



UNIVERSITY OF PERPETUAL HELP SYSTEM DALTA



Breaking Prison Walls through Transformative Education: A Best Practice of a Community Extension Service as Showcased by the University of Perpetual Help System DALTA Bilibid Extension School

"It is said that no one truly knows a nation until one has been inside its jails. A nation should not be judged by how it treats its highest citizens, but its lowest ones."

- Nelson Mandela

This quotation of Nelson Mandela is a manifestation of how humane a society particularly a government should be. Society need not ignore its citizens especially those who are in compromising situations like those who are in the prisons. Today is the age of globalization wherein rapid change in infrastructure and technology is happening around the world from time to time. Thus, society at large needs to move in coping with the swift changes in the environment. These movements bring a major shift in the diversified culture and morality of people. Different educational institutions whether public or private have their own programs in helping the marginalized group which is envisioned in their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). Government for that matter needs to address the concerns of the different sectors of society like the offenders housed in the different Bureau of Corrections. Apparently, overpopulation and overcrowding of the offenders are the major concerns of the Bureau of Corrections, yet the reasons and causes of the escalating number of offenders are ignored by the government.

In the Philippines, the correctional bureaus are responsible for the safekeeping of prisoners and their rehabilitation through general and moral education and technical training in industry and agriculture (Villaluz, et al. 2013). One of the rehabilitative measures is the education offered by the Bureau of Corrections. Before, prison education caters only to remedial schooling that prepares inmates to acquire basic literacy in reading, writing and mathematics. In most correctional facilities, vocational programs are incorporated into job assignments and serve as on-the-job training. The goal is to provide Persons Deprived with Liberty (PDLs) with skills that will improve their eligibility for jobs upon release. Most prison vocational training is geared toward the traditional blue-collar employment in areas such as electronics, auto mechanics and handicrafts. At the Reception and Diagnostic Center of the New Bilibid Prison in Muntinlupa City, a basic computer literacy course with typing as a support course is available for PDLs who have finished at least high school level (Bureau of Corrections, 2015).





UNIVERSITY OF PERPETUAL HELP SYSTEM DALTA



It is with this perspective that the Perpetual Help College of Rizal (PHCR) which eventually became the University of Perpetual Help Rizal and now is the University of Perpetual Help System DALTA (UPHSD) Bilibid Extension School was organized. Furthermore, it was also through the inspiration on the noble program of “Rehabilitation Through Education” of Dr. Cecilio Penson who pioneered the first adult education and informal teaching within the prison walls several years ago that strengthened the belief and mission of the University of Perpetual Help System - DALTA Chairman of the Board, Dr. Antonio Laperal Tamayo. Dr. Tamayo envisions to formulate and prepare a comprehensive program of rehabilitating the medium risk prisoners through education and livelihood skills training and development. It was in November 1984 when the revitalized program called “Moral Recovery Through Education and Community Partnership” was officially launched through the efforts of Dr. Grace De Leon, the chair of the Executive Committee of the Perpetual Help College of Rizal (PHCR), the Rotary Club of Las Piñas officers and the Bureau of Corrections which dubbed it as the Bilibid Extension Program (BEP) in the New Bilibid Prisons, Muntinlupa City (Villaluz, 2014).

The Bilibid Extension Program (BEP) of the University of Perpetual Help System DALTA is the only one in the world that offers free tertiary education inside a penitentiary. It was founded in 1984 by Dr./BGen Antonio Laperal Tamayo, currently the Chairman of the Board and CEO of the UPHS DALTA, Mr. Eriberto Misa of the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) and Atty. Danny Mendez of the Rotary Club of Las Piñas with other Rotarians, and UPHSD School Officers. Dr. Jose G. Tamayo, who was then the Chairman of the Board of the UPH System headed the signing of the MOA and Tripartite Agreement named as the Bilibid Extension Program (BEP) in the Bureau of Corrections in Muntinlupa City. The three major players in the program, UPHSD, BuCor, and Rotary Club of Las Piñas have the following roles and responsibilities:

The University takes charge of the curriculum, the granting of credits and the issuance of diplomas or certificates to the PDL-students. It also provides supervision of the implementation and operations of the program which is recognized by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED). UPHSD also provides for the overall supervision with regard the program’s implementation and operations. Its responsibility relates to the academic concerns involving faculty, curriculum and instruction, and provisions of co-curricular activities and academic support services.

The Bureau of Corrections on the other hand, provides the venue for the conduct of the program which includes the classrooms and other physical facilities, grounds, library and laboratories as required by CHED and the University. It also ensures the safety and security of the faculty and other school personnel inside the prison walls. (UPHSD- Policy Quality Manual 2014). The college is situated in one (1) storey building

2

Breaking Prison Walls through Transformative Education: A Best Practice of a Community Extension Service as Showcased by the University of Perpetual Help System DALTA Bilibid Extension School



UNIVERSITY OF PERPETUAL HELP SYSTEM DALTA



in the Education Area of Camp Sampaguita. The school area occupies 1,0935.5 square meters out of a total land area of 416 hectares for the NBP.

The Rotary Club of Las Piñas, a socio-civic and non-government organization provides financial support and administrative assistance to the BES. The agreement with the Rotary Club of Las Piñas includes the following areas: salaries and wages of the mentors and other academic personnel like the registrar, the messenger, clerk, and others, prescribed books for the students; library books, journals and periodicals; means of transportation to facilitate the operation of the program; and funding of miscellaneous expenses, such as registration and enrollment forms, diploma, office supplies and other pertinent items needed in the running of the program. However, the Rotary Club was not able to sustain its responsibilities in the program due to changes in the leadership and membership, and the financial constraints of this non-government organization. Dr. Antonio Laperal Tamayo decided to continue the program and shoulder the financial support required because he saw the needs and clamor of the PDLs, their families and relatives. Even the BuCor officials witnessed the change and transformation of these PDLs so they endorsed the continuation of the program. Helping other people was the main reason why Dr. Tamayo sustained the program because he was inspired and influenced by his strong faith to the university patroness Mother of Perpetual Help and not for awards, accolades, and recognitions that he would be receiving because of the noble program.

Initially, a degree course in Bachelor of Science in Commerce major in Small Entrepreneurship was sponsored by the then Perpetual Help College of Rizal (PCHR) for free. It envisioned training and educating the selected students to become PDL small entrepreneurs who would be ready to tread new paths towards productive and responsible citizenship of the country after they have served their terms.

