

MESSAGE

**SECRETARY NASSER C. PANGANDAMAN
ON THE OCCASION OF MOA SIGNING BETWEEN DAR AND DLSU-
DASMARINAS
FEBRUARY 3, 2010**

BROTHER AUGUSTINE L. BOQUER
VICE CHANCELLOR MYRNA FAJARDO-RAMOS
VICE-CHANCELLOR OLIVIA M. LEGASPI
VICE-CHANCELLOR EPIFANIA D. ANFONE
DEANS, DIRECTORS, PROFESSORS
MY FELLOW OFFICERS FROM DAR

TODAY WE MARK A BREAKTHROUGH IN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT.
AND WE CAN THANK LA SALLE DASMARINAS NO END FOR
OPENING ITS DOORS TO MICHELLE PARCES, ONE OF OUR
AGRARYO SCHOLARS, OR STUDENTS UNDER THE PRESIDENT
DIOSDADO MACAPAGAL AGRARYO SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.

AS YOU PROBABLY WELL KNOW, THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN
REFORM IS TASKED WITH THE MANDATE OF DISTRIBUTING LANDS
TO POOR AND MARGINALIZED FARMERS. ALONGSIDE THAT, DAR
ALSO EXTENDS SUPPORT SERVICES LIKE FARM-TO-MARKET
ROADS, BRIDGES, POST-HARVEST FACILITIES, IRRIGATION,
TRAINING AND MORE.

IN THE TWENTY YEARS THAT THE COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN
REFORM PROGRAM HAS BEEN IN EXISTENCE, WE HAVE
DISTRIBUTED MORE THAN FIVE MILLION HECTARES TO
BENEFICIARIES IN THE UNDYING HOPE THAT THEY WILL HAVE A
FIGHTING CHANCE AGAINST POVERTY AND LIFT THEIR FAMILIES
AGAINST WANT.

WE KNOW THAT WE ARE RACING AGAINST TIME. WE ARE AWARE THAT THE UTMOST CONCERN OF FARMERS, LIKE MOST PARENTS HERE, IS TO GIVE THEIR CHILDREN HOPE AND A BETTER FUTURE. THEY WORK HARD AND SACRIFICE A LOT TO BEQUEATH TO THE NEXT GENERATION

THINGS THAT THEY NEVER ENJOYED, LIKE GOOD EDUCATION. THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM CREATED THE AGRARYO ISKOLAR PROGRAM TO GIVE CHILDREN OF FARMER BENEFICIARIES BRIGHTER OPPORTUNITIES IN EDUCATION. WE BELIEVE THAT DISADVANTAGED YOUTH, GIVEN THE CHANCE, WILL ACQUIT THEMSELVES FULLY.

IN THE FIVE YEARS THAT THE PROGRAM HAS BEEN IN EXISTENCE, WE HAVE COLLABORATED WITH STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES. AND WE HAVE SEEN SUMMA CUM LAUDES, MAGNA CUM LAUDES, AND CUM LAUDES AMONG THE RANKS OF FARMERS' CHILDREN. OF COURSE, WE FELT LIKE PROUD PARENTS.

KNOWLEDGE IS THE TOUCHSTONE OF A PROGRESSIVE NATION. KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY BY WHICH WE CAN COMBAT THE PERSISTENCE OF POVERTY. KNOWLEDGE IS WHAT WILL FREE OUR PEOPLE FROM WANT.

THAT IS WHY WE ARE VERY HAPPY AND VERY PROUD THAT THE DELA SALLE COMMUNITY HAS DEEMED OUR AGRARYO ISKOLAR PROGRAM WORTHY OF ITS SUPPORT.

THE MOA ALSO STATES THAT THERE WOULD BE A CONTINUING EXCHANGE OF KNOWLEDGE BETWEEN DAR AND LA SALLE. THAT

YOUR STUDENTS WILL IMMERSE THEMSELVES IN OUR FARM COMMUNITIES ONLY INDICATE THAT LEARNING IS MULTI-DIMENSIONAL. THE YOUTH CAN LEARN FROM INSTITUTIONS AS WELL AS LEARN DIRECTLY FROM THE PEOPLE.

LA SALLE HAS EXPRESSED ITS INTENTION TO LEARN MORE ABOUT AGRARIAN REFORM BY ACCOMODATING OUR CAMPUS TOUR, SENDING APPRENTICES TO OUR OFFICES, AND ACCEPTING MORE MATERIALS ON THE SUBJECT MATTER FOR ITS LIBRARY. WE ARE HAPPY FOR THAT.

AGRARIAN REFORM IS OFTEN MISUNDERSTOOD. IT IS A REVOLUTIONARY JUSTICE PROGRAM DONE IN A DEMOCRATIC FRAMEWORK. IT'S INTENTION IS TO GIVE MORE DIGNITY TO OUR POOR PEOPLE. AND TO SOME EXTENT, PREVENT SOCIAL UNREST.

WE UNDERSTAND THAT LA SALLE IS OPEN TO MORE OF OUR DESERVING AGRARYO SCHOLARS. WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR KINDNESS AND CARE. WE CONGRATULATE LA SALLE FOR ITS OWN SOCIAL JUSTICE PROGRAM OF ACCOMODATING THE POOR IN ITS ERTSWHILE EXCLUSIVE HALLS OF EDUCATION.

WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO ACKNOLEDGE THE DAR-PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF FOR INITIATING THE AGREEMENT WITH DLSU-D SCIENCE DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR MARK EDWIN T. ASPIRA AND MAKING THIS PROJECT POSSIBLE.

WE ARE PRIVILEGED TO BE YOUR PARTNER. AND WE THANK YOU ALL FOR THIS MILESTONE.