

# MESSAGE

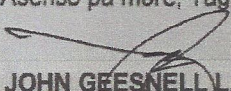
My esteemed congratulations to you, dear graduates, on your commencement exercises. Today, you are the pride of your parents and your families, as you have completed another step towards your educational pursuits. Your toga and diploma symbolize the years you have devoted to the mastery of academics and the development of your physical and social being. You have successfully hurdled the struggles to emerge as educated and responsible members of society.

However, the challenges do not end with this culmination exercise. Graduation just closes one door or one chapter of your life, but it opens so many more windows of opportunities. You stand on the brink of a new journey that will require more vigorous years of study, research, examinations, and hard work. It may sound daunting, but I urge you to push forward because these are essential tools that will propel you to a fulfilled life.

Education is the bedrock upon which your future stands. It is your only armour against ignorance, abuse, and poverty. So, I encourage you to take your studies seriously, because education is a gift that will take care of you in the future. With your youthful dynamism, I am optimistic that you will continue your track to higher education. Just remember to match your studies with hard work, integrity, and prayer. Never compromise yourselves with shallow activities. Bear in mind that excellence is what you deserve. Excellence, too, is what you should strive for.

Let me conclude my message with a reminder that you hold the future in your hands. Your parents, teachers, and your government can only do so much. We can show you the path, but it is you who have to walk on it. Let your accomplishments be your personal affirmation that you have got what it takes to reach your goals in life.

Congratulations, my dear graduates. Asenso pa more, graduates! Asenso pa more, Tagbilaran City!

  
HON. JOHN GRESNELL L. YAP II  
City Mayor of Tagbilaran