



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Attorney General

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For Immediate Release

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**THE 35TH ANNUAL ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CUP
SPEECH COMPETITION IS SCHEDULED FOR MAY 3RD**

Office of the Attorney General, Saipan – The Attorney General is pleased to announce that the 35th Attorney General's Cup Speech Competition will be held on May 3rd, 2019 at 9:30 am at the Hyatt Regency Ballroom.

Eight (8) high schools will be participating in this year's competition. The schools include: Dr. Rita Inos High School, Eucon International School, Grace Christian Academy, Marianas High School, Mount Carmel High School, Saipan Southern High School, Tinian High School, and Kagman High School.

"The AG's Cup Speech Competition provides the CNMI's high school students with the opportunity to research an issue that affects the Commonwealth, form a position on the issue, and showcase their voice and passion on the topic," says Attorney General Manibusan. He adds, "The AG's Cup Steering Committee have been meeting and working diligently in preparation for this event and we are delighted to have eight high schools join us this year."

This year's topic focuses on the legalization of Cannabis in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands: The issue presented in this year's competition is:

Is the passage of Public Law 20-66, also known as the Taulamwaar Sensible CNMI Cannabis Act of 2018, a cure or a curse for the Commonwealth? Will it help or hurt the CNMI in the short term or the long term?

In preparing their speech, the students are asked to consider the following: 1) Cannabis is still illegal federally; discuss how this could affect production and consumption of Cannabis in the CNMI. How has it affected production and consumption in other jurisdictions? 2) What types of regulatory systems have been developed in other jurisdictions that allow recreational Cannabis use? 3) What have been the positives and negatives associated with recreational Cannabis use in jurisdictions that have legalized its use?

"The passing of Public Law 20-66 on September 21, 2018 made for a historic, yet, contentious topic in the CNMI," says Attorney General Manibusan. He continues, "The topic is of great significance for the students to provide objective analysis and research to decision makers on cannabis policy that will have a significant impact on our community."

The Office of the Attorney General welcomes the public to attend the event and support the students of the CNMI. For more information on the Speech Competition, please contact Ms. Keola Taisacan at the Office of the Attorney General's Criminal Division at 237-7600.

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