**GRADUATION MESSAGE**

Congratulations graduates of class 2023 for reaching this significant milestone in your academic journey, despite numerous challenges. We are proud of your accomplishments and we commend you for staying resilient throughout your K to 12 journeys. Hard work pays off finally.

The theme of this year’s graduation “K to 12 Graduates Molded through a Resilient Educational Foundation,” perfectly signifies the transformative power of a resilient k to 12 educational system that empowers you to develop resilience and adaptability, which are important attributes in navigating challenges and prepare you to confidently pursue your dreams and aspirations. Your success today is a reflection of your unwavering courage, perseverance and determination to succeed, and for that, we applaud you.

As you embark to another chapter of your lives, we encourage you to remember DepEd Zamboanga del Sur mantra as aligned to **MATATAG** agenda, ‘**’Learn and Teach with a Heart to be Great and Smart**.” This perfectly encapsulates the spirit of what it means to be a lifelong learner. You have to use what you have learned to inspire others, contribute and create a meaningful positive impact in your community. Strive to be great and smart in all that you do by setting standards for yourself and challenge yourself that you are capable of achieving your dreams despite uncertainties and difficulties. The road ahead may not always be easy, but with your resilient foundation, you are now ready to face any challenges ahead. Just hold fast to your resilience and carry DepEd Zambo Sur mantra in your hearts as you move forward in your respective journeys.

Your success would not be possible without the support of your teachers, mentors and parents who played significant roles in shaping your educational journey. They have provided you the guidance, support and love that have brought you to this momentous day, equipped with competence and right values and developed you into resilient individuals. Take a moment to express your profound gratitude to them. I am also grateful to all our DepEd partners and stakeholders for remaining steadfast in their commitment and support.

Again, congratulations graduates and completers. May your future be filled with success, happiness and fulfilment. Wherever your journey leads you, always remember to learn and teach with a heart to be great and smart. Good luck! Dream big! With the toss of your caps in the air, let your dreams be bigger than your fears! May the Almighty One bless you as you take a big leap towards a new journey. Sail on!

Mabuhay! Graduates and completers of 2023!

**DR. JEANELYN A. ALEMAN, CESO VI**

*Schools Division Superintendent*