FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Honor Grads Prefer Public School Posting

Why would five top graduates of the Pangasinan State University in Lingayen – all with Latin honors to their name – want to teach in public schools?

The honor graduates who all finished their degrees on full scholarship were led by Jerome Patungan, a *magna cum laude* in Bachelor of Science in Education (BSE) major in Social Studies. He was joined by Auralyn Baliton, Chona Nisperos, Ma. Theresa Nolledo and Jie Ann Bandong, all *cum laude* BSE graduates of PSU.

"I want to teach in public school as a sense of duty to my country rather than go abroad," said Baliton.

For her part, Nolledo noted that she is looking forward to teaching in a public school because DepEd is taking good care of teachers. "Besides, I want to have a part in molding our young into becoming good citizens," she added.

Education Secretary Jesli Lapus expressed his appreciation to the honor graduates who had to overcome poverty before finishing their education degree. "Being on top of your class is not easy. You are an inspiration to many of our students. You gave your best despite your poverty," Lapus told the graduates.

The graduates were accompanied by officers of the Pangasinan Washington Sister State Association, the local counterpart of the Washington and Pangasinan Sister State Association (WAPSSA) based in the United States, which shouldered the scholarship of the students.

According to Dr. Cecilia Daranciang, a retired school official and WAPSSA member, they choose their scholars from the ranks of poor who have impressive scholastic record. Since their scholarship program started in 2002 with 33 beneficiaries, they have already graduated 26. At present, they have 12 scholars who each receive $400 per semester.

Dr. Daranciang also said they want to continue contributing to the development of Pangasinan by providing quality education to poor but deserving students. This year's 11 graduates from among their scholars had five on top of the graduating class.

During the visit with Lapus, Superintendent Alma Ruby Torio of Pangasinan Division I thanked Secretary Lapus for approving the assignment of a schools superintendent position for Pangasinan Division II. Prior to this, there was only one superintendent attending to both divisions.

Region 2 Director Ligaya Miguel also expressed appreciation to Secretary Lapus since her region has already complete assignment of schools superintendent in all the divisions.

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PRESS RELEASE

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