

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Science and Technology
Philippine Science High School Southern Mindanao Campus
Sto. Niño, Tugbok, Davao City
Tel. No. (082) 293-0002 to 04

09 March 2007

Concerned Graduates of PSHS-SMC

c/o Ms. Jennifer Lou Dinopol
Office of Justice Dante Tinga
4th Floor Annex Building
Supreme Court
Padre Faura, Manila

Dear Sirs and Mesdames :

This is to acknowledge receipt of your faxed letter dated March 6, 2007 regarding the alumni tracking mechanism adopted by the Philippine Science High School Southern Mindanao Campus (PSHS-SMC).

It is good to hear from alumni whom the school has nurtured years ago and who have enjoyed the many privileges and benefits that accompany the PSHS scholarship grant. However, please be reminded that such scholarship entails certain obligations and responsibilities which we have emphasized to you and your parents every enrolment. Please take note that provisions under section VI of the PSHS scholarship contract particularly stipulate that the *grantee must pursue a course in science and technology* and that, *failure to do so would entail reimbursement of the full cost of the scholarship to the government*. With all these, PSHS-SMC is really mandated to see to it that its graduates comply with the provisions of the scholarship contract.

In the past years, we took much effort to obtain information on the courses taken up by the alumni. Yet it has become very difficult to do so because we lost track of their whereabouts. With this, we have adopted a new alumni tracking mechanism.

Recently, we were mandated by the Commission on Audit (COA) in their Risk Audit Approach through Audit Observation Memorandum No. 2006-12-004 issued last February 9, 2007, to follow up if scholars have complied with their obligations in the contract. As such, we require our alumni to submit documents such as the authenticated Transcript of Records and authenticated copy of the diploma of their college degree as a clearance from the school in the tracking mechanism. We requested the assistance of the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation (BID) for our graduates to secure the school clearance for travel purposes. We have learned that grantees of DOST scholarship programs, such as those under the Science Education Institute (SEI), are also required to

do the same. With this, we adopted the same strategy. Data generated from adopting this mechanism will not only be used to respond to the COA's mandate, it can also be used to answer queries during budget hearings in Congress about the whereabouts and the contributions PSHS alumni have given to spur national development.

So far, we have already received several requests from alumni for school clearance and have acted on them; we have not turned down any request to date. In fact, we have already facilitated the requests of Ms. Rachel Anne Sibugan, Ms. Valerie Gaité, and Ms. Ma. Criselda Flores. They themselves can vouch how we facilitated the release of their school clearance even on short notice.


Several more alumni have responded positively and have already complied with our requirements. The tracking mechanism has been very effective, many graduates have even given suggestions for its improvement. One of these suggestions is to provide enough time for information concerning the mechanism to reach all alumni. Two weeks ago, I had requested Ms. Daryl Alegarbes, the President of the PSHSSMC Alumni Association, to post the announcement on the alumni tracking mechanism through the alumni webpage. However, I just learned from her recently that the PSHSSMC alumni webpage is no longer functional, so she had to disseminate the information via personal e-mails and e-groups.

In response to the request of some alumni that ample time be provided for information on the tracking mechanism to reach all of them and so that they may comply with the required documents for issuance of the school clearance, we are making arrangements with the BID to temporarily suspend the implementation of the alumni tracking mechanism from April 1, 2007 to July 15, 2007. We shall also be publishing the announcement on the alumni tracking mechanism in the national papers. We hope that within the above period of suspension, all alumni will comply with the school's requirements. We encourage you to do your share so that your names will no longer be included in the new list we will be furnishing the BID by July 16, 2007.

Please do not hesitate to call us or see us should you have any further queries regarding this matter. The school is eager to assist you in any way it can. We look forward to your getting in touch with us, (perhaps you might even like to visit us), and to your providing us with the documents pertinent to obtaining the clearance.

We hope we have clarified ourselves and addressed your concerns. God bless and all the best in your endeavors.

Very truly yours,



DR. ROSITA V. FUNDADOR
Director

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