

Suggested Speech  
for Minister Mohagher Iqbal  
on the occasion of  
Grand Opening of the Al-Tarahum Learning Center  
Brgy. Bitu, Datu Odin Sinsuat | 05 April 2019

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## **1. Greetings**

My greetings to:

- Shiekh Abdulkahar Kumpa, president of Al-Hadeetha Mindanao College
- Board of directors, officers, and staff members of the college.
- Ladies and gentlemen...Assalamu Alaikum.

## **2. Introduction**

Thank you for inviting me here today to witness the grand opening of the Al-Tarahum Learning Center.

As you may have known already, the Ministry of Basic, Higher, and Technical Education is a merged ministry of the former DepEd-ARMM, CHED-ARMM, and TESDA-ARMM. This means that technical and vocational education will fall under the management of the Ministry.

I commend the leadership of Al-Hadeetha Mindanao College for venturing into technical and vocational education by opening the Al-Tarahum Learning Center. Thank you for providing our youth with options to pursue various careers relating to tech-voc.

We just secured the final peace agreement with the government. This means a lot for us people in the Bangsamoro. Finally, the dawn of just and lasting peace is within our reach.

And we all know that a just and lasting peace comes with genuine progress that benefits all.

We are now seeing an influx of investments coming to the Bangsamoro. These investments would require human resources. I am happy that Al-Hadeetha Mindanao College is helping us respond to the human resource requirements of these investments by providing technical and vocational education to our youth.

Rest assured that the Ministry for Basic, Higher, and Technical Education will do its part in establishing standards for technical-vocational education. We will be working closely with Technical-Vocational Institutions or TVIs in order to come up with strategies that will make our technical education at par with national and international standards.

As your representative to the Bangsamoro Transition Authority, I will also push for policies that will benefit TVIs like Al-Hadeetha Mindanao College. I will talk to my counterparts at the public works and highways and other relevant ministries, to ensure that your graduates are given the chance to work for Bangsamoro Government projects such as the concreting and repair of roads and bridges, construction of facilities, and their required back office support.

For investments coming to the Bangsamoro, we will design a tech-voc program that will respond to their human resource needs. We don't just train our youth in tech-voc. We are also responsible for providing them job opportunities.

We will also think of ways to support tech-voc graduates who will venture into entrepreneurship. Let us collaborate in propagating entrepreneurial culture and mindset among our youth.

Lastly, I believe that we should institutionalize Islamic values across levels of our educational system. We should be producing not only competent tech-voc graduates, but also graduates with the desired moral character.

This is why the integration of Islamic values for our Moro youth and the universal values for our Christian and Lumad youth are important. The tech-voc curriculum should be designed in such a way that it also instills good moral character to them.

Lastly, I encourage everyone here to please send us your suggestions or comments that will help improve the delivery of technical education in the Bangsamoro. As the old saying goes, “it takes a village to raise a child,” let us join together in producing competent and God-fearing tech-voc graduates.

I am excited to work closely with our TVIs. Rest assured that we will do it better this time.

Again, congratulations to the leadership and staff members of Al-Hadeetha Mindanao College for the grand opening of its Al-Tarahum Learning Center.

I wish you all the best.

Shukran.