MESSAGE OF MINISTER MOHAGHER IQBAL

Minister of Basic Higher and Technical Education

BARMMAA 2019 Regional Meet

Sports Excellence – Pathway to United Peaceful and Prosperous Bangsamoro December 15, 2019

Asal<mark>aamu Alaiku</mark>m warakmatulahi taala wa barakatuh.

On behalf of the Ministry of Basic Higher and Technical Education, I want to welcome all participants to the 2019 Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao Athletic Association (BARMMAA) Regional Meet. We commend the men and women of the Bureau of Physical Education and Special Events of the Ministry, led by its Director, Dr. Bai Taya K. Aplal, Al-Hadja, and all the division superintendents, teachers, and support staff who made this event possible. Our theme this year is "Sports Excellence – Pathway to United, Peaceful and Prosperous Bangsamoro." Indeed, sports and physical education are essential components of the educational system in the Bangsamoro.

Investing in education is paramount for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). Mandated by the Bangsamoro Organic Law or Republic Act No. 11054, the Ministry of Basic Higher and Technical Education (MBHTE) is keen to provide every student in the Bangsamoro quality education for their overall development, including their health and physical growth. The BARMM through the Education Ministry shall endeavor to strengthen the physical education and sports development in all institutions in this region.

Sports and all forms of physical activities are essential elements of any comprehensive and balanced educational platform. Sports not only encourage pupils to exercise and instill a healthy lifestyle, but it also teaches valuable life lessons like discipline, leadership, teamwork, self-confidence, and trustworthiness. The propagation of these values is integral to the development and prosperity of the Bangsamoro, Mindanao, and the Philippines. Excelling in sports, which complements academic achievement, is therefore encouraged for our young people. Their youthful energy should be channeled into suitable and constructive endeavors that would ultimately allow them to become responsible and well-rounded adults and professionals.

I understand the victorious participants to this regional meet with having the honor of representing the BARMM in the 2020 Palarong Pambansa. Earlier this year, we participated in the Palarong Pambansa held in Davao City. Through their dedication and hard work, our young athletes won 3 Gold, 10 Silver, and 3 Bronze medals – placing the BARMM at 16th place overall. Our performance this year is an improvement from 2018, and we hope to surpass that feat next year. In this regard, we in the Education Ministry are committed to providing the necessary support to our young athletes so they can compete with integrity and bring honor to the Bangsamoro, their schools, their families, and to themselves.

And we in the BARMM shall endeavor to be united and complementary in our efforts towards uplifting the lives of every Bangsamoro under the guidance of our Honorable Chief Minister and the principle of Moral Governance. And we are keen to provide quality, balanced, and relevant education for the future of our children and the Bangsamoro region.

On behalf of the Education Ministry, I want to thank BARMMAA for granting me the opportunity to share a message of solidarity with the participants to this athletic meet. Thank you all for promoting the value of sports to the holistic education of every child in the Bangsamoro.

More importantly, I also want to say Godspeed to all our young athletes, and I look forward to your participation in the 2020 Palarong Pambansa.

Thank you, and Wassalam!

ABHIE