Since its inception in 1984, the degree program has graduated five hundred eighty-one (581) students. Many of these graduates have been released from prison and are now gainfully employed. Since then, the Bilibid Extension Program (BEP) is the major advocacy of the Community Outreach Program of the University. All colleges of the University extend their community services to the Bilibid Extension School Program. (UPHS-DALTA Quality Policy Manual 2015)

The program “Rehabilitation through Education” is a comprehensive program of rehabilitating the deserving medium security risk PDLs, through education and livelihood skills training and development by the University of Perpetual Help System DALTA (UPHSD) Bilibid Extension School inside the New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa City. Currently, the UPHSD Bilibid Extension School offers Bachelor of Science in Entrepreneurship, a vocational course in Computer Hardware

3

Breaking Prison Walls through Transformative Education: A Best Practice of a Community Extension Service as Showcased by the University of Perpetual Help System DALTA Bilibid Extension School



UNIVERSITY OF PERPETUAL HELP SYSTEM DALTA



Servicing and in 2017, it opened the Senior High School Program. This year, it has a total of two hundred twenty-one (221) PDL-students enrolled for School Year 2019-2020. The school administrators from UPHSD are headed by Dr. Alfonso H. Loreto, School Director and Dr. Toribio Cayanan, Dean of the College of Business Administration and Accountancy, Dr. Josephine P. Dasig, Head of the Community Extension Services, Ms. Estella May C. Lat, Chief, Training and Education Section and Mr. Sonny S. Pesa, Chief, UPHSD Extension School representing the Bureau of Correction.

UPHSD BES is celebrating its 35st founding anniversary this year. Hence, like any other regular school, various curricular and extra-curricular activities are part of the teaching and learning process. Furthermore, the institution's mission is to graduate all its learners to be physically, intellectually, socially and spiritually committed to the achievement of the highest quality of life by providing different activities to attain this goal. Thus, the administration of UPHSD Bilibid Extension School and of the Bureau of Corrections have designed and implemented various activities every school year.

Organization of the Outreach Program

The President of the University, Mr. Anthony Jose M. Tamayo takes full responsibility for the UPHSD BES. He is assisted by the School Director of the Las Piñas Campus. But the operations of the program is done by the Head of the Community Outreach Program.

The organizational structure represents the hierarchical arrangement of the department with the following functions:

The Head of the Community Extension Services spearheads the over-all direction of the community extension office in consultation with the School Director. The Head facilitates and develops empowerment programs based on the identified needs of the partner communities in order to address the issues based on the capacity and competencies of each college and department. The head leads in the formulation, implementation, supervision, monitoring and evaluation of approved programs and services in consultation with partner communities. She provides capacity building support for coordinators, faculty, students, non-teaching personnel and the community in collaboration with the Deans, Heads, and Human Resource Department. She establishes networks and linkages to local, regional, national and international agencies to enhance the existing outreach programs and services. She also coordinates with the concerned colleges and Research and Development Center (RDC) in developing and conducting community based researches.

4

Breaking Prison Walls through Transformative Education: A Best Practice of a Community Extension Service as Showcased by the University of Perpetual Help System DALTA Bilibid Extension School



UNIVERSITY OF PERPETUAL HELP SYSTEM DALTA



The Community Extension Services (CES) Coordinator is the representative of his/her Department/Colleges. The Program Coordinator is under the supervision of the Office of the Community Extension Services in matters pertaining to extension program and services.

The Program Assistant of the Community Extension Services assists the Head in the operation. He/She assists the program coordinators/proponents in the formulation, implementation, supervision, monitoring and evaluation of the approved programs and services.

The Administrative Staff of the Community Extension Services is responsible for the effective and office management and attends to clerical work requirements of the office.

The Community Outreach Programs of the institution provides opportunities for the students to be involved in the various community projects and programs. These programs and activities allow the students to develop their social responsibility and civic - mindedness by applying the concepts and knowledge learned in the classroom in real - life situations.

Moreover, the institution believes in the nobility of education as it teaches and transforms the PDL students acting physically, intellectually, socially, morally and spiritually. Besides, being the key in reducing misdemeanor of PDLs inside the prison, education also prepares them for their future re-integration in society. Hence, PDL students participate in most of the community outreach programs and activities. The faculty members, non-teaching personnel and students are actively involved in the planning and implementing of the different activities of the Community Outreach Program of their department. Likewise, the UPHSD Bilibid Extension School is always commended by the members of the PACUCOA accrediting team who have visited the extension school and assessed the program.

Planning, implementation and evaluation of the outreach program

The Community Outreach Program Office, as the heart of the institution together with all the colleges and departments, leads in the planning, implementation, coordination, monitoring, and evaluation of the CES programs, projects, and activities.

Every summer, there are planning sessions and training seminars and workshops for all the CES Coordinators and student leaders. In the workshop, the CES Coordinators and students are grouped together to brainstorm and design CES programs and activities aligned to the CES advocacy of their college or department. The CES Coordinators include such programs in their annual operational plan.

5

Breaking Prison Walls through Transformative Education: A Best Practice of a Community Extension Service as Showcased by the University of Perpetual Help System DALTA Bilibid Extension School



UNIVERSITY OF PERPETUAL HELP SYSTEM DALTA



Prior to the implementation of any activity is the assessment of the needs that include ocular inspection, interview of the residents or target recipients and consultation with the community leaders. Needs Assessment is conducted to ascertain that the programs, projects, and activities proposed and implemented by all colleges appropriately address the needs of the target community

The Community Extension Services of the university has anchored its programs and projects in the thrust, **HELPERS** which stand for *Health, Education, Livelihood and Psychosocial, Environment, Risk and Disaster Management and Sports and Wellness* as its advocacies that are undertaken by the colleges.. **Health Programs** are done by the College of Nursing, the Colleges of Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Respiratory Therapy, Radiologic Therapy, Medical Technology, Pharmacy and Dental Medicine. **Education and Literacy Programs** are taken care of by the Colleges of Education and College of Arts and Sciences. **Livelihood Development and Life Skills Programs** are being done by the College of Business Administration and Accountancy and the College of International Tourism and Hospitality Management. **Psychosocial Programs** are jointly shared by the College of Arts and Sciences and Allied Health programs. **Programs for Environment and Risk and Disaster Management** are being undertaken by the College of Criminology, College of Maritime, College of Engineering and the School of Aviation. **Sports and Wellness and Values Formation Programs** are likewise managed by the College of Education and College of Arts and Sciences.

A need assessment survey is done before a program is implemented to determine the areas that need emphasis and support. The College CES Coordinators then propose a program or an activity that helps improve the areas of priority. Each activity is evaluated. The results are tallied, tabulated and analyzed to check its impact to the community. All Community Extension activities are proposed with a concept paper. Once the concept paper is approved by the CES Head and the School Director, it is ready for implementation. For effective coordination and performance assessment, all CES activities, programs, projects are systematically and extensively documented and closely monitored to check how the activities are progressing.

The monitoring serves as the feedback mechanism of the program. During the monitoring, if there are activities that are not accomplished, an action plan is prepared to address the gaps and issues during the implementation. It is in this phase where intervention can be done when needed. Programs, projects and activities can also be evaluated midway so as to know the appropriate adjustments that can be done to ensure success of the program. Monitoring and evaluation of the activities are checked through the accomplishment reports of each college. The CES Office ensures that the

6

Breaking Prison Walls through Transformative Education: A Best Practice of a Community Extension Service as Showcased by the University of Perpetual Help System DALTA Bilibid Extension School



UNIVERSITY OF PERPETUAL HELP SYSTEM DALTA



plan of activities and Action Plan timetable allotted are accomplished on the period planned.

