

MESSAGE OF MINISTER MOHAGHER IQBAL

Ministry of Basic, Higher and Technical Education

Provincial Government of Lanao Del Sur – TESDA-BARMM

Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) Signing

9:00 AM, November 15, 2019

Asalaamu Alaikum warakmatulahi taala wa barakatuh. May Peace and Mercy and Blessings of Allah be Upon You.

Good morning! Magandang Umaga sa ating lahat!

On behalf of the Ministry of Basic, Higher and Technical Education, I want to welcome you all to this auspicious event wherein we are going to embark on a partnership that will improve our ability to provide educational services to our people, especially in areas affected by peace and security issues.

At present, the Education Ministry is working steadily to set the foundation that would expedite the creation of a “complete and integrated system of quality education” in the Bangsamoro. As mandated by Article 9 of the Bangsamoro Organic Law, the BARMM through the Education Ministry shall establish an educational system that exemplifies a high standard with a balanced, comprehensive, and inclusive academic program supported by robust infrastructure, including better school facilities and competent teachers and education managers.

Furthermore, with an improved curriculum suited for employability, we aim to produce, at least, one professional in every family in the Bangsamoro. And we envision that our children will become responsible, productive, and respectable members of the Bangsamoro workforce, regardless if they graduated from a traditional academic institution or a technical training center.

Through this partnership between the Provincial Government of Lanao Del Sur and the Ministry of Basic Higher and Technical Education, we hope to grant our brothers and sisters in Lanao Del Sur the opportunity to avail of relevant training programs. We want to inspire our vocational students to continue reaching the highest level of competency in their chosen technical area. We also want to deal with the perception that professional training is of lesser quality than traditional academic education. And if possible, we will see to it that

every trainee shall be "jack of all trades and master of all," rather than "jack of all trades and master of none," as the familiar saying goes.

There are many advantages to vocational and technical education. For instance, your classes and courses will focus on the valuable knowledge and skills required for a particular job. The time and money that you expend are less than the usual four-year college program. Vocational training is designed to help learners and students attend school while juggling a job or family. Moreover, some programs include apprenticeships that will allow you to work in the industry for course credit and practical experience.

Improving the educational system in Bangsamoro is the top priority of the Bangsamoro government, and technical education is an integral part of that system. Speaking of developing the education sector, I am pleased to share with the group that we are in the process of drafting the Bangsamoro Education Code, which is one of the priority bills in the BOL.

In essence, the Education Code shall govern the education system in the Bangsamoro and set the strategic direction for the implementation of a balanced, accessible, and high standard educational structure. It shall underline the mandate, responsibilities, and relationship of the BARMM, local government, the public, and all stakeholders to develop accessible and quality education in the Bangsamoro. Moreover, we shall include pertinent policy provisions and enabling clauses that would create higher esteem for the vocational curriculum and promote professional training as a viable option for our young people and other potential learners. I want to reiterate that a skills development program still counts as a proper education, and I am confident it will allow graduates to fully participate in the social, economic, and educational opportunities of the Bangsamoro and the country. While education or training will significantly benefit the person, an educated population is critical to a nation's long-term development and prosperity.

Before I conclude my message, let me assure all of you that, Insha' Allah, meaningful change is coming in the BARMM. The bulk of the improvements is not yet felt, but it began with the declaration and commitment to pursue Moral Governance in the Bangsamoro. In the Ministry of Basic Higher and Technical Education, we have introduced crucial reforms. Our well-meaning efforts are felt and demonstrated in the hiring of teachers, the bidding process for the construction of classrooms, reshuffling of school division superintendents, increasing the salaries of contractual employees, and the BARMM's participation in the 2019 *Palarong Pambansa*. We will not squander the goodwill, respect, and trust gained from our

early endeavors, and we will continue to serve the children and people of the Bangsamoro with the same vigor and commitment.

I am grateful to Governor Adiong and the TLDC for your support of the initiatives of the Education Ministry. I also want to thank TESDA-BARMM Officer in Charge Ruby Andong and her team for making this partnership possible. The signing of the memorandum of agreement (MOA) exemplifies our collective desire to promote quality skills development in the Bangsamoro region. Starting today, we hope to continue developing this sector for prospective enrollees and the future of the Bangsamoro.

Magandang umaga sa ating lahat at maraming salamat po!



MBHTE