GRADUATION 2020: A BITTERSWEET EXPERIENCE

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Pupils and students are busy completing their final requirements towards the completion of the academic year and everyone is feeling excited and looking forward for their commencement exercises. Suddenly the government has announced a total lockdown all over Luzon followed by neighboring provinces down South. Everything happened abruptly, everyone was advised to stay at home to safe keep themselves from the contagion. Classes in all levels were suddenly stopped, and upcoming programs were halt.

In light with the pandemic situation, DepEd still ensures that children maintain access to basic education and maintain academic experience as possible — including its successes during the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting national quarantine. The department has established the requisite safeguards to ensure the well-being of faculty and students and strive to coordinate these steps with the national prescription. With the Government’s heightened protocol on distancing, the Department has taken the hard call to postpone the commencement ceremonies this year, initially planned for April 2020.

Graduation is one of the most anticipated milestone occasions for every learner and it is indeed a difficult decision that will surely disappoint graduates and completers. Alternatively, school administrators and teachers prepare for the issuance of certificates, diplomas, credentials and records to pupils.

While it is true that it is high time to celebrate achievement and success after years of tedious schooling with our family, friends and dear ones however, since the latest social distancing protocols are in place it may not be appropriate to put way too
many people together to minimize the transfer and spread of disease. It might have been disappointing and could have been considered as a “bittersweet” experience on the part of our pupils and parents, but their safety and health is something that must not be compromised.

Schools across the country has find alternative ways and means to carry out Graduation ceremonies in a twist this year. They have planned to carry out the graduation rites virtually, and assured that allows everyone to get experience similar as possible of being in an actual rite and yet at the same time, being protected.

Collaboration with private entities have made this this program possible as an innovative way to culminate the efforts of our learners from the previous school year. Several schools have collaborated with Microsoft platform and successfully launched virtual graduation-in-a-box with a hashtag #Hello2020Graduates that required minimum internet connection. This transformative idea has given way to families to witness celebrating momentous success of our learners.

The preparation might have taken a little while than expected, but still our teachers have made necessary step to still celebrate success of our pupils. Today, not only in their educational pursuits, but throughout their whole lives, they get a chance to enjoy this wonderful and important moment. DepEd is delighted to see even more schools powered in the following months with such initiative. We might not be physically present but the fulfillment for this commencement was still felt. It could have been a bittersweet experience for all graduates, still we must learn to move forward to start with another chapter of our lives.
References:
