at mga panauhin:

Ayon kay Pangulong Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, ang edukasyon ang sandigan ng isang matatag na pamayanan, ng ating kalayaan bilang mamamayan, ng katarungang panlipunan at dignidad bilang tao.

Ang mga katagang ito ang nagsilbing inspirasyon sa amin sa Kagawaran ng Edukasyon upang gumawa ng mga hakbang upang isagawa ang mga inobasyon at reporma na magbibigay daan upang mabigyan ng de-kalidad na edukasyon ang bawat isang Pilipino.

Sa panunungkulan ng inyong Kalihim Jesli A. Lapus naging tampok sa programa ng pamahalaan ni Pangulong Arroyo ang napapanahon at mataas na antas ng edukasyon para sa lahat.

Upang maisagawa ito, tumanggap ang DepEd ng budget na umabot sa P137 bilyon noong 2007. Ang halagang ito ay dinagdagan pa ng mga taga-pribadong sector ng P4 na bilyong piso.

Dahil dito nakapagpatupad ang DepEd ng maraming inobasyon at reporma na nagbunga ng mga sumusunod:

Tumaas ang bilang ng enrollees sa preschool, elementary at secondary schools. Sa kasalukuyan, umabot na sa 20 milyon ang bilang ng mga mag-aaral sa ilalim ng pangangalaga natin sa DepEd.

Sa ilalim ng pinalawak na Food for School program, nabawasan natin ang bilang ng mga mag-aaral na apektado ng malnutrisyon – mula 21 porsyento noong 2006 bumaba ito sa 17 porsyento noong 2007. Dahil dito, gumanda ang school attendance --- mula 90 porsyento noong 2006, ito ay umakyat sa 95 porsyento noong 2007.

Kapuna-puna din ang dami ng bilang ng 14,600 bagong gawa at 10,600 repaired classrooms noong 2007. Isa itong napakalaking hakbang kumpara sa target na anim na libong (6,000) classrooms bawat taon.

Tumaas din ang bilang ng mga bagong guro na umabot sa 16,000 noong 2007, ang pinakamalaking bilang sa loob ng maraming taon. Gayundin ang principal position na noong 2006-2007 ay naitala sa 3,479 principals sa buong bansa.

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<sup>1</sup> Graduation speech to be delivered by school principals in behalf of DepEd Secretary Jesli Lapus, Filipino version

Ang reporma sa text book procurement ay nagresulta sa mas mababang halaga ng mga libro ng halos limampung (50) porsyento. At dahil dito, nagawa nating bigyan ng aklat ang lahat ng mga mag-aaral sa bansa. Bukod dito, ang 5-level textbook procurement program ay kinikilala maging ng World Bank at iba pang international agencies bilang best practice sa mundo.

Samantala, bilang inyong Kalihim, patuloy kong tinututukan ang kapakanan ng ating mga guro upang matulungan nating itaas ang antas ng kanilang pamumuhay.

Una na dito ang pagbabayad sa halos P3.4 billion na matagal nang di nababayarang GSIS insurance and health premiums mula 1997 para sa mga guro at iba pang kawani ng DepEd.

Bukod sa 10% salary increase noong nakaraang taon, ang patuloy na pagpapatupad ng loyalty pay, step increments, retirement benefits, abot-kayang pabahay at life insurance ay mga konkretong hakbang upang tugunan ang pangangailangan ng ating mga guro.

Ang mga accomplishments na ito na naitala sa ilalim lang ng kulang-kulang dalawang taong panunungkulan ng inyong Kalihim Jesli Lapus ay hindi naging lingid sa panunuri ng mga mamamayan. Base sa survey ng Pulse Asia, nakapagtala ang DepEd ng 61 porsyento approval rating.

Ito ay di lang kauna-unahang pagkakataong mapasali ang DepEd sa positive ratings, kundi, ito rin ang pinakamataas na antas sa mga ahensiya ng pamahalaan. Maraming salamat po sa ating pagtutulongan.

Totoo, itinatangi ngayon ang DepEd bilang isa sa kinikilalang best performing na ahensiya ng pamahalaan sa kabila ng lawak at lalim ng sakop nito .... at sa kabila ng napakaraming problemang patuloy nitong kinakaharap.

Ang pagkilalang ito -- para sa amin sa DepEd -- ay maituturing na isang napakahalagang reward o pabuya sa halos 24 na oras naming ginugugol upang isaayos ang pinakamalaking ahensiya ng pamahalaan.

Salamat din sa mga economic reforms na isinasagawa ng Pamahalaang Arroyo na siyang nagbigay daan upang mas maraming pondo ang ngayon ay inilalaan para sa edukasyon.

At kagaya nga ng lagi nating sinasabi sa DepEd, ang pagtuturo sa mga bata, ang pagbibigay ng edukasyon sa ating mga mag-aaral ay isang napakalaking responsibilidad na hindi naka-atang sa balikat lamang ng DepEd. Ito ay responsibilidad ng lahat ng mamamayan. Ito ay tungkulin ng buong sambayanan.

Kaya nga hayaan ninyong angkinin ko ang pagkakataong ito upang pasalamatang ang ating mga magulang, mga guro, at mga tagapamahala ng ating mga paaralan dahil sa

inyong patuloy na pakikiisa upang sama-sama nating mabigyan ng magandang bukas ang ating kabataan sa pamamagitan ng de-kalidad na edukasyon.

ISULONG ANG KARUNUNGAN NG PILIPINO!

Muli, maraming salamat at mabuhay ang mga graduates ng Batch 2008!

Sumasainyo,  
JESLI LAPUS



Republic of the Philippines  
**Department of Education**



***Tanggapan ng Kalihim***  
*Office of the Secretary*

**M E S S A G E**

We salute the graduating class of 2008 of < school>!

As you celebrate the achievements borne by your diligence, perseverance, and dedication to your studies, we encourage you to look back with sincere gratitude to the institution that nurtured your quest for learning. Graduation is not the end but rather the beginning of a journey to infinite possibilities and opportunities. Always bear in mind that faith, hard work, determination, and fair play are keys to success. Never forget the wise guidance of your parents, the patience and persistence of your teachers who constantly inspire you to pursue your ambitions.

You are now where you are because of your personal investment and the full support of your family, your community. Soon, you will join the multitude of aspiring Filipinos who will run the economy, take the helm of government and raise the next generation. We at DepEd wish you the best. Continue to learn and build your capacity to empower yourself and help push the country forward.

Congratulations and *Mabuhay!*

  
**JESLI A. LAPUS**  
*Secretary*