

Kētindēg

Volume 1 Issue 4 / January 2013



An official publication of IPDEV Project, Empowering Indigenous Peoples in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao

WHAT'S INSIDE?

Why Bangsa-Mamalu?	p3
IP Rights law can be implemented in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao	p5
Interweaving IP Rights and Bangsamoro	p9
Tubak: A photo story	p10
Forging disaster plan over sacred mountain	p13
Restoring peace, life on sacred Mt Firis	p14
Achievements so far	p16
Ruray Fusaka	p18



This project is co-funded by the European Union



Development Consultants Inc. DEVCON

Recognition of the Rights of the Indigenous Peoples in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao for Empowerment and Sustainable Development (IPDEV) is a project implemented by the consortium: Konrad Adenauer Stiftung e.V., Institute for Autonomy and Governance (IAG) and DEVCON Development Consultants Inc.

Kêtindêg, in Teduray roughly means standing up for something, making one be seen and be felt among the many. The word is not far from the Cebuano or Tagalog variations of *tindog* or *tindig* respectively. It is a fitting title for a regular publication that attempts to capture the experiences gathered in this journey of recognizing the rights of the Indigenous Peoples.

In this issue, we acknowledge and give credit to Mr. Amiel Mark Cagayan, i-WATCH for his photographs and to everyone who are always around, striving to make IPDev a real fulfilling, meaningful and continously inspiring project.

Fiyo teresang!



Implementing Office
Institute for Autonomy and Governance
2/F UMEX Building
Notre Dame University
Notre Dame Avenue
Cotabato City, Philippines
Telefax. (064) 424-2071
Mob: 0999-991-3221
Email: aveen.ipdev@gmail.com

Why Bangsa-Mamalu?

The indigenous communities of Teduray, Lambangian at Dulangan Manobo within the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) have their own culture, customs and tradition distinct from that of the Moro.

They lead their way of life and adhere to their customary laws amid an atmosphere of confidence, dignity, self-respect and faith along a

recognized “inged” or terriitory, all of which form part of what they refer to as “tindegan.”

Once a person can exercise his “tindegan”, that person is a “barabangsa,” explained a document released by the group Timuay Justice and Governance (TMJ) in the light of the signing of the Framework Agreement of the Bangsamoro.

TMJ asserted that the “tindeg”

of the IPs is evident in the long history of Mindanao even long before the 14th century when Islam was introduced to the people of Mindanao.

In that episode of the history of Mindanao, the “tindeg” of the IP leaders then came to a crucial test when known leaders Amil and Ado have to decide on whether to go with a new system of Sultanate in a Islamic

way of life or to remain as they are in their traditional way of leadership and governance.

Amil opted to follow the new system while Ado remained in the traditional side.

But even as they differed in their belief and system of governance, Amil and Ado came up with a treaty that will help sustain their political and economic ties.

With these, Amil's group became known as Tabunaway while that of Ado was known as Mamalu, which came from the word malu-malu or alu-alu meaning hesitant.

Each of Amil's and Ado's group have their respective "tindeg" and both are considered to be "barabangsa."

TJG cited that such is a portion of Mindanao's history that was never given prominence and became

unseen to many, even until now as it was overshadowed by the ensuing developments in the island and changes in society.

Yet it became part of the IPs historical injustices.

In its statement, TJG declared that such historical injustice can only be corrected if Mamalu is recognized as "barabangsa" and be referred to as Bangsa-Mamalu.



IPRA can be implemented in ARMM



“There are no legal impediments in implementing IPRA in the ARMM...”

ARMM Gov. Mujiv Hataman:



Wild cheers from among Indigenous Peoples met Mujiv Hataman, governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), when he uttered, “There are no legal impediments in implementing IPRA in the ARMM.”

Such remarks of the ARMM governor is deemed a policy declaration made before hundreds of delegates from the different IP communities in the ARMM like the Teduray, Lambangian, Dulangan Manobo of Maguindanao and the Sama of Tawi-tawi during consultations on the Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro in Upi, Maguindanao.

Hataman drew further applause when he announced that “A proper survey can already be conducted on the 201,850 hectares of Teduray, Lambangian and Dulangan Manobo land within Maguindanao.”

