

#### Article History

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### “THE KANGKONG GIRL OF NASAPIAN: A STORY OF GRIT AND HOPE”

By: HAMED I B. KUMAKA, LPT, MAED, EdD, Editor-In-Chief

In the beautiful, remote sitio of Barrio Tondo, Barangay Nasapian, where the sunrise kisses the rice fields and the wind hums through the trees, a young girl carries a woven basket filled with freshly picked kangkong. Her name is Noraisa Kapo, a Grade 6 student of Nasapian Elementary School, whose story is a testament to resilience, determination, and an unyielding love for her family. While other children start their mornings with school preparations, Noraisa begins her day in the fields, harvesting kangkong tops to sell around the barangay.

Born into poverty, Noraisa is the daughter of uneducated yet humble and kind parents who struggle to make ends meet. With her father absent and her mother aging, the responsibility of supporting their daily needs rests on her small shoulders. Each morning, she walks barefoot across muddy paths, her hands calloused from picking and bundling kangkong, earning just enough to buy food and school supplies. But despite the hardships, she never complains her spirit remains unbreakable.

On weekends, she moves from house to house, offering freshly picked kangkong to the residents. Some welcome her with warm smiles, while others turn her away. But Noraisa does not let rejection discourage her. She knows that every bundle sold is a step closer to another school day, another meal for her mother, another proof that she is fighting for a better future.

Her sacrifices, however, come with challenges beyond financial struggles. At school, some students whisper behind her back, calling her names, laughing at her worn-out uniform and sun-kissed skin. Yet, she stands tall, ignoring the taunts, knowing that education is her only way out of poverty. Her teachers admire her perseverance and often remind the other students that Noraisa is a role model a true inspiration.

Despite her daily struggles, Noraisa does not just rely on kangkong. She also takes in small laundry jobs from her neighbors, washing clothes under the scorching sun for a few pesos. She never complains, knowing that every coin she earns is another brick in the foundation of her dreams.

Her mother, with weary eyes yet a hopeful heart, remains grateful. “As long as we can eat three times a day, we are okay,” she says. But deep down, she prays for a brighter future for her daughter, hoping that one day, Noraisa’s hard work will lead her to a life beyond the limitations of poverty.

Noraisa’s story is not just about selling kangkong it is about courage, hope, and the will to rise above life’s challenges. She proves that poverty is not a hindrance to success but a motivation to strive harder. She may be the “Kangkong Girl” of Nasapian today, but one day, she will be known for something greater something that will make her community proud. And when that

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day comes, she will look back, not with regret, but with pride, knowing that her struggles were the seeds that grew into her success.

### “PAGZ: A LIFE OF INNOCENCE, STRUGGLE, AND REDEMPTION”

By: HAMED I B. KUMAKA, LPT, MAED, EdD, Editor-In-Chief

In the quiet village of Barangay Nasapian, nestled in the heart of Kapalawan, SGA-BARMM, Esmail Kituan, known to everyone as “Pagz” has lived a life both simple and extraordinary. For nearly five decades, he walked the same familiar roads, carrying bundles of banana leaves and lemongrass, making his way to the bustling Carmen Public Market. His hands, calloused from years of hard work, told a silent story of perseverance, his quiet nature masking the struggles of a man who, despite his mental challenges, never asked for more than an honest day’s living.

Pagz was known to many, yet truly understood by few. He was a shy soul, his words limited, his world small, but his heart immense. Every day, he journeyed to town, earning just enough to provide for himself and his aging mother. But life, as it often does, took an unexpected and cruel turn.

One fateful day, while delivering his goods, Pagz was stopped by a police officer. What happened next remains a mystery, but witnesses say that something was quietly slipped into his net bag. Moments later, he was accused of carrying illegal drugs. Unable to explain himself, his words tangled in confusion, his mind unable to grasp the weight of the accusation, Pagz was arrested. His mother wept, his community protested, but the system was deaf to their pleas. And just like that, the man who spent his life selling banana leaves found himself behind bars.

