



Merriam D. Pilay

I am Merriam D. Pilay, 18 years old, rose from the majestic mountains of Cordillera, specifically Buguias, Benguet. I was born to Marlon and Andrea Pilay on November 24, 2007. I am the youngest among the two children of my parents. Though we are only two, life was hard for me, as defining poverty is not based on the quantity.

At an early age, my father got sick due to lung problems and was not allowed to work nor even carry simple things. From that onwards, my mother had to work in the fields to provide me and my sister's basic needs. Unexpectedly, my sister on another lens was mostly hospitalized. She was prone to illness and was too fragile for my mother to even ask for help. Undergoing such, I felt the need to do something. Along with my cousins, we were tasked to sell baked products with our community, merely baked by our aunt. We earned some pennies. Luckily, I passed the entrance exam of the Sisters of Mary of Banneux, Inc. Here, there were numerous challenges that came my way. Homesickness never left me and I find it hard to adjust to new routines and further interact with diverse ethnicities and cultures. To overcome that, I joined numerous academic competitions such as Social Science and Editorial Writing. I even became part of the Supreme Student Government, tasked to lead the whole community. There came a time when I was blessed to be chosen as one of the Philippine delegates into an ASEAN Youth Workshop and an online international meeting after. In both events, I enjoyed giving recommendations for soaring global issues, helping me to pave my road to profession.

Moved by my passion for justice and along such experiences, I aspire to become a lawyer for I want to prove that amidst of adversities, there will always be hope for everyone.