



By Muhammad Musa

June 11, 2011 - Twenty pre-school pupils have successfully graduated the '1st Pre-Schoolers' Summer Class Program' organized by the Moro Women Development and Cultural Center, Inc. (MWDECC) from May 1 to 27 this year. The commencement exercise was conducted on June 5, 2011 held at the function hall of the Mindanao Action for Peace and Development (MAPAD Initiatives), Sesame St., Rosary Heights 3, Cotabato City.

The theme of the said commencement exercises was "Read! In The Name of Thy Lord. (Surah Al-A'alaq:1)".

Baina T. Samayatin, the Executive Directress of MWDECC, said that the program was made possible through the all-out support of the parents. "The parents took an important role by allowing and guiding their children in coming to the 20-day rigid summer class for the pre-school-aged three to five years old", Samayatin expressed in her opening remarks.

"I know that it's not enough for having the class in a month, thus, I'm asking everybody's support for us to be able to continue this program as we received good feedbacks from the parents that their children have learned a lot", she added.

Among of the subjects taught were English and Arabic alphabet, Mathematics, Science, and identifying colors and shapes. There were 12 females and 8 males who underwent the program which mainly came from barangay of Shariff Kabunsuan, RH-3, Cotabato City as the piloted community. The activity was implemented under the MWDECC's Capability Enhancement Program.

"In this program our pupil gained more knowledge on the basic teachings of Islam as foundation of every Muslim child," Baisanie Makabuat, Program Coordinator of Capability Enhancement Program, said.

Makabuat, also the National Chairwoman of the Women Affairs Committee of the United Youth for Peace and Development (UNYPAD), disclosed that the program is a preparatory stage of the graduates to take their formal classes in the 'Day Care or Kindergarten' for this school year 2011-2012. She reiterated the call on all parents and barangay officials to support the activity in order to continue the classes and replicate it in other communities.

The 'Action Officer' of the barangay RH-3, Aladin Utto, delivered messages of support of the barangay for and in-behalf of Chairman Sukarno "Nano" Utto. He said that barangay is expecting the MWDECC to continue its endeavor. He added that the Barangay officials are

willing to render any form of assistance that will help the organization achieve its objectives.

Tu Alid Alfonso, the National Vice President for Internal Affairs of the UNYPAD, was invited as a guest speaker of the event. In his commencement speech, Alfonso expressed his recognition and appreciation to the parents, graduates and the staff of MWDECC for the successful and historic conduct of educational activity that the Barangay ever had.

He also mentioned before the graduates some indescribable conditions of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) especially the children in the conflict affected zones who were forced to stop from schooling.

'Why Muslim Education is Important to Muslim Children' was the highlight of Alfonso's commencement speech. "Muslim education of Muslim children is a must because it is the center of all we are trying to do", Alfonso stressed.

The message of impression was delivered by parent Taya Luz Mala. She thanked the staff of MWDECC for helping in molding their children. "Based on my observation my child becomes more matured. She can now recite the verses from the holy Qur'an like the Surah Al-fatihah", Luz Mala said.

Armia Ibrahim, Ed.D., the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of MWDECC, expressed her recognition, in her closing message, on the efforts of the volunteer-teachers who patiently rendered their times and energies for the children.

"With the positive output of this summer class, the MWDECC is planning to connect the program to the government agency particularly the Department of Education (DepEd) for further collaboration to have, perhaps, a formal tie-up," Dr. Armia Ibrahim said.

MWDECC is a women organization created to provide the multifaceted needs of women, especially the Bangsamoro women situated in conflict-affected areas. It shall pare the avenue not only for the women's personal development but their active involvement in socio-economic and cultural development of the nation.