For five long years, Pagz lived in prison, a place he never belonged. Yet, even there, he found a way to survive. The policemen let him sell cigarettes and candies, small trades that gave him a sense of purpose. He gathered firewood, ran errands, and carried on, as he always had, with quiet acceptance. His innocence was evident to those who looked closely, but justice is not always swift, nor is it always just. It took five years for his case to be dismissed, not because the truth had finally come to light, but because no complainant ever appeared in court.

When his family came to bring him home, Pagz hesitated. Freedom, once stolen from him, now felt unfamiliar. The prison, which had once been his cage, had become a strange kind of home. But love has a way of breaking through even the thickest walls, and when his mother embraced him once more, the weight of those lost years melted into her arms. The barangay welcomed him back with tears and open hearts.

Life, however, had changed for Pagz, and he struggled to find his place in the world again. Then, something beautiful happened. He wandered into the local school one day, half-jokingly asking if he could apply as a teacher. The laughter that followed was not cruel, it was warm, filled with affection. Instead of turning him away, they gave him a role suited for him, something that gave him purpose. He became the school’s “Garbage Manager,” ensuring that every corner was clean, every piece of trash properly disposed of. The children, once wary of him, came to adore him. He became

a familiar sight, guiding the students with a gentle presence, commanding them not with words, but with kindness.

Pagz may never have worn a teacher's uniform, but he has taught an entire community what it means to be resilient, to be kind, to find purpose even in the smallest of tasks. He is no longer just the man who sells banana leaves. He is a symbol of redemption, a reminder that dignity is not found in wealth or status, but in service and in the love, we give to others.

Today, when children greet him with smiles and teachers nod in appreciation, Pagz stands tall, not as a victim of injustice, but as a testament to the strength of the human spirit. He is not just a resident of Nasapian. He is a lesson in humanity, one that we would all do well to learn.

### **"The Challenging Field of Dream: A Student's Life"**

*By: MONTE B. MIYO, LPT, MALT, Associate Editor-In-Chief*

"Dreaming big requires sacrifice," reflects Al-Hafidz Norhamin Guimaludin Limbal, 2022 graduate of Markadz Shifaa-an Lissudor Litahfidziel Qur'anil Kareem, Kibayao, Kapalawan, SGA and a successful Qur'anic Reciter. His words echoed the realities of many Filipino Muslim students including some friends in the Markadz. As an Islamic studies or Arabic student before, I witnessed firsthand the unwavering dedication and quiet sacrifices they made.

The meager income of their parents often meant adjustments to their daily allowance in their studies. It's a constant reminder of the economic pressures they faced and the hectic schedule of memorizing the words of Allah S.W.T. in the Holy Qur'an and lessons of subjects other than that of the contents of the Holy Book. This experience instilled in them and also in me when I was a student like them not only the sacrifice but also the determination to succeed.

Studying is a precarious priority. For many young ones, it's the primary means of changing life and the world, a constant struggle against ignorance and economic uncertainties. Every failed study directly impacts a student's quarterly remarks, forcing them to redouble their efforts just to pass the oral and written examinations.

The sleepless nights, financial shortage, and the ever-present academic performance failure are realities that define their daily lives. Few of my friends often described studying as a gamble, a game where the odds are stacked against you. Success is never guaranteed; failure, however, is a constant possibility.

The life of a student is far from easy. It's a manifestation to the resilience of the spirit, a relentless pursuit of dreams in the face of adversity. Like any other dreamer striving for success, the student's ambition is tested repeatedly before any rewards are reaped.

This stack contrasts to the outsiders who often enjoy lives of being free. But the student's story is not merely one of hardship. It's a narrative of hope, resilience, and an enduring connection to the knowledge or wisdom bestowed by the Almighty One.

Each wisdom acquired is evidence to their faith in the future, a belief in the potential for Islamic educational growth. Their dreams extend beyond mere survival or success; they envision a future

even spiritually, their communities prosper, and their legacy endures through generations.

The Challenging Fields of dreams are vast, but the student's spirit remains unbroken. Their unwavering dedication and hope, and their quiet sacrifices as one serves as an inspiration to us all. Their story is a reminder that the greatest rewards often come from the most challenging journeys, and that the pursuit of a dream, no matter how arduous, is a journey worth undertaking.

### **"Embracing Unity in Islamic Perspective: Nasapian Elementary School's 2nd Ramadan Symposium"**

*By: HAMEDI B. KUMAKA, LPT, MAED, EdD, Editor-In-Chief*

Ramadan is a time of reflection, devotion, and unity, bringing Muslims together in faith and community. Recognizing the importance of this sacred month, Nasapian Elementary School hosted its 2nd Ramadan Islamic Symposium on March 21, 2025, at the Nasapian ES Social Hall under the theme: "Unity in Islamic Perspective: Embracing the Spirit of Ramadan."

Held for the second consecutive year, this symposium was a collaborative effort by ISAL and regular teachers, with the approval of school head Mrs. Normina S. Palangalan and in line with the special order of the SDS for Ramadan-related programs. It aimed to deepen understanding of Islamic teachings, promote unity, and encourage meaningful discussions about faith and culture.

The event began with a serene Qur'anic recitation by Sheikh Alkharie Ustads Ibrahim Silongan, setting a reflective tone. Ustadsa Hasana S. Mano, an ISAL teacher, warmly welcomed participants, expressing gratitude for the opportunity to gather in the spirit of learning and togetherness. Ustads Ayob G. Esmail then outlined the purpose of the symposium, emphasizing the significance of Ramadan in personal and communal growth.

Hon. Benjamin M. Mamolintao, barangay captain of Nasapian, delivered an inspirational message, commending the school for its dedication to religious and cultural education. Mrs. Normina S. Palangalan highlighted that the symposium was open to all, fostering inclusivity and deeper appreciation of Muslim traditions.

The first guest speaker, Ustads Abdulkarim Guimel of Tupig Elementary School, provided an insightful discussion on the importance and benefits of Ramadan. Later, Hon. Edris P. Gandalibo, donor of the Nasapian ES school site, addressed the symposium, acknowledging the challenges faced by volunteer teachers and the school's ongoing needs.

The second guest speaker, Ustads Mohaimen Macasasa, captivated the audience with a Qur'an and Hadith-based explanation of Ramadan's dos and don'ts. An open forum, moderated by Mr. Hamed B. Kumaka, allowed attendees to seek clarifications, enhancing their understanding of Ramadan's practices.

The event concluded with a heartfelt prayer by Ustads Tahirudin P. Usop, leaving participants with valuable insights and a renewed sense of unity.

## **“Rising Inflation Strains Bangsamoro Families in Barangay Nasapian”**

*By: HAMED I B. KUMAKA, LPT, MAED, EdD, Editor-In-Chief*

Nasapian, Kapalawan, SGA BARMM – Residents of Barangay Nasapian are feeling the harsh impact of rising inflation, as the cost of essential goods continues to climb. Many families are struggling to afford food, transportation, and utilities, forcing them to make difficult choices in their daily expenses. With wages remaining stagnant, low-income households bear the brunt of the economic crisis.

Local market vendors report that prices of staple foods, such as rice, vegetables, and fish, have nearly doubled in recent months. "Before, I could buy a kilo of rice for a lower price, but now it's beyond our budget," said Maria Hassan, a mother of four. Tricycle drivers also lament the rising cost of fuel, which has significantly reduced their daily earnings.

According to economic analysts, inflation is driven by multiple factors, including supply chain disruptions, high fuel costs, and the lingering effects of global economic instability. While the national government has rolled out subsidies and financial aid programs, many residents of Barangay Nasapian say these measures are not enough. "The ayuda helps, but it's only temporary. What we need are long-term solutions like job opportunities and support for local farmers," said Barangay Chairman Benjamin M. Mamolintao.

To cope with the crisis, families have started cutting back on non-essential purchases and relying on community-driven initiatives. Local cooperatives have organized food-sharing programs and small livelihood projects to support struggling households. "We help each other because we know that if we don't, more families will suffer," said community volunteer Seite Dasimpal Boto.

As inflation continues to rise, residents of Barangay Nasapian are calling on the government to implement policies that promote food security, job creation, and economic stability. Without urgent intervention, more families risk falling deeper into poverty. For now, the people of Nasapian are doing their best to survive, hoping for better days ahead.

## **“Tapay: A Taste of Maguindanaon Heritage”**

*By: HAMED I B. KUMAKA, LPT, MAED, EdD, Editor-In-Chief*

The scent of warm, sweet rice filled our kitchen as I watched my mother prepare Tapay a dish that has been part of our family for as long as I can remember. Her hands moved with practice ease, cooking the rice to just the right texture before mixing in sugar and a hint of chili, though the spice was never meant to burn. Then came the final step: wrapping it carefully in Alem leaves, tucking it in like a precious gift, and leaving it overnight to ferment.

To non-maguindanaon, Tapay might just be food, but to the Maguindanaon people, it carries history, tradition, and memory. Every Ramadan, elders call upon the women in the community, mothers, aunts, grandmothers to prepare it, ensuring there's something comforting to share as families gather. It also finds its way to special occasions, marking milestones from weddings to reunions, each bite connecting us to those who came before.

Not everyone falls in love with Tapay at first taste. I remember teasing a friend into trying it, only for him to gag dramatically, saying it tasted like “spoiled rice.” We burst into laughter, knowing

he just didn't understand yet. To us, Tapay is not just fermented rice it's a flavor of home, one that lingers on the tongue like a familiar embrace.

Beyond its rich taste, our elders believe Tapay has healing powers. My grandmother would always say, “Eat Tapay it's good for your stomach,” swearing it could ease ulcers and aid digestion. Whether science agrees or not, we trust in the wisdom passed down to us, embracing it not just as food but as nourishment for both body and soul.

Even today, Tapay remains a proud symbol of Maguindanaon identity, often enjoyed with Pastil and a steaming cup of native coffee in local eateries. As the world changes, it's up to us to keep these traditions alive. So, to anyone unfamiliar with this humble delicacy, I invite you come and taste Tapay. You might just discover a new favorite, and with it, a deeper appreciation for the flavors that shape our culture.

## **“The Unstoppable Brilliance of Jehanieza T. Kabasalan: A Beacon of Inspiration”**

*By: HAMED I B. KUMAKA, LPT, MAED, EdD, Editor-In-Chief*

In the peaceful yet resilient environment of Barangay Nasapian, a young girl has been making waves with her incredible achievements. Jehanieza T. Kabasalan, the brilliant daughter of Hassan Kaguikamid Kabasalan and Caironsalam Mama Tubigan-Kabasalan, has not only followed in the footsteps of her accomplished siblings but has carved out a legacy of her own.

Her journey, marked by excellence in both Arabic and English education, is a testament to the power of determination, passion, and an unwavering commitment to learning. Jehanieza's remarkable story began at a young age when she first captured the spotlight as the first honor in kindergarten. From that moment, her academic journey became an inspiring tale of perseverance and brilliance.

As a first grader, she continued her streak, securing the top rank in her class and excelling in poetry, where she flawlessly memorized and performed lengthy pieces. This early display of talent and intelligence was only the beginning of an extraordinary academic career.

Her second-grade year brought more triumphs, as she once again emerged as the top-ranked pupil. She also showcased her mathematical prowess in the division-level MTAP contest, securing second place.

By third grade, Jehanieza had solidified her reputation as a young scholar, maintaining her first-honor ranking among three sections and winning the municipal-level spelling bee. Her thirst for knowledge led her to compete in various academic events, including Science Quest and the Filipino Festival, further proving her versatility as a student.

Fourth grade saw her rise even further, becoming a force to be reckoned with in both academics and leadership. She remained undefeated in academic rankings, became a school paper writer, and took on leadership roles as an SPG officer and an active member of the English Club.

Her momentum continued in fifth grade, where she won individual quizzes in the English Festival, Science Quest, and Mathematics competitions. But her accomplishments were not confined to the four walls of the school, her talents in Arabic education earned her first place in the cluster Musabaqa for Muhadara, leading her to the division level and ultimately securing third place in Lamitan City, Basilan.

Now in sixth grade, Jehanieza stands at the pinnacle of her elementary journey, poised to claim the title of class valedictorian for the school year 2024-2025. Her excellence in journalism has earned her the top spot in English news writing, qualifying her for the prestigious Regional Schools Press Conference.

As the Editor-in-Chief of Nasapian Sindaw Publication, she has used her voice to inspire others, proving that success is born from hard work and an insatiable drive to improve.

Jehanieza T. Kabasalan is more than just a student, she is a role model, a leader, and a symbol of hope for the young learners of Nasapian Elementary School. Her journey reminds us that brilliance knows no boundaries, and with dedication and resilience, the impossible can become reality.

### **“Iftar: A Sacred Feast at Sunset in Nasapian”**

*By: HAMED I B. KUMAKA, LPT, MAED, EdD, Editor-In-Chief*

As the golden sun dips below the horizon, a sense of anticipation fills the air in Nasapian. The streets grow quieter, the masjid hums with whispered prayers, and families gather with plates brimming with blessings. This is Iftar, the sacred meal that marks the end of a day's fast during the holy month of Ramadan, a month of devotion, reflection, and self-discipline for Muslims worldwide.

In Nasapian, Iftar is more than just a meal, it is an act of unity, charity, and faith. For years, the community has upheld the tradition of providing free Iftar meals to Bangsamoro brothers and sisters observing the fast. Every household, regardless of wealth, contributes in whatever way they can, some with food, others with financial aid, and many with simple acts of kindness. Even those who are not scheduled to donate often step forward, knowing that every morsel given in the name of Allah is multiplied in blessings.

The generosity of Nasapian Elementary School stands out as a pillar of this initiative. As a regular donor, the school ensures that the Iftar table never runs empty. Each evening, between 60 to 150 individuals, students, teachers, laborers, and travelers, gather at the local masjid, confident that a meal will be waiting for them. The local government unit (LGU) and Islamic scholars guide this initiative, ensuring that Iftar remains a halal and spiritually fulfilling experience.

Beyond nourishment, Iftar in Nasapian represents something deeper. It is a time for repentance, an opportunity to cleanse the soul and seek forgiveness. The meal itself carries profound meaning, no food bought with unlawful earnings is allowed, as haram wealth taints the sanctity of the act. Instead, every Iftar is prepared with sincerity, generosity, and a pure heart, making it not just a meal, but a bridge between the giver, the receiver, and the divine.

As Ramadan continues, the people of Nasapian reaffirm their commitment to faith and community. In every plate of dates and

rice, in every sip of water and tea, there is a silent prayer, a hope that the act of giving will open doors to eternal rewards.

### **“NASAPIAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WINS 3RD PLACE AT CLUSTER MEET 2024”**

*By: HAMED I B. KUMAKA, LPT, MAED, EdD, Editor-In-Chief*

Kitulaan, March 2024 – Nasapian Elementary School proudly secured 3rd place overall in the highly competitive Cluster Meet 2024, held at Kitulaan Elementary School. The event showcased the determination and athleticism of young students, with Nasapian ES standing out in multiple sports. This achievement was made possible through the unwavering support of School Head Ma'am Normina S. Palanggalan and the leadership of Sports Coordinator Sir Marvelous Khan C. Sinempalan.

The basketball boys' team fought hard and finished in 3rd place, while the volleyball girls' team also claimed 3rd place. In athletics, Rohamina Usman was a standout performer, winning gold medals in the 200m and 400m races, while Hadiguia took 1st place in the 1500m event. The girls' badminton team dominated the tournament, securing the championship title. Additionally, the Sepak Takraw team emerged as champions, showcasing their strength and teamwork.

In chess, Ramaisa H. Abdulsalam demonstrated strategic brilliance, earning a 2nd place finish. Other track and field athletes also contributed significantly to the school's overall ranking, with multiple podium finishes across various events.

#### **FULL RESULTS:**

##### **Team Events**

Basketball Boys – 3rd place

Volleyball Girls – 3rd place

Volleyball Boys – 4th place

##### **Athletics - Girls**

Rohamina Usman (200m) – 1st

Rohamina Usman (400m) – 1st

Hadiguia (1500m) – 1st

Haslen Yusop (800m) – 2nd

Zenaida (1500m) – 2nd

##### **Athletics - Boys**

Johavier Guiamel (100m) – 2nd

Mohaimen (100m) – 3rd

Maher Limbutongan (200m) – 3rd

##### **Badminton - Girls (Champion!)**

Single A – Bai Jannah M. Ebrahim

Single B – Kasmaira A. Pidtukasan

### **Badminton - Boys**

Single A – 2nd (Alinor L. Dagem)

Single B – 3rd (Nor Wali A. Kasan)

Doubles – 2nd (Nasrolah K. Aplal & Norhamdan K. Makudtog)

### **Sepak Takraw - Champion**

Amer Khan A. Ayob

Norol-Am A. Ayob

Prince Jayhad P. Lapadsin

Johari M. Ebrahim

Datujehad P. Alay

### **Chess**

Ramaisa H. Abdulsalam – 2nd place

This impressive performance highlights Nasapian Elementary School's commitment to sports excellence. Alhamdulillah and MashaAllah, the dedication of the athletes, coaches, and supporters reflects the school's passion for athletic achievement.

### **“Smash and Serve: The Rise of Badminton in Schools and Communities”**

*By: HAMED I B. KUMAKA, LPT, MAED, EdD, Editor-In-Chief*

Badminton is soaring in popularity across schools and communities, and Nasapian Elementary School is leading the charge. Fueled by passion and determination, the school's badminton team has secured the honor of representing the SDO SGA Division in the 2025 Regional Sports Competition. This achievement is more than just a win; it is a testament to the perseverance, discipline, and teamwork that define these young athletes.

Under the guidance of their dedicated coach, Mr. Hamed I B. Kumaka, the team has trained relentlessly, perfecting their smashes, serves, and court strategies. Their journey to the regional stage was not easy, filled with grueling practice sessions and intense matches. But their hard work paid off as they dominated local and division-level tournaments, proving their capability to compete at higher levels. Their victory is a collective triumph, made possible by the support of their school head, Ms. Normina S. Palangalan, who has been a strong advocate for sports development at Nasapian Elementary School.

Beyond the excitement of competition, badminton offers valuable life lessons to young players. It instills discipline, sharpens reflexes, and nurtures resilience—skills that extend beyond the court and into everyday life. Through sports, students develop confidence and learn the importance of perseverance, lessons that shape them into well-rounded individuals. Nasapian Elementary School's commitment to nurturing athletic talent is not just about

winning medals but about fostering a culture of excellence and sportsmanship.

As badminton continues to gain traction in schools and communities, the story of Nasapian Elementary School serves as an inspiration. Their journey reflects the power of sports in shaping young minds and bringing communities together. With eyes set on the regional stage, these young athletes carry the hopes of their school and division, ready to smash barriers and serve success.

### **“Laro ng Lahi: Reviving Traditional Filipino Games for the Next Generation in Nasapian Elementary School”**

*By: HAMED I B. KUMAKA, LPT, MAED, EdD, Editor-In-Chief*

In a time when digital screens dominate childhood entertainment, Nasapian Elementary School is bringing back the joy of outdoor play through Laro ng Lahi, a celebration of traditional Filipino games. Students eagerly took part in patintero, luksong tinik, tumbang preso, and sipa, rediscovering the thrill of friendly competition while strengthening their cultural roots. This initiative is more than just play—it's a movement to keep Filipino heritage alive and instill in young learners the values of teamwork, discipline, and resilience.

The success of the program is made possible through the leadership of School Head Ms. Normina S. Palangalan and the dedication of teachers who believe in the power of active play. Unlike digital games that often promote isolation, Laro ng Lahi fosters camaraderie and physical activity, essential in shaping well-rounded students. Mr. Hamed I B. Kumaka, the school's sports coordinator, highlighted how these games build character, teaching children to think strategically, move with agility, and respect one another.

As laughter echoes through the school grounds, it's clear that these traditional games still have a place in today's generation. Nasapian Elementary School is proving that heritage and modernity can go hand in hand—children can enjoy the benefits of technology while still engaging in the timeless joys of outdoor play. This revival of Laro ng Lahi not only strengthens cultural identity but also reminds students that some of the best childhood memories come from running, jumping, and playing together.

Through this initiative, Nasapian Elementary School ensures that Laro ng Lahi continues to thrive, passing on a legacy of fun, learning, and Filipino pride to future generations. The games may be old, but their impact remains as powerful as ever, shaping young minds and keeping traditions alive.

### **“Soaring High: Nasapian Elementary School's Greatest Sepak Takraw Victory”**

*By: HAMED I B. KUMAKA, LPT, MAED, EdD, Editor-In-Chief*

For years, Nasapian Elementary School has been a force to be reckoned with in Sepak Takraw, dominating competitions in the Kapalarawan Cluster and beyond. With an undefeated streak in both the Cluster and Zone Meets, our team has proudly carried the school's banner all the way to the SGADAA Meet and even the prestigious BARMMAA Meet. Each victory is a testament to the hard work, discipline, and passion of our young athletes, who continue to push their limits with every match.

At the heart of this success are the school's standout players: Amer Khan A. Ayob, Norol-Am A. Ayob, Prince Jayhad P. Lapadsin,  
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Norhamir P. Kumaka, and Joharie M. Ebrahim. Their lightning-fast reflexes, precise kicks, and unbeatable teamwork have made them a dominant force on the court. But behind their success is more than just talent it's the countless hours of practice, the bruises and sweat, and the unwavering determination to be the best.

Guiding them every step of the way is their dedicated coach, Mr. Hamed B. Kumaka. His strategic coaching, motivational leadership, and deep knowledge of the game have shaped these athletes into champions. Under his mentorship, the team has not only developed technical skills but also a mindset of perseverance, sportsmanship, and teamwork qualities that go beyond the game itself.

But no victory is achieved alone. The team owes much of its success to the unwavering support of our school head, Ms. Normina S. Palanggalan. Her belief in the power of sports to shape young minds and build character has been instrumental in fostering a winning culture at Nasapian Elementary School. With her encouragement, the team continues to rise, setting new goals and breaking new records.

Nasapian Elementary School's Sepak Takraw journey is more than just a series of championships it is a story of dedication, unity, and excellence. With every game, the players remind us that success is not just about winning trophies but about the hard work, discipline, and heart that go into every match. The future is bright, and as long as our team keeps soaring, there's no limit to what they can achieve.

#### **"Beyond the Chalkboard: Mr. Kumaka's Remarkable Impact"**

by: Analie S. Antaon

***"A teacher's legacy is etched not in stone, but in the hearts and minds of their students and those who know them."***

What makes an ordinary man who was born from a middle-class family succeed and achieved so many things? What pushed him to do more and be more in his chosen field?

Mr. Hamed Boto Kumaka, a resident of Nasapian, Kapalawan, SGA, BARMM, and an elementary teacher, who holds 29 major and minor coordinatorships at Nasapian Elementary School, has so much story to tell – a story etched not in polished awards or gleaming accolades, but in the resilience of a spirit that refused to be broken. His classroom, a vibrant hub of learning nestled in a low-income neighborhood, is a testament to his unwavering dedication, a beacon of hope against a backdrop of systemic challenges.

Mr. Kumaka's journey hasn't been easy. Born into not so privileged home, he faced numerous obstacles from a young age. Limited access to quality education, financial hardship, and societal expectations all threatened to derail his dreams. Yet, fueled by an unyielding passion for learning and a deep-seated belief in the transformative power of education, he persevered. He excelled in his studies, received awards and recognitions, a feat that seemed almost impossible given his circumstances.

He finished his elementary and secondary education both with honors and proceeded his tertiary education in the University of Southern Mindanao – Main Campus Kabacan, taking up Bachelor of Elementary Education. He passed the Licensure examination for Teachers (LET) in 2013 and became a regular permanent teacher in

2015. He pursued his Master of Arts in Education (MAED) Degree in Central Mindanao College-Kidapawan City. Currently, he is taking up his Doctor of Education (EdD) Degree in Cotabato Foundation College of Science and Technology (CFCST) wherein he will be graduating this year.

During his college years, he was an active student leader, serving as the USM-Muslim Association President for a year. He also served as the voice of his fellow Muslim students in the university in various occasions.

Mr. Kumaka's commitment to scholarly excellence is evident in his impressive record of international achievements. His research has garnered significant recognition culminating in a Best Research Paper award at the 1<sup>st</sup> International Multidisciplinary Research Conference in Iloilo City (October 7-9, 2022). This success is further amplified by publications in prestigious international journals such as the *Southeast Asian Journal of Multidisciplinary Studies* (Volume 1, Number 1, 2023) and the *IRASS Journal of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences* (Paper ID: IRASSJAHSS-0202025, Volume 2, Issue 2 2025). Beyond individual research, Mr. Kumaka actively contributes to the global academic community, holding a Certificate of Membership in Global Researchers, Administrators, Scholars, and Professionals (October 9, 2022 - present) and serving as Editor-in-Chief of the *SGA Kulintang Gazette Publication* (2023-present). His participation in the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Multidisciplinary Research Conference (January 15-16, 2022) further underscores his dedication to ongoing engagement with the international research landscape.

When it comes to professional growth, Mr. Kumaka's dedication is further evidenced by his extensive participation in regional seminars and training programs. This includes a comprehensive five-day training on quality education, learning delivery, and moral governance (February 25 – March 1, 2024, Sotogrande Hotel, Davao City), as well as significant contributions to the development of adaptive learning materials (ALMs) through review and enhancement workshops (October 21-25, 2021, Koronadal City; January 22, Mt. Sabrina Hotel, General Santos City).

His expertise extends to curriculum development, demonstrated by his role as a writer in the ALM enhancement process, and leadership in education, highlighted by his attendance at a three-day seminar on leadership and governance (November 25-27, 2022, CFCST Sub-office, Kidapawan City). Other key training experiences include a seminar on thesis/dissertation writing, a training on the culture of peace and violence prevention (October 26-30, 2021, London Beach Resort, General Santos City), a division campus journalism seminar (December 7-9, 2023, Nabalawag, Midsayap, North Cotabato), and seminar-workshops on demonstration teaching (February 13-16, 2020, Café Nyal, Paco, Kidapawan City). This diverse range of professional development activities reflects a commitment to continuous learning and improvement across various aspects of education.

Mr. Kumaka's influence extends beyond the classroom, as evidenced by his significant contributions as a resource speaker. He shared his expertise at the 2022 Linggo ng Kabataan Program, focusing on "Intergenerational Solidarity: Creating a World for All Ages" (October 26, 2022). Further showcasing his commitment to education, he served as a resource speaker for the Ligawasan Cluster's Journalism Training.

Beyond his regional contributions, Mr. Kumaka has also participated in international initiatives, attending a three-day international training for the pilot implementation of “Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL)” and subsequently serving as an international TaRL Implementer for a 30-day pilot program across the entire BARMM region. This demonstrates a commitment to both local and global educational advancement.

When it comes to his duties as a classroom teacher, Mr. Kumaka began in a challenging environment – a school with limited resources, understaffed classrooms, and a high student-teacher ratio. Many would have been discouraged, but Mr. Kumaka saw opportunity amidst the adversity. He developed innovative teaching methods, adapting his curriculum to meet the unique needs of his students. He created a supportive classroom environment, fostering a sense of community and belonging among his students, many of whom faced personal challenges mirroring his own.

He didn’t just teach; he mentored, guided, and inspired. He became a confidante, a role model, and a source of strength for his students, many of whom came from disadvantaged backgrounds. He helped them navigate the complexities of their lives, providing not just academic support but also emotional and social guidance.

He understood their struggles, having faced similar hardships himself.

Despite the limitations of his resources, Mr. Kumaka consistently achieved remarkable results. His students excelled in various disciplines including sports wherein he coached them in sepak takraw and became a Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao Athletics Association (BARMMAA) Meet 2025 qualifier. He was also a winning coach for English News Writing during the Division Schools Press Conference (DSPC) 2025 of Special Geographic Area (SGA) and he will be competing in the upcoming Regional Schools Press Conference (RSPC) 2025 for both English News Writing and School Paper Publication.

Mr. Kumaka’s achievements are a testament to his unwavering commitment to his students and his belief in their potential. He has received numerous awards and recognitions for his outstanding work, but his greatest reward is the success of his students – young people, who despite facing their own obstacles, are now thriving, pursuing their dreams, and making a positive impact on the world. His story is a powerful reminder that even in the face of adversity, the human spirit can triumph, and that the power of education can transform lives. Mr. Kumaka’s journey is not just personal triumph; it’s a testament to the resilience of the human spirit and the transformative power of education.