

WELCOME MESSAGE OF MINISTER MOHAGHER IQBAL

Ministry of Basic, Higher and Technical Education

Opening Program - 2019 Regional Skills Competition

9:00 AM, August 6, 2019

Asalaamu Alaikum warakmatulahi taala wa barakatuh. May Peace and Mercy and Blessings of Allah be Upon You. Esteemed MBHTE and TESDA Officials and Personnel, guests, ladies, and gentlemen, 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 the 2019 Bangsamoro Regional Skills Competition (RSC) spearheaded by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority-BARMM. As I understand, this week-long event serves as a venue for technical-vocational (tech-voc) learners and graduates to display their capabilities in various industry and trade areas. For our RSC this week, the participants shall compete in seven (7) skill areas: Plumbing, Shielded Metal, Hairdressing, Computer System Servicing, Electrical Installation and Services, PV Systems Installation, and Housekeeping.

The winners in the BARMM RSC will advance to the Visayas-Mindanao Zonal eliminations, where they will vie for a place in the National Skills Competition. National winners will be part of the Philippine delegation to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) World Skills Competition in Singapore in 2020. We pray that some of you here will have the opportunity to compete at the national level and even in Singapore next year.

No doubt, cash prizes, and awards are excellent motivation for anyone to try their best. However, what the BARMM RSC hopes to achieve is to inspire our vocational graduates to continue reaching the highest level of competency in their chosen technical area. Furthermore,

we hope to deal with the perception that vocational training is of lesser quality than traditional academic education. I want to emphasize that 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 a four-year college program. Vocational training is designed to help learners and students go to 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 the Bangsamoro is paramount, as stipulated in the Bangsamoro Organic Law. Technical education is an integral part of that system. We in the MBHTE will endeavor to create higher esteem for the vocational curriculum and promote professional training as a viable option for our young people and other potential learners.

To underscore the point further, let me inform all and sundry that 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 maxim goes. We will also ensure that under the BARMM, we will implement a 30-day training course would be followed strictly. This is our commitment, and we will endeavor to achieve this *Insha' Allah*.

I want to wish all the participants to this year's RSC the best of luck. You are part of our efforts to promote quality skills development in the Bangsamoro region. And as I mentioned earlier, we pray that the frontrunners in the Bangsamoro RSC would be able to participate in the National level competition and Singapore.

I want to extend my congratulations and gratitude to the TESDA-BARMM, led by its OIC Omarkhayyam Dalagan, for organizing this significant event. Starting today, we hope to showcase the skills of our current tech-voc learners and continue developing this sector for prospective enrollees. Maraming Salamat po!