



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

24 February 2009

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Undersecretaries  
Assistant Secretaries  
Bureau Directors  
Directors of Services, Centers and Heads of Units  
Regional Directors  
Schools Division/City Superintendents  
Heads, Public and Private Elementary and Secondary Schools  
All Others Concerned

Further to the directive to keep the graduation ceremonies simple and austere, Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo issued attached memorandum urging schools to observe a no frill-graduation rites.

Immediate and wide dissemination of the President's directive is advised.

  
**JESLI A. LAPUS**  
Secretary



FEB 23 2009

OP0015217

To: Sec. Lapus, Chairman Angeles  
Re: No frills graduation rites  
Date: 20 February 2009

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In time for the graduation season, the Department of Education and the Commission on Higher Education should issue reminders to schools that graduation rites should be lean on cost but long on the imparting of valuable messages.

It has become a habit for lavish and excessive graduation ceremonies to be paid for by collections from students. Schools at all levels should desist from such practices.

We should usher in a paradigm shift. Graduation rites should not be exercises in splurging and display of pomp and pageantry but should be Spartan affairs that exhort civic duties, sense of community and personal responsibilities.

School administrators should be reminded that it is their duty to curb excess in very form and guise, especially with the cost being borne by others.

Curbing excess also makes economic sense. Money saved from tempering excess in graduation rites can be used to fund the cost of an elementary student going to high school, a secondary student going to college and a college graduate moving to graduate school.

Across the globe, citizens are more aware now of their civic duty to curb excess and immoderation in their lifestyles.

That the global economic meltdown was partly driven by Gilded Age lifestyles – with excess and intemperance overriding good economic decisions – has pushed the citizens and leaders further into the realm of prudence and responsibility and away from irresponsibility.

We are lock-step with the global movement. In that light, the curbing of excess should start at the basic level. That includes graduation ceremonies.

Graduation rites can be memorable, exciting and animated without the baggage of extra cost and excessive spending.

*Gloria M. Arroyo*