After the implementation of the programs, projects, or activities, accomplishment reports are submitted by the CES Coordinator to the CES Office. The report must contain the names of the beneficiaries, the reflection papers and evaluation of the implementers (CES coordinators, faculty, and students) and the evaluation of the beneficiaries.

The evaluation results are then tallied and analyzed for information management. Such information is used as basis for the improvement of the existing programs and development of new programs, projects, and activities. Furthermore, the data also serve as the source for research activities/studies which further enhance the community extension services of the institution or of the college. The accomplishment and evaluation reports are also considered in the budget allocation for the next school year. Each program of every college is allotted with a budget with a certain reference number for all its proposed programs, projects and activities. The amount needed in the budget is released a day or two before the implementation date of the scheduled CES programs/projects. The implementers submit a liquidation report right after the programs/projects. Supporting and official documents are attached to ensure reliability of the liquidation report.

All activities and expenditures incurred are part of the midyear and year-end report of the Department.

Impact/Quality of the outreach program

The program is anchored on the university's vision that foresees the Filipino people enjoying a quality of life in abundance, its mission that aims to graduate dynamic and well-rounded students who are citizens with great social concern, and its philosophy that the university is committed to the ideals of teaching, community service and research. The administration, as a catalyst of change, supports all extension activities by utilizing the university's resources in making a difference in the lives of our incarcerated brothers in the New Bilibid Prison.

Dr. Antonio L. Tamayo, the Founder, the University's First President and Chairman of the Board, believes that research is more than just a discovery of potent medicine for dreaded diseases or advanced technology for luxurious human existence. Further, he reiterated that research is the key to new processes and a catalyst that can speed-up the country's growth and development. He envisions to promote basic researchers in the fields of natural and social sciences, as well as in the humanities.

7

Breaking Prison Walls through Transformative Education: A Best Practice of a Community Extension Service as Showcased by the University of Perpetual Help System DALTA Bilibid Extension School



UNIVERSITY OF PERPETUAL HELP SYSTEM DALTA



Consistent with the overall philosophy, vision and mission of the University towards quality education, novel discoveries and sustainable development through networking, collaboration and community partnership (Tamayo, 2005).

True to his words, Dr. Tamayo himself, ventured on a descriptive research study in 1996 on the effect of formal education on the self-concept of the inmates of the Bureau of Corrections Extension School. The result of this study showed the significance of the program to the beneficiaries and benefactors alike. The results of the Bledsoe Self-Concept Scale among the 50 inmate-respondents in terms of age and terms of imprisonment (life and non-life term) revealed that there was a significant increase in their level of self-concept as an outcome of exposure to the academic and non-academic activities offered by the program. The respondents, who were inmates themselves, were found able to regain social approval through self-recovery as they were given greater opportunities to interact and move freely in their somehow controlled environment - parallel to the capability to actualize their unfinished ambitions when they were outside the Bureau of Corrections.

From the pages of a University research paper, a number of yardsticks by which the effectiveness of UPHSD's prison-based education identified the following results: *Improved social skills, positive behavioral changes, aspect of spirituality, and instructional indicators.*

For improved social skills, as immortalized in the vignettes of the respondents, which the absence of numerical statistics cannot deny, the prisoners were immersed in socialization activities that allowed them to experience well-rounded development. The inmates demonstrated development of their potentials vis-a vis Multiple Intelligences.

For **positive behavioral changes** by and large, it was observed that inmates who participated in the educational programs somehow showed decreased tendencies to violence and better relations with other PDLs and staff. Past and present volunteer educators who held classes in prison said there were very few incidents of violence or attitude problems experienced by them with their PDL students. As a whole, instructors were treated with respect by their students. On the **Aspect of Spirituality**. Quite a number of PDLs found peace in hearing and sharing spiritual thoughts. There were a number who turned preachers. In preaching or teaching the words of God, the inmates appreciated more their inner self and found inner peace. This lightened their once hardened hearts. Close to this revelation, is the quotation that states: "*The natural healing force within each one of us is the greatest force in getting well (Hippocrates).*" On **Instructional indicators**. Whether associate courses or bachelor programs, instructors reported that learning objectives set for their classes were satisfactorily met with light to moderate extent of impediments which were natural in a learning setting like

8

Breaking Prison Walls through Transformative Education: A Best Practice of a Community Extension Service as Showcased by the University of Perpetual Help System DALTA Bilibid Extension School



UNIVERSITY OF PERPETUAL HELP SYSTEM DALTA



the Bureau of Corrections Extension School. Attendance of the student-inmates in classes was not a problem considering their status as inmates. Hence, attendance was reported to be almost 100% every school day implying their great interest to learn and the right to enjoy the privilege. Test scores were also reported to be very satisfactory. As a result of which, there were very few cases of failures in the different subjects through time. An average of 18 PDLs graduate every year since 1989 to date was recorded.

Redefining their self-worth or self-concept is perhaps the most significant thing that this dignified project rendered to its beneficiaries.

Of the graduates who have already rejoined free society, some have found productive jobs as owner-operator of small sari-sari stores, a port employee, clerks in different firms in Las Piñas and the rest of Metro Manila, or proprietors of poultry farms and piggeries. Some have ventured in agriculture and crop production or joined the national greening movement. Still others landed jobs as office staff in business firms, coordinators of NGO projects, or as operator of a small taxi line. A number of them also decided to continue with their spiritual mission as Preachers. One of the graduates is now a successful banker while the rest have ventured outside the geographical confines of the country in search of greener pastures. As far as continuing education is concerned, a number of graduates have enrolled in such in-demand short courses as caregiving or in nursing aide programs. On social benefits, the noble mission opened so many doors in the life of the penitentiaries in the Bureau of Corrections. It created many new beginnings that unfolded brighter and hopeful tomorrows for the penitentiaries. The Extension School rebuilds in many ways their broken spirits. Conceivably, the chance to be educated though pegged with steel bars, help them regain their self-respect. Thus, educationally speaking, staying behind bars is no longer a hindrance to the advancement of PDLs. The study of Dasig 2016 on the “Impact of UPHSD-Bilibid Extension School in the holistic development of the PDL students” revealed with **Great Impact** in terms of Emotional, Physical, Intellectual, and Economic aspects. On the other hand, Moral, Spiritual, and Social development showed with **Very Great Impact**. The study further revealed that “BES has helped them adjust and cope in their life as prisoners easily”. The PDLs also learned to become humble, and have self-control. They learned to control their anger and emotion and learned how to deal with other people. BES also helped them develop their physical strength and vitality because it includes Physical Education as part of the curriculum and the BuCor provides yearly sports competition to develop the agility and sportsmanship of all the PDL students.

