

PSD ASCENDS 26 YEARS OF TRIUMPHS AND TRIBULATIONS

In an intense morning of October 4, the sun tosses upon the vivid faces of the PSDians, faculty and staff, BOT, vice principals, and esteemed guests on the 26th Founding Anniversary of Philippine School Doha (PSD), a momentous occasion that reminisces and celebrates every milestone and tribulation that started from the ground up. The celebration kicked off at the quadrangle where students, teachers, and parents alike gathered to witness a key portion of the event such as the releasing of balloons and other ceremonial feasts. The PSD Drum Corps kept the spectators entertained with their lively music and baton twirling. During the opening program, Mr. Roberto Abit, the celebration's guest of honor and founder of PSD and Dr. Alexander S. Acosta, school principal, reminisce PSD's humble beginnings and triumphs. Part of the celebration was the releasing of balloons wherein the four main balloons had the team colors of the school, each of which represents a value that PSD wants to pass onto its learners. White for purity, blue for trust and responsibility, red for determination, and yellow for hope and optimism. Twenty two balloons were also included, collectively symbolizing PSD as a whole. As Mrs. Wilma Lyn Regalado, event's master of ceremony, urged everyone to sing and dance with the HIYAW Chorale while they perform Ascend PSD, the official theme song of PSD@26. As the last line, "Ascend!", was sung; the balloons were released into the air, receiving cheers and applause from the spectators. As they watch the balloons drift further away into the sky, they see a vision of continuous service and excellence towards greater learning heights.

A visual feast of events and performances took the breath away of the entire Philippine School Doha community marking its much awaited founding anniversary. The second part of the event took place right away which was truly a regal sight to see as the C.A.T. raised their Kalis, serving as the royal guards, as Mr. Roberto Abit, Dr. Alexander Acosta, the BOT, unit heads, and esteemed guests walked toward the front. This was followed by the three Ecumenical Prayers and the singing of the National Anthems and PSD Hymn. Dr. Acosta then took on the stage to deliver his Welcoming Remarks where he addressed the founding heads of PSD and the school's success. He recalled the challenges the school faced and thanked everyone who helped out to realize its dream. "Today, we shall take pride in celebrating our 26 years of long wait to make our dream a reality. Such reality turned into a sturdy and grand edifice whose flaming torch of knowledge is driven by the passion of our forbearers-our pioneer parents, some of whom are here today to serve in their sincere commitment to keeping a promise to be the vanguards of our school," said Dr. Acosta. He also introduced the guest of honor, which is no other than the Father of PSD, Mr. Roberto Abit. His message was a form of pure gratitude and sincerity stemmed from the relentless efforts and sacrifices he has so humbly done for the school. Truth, integrity sincerity, loyalty, selflessness, and compassion are the values he realized on his life journey. As he reminisces about the tumultuous times leading up to this point, he was brought to tears. It was a wholesome manifestation of raw passion and sincerity that made a mark in everyone's heart. He expressed optimism of the school "will continue to stand proudly as long as Filipino community in Qatar exists." As he closes his speech with "Mabuhay Pilipinas!", it was responded with a standing ovation from the audience. Dr. Acosta and Preschool Department Vice Principal, Dr. Nida Garcia then went onto the stage to bestow upon Mr. Abit a Plaque of Recognition for his selfless commitment, exemplary performance, and dedicated service. As part of the celebration, Liam Kendrick R. Mahinay started with a bang as he captivated everyone on stage with his words, similar to an oratorical speech, introducing himself as Pepito Serbisyo de Matinag aka PSD. The Pre-School Young Performers Club donned in all-white followed after, they presented the names

of the BOT through boards and performed "Make me a servant". They highlighted Philippine School Doha, as the last board to raise, represented how all the founding members helped lead to its triumph. After which the Primary Glee Club wowed everyone with a group singing of "*At the Beginning*", showcasing how everything started in PSD which was immediately followed by the Primary Dance Club who energized the audience "We are Family" presentation. The performance showed the past and the present employees of the school. The transition of Pepito was observed as the program went on. This signaled the Intermediate Glee Club to take on the stage to enact "The Climb", a symbolism of endurance of the institution who went through trials and tribulations. At the end of the song, the actor was replaced by a Junior High School student, representing the time where PSD moved to a larger land. This was when the HIYAW Chorale performed an inspiring rendition of "A Million Dreams". Finally, from a young preschooler, the actor has now grown into a Senior High School student, representing PSD at its current stage. At this juncture, a video created by Dr. Don John Vallesteros was flashed showing different teachers and students proclaiming "I am PSD" with pride. After which the Intermediate Dance Club moved and swayed to the beat with the song "Shine Your Way". This was followed by the HIYAW Dance Troupe performing with full energy and striking power. The Junior-Senior Dance Club then performed together with the band, Pizazzy 5 with the song "Bring it All Back". As the song switches to "Celebration", balloons were given to the audience to wave along to the beat. While merriment and exuberance pervaded throughout the gymnasium, the Cake Cutting Ceremony commences, led by Dr. Alexander Acosta along with Mr. Roberto Abit and other guests. Goblets were then passed around to the unit heads, founding parents, and esteemed guests to drink as Dr. Acosta proposed a toast for peace, prosperity, and progress. The final song was the PSD@26 song and as the beat began, every performer went in front and onto the stage for a final performance. At this point, almost everyone stood up to dance and celebrate. It was amazing to see every student, teacher, and even Dr. Acosta and Mr. Abit, dancing in frivolity. On such a momentous occasion like this, sitting idly seems to be an impossible task.

Before the event was concluded, the Awarding Ceremony took place. Tokens and Certificates of Appreciation were given to Mr. Rodel Maat for designing the PSD@26 logo, Mr. Adrian Borromeo for his support towards the PSD@26 activities and designing of the centerpiece, Dr. Julius Edrosolam and Mr. Lochlan Villacorte, Hiyaw's Dane Ensemble previous and current moderators, for the choreography of the institutionalized morning exercise, Dr. Don John Vallesteros, Mr. Elmer John Casabuena, Dr. Nida Garcia and Pizazzy 5 comprised of Fatima Khadija Anami, Rogsh Garcia, Bria Jove, Angelynn Tabernilla, and Chloe Dolom for the PSD@26 song's lyrics, music and videos. The dynamic vice principal of the Preschool Department, who is this year's host, Dr. Nida Garcia delivered her Closing Remarks. She humbly thanked God for Mr. Abit and thanked everyone for their relentless commitment leaving the line, "As one PSD family, let's continue to make history as we ascend to greater learning heights." The event then concluded with a Closing Prayer lead by Ms. Apphia Laroa. PSD community in Qatar is very fortunate to have such a supportive host government which recognizes the contributions of Filipinos in the development of the country. In turn PSD will continue to urge everyone to continue to work within the established rules and regulations of the host country in order to show the appreciation for this grand gesture. PSD has experienced 26 years of success and hardship. To some, 26 years may seem like a decade but in hindsight, it's still only the beginning. PSD was once just a seedling that started from the soil it was planted upon but now it has grown into a firm, unyielding tree. As PSD grows, we, as one family, grow with it.