The ARMM governor earlier met with Government Peace Panel Chair Prof. Miriam Coronel Ferrer, National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) Commissioner Brigitte Pawid and NCIP Region 12 Director Wuy Lim P Wong.

“This number (201,850 hectares) may be reduced,” said Engr Eric Ras, NCIP North Cotabato Provincial Officer, who was tasked to oversee the survey, “inasmuch as there are already parcels that have been titled. But what is important is that it is identified and delineated properly.”

Hataman has asked NCIP 12 to fast track the proposed budget for the survey together with a minimum staffing pattern for an NCIP office in the ARMM.

“I am willing to host a space for the NCIP in the Office of the Governor,” he added.

The FAB consultation was highlighted with Hataman’s policy declaration as IPs in the ARMM already filed for an ancestral domain title (CADT) in 2005, eight (8) years after Republic Act 8371 or better known as the Indigenous Peoples’ Rights Act (IPRA) or 3 years before the passing of the Muslim Mindanao Autonomy Act (MMAA 241).

“The claim has languished in the office of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP),” says Timuay Alim Bandara, Head Claimant of the Teduray Lambangian Dulangan Manobo Ancestral Domain Claimants



(TLADMADC).

There is a perceived need to clearly define roles and responsibilities among and between the NCIP and the Office of Southern Cultural Communities (OSCC) before things can go unhampered, opined Bandara.

The TLADMADC has already secured a minimal amount from donors for the conduct of the survey but a bigger amount has yet to be sourced by the NCIP for a survey can be conducted.

Ancestral Domain is embodied in the Indigenous Peoples’ Bundle of Rights.

Lawyer Rasul Mitmug Jr, Speaker of ARMM’s Regional Legislative Assembly, said “A resolution will be filed in the Regional Assembly soon.” Mitmug was with Gov Hataman in the consultations with the IPs.

Mitmug said this will reaffirm the implementation of IPRA in the ARMM. Resolution No 269 was passed in 2003 adapting IPRA as the legal framework in recognizing the rights of the IPs in the ARMM.

Interweaving IP Rights and Bangsamoro

ISSUES on ancestral domain, self-governance, justice and human rights, and cultural identity remain the main substance of what the Indigenous Peoples (IPs) raised during consultations in Upi, Maguindanao, on the Framework Agreement on Bangsamoro (FAB).

Basically, it is all IP rights and how it will be weaved into the Bangsamoro basic law which will be crafted by a still to be created Transition Commission, remarked Upi Mayor Ramon Piang, an alternate member of the government peace panel for the IPs.

Organized by Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) along with Upi local government and several IP organizations, the regional consultative assembly gave an opportunity to IPs to express their views on the FAB and how it would affect their lives, Piang said.

In the ensuing workshop during the consultations, IP Rights and the granting of an Ancestral Domain Title emerged as the main message

of the participants, who also ensured their full participation in the crafting of the Bangsamoro basic law.

It is worth to note that the Tedurays, Lambangian and Dulangan Manobo have filed their unified ancestral domain claim in 2005 to the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), eight years after the IPRA was passed or three years before the MMAA241 of Tribal Peoples' Rights Act of the ARMM was passed.

As such, the respective roles of NCIP and OSCC (Office of Southern Cultural Communities) need to be clarified for a conduct of a delineation survey which is the crucial step in identifying areas that are still part of the ancestral domain claim.

The participants also recognized the sincerity of the GPH Panel and the President on their desire to put a closure to the talks even as they reiterated their expectation from the government in addressing other conflicts such as landgrabbing in Mt Firis and development aggression through the entry of IFMA in the Dulangan Manobo areas, among others.

The participants once again called for peace and unity; and hoped that forums like this consultative assembly will continue and guide everyone towards the fulfillment of peace.



A PHOTO STORY:

Tubak

Tubak is a remote village tucked within a densely forested portion of the Daguma mountain range that straddles Maguindanao and Sultan Kudarat provinces.

While it is part of Ampatuan town in Maguindanao, Tubak can be reached via a three-hour motorcycle ride from Esperanza town in Sultan Kudarat, through narrow rugged roads along mountain sides.

It is home to nearly a thousand inhabitants of mostly indigenous Dulangan-Manobo and Teduray folks that rely on the land, river and the forests around them for their subsistence.

