

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DepEd calls on schools to make graduations a simple celebration

With the upcoming school graduations, the Department of Education (DepEd) reminds public school heads, teachers and other education stakeholders to keep the graduation rites a simple celebration.

Education Secretary Jesli Lapus directed public schools not to collect any graduation fees or any kind of contribution for graduation rites. "We need to focus on ensuring quality education for all," he said.

In line with the government's austerity program, DepEd issued DepEd Order No.15, s. 2009, which contained the department's policy on conduct and collection of fees for the graduation rites.

Although PTA/PTCAs may solicit voluntary contributions from their members for graduation ceremonies, teachers and school officials should not be involved in the collection of these contributions.

Schools should not require extravagant special attire or extraordinary venue for the ceremonies, while contributions for the annual yearbook should only be on a voluntary basis.

The order also stated that "graduation rites should be conducted solemnly befitting the graduating students and their parents."

The celebration should not in any way be used as a venue for political forum. Lapus said school administrators and parents are not barred from inviting their local government officials.

"Many LGUs are active partners of the Department. Their contributions included assistance in school buildings, furniture, books, additional teacher items, training and operating expenses," explained Lapus.

Although the last day of classes is set on March 31, schools can schedule their graduation as early as last week of March. This year's graduation theme is "My Education: My Contribution to the Future (Edukasyon ko, Handog ko sa Kinabukasan)."

Lapus noted, "Graduation is that milestone of an accomplishment. And such success demands our students to accept more responsibilities."

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“The true value of your education is in your knowing that you now have a bigger role to play in society and in our quest for a better nation for all Filipinos,” he stressed.

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