United States Agency for International Development

U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission
Leslie A. Bassett

Completion Ceremony
9th Cycle of the Congressional Internship Program for Young Muslim Leaders (CIPYML)

Dusit Thani Hotel, Makati City

December 2, 2009

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Above: U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission Leslie A. Bassett arrives at the Dusit Thani Hotel to attend the completion ceremony of the Congressional Internship Program for Young Muslim Leaders (CIPYML). The internship is implemented by USAID's Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM) Program in partnership with the Philippines' House of Representatives and Mindanao State University (MSU). She is joined by (l-r) Jamairah Macapanding, valedictorian of the 9th internship cycle, and Robert Barnes, USAID Economic Growth Advisor.

Upper left photo: DCM Bassett is welcomed by Deputy House Speaker Ma. Amelita Villarosa (far right) of the Philippine House of Representatives. Looking on are (l-r): Rodolfo Vicerra, Director-General of the Congressional Planning and Budget Department; Atty. Emma Salmani, GEM Program Manager for Workforce Preparation and Governance; and Dr. Teresa Robielos, USAID Development Assistance Specialist.

Lower left: Also present at the ceremony is MSU President Dr. Macapado Muslim (2nd from right).

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Left photo: In her remarks, DCM Bassett stressed the significance of CIPYML, saying "it is really about [building] partnerships." She commended the graduates for their hard work and perseverance, and added: "You have achieved a great deal. Your challenge is to keep your dreams alive."

The 25 interns who completed the 9th cycle bring to 193 the number of competitively selected young people from Mindanao conflict areas who have been immersed in the process of legislation-based policy formulation, with the aim of enhancing their commitment to democratic values and institutions.

Upper right: In his message, Director-General Vicerra said that CIPYML was contributing to the growing pool of able young leaders in Mindanao.

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Upper left photo: In her valedictory address, Ms. Macapanding challenged her fellow interns to use the skills they acquired during CIPYML to serve as instruments of peace in the country and to "unite and act as one."

Lower left: Deputy Speaker Villarosa called on the graduates to "strive to make a difference" in their respective communities. "Your mission is to promote meaningful change and peace and development," the deputy speaker said, as she lauded the U.S. Government, USAID and MSU officials for the successful implementation of CIPYML.

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Upper left photo: DCM Bassett and Deputy Speaker Villarosa turn over a CIPMYL certificate of completion to Ms. Macapanding, as Director Vicerra and Mr. Barnes look on.

Lower left: DCM Basset, Mr. Barnes, the Deputy Speaker, Dr. Muslim and Director General Vicerra with the 9th cycle graduates, who are from the Sulu Archipelago provinces of Sulu and Tawi-Tawi; the central Mindanao provinces of Maguindanao, Sultan Kudarat and North Cotabato; the Lanao provinces; and the Islamic City of Marawi.

Above: DCM Basset is interviewed by journalists.