9

Breaking Prison Walls through Transformative Education: A Best Practice of a Community Extension Service as Showcased by the University of Perpetual Help System DALTA Bilibid Extension School



UNIVERSITY OF PERPETUAL HELP SYSTEM DALTA



Knowledge in the use of the computer is a basic and essential skill for employment and in doing one's daily tasks. Thus, the computer skills and entrepreneurial skills also helped the PDL students. These skills were utilized because some of the PDL students serve not only the offices of the Medium Security Compound but all the offices of the National Bilibid Prison. UPHSD BES also helped the PDL students become better individuals. They confirmed that through education, they become better in interacting with others, handling their finances, controlling their temper, reforming, transforming themselves, changing, and improving their perspectives in life. The extension school also sets them free from bad and worldly thoughts. The program also gave them hope, hope that they can be better citizens in the free community, that they can live their life outside in a clean and fair way. The spiritual activities have also made their relationship with God closer and that made them better men. Some of them became Preachers and they have overcome the fear in singing and in sharing the word of God to others. The spiritual and religious involvements have reduced the recidivism of the released alumni because they were immensely changed by God through the reformation program of the school. The social skills of the inmates both PDLs and alumni were developed through the varied school programs such as the Student Body Council (SBC) which is the highest governing student body that organizes and supervises the overall activity of the studentry, followed by the College Guild that takes charge of the performance in entertaining the guests and visitors of the New Bilibid Prison. The Scholastic Society is an organization of the inmate-students who excel in academics. They serve as tutors to those who are not performing well in academics. The Service Team is in charge of organizing the logistics needed inside BES particularly during the special events or programs. The Marshal is a group of PDL students who assist the administrators, faculty, and visitors in going around the campus. These school organizations have motivated and uplifted their character and behavior.

These also helped them become flexible in accomplishing the directives assigned to them. Economically, the program instilled the importance of earning. Since Bachelor of Science in Entrepreneurship is the program offered, the PDL students learned the importance of hard-earned money. They were able to practice these skills through their yearly "Franchising Week". This activity allows the PDL students to think of creative ways in making, producing, packaging, marketing, and selling their products. The Dean of the College of Business Administration and Accountancy, faculty, and students of the UPHSD campus visit and critique the presentation of the PDL students.

Their entrepreneurial skills are utilized in varied simple business ventures. One of the PDL students owns a sari-sari or retail store situated inside the College Building premises. He was able to establish the store with a capital of only Php 25,000.00 with

10

Breaking Prison Walls through Transformative Education: A Best Practice of a Community Extension Service as Showcased by the University of Perpetual Help System DALTA Bilibid Extension School



UNIVERSITY OF PERPETUAL HELP SYSTEM DALTA



the money he saved while doing menial jobs inside the NBP. The store is now earning Php 15,000.00 to Php 16,000.00 monthly. He has two assistants whom he is paying Php 500.00 monthly. He is now financially independent from his family and he is able to provide support for his own family by sending them money regularly. The business opportunities and entrepreneurial skills they learned from BES have provided them with better financial security inside the prison walls.

The PDL students believe that significant changes and realization happened to themselves from the bitter reality of isolation from their families to being ostracized not only by some of the family members but also by society. They learned how to adjust with their situation and interact with each other and with authorities with utmost humility and self-control.

The administrators, the faculty, staff, and the students who join the program of activities for the year in BES have found their participation as life changing. They become more appreciative and grateful of what they have and what they enjoy in life. The students shared that their visit to BES has made an impact on their perspectives in life. They are now more obedient to their parents and people in authority. They have come to realize that freedom is indeed a responsibility which they treasure.

Sustainability of the program

The Bilibid Extension Program of the University has been in operation for 35 years now. It has hurdled the challenges, issues, and problems experienced by the university and the Bureau of Corrections. In fact, it was awarded as one of the finalists in the 4th Vincent De Paul National Awards on September 26, 2017 at the Adamson University, Manila. The award was a rightful recognition of the invaluable contribution and collaborative efforts for the success of the Bilibid Extension School in creating a system of helping the persons deprived of liberty to meet their basic human needs through education where they earned their academic degree giving them the opportunity to enjoy quality life after serving their sentence and opportunity to become self-reliant (Panatag), value-laden (Mapayapa), and productive citizens (Masagana). Dr. Josephine P. Dasig the Head of the Community Extension Services of UPHSD and Ms. Larisa V. Martin the Chief of BES were also invited by Light Moments, a Radio Program of DZMM Abs-CBN last July 14, 2018 to discuss the importance of BES in the lives of the PDLs in the New Bilibid Prison. The BES program was also presented by Dr. Alfonso H. Loreto, the school Director and Dr. Josephine P. Dasig during the ASAIHL Conference with the theme “Borderless: Open Access Education” on December 4-6,



UNIVERSITY OF PERPETUAL HELP SYSTEM DALTA



2016 at Putra Jaya, Malaysia. It was also recognized with its “Sinag ng Pag-asa” as the recipient of the Friedrich Neumann Foundation for Freedom Project.

Likewise, the BES has graced the pages of the varied newspapers of the Philippine News Agency on May 24, 2018, Philippine Star on September 27, 2017, People’s Tonight on April 24, 2017, Manila Bulletin on April 26, 2017, Rappler on April 22, 2017 and many others. Additionally, the life story of some of the PDL students and PDLs who are now part of the free society were also featured in some of Television Programs such as Front Row of GMA 7 entitled “Graduate na si Kosa” a story of a student behind bars that was aired on May 20, 2019. “Mission Possible” of ABS-CBN 2 featured the life and struggles of Luis Crisostomo, a college graduate of BES and this was shown on February 16, 2015. These are just some of the evidences that BES is indeed changing and transforming the lives of the PDL students.

True to its mission and vision, the university is continuously exploring other programs and services to best address the needs of the PDLs through research-based studies. Besides BS in Entrepreneurship that has already produced 581 graduates, BES started to offer Computer Hardware Servicing in 2008. This is a one year TESDA Certificate Program. To date, a total of 197 completed the program and most of them are now employed with the assistance of the Alumni Office. In 2017, BES also opened its Senior High School Program following the ABM track to respond to the demand of the K-12 Program of the Department of Education. There were 22 Senior High School students who graduated this year, and all of them are enrolled in the BS Entrepreneurship program of UPHSD BES. Tables 1, 2, and 3 indicate the number of graduates of these programs every year



Table 1. Graduates of the Bachelor of Science in Entrepreneurship

Year of Graduation	Number of Graduates	Year of Graduation	Number of Graduates	Year of Graduation	Number of Graduates
1989	16	2000	17	2010	24
1990	14	2001	17	2011	15
1991	22	2002	10	2012	14
1992	13	2203	14	2013	23
1993	11	2004	27	2014	29
1994	21	2005	16	2015	13
1995	13	2006	22	2016	20
1996	22	2007	30	2017	17
1997	14	2008	35	2018	18
1998	16	2009	26	2019	25
1999	7			2020	28
Total	169		214		226
Grand Total			609		



UNIVERSITY OF PERPETUAL HELP SYSTEM DALTA



Year of Graduation	Number of Graduates
2008	17
2009	13
2013	17
2014	16
2015	25
2016	31
2017	17
2018	19
2019	42
2020	35
TOTAL	232

Table 2. Graduates of the Computer Hardware Servicing

Table 3. First Graduates of the Senior High School Program

Year of Graduation	Number of Graduates
2019	22
2020	33
TOTAL	55



UNIVERSITY OF PERPETUAL HELP SYSTEM DALTA



The three programs: Bachelor of Science in Entrepreneurship, Computer Hardware Servicing, and Senior High School are offered for free. UPHSD advocates its Philosophy in realizing the ideals of teaching, community engagement, and research as it nurtures the value of “Helpers of God” with Character Building is Nation Building as its guiding Principle (COP Resolution1 series of 2019).;

The Call for Other Educational Institutions

The mechanics of the UPHSD BES program can be replicated by any selfless and generous educational institution that envisions to provide opportunities in achieving quality of life for all Filipino people. There are six penal colonies in the country. These are: 1. The Correctional Institution for Women in Mandaluyong City; 2. Iwahig Prison and Penal Farm in Puerto Prinsesa City, Palawan; 3. Sablayan Prison and Penal Farm in Occidental Mindoro; 4. San Ramon Prison and Penal Farm in Zamboanga City; 5. Leyte Regional Prison in Abuyog, Leyte; and 6. Davao Prison and Penal farm in Panabo, Davao Province. These penal colonies have nearby higher learning institutions that are capable of providing education and training to this marginalized sector of society. The PDLs who committed crimes in the past, prosecuted by society, convicted and punished by the government should not be deprived of the opportunities to be educated and prove their worth as renewed and changed individuals in and out of their prison cells through the rehabilitative impact of education. Prison education also supports the World Conference of *Education for All and the Sustainable Development Goal 16 that promotes peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provides access to justice for all and builds effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.* Prison education is far more than a tool for crime reduction. It is primarily an instrument that changes the inner-being and self-concept of the incarcerated people that made them better and responsible citizens of

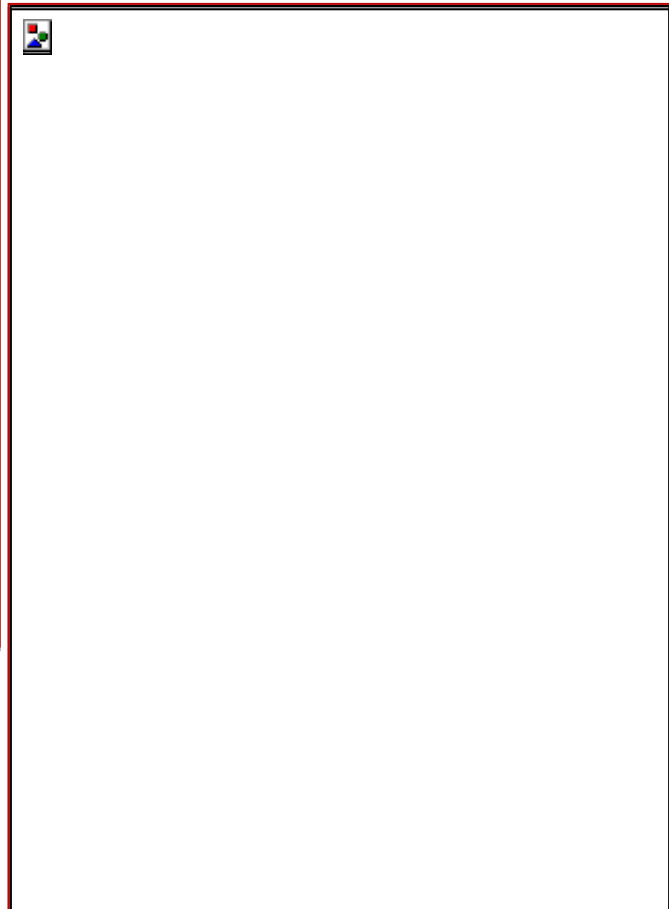


UNIVERSITY OF PERPETUAL HELP SYSTEM DALTA



the country and of the world. Life of the PDLs would be more meaningful and promising and the Philippines would be a better, happier, and safer place if and only if, other Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) will heed this call.

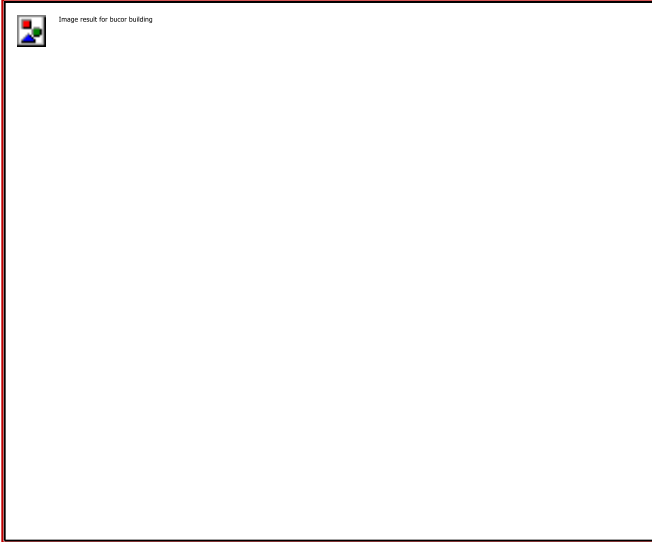
Photo Documentation



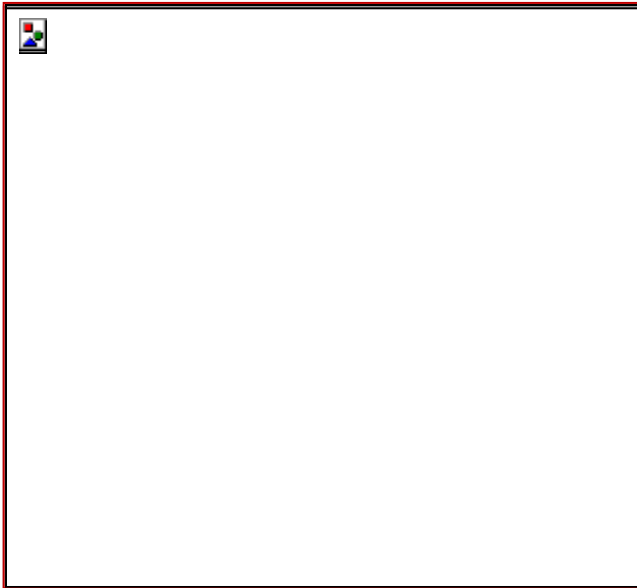
The tripartite agreement of the Bureau of Corrections, the Rotary Club of Las Piñas City, and the University of Perpetual Help System DALTA.



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The main building of the Bureau of Corrections at the New Bilibid Prison and the entrance gate of the University of Perpetual Help System DALTA Bilibid Extension School





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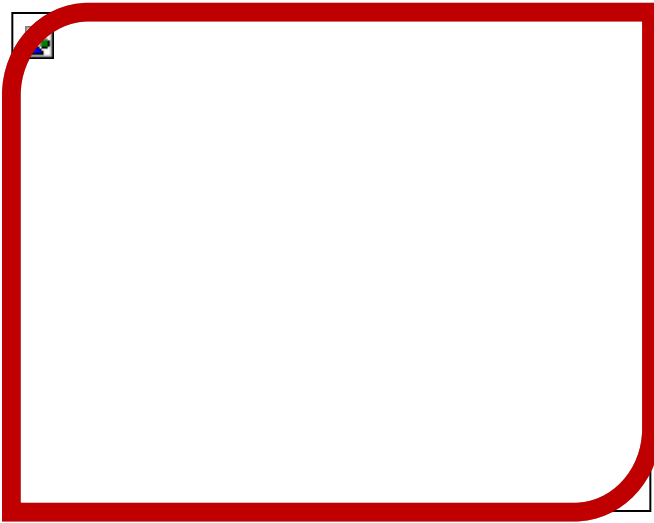
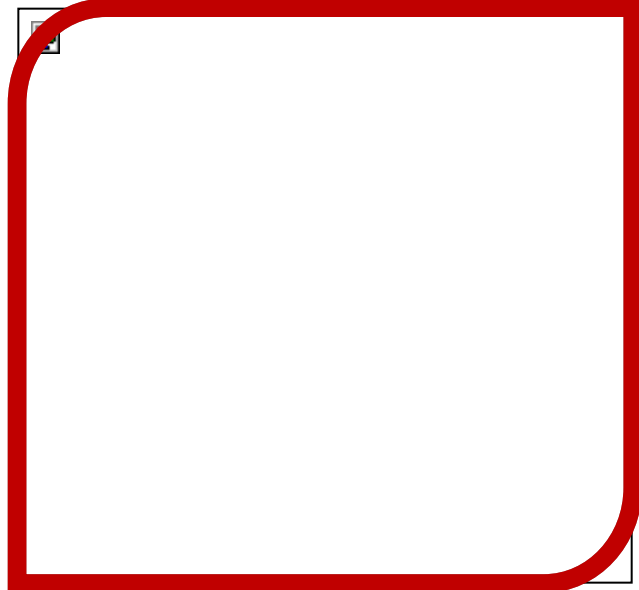
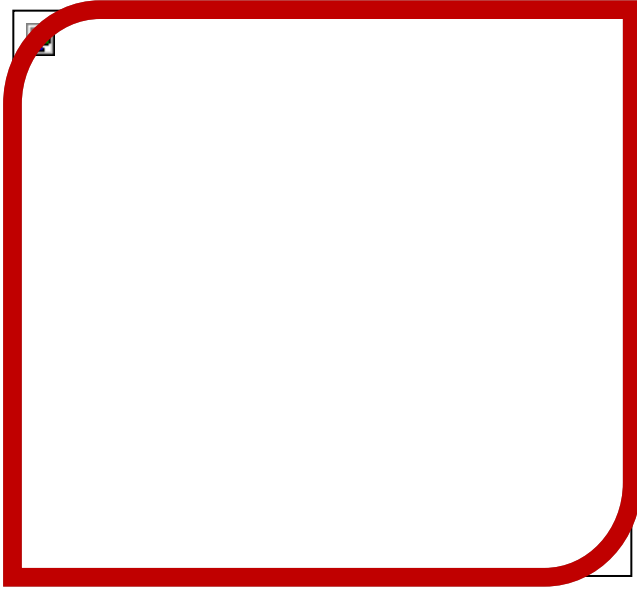


The students of the main campus are sharing their skills with the PDL (Person Deprived with L

Basic Life Support seminar is being provided as part of the Risk and Disaster Management thrust of the Community Extension services of UPHSD.



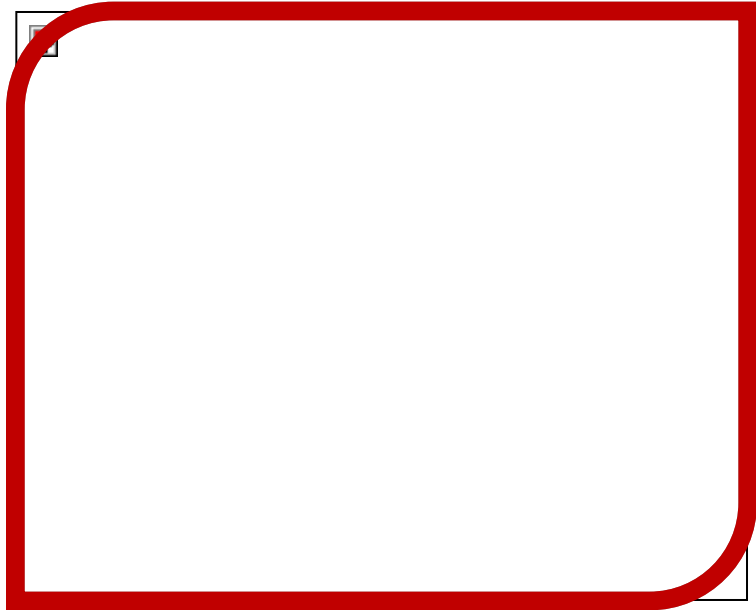
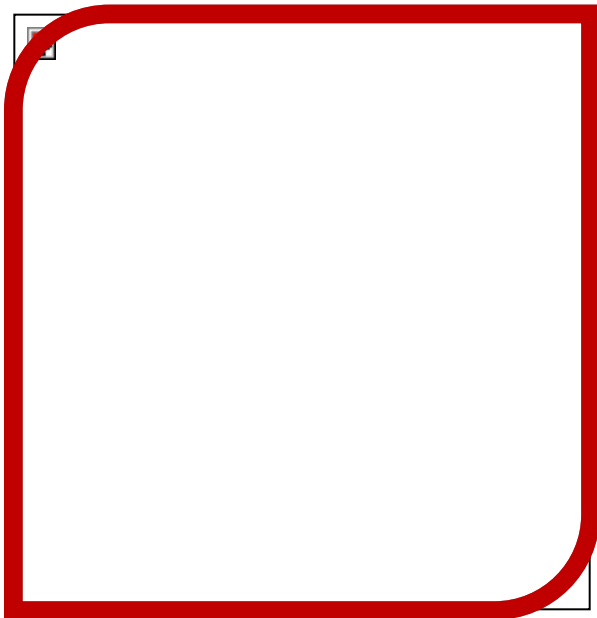
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The Allied Health faculty and students are having their dental and medical services.



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Free Eye Consultation and Eye Refraction Project of the Allied Health Programs



Varied academic seminars and spiritual activities are being provided by the faculty and students of the main campus to the PDL students.



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The students from UPHSD LP interact with the PDL students of BES.



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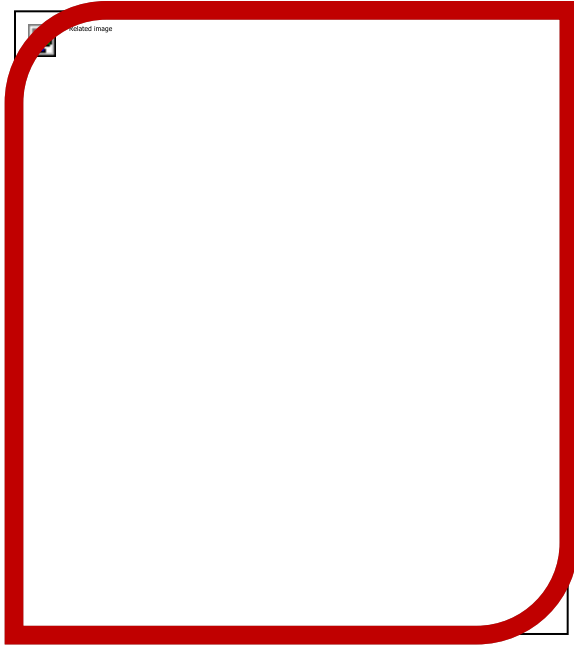
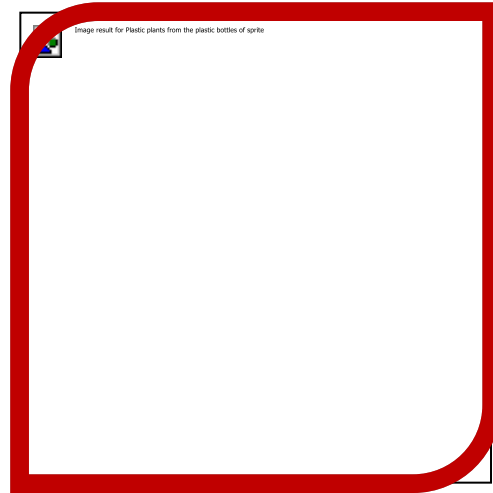
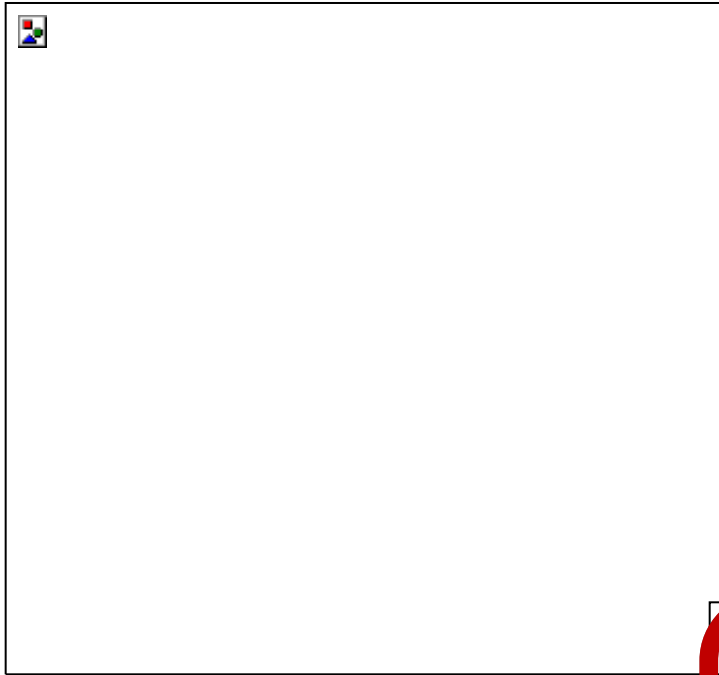
These PDLs are engaged in role playing.

Some of the PDL students are garbed in Filipiniana attire for the folk dances during the Linggo ng Wika celebration.

To develop the totality of the PDL students, various curricular and co-curricular activities are designed for them.



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The Franchising Week celebration of the BS Entrepreneurship PDL students.

Dr. Josephine P. Dasig, the head of the Community Extension Service of UPHSD and Ms. Lariza Martin, the Officer in Charge of UPHSD-Bilibid Extension School grace the Light Moments program of Sister Maru and Fr. Marquez of ABS-CBN 2. The discussion focused on the impact of UPHSD through its education program to the lives of the inmate-students.



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Dr. Daisy Moran Tamayo, the Co-Founder and PEB Chair of UPHSD awards the Certificate of Recognition to the graduates.





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Image result for bato dela rosa during the Bilibid Graduation Ceremony

The Tamayo family with BuCor Director General Nicanor Faeldon congratulates the Graduates of Batch 2019.

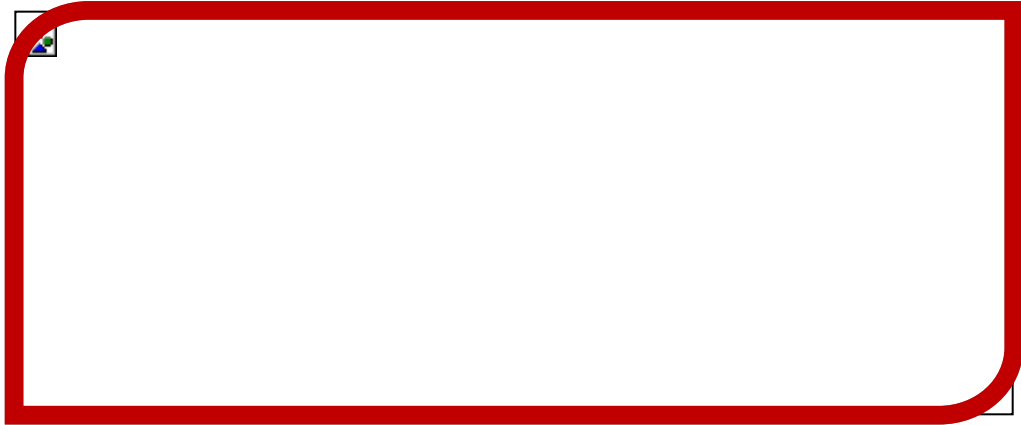




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BS
Entrepreneurship
Graduates



Computer
Hardware
Servicing
Graduates



The first batch
of Senior High
School
Graduates

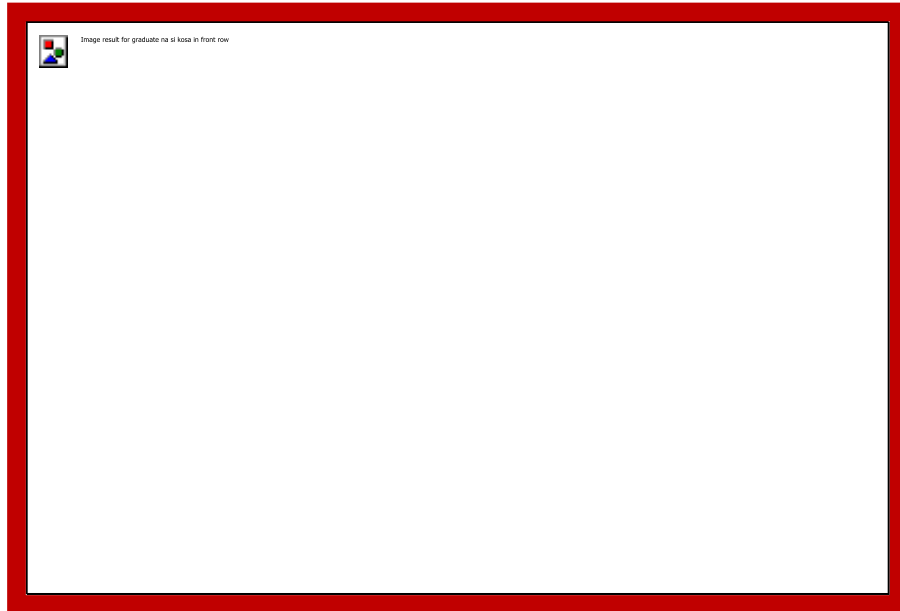
The Graduates of the 31st Commencement Exercises and the
1st Moving Up Ceremony of SY 2018-2019



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Sample of News Featured on Various Media Platform



“Graduate na si Kosa” is a documentary report of Front Row of GMA 7 that featured the life of PDLs in UPHSD BES.



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Bilibid 'miracle': Graduation

By: [Matthew Reysio-Cruz](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 06:07 AM May 27, 2018



Inmate Magdaleno Verano, 58, takes a pledge of loyalty during graduation rites at the New Bilibid Prison.—LYN RILLON

Marching proudly in their flowing black toga, the 37 graduates were escorted on Thursday by tearful mothers, wives and siblings, in a scene that would have been typical of commencement exercises were it not for the unlikely setting: the country's national penitentiary.

Home to the University of Perpetual Help Bilibid Extension School, the New Bilibid Prison (NBP) radiated a festive air as 18 student-inmates collected their bachelor's degree in entrepreneurship,

while 19 others received recognition for finishing a two-year computer hardware servicing course.

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"For the past four years, this university had been my home," said student-inmate Arnulfo Monreal, who received a bronze medal for academic excellence. "Education changed my whole personality. Standing tall and proud before you is a changed man."

Indeed, the pulpit's narrative at the extension school's 29th commencement exercise was one of hope and redemption, notwithstanding recent headlines about drug lords still plying their trade behind bars.

'Do I Make You Proud'

There was no shortage of good cheer as red roses and sunflowers adorned the stage and the room rang with a rousing rendition of "Do I Make You Proud," sung by fellow inmates.

"You should consider graduation from these halls a miracle," said Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) Director Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa, who delivered the commencement address.

Dela Rosa's promise to probe alleged anomalies at the NBP's Inmate Documents Processing Section (IDPS) was an unexpected gift to the new graduates, some of whom claimed that their remaining time in prison was often computed wrongly.

"This is the assurance I give you: I will make sure that you will not be dealt a further injustice by not getting the right computation (of your remaining time inside the NBP)," the new BuCor chief vowed.

Dela Rosa also told the student-inmates that when the day of their release comes, he would give them a personal recommendation letter "with all my heart," for whatever job they were applying for.

Zeal for learning

The extension school inside Bilibid prisons, which began in 1985, is fully funded by the University of Perpetual Help System Dalta (UPHSD) and has produced 500 inmate-graduates over several decades.



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Like in any other college, inmates must undergo a “stringent” entrance exam and interview to test their zeal for learning, said Dr. Alfonso Loreto, UPHSD director.

“Giving somebody a second chance is really a big thing. Everyone has the right to have another bout of freedom,” Loreto told the Inquirer.

Through the school and its 10 regular teachers, inmates realize that they are not condemned for life because of past mistakes, he added.

Loreto, however, acknowledged that “(as in) regular colleges and universities, (one) cannot guarantee good graduates...But we can guarantee, definitely, that they have been renewed and given a second chance at (redemption).”

Turning a new leaf

Martin Alafriz, one of the computer servicing graduates, recalled that he was in his sophomore year at the AMA Computer University in Quezon City when he was convicted of car theft and sent to the NBP.

Ironically, it was prison that would give him the opportunity to finish his college course.

“They treat us like regular students here and really push us to learn,” Alafriz said. “In some schools outside (prison), teachers don’t care whether or not you come to class.”

Alafriz, 35, spent 14 years inside Bilibid before being released on May 4 this year. He returned to the NBP on Thursday to attend his graduation rites.

For Basilio Valdez, 49, another computer servicing graduate, getting a diploma also means having a chance to make peace with the family he had to leave when he entered Bilibid.

“Aside from adding to my knowledge, I can use this (diploma) to finally find a job for my family,” said Valdez, who was convicted of drug-related crimes.

Angel Mark Dagot, an entrepreneur graduate who received a gold medal for academic excellence, could hardly hold his tears when he thanked his mother for her sacrifice, and apologized for the “heartache” he had caused her.

“I hope this small accomplishment will help ease the pain (caused by) my past misdeeds,” he said, addressing his mom. “I know that I will always do my best to make you proud of me.”

Lifesaver

Dagot said that attending the school inside Bilibid had saved his life.

In 2013, inside his cramped detention cell at the Medium Security Compound, the inmate recalled how the constant bickering of other inmates and the sheer boredom of being idle were like “hell itself.”

He compared himself and fellow student-inmates to the iconic character Jean Valjean, from *Les Miserables*: a criminal who completely refashioned himself after being given a second chance by a forgiving priest.

“We, the fresh graduates, are slowly and awkwardly taking those first steps toward liberty. We may falter and stumble, get our hands dirty, be tempted to backslide and return to a life of crime...But I am confident we can get past those obstacles. We are the lucky ones,” Dagot said.

: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/994529/bilibid-miracle-graduation#ixzz64ZJdvKqM>



37 inmates complete courses at Bilibid prison extension school



May 24, 2018, 9:07 pm NBP STUDENT-INMATES. Some 37 inmates at New Bilibid Prison (NBP) don their respective “toga” and degree hoods during the 29th commencement rites of University of Perpetual Help System Dalta (UPHSD)-Bilibid Extension School, College Department inside NBP Medium Security Compound in Muntinlupa City Thursday (May 24, 2018). *(Photo by Dennis Abrina/PNA)*

MUNTINLUPA CITY – A total of 37 student-inmates of the University of Perpetual Help System Dalta (UPHSD)-Bilibid Extension School received their respective diplomas on Thursday during the 29th commencement rites inside the New Bilibid Prison (NBP) in Muntinlupa City.

New Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) Director General Roland 'Bato' Dela Rosa graced the occasion as guest of honor and speaker as the 37 inmates graduated from various courses. Among those present were the extension school's faculty and the inmates' relatives and other student inmates.

Of the 37 graduates, 18 have completed their full Bachelor of Science in Entrepreneurship degree while 19 others finished their Computer Hardware Servicing course inside the national penitentiary facilities. The inmate degree holders also completed their required extension school's internship program while under detention through Chief Supt. Dr. Remy Morales, the chief of the Training and Education Department of BuCor; UPHSD president Anthony Tamayo and Dr. Daisy Tamayo, vice chair of the UPHSD Board.

More than 500 student inmates have graduated from the extension school since it was established in 1985.

Last year, some of the 17 student-inmates who have graduated the extension school program and have completed their prison terms, were already released and are now employed outside the Bilibid compound.

Some graduates who requested not to be named expressed joy as the new degree they have obtained from the prison extension school has provided them new hope and a renewed life for a better future.

Dr. Antonio Tamayo, chair and founder of the University of Perpetual Help System Dalta (UPHSD) said the prison extension school at the Medium Security Compound of Camp Sampaguita is one of University of Perpetual Help's corporate social responsibility programs



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together with the Mangyan Mission School in Abra de Ilog, Occidental Mindoro. (*Dennis Abrina/PN*)