State of UP Diliman Address
Convocation 2013

End Statement
20 February 2013
University Theater

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Chancellor, UP Diliman

Sa nakaraang oras, iniulat po namin sa inyo ang mga ibat ibang proyekto, programa at inobasyon na ipinapatupad mula noong dumating tayo sa Opisina ng Chancellor sa ikalawa ng Marso 2011.

Nagpapasalamat po ako kay UP President Alfredo Pascual at sa buong Opisina ng Pangulo sa kanilang pagsuporta at paggabay para sa makabuluhang pagbabalangkas at matagumpay na pagpapatupad ng ating mga plano para sa UP Diliman.

I also thank our Vice-Chancellors, Directors and fellow employees in the various offices of the Office of the Chancellor organization for their hard work and selfless dedication to the University. That being said, we still have ample room for improvement in our performance and this will be subject in the remaining one year of our term.

However, the greater importance of our Convocation Programs in 2011 and 2012, lies in their earnest attempt to explain that UP Diliman is a complex community that is comprised of many constituencies and collectives (faculty, students, research and administrative staff, alumni, parents and guardians, service providers, local government officials, informal settlers and ordinary taxpayers) with diverse worldviews, differing skill sets, talents and educational backgrounds as well as dissimilar economic means and stakeholder interests.

Diversity is a common feature that is found at different levels of our community – between constituencies and among members of the same UP Diliman constituency. For example, our faculty members consist not only of scientists, researchers and specialists but also of artists and scholars who are working in a variety of art forms and disciplines. Inevitably, they would try to fulfill their duties and responsibilities to the University in differing ways and approaches. The Office of the Chancellor recognizes and respects the presence of diversity in the UP Diliman community.

Ang mga pangunahing gawain po ng UP Diliman Chancellor bilang chief executive officer ay makinig sa iba't ibang mga stakeholder, alamin na tama ang mga kalakasan at mga limitasyon ng ating komunidad pati na rin ang mga oportunidad at panganib mula sa panlabas na kapaligiran, at lumikha ng mga programa at mga proyekto na magbibigkis sa ating kolektibong lakas patungo sa iisang hangarin: Ang pagtiyak na magampanan ng UP ang kanyang mga layuin bilang natatanging pambansang unibersidad ng ating bayan.
Ang mga tungkuling ito ay hindi kayang magagampanan ng ating faculty lamang, anuman ang kanilang husay. O ng ating mga staff, gaano man sila kasipag. Hindi rin ito tanging magagampanan ng ating mga estudyante gaano man ang kanilang enerhiya o ng ating mga alumni, gaano man karubdub ang kanilang nais na makakatulong. Kailangan po ang sinerhiya, pagtutulungan at pag-unawa ng lahat ng sektor upang makamit natin ang mga layunin ng isang pambansang pamantasan.

The task is difficult to accomplish since UP Diliman is both secular and publicly owned. It requires a leadership that is brave enough to be able to think differently, bold enough to believe that it can transform prevailing mindsets and practices, and talented enough to actually accomplish the task at hand [1].

The workings of UP Diliman as a single community is not understood meaningfully by simply observing the conduct of one constituency or collective in isolation from others. The various constituencies are interconnected and they share common interfaces. For example, the compensation of faculty and staff are drawn from a single pot of finite university assets and resources, which also supports the livelihood of vendors and informal settlers. The same pot is also being relied upon to build a more enabling and nurturing campus.

We, the present caretakers of UP Diliman must manage its available resources wisely so that the future generations are provided with better opportunities to realize their true worth. If we are only barely successful today then we must ensure that those who will be here after us including our future administrators will succeed in their undertakings for the University. Their success is our true legacy.

UP Diliman is an inseparable part of a larger world that is characterized by an economy that is increasingly knowledge-based, delicate, and globally connected. Today, talents are recruited from everywhere across national borders and the usefulness of their specific skill sets also fades quickly with time. This dynamic is unlikely to change much in the next decade or so.

The Philippines is an emerging economy and together the emerging economies have been the principal drivers of growth in the world’s gross domestic product in 2011 and 2012 [2].

In order to survive, thrive and prosper in a socio-economic environment that handsomely rewards entrepreneurs and creators while also creating gross inequalities and disenfranchisement in our society, UP Diliman must constantly enhance its capability to adapt to external conditions but in a way that is always able to project our national identity and celebrate the richness of our history, our experience as a people and our solidarity with those who are unable to enjoy the fruits of economic prosperity. This is not an easy task - even limited success is critically anchored upon a transformative community of constituencies that is willing to sacrifice for the common good and able to harness its diversity as a real source of strength, adaptability and resilience for the University.

Umaasa po ako na ang Convocation natin ngayong gabi ay nakatulong para lalo nating maintindihan at mapagkaisahan na ang mahalagang hamon sa atin ngayon ay kung
paano tayo makalilikha ng mga bagong landasin at paraan upang matulungan ang ating mahal na Unibersidad ng Pilipinas.


Note and Reference

[1] Statement is inspired by US President Barack Obama’s tribute to Steve Jobs who died in October 2011. Obama said that Jobs was "...brave enough to think differently, bold enough to believe that he could change the world, and talented enough to do it."