

OFFICIAL GRADUATION MESSAGE OF THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR BATCH 2025-2026

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To our school leaders, our tireless teachers, our steadfast local partners, the proud parents and guardians—and to the true stars of this day, the graduating class of School Year 2025–2026—my warmest congratulations.

Before you turn the page, pause. Feel the weight of this moment. The diploma you hold is light in your hands but heavy with years of early mornings, late nights, small budgets, long commutes, and the quiet prayers of those who love you. It carries your sacrifices—and theirs. You will hear it said that “the real world awaits.” I reject that. You have been living in the real world all along—navigating shifting classrooms and screens, pressure and expectation, the cost of a jeepney ride and a decent meal. You have already survived one hundred percent of your hardest days. Our theme declares: **Filipino Graduates: Prepared to Lead with Competence and Character.** Competence—your *kakayahan*—earns you a seat at the table: an interview, an admission, a certification. But character—your *mabuting pagkatao*—governs what you do once you are there. Competence makes you capable. Character makes you trusted. In an age when technology can automate tasks, only your character is beyond automation.

As you step forward—to university, to work, or to discernment—carry these humble reflections:

First: There are no shortcuts to any place worth going. The hard project, the late shift, the setback—these are not detours. **They are the way.** *Not now* does not mean *never*.

Second: Progress wears many faces. It is not only a medal or a number. Sometimes it arrives as failure that teaches humility, a heartbreak that opens empathy, or a quiet Tuesday when you choose to show up with no applause.

Third: This is the heart of our regional call to **MOVE BEYOND**—beyond limits others set for you, beyond the doubts within you, beyond the safety of the minimum, toward the discipline of your best.

Fourth: The world does not only need smart people; it needs good people—grounded in community, fierce for the truth, quick to lift those who fell behind. Let your wings be competence; let your compass be character.

As you celebrate, look at the hands that raised you and the faces that hoped for you. Their labor is the soil of your success. Honor them not only by framing a diploma, but by the life you choose to live—steady in duty, generous in spirit, faithful in small things. Never underestimate the wide ripples of an ordinary person who commits wholeheartedly to doing extraordinary good.

Remember this final reminder: **Your values determine the geography of your destiny.** Choose well, and your map will widen. Class of 2026: move beyond your perceived limits. Lead with capable minds and compassionate hearts. Go, and make us proud!

Congratulations, graduates. *Mabuhay kayo, at pagpalain tayong lahat ng Maykapal.*