Their leader known as Kap Kadingilan, himself a Dulangan Manobo, describes the difficulties they face even as they pin their hope on their Tana Tupu (ancestral domain) and the education of their children.

"We live with our Tana Tupu. Without it, we are as good as nothing," he said.

Residents of Tubak said the Tana Tupu is the only thing they can leave to their children when they are gone.

"Our children must have the proper education so that they can protect and preserve our Tana Tupu," an elder remarked.





Following the consultations, a Technical Working Group will be formed among the IPs who will help in ensuring that provisions protecting the rights of IPs will be incorporated into the Bangsamoro basic law.

Delegates from the different IP communities within the core territory of the Autonomous Region in Muslim

Mindanao (ARMM) were present during the consultations, among them the Teduray, Lambangian, Dulangan Manobo of Maguindanao and the Sama of Tawi-tawi.

The Arumanen Manobo were among IP communities coming from outside the core territory.

Government Peace Panel Chair

Prof. Miriam Coronel Ferrer showed a video about the rights of the IPs as well as the road map as to what steps will be undertaken towards the creation of the new political entity.

IP participants gave their messages of full support to the FAB, highlighting that their presence is already an indication of such support.



ARMM Disaster Plan forged on Mt. Firis



What best venue to forged a disaster management plan than in a sacred place beset by conflicting land ownership.

The Regional Disaster Risk Reduction & Management Plan (RDRRMP) in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) was finally approved and signed by ARMM governor Mujiv Hataman and RDRRMC-ARMM Chair on December 9.

The historic signing of the RDRRMP was done atop Hill 224, a predominantly IP community in the sacred Mt Firis Complex of Maguindanao, which is beset by conflicts attributed to claims of land ownership by non-IPs.

"It's worth noting that as we are building forests on the western side of Mindanao, the eastern side of Mindanao has just been ravaged by Typhoon Pablo," said IPDEV Manager Aveen Acuña-Gulo.

The forest-building activity was also in line with the celebration of Mindanao Week of Peace.

Restoring peace, restoring life on sacred Mt. Firis



It was Mindanao Week of Peace and hundreds of residents, mostly Indigenous Peoples (IPs), planted some 2,000 seedlings of various tree species along the hills surrounding Mt Firis in Maguindanao, as their way of celebrating the week-long event.

The place, however, has been a conflict flashpoint when armed groups made it part of their territory, displacing hundreds of IP families.

"We are building a forest here, not merely planting trees," pointed out IPDev Manager Aveen Acuña-Gulo, "and not just anywhere but in Mt. Firis," the most sacred mountain of the Teduray and Lambangian tribes in southern Philippines.

Hilario Tanzo, Deputy Governor for IPs in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), said forests mean a lot to their lives as Indigenous Peoples.

"If we restore the forests, we restore the peace, we restore life,"

Tanzo said.

Hoping to move to another level from the usual notion of tree planting, Gulo said "When we think of the forest, and not just individual trees, as the resource, the whole context hopefully changes."

She went on to explain that the forest holds the soil, provides water, and regulates the temperature of the atmosphere. Forests are not just made of trees and grasses, but of people as well.

"IPs have relied on forests since time immemorial," she clarified.

ARMM Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Kahal Kedtag declared "We assure the community that all legal processes will be exhausted in resolving the land conflicts surrounding Mt Firis.

On hand to be part of the momentous event was ARMM Governor Mujiv Hataman who came on time by helicopter to Sitio Baay-



baay, (commonly known as Hill 224 due to its elevation of 224 meters ASL).

He then led in building forests some 400 people from the surrounding barangays that came together with government officials, local leaders as well as soldiers from the Mechanized Battalion, 45th Infantry Battalion, 38th IB and 5th Special Forces Battalion.

The seedlings planted consisted of mahogany, narra, citrus, guyabano, marang and antipolo, ilang-ilang and rattan.

Soldiers helped in distributing the seedlings to families, who planted just enough for what they can manage. Some planted their trees along the road, some in their cornfield and some near their houses.

Local farmers were told not to burn the grasses so as not to harm the newly planted saplings.

3rd PSB: IRR of MMAA 241



After four long years since the passage of the Tribal Peoples' Rights Act (Muslim Mindanao Autonomy Act or MMAA 241), came its Implementing Rules and Regulations which was signed last October 