

District 1 Representative Celso Lobregat yesterday exhorted the 2014 graduates of the Zamboanga Puericulture School of Allied Medicine (ZPSAM) to continue to look at the future with optimism no matter the challenges.

“Follow your dreams because someone once said dreams are like, you may never touch them but if you follow them it will lead you to your destiny,” Lobregat said as he keynoted Friday morning the graduation ceremonies of the 7-year old ZPSAM with the theme “Onward to Healthcare and Global Success”.

A graduation theme, he stressed aptly describes the high standards that the prime movers of the school have set and have come to expect from the graduates of the caregiver course. “The skills, knowledge, and experience that you have gained from this school have prepared you for the next phase of your lives.”

He said: “As you find yourself searching for your place in our society, I want you to keep in mind that the journey will not be easy, but the challenges should not deter you from pursuing what you want. The diploma that you will be holding in your hand is the proof that you are ready. You are skilled, you are competent. More than that, you were also taught to be compassionate, dedicated, and selfless.”

He exhorted the graduates to never forget the core value that has shaped and built the ZPSAM, that is, service to people “whatever you do, wherever you may go”.

Meanwhile, Lobregat said like the graduates' parents, he too is a proud parent as it has been his privilege to be part of the evolution and growth of ZPSAM, from its humble beginnings in 2007 to its status today as a leading center of education and wellness.

“Quien puede pensa que despues solamente de siete anios cuando ya abre na Zamboanga, el ZPSAM ahora ta gradua ya el aca-seis batch de maga estudiante de health care services. Desde un kindergarten school, lying-in hospital y livelihood complex, el Puericulture Center del Septiembre anio dos mil siete ya atrebe para mobe paadelante por medio de ofrecer el curso de caregiver,” the District I Representative stated.

The late Maria Clara Lobregat, Lobregat's mother, was the driving force who worked tirelessly for the expansion and development of ZPSAM. "My mother and I had great dreams for this school, and now, we are starting to see those dreams become your realities."

Lobregat also lauded the efforts of the teachers and staff of ZPSAM most particularly to Dr. Rodelin Agbulos, the prime mover of the school, for a job well done.

Also present during the graduation ceremonies yesterday were Dr. Agbulos, ZPSAM school officials, Puericulture Board of Directors and other city officials and representatives from various agencies. — Rey Carbonel