

**MESSAGE OF**  
**MP MARJANIE S. MIMBANTAS MACASALONG, PhD**  
Chairperson/ Commissioner representing Lanao Del Sur Province with Marawi City

**On The 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of Youth Coordinating Council**  
February 3, 2021

Assalamo Alaikom Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuhu.

Before anything else, I would like to thank all of you for sparing some of your time to attend to this first meeting of the Youth Coordinating Council of the Bangsamoro Youth Commission. I would like to acknowledge the presence of the representatives from the different ministries. Representatives from the Ministry of Basic, Higher and Technical Education, Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Social Services and Development, Ministry of Interior and Local Government, Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Energy, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Agrarian Reform, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Trade, Investment and Tourism, Ministry of Indigenous Peoples' Affairs, Ministry of Public Order and Safety, and also representatives from the Bangsamoro Women Commission, Bangsamoro Sports Commission, Bangsamoro Darul Ifta, and Bureau on Cultural Heritage.

As a brief backgrounder, the Bangsamoro Youth Commission has been established last year February 28, 2020 through the passage of the Bangsamoro Autonomy Act No. 10. But the Commission has just been constituted last month, following the appointments of our Commissioners who represent the five provinces of BARMM.

Section 19 of BAA No. 10 mandates the creation of this Youth Coordinating Council of which all of us here are members. As stated in the law, this august body shall:

- a. be the venue for coordination between the Commission and the ministries and other instrumentalities of the Bangsamoro Government in the implementation of youth-related projects, programs and activities;
- b. be the mechanism for monitoring the compliance of the ministries and other instrumentalities of the Bangsamoro Government on youth-related policies;
- c. be the forum for the discussion in relation to the Commission's formulation and issuance of youth-related policies, standards, rules and guidelines and
- d. be the body that maybe consulted by the Commission for advice, guidance and assistance on important matters relating to youth affairs, welfare and development.

During the committee deliberations of BAA No. 10, the section mandating for the establishment of the Youth Coordinating Council was never disputed. In fact, members of Parliament see the crucial role of this body to the effective delivery of services of the Commission being a policy-making and coordinating office. We recognize the importance of this council to the Commission.

This Youth Coordinating Council is an arena for the close coordination of the Bangsamoro Youth Commission to the different ministries and offices of the Bangsamoro Government on all youth related programs and projects. This is also a platform to avoid duplication of projects

and programs relating to Youth by the different offices. Through this body, the Commission will be aware of the different programs and projects of your respective ministries and we can complement them with the programs and projects of the Commission whose implementation are lodged also in the ministries.

The Commission is lucky to have this Council to consult to when needed; in the formulation of policies affecting the youth. I believe that you have been engaged in the different affairs and programs for the Youth for many years now. The Commission is fortunate to have experts with us who can guide and advise us on matters affecting our Youth.

The Commission is assuring this Council of its commitment in doing its part to capacitate our Youth. We strive to make sure that we mould our Youth to be good leaders whose future of this Bangsamoro Government can be safely entrusted.

The Bangsamoro Youth Commission believes that together with the members of this Youth Coordinating Council, the Commission will accomplish great things for our Youth. Let us work together for a common vision, let us build our Youth for the future of this Government- a government we and our forefathers fought for decades.

I will not take so much of our time because I am looking forward of the fruitful discussion with all of you. We would like to hear from all of you. Thank you. Assalamo Alaikom Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuhu.