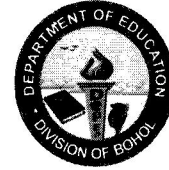




Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Region VII, Central Visayas
DIVISION OF BOHOL
City of Tagbilaran



WILFREDA D. BONGALOS, Ph. D., CESO V
Schools Division Superintendent

Graduation is an exciting time of a person's life, whether he/she be a graduate of basic education or a graduate of higher education or graduate studies. But for me, at this point in time, the most thrilling between the two graduates is the Senior High School Graduate. Why? Because he/she is the first graduate of the K to 12 Enhanced Basic Education Program, the biggest and the most ambitious education reform in the country ever. The whole country is waiting with bated breaths for the outcome of the K to 12 Program. For the Department of Education, the 2018 SHS Graduation is the determining factor whether or not it has accomplished what it aimed to accomplish—that of producing “holistically-developed Filipinos with 21st Century Skills in Information, Media and Technology, Learning and Innovation, Communication, and Life and Career”. This year's Graduation theme: *Mag-aaral ng K to 12: Handasa Hamon ng Buhay* (K to 12 Learners: Ready to Face Life's Challenges) may be taken as a statement of fact or a challenge

We, at the grass roots of the education governance, would like to believe that yes, despite the obstacles and challenges and criticisms met along the way of its first implementation, the K to 12 Program has emerged triumphant. It wasn't an easy feat for all of us, what with the shortage of classrooms, chairs, laboratories and other facilities and equipment, not to mention the shortage of teachers. But thanks to the innate genius, resourcefulness, creativeness and resiliency of our teachers and the relentless support of our education leaders, parents and partners, we made it through. My salute to all of you.

To the 2018 Graduates, take a moment to look back and ponder on the things that have gone past – your achievements, your accomplishments and the realization of your plans and goals. Have they made you into the kind of person your parents, your Alma Mater, your community, your country would be proud of? Likewise, recognize your past failures, frustrations and mistakes. Have you learned something from them? Remember, life is to be lived and explored. Never stop trying, never stop learning. Life's lessons are yet to be learnt. Give it nothing but your best.

Good luck to the next step of your journey, dear Graduates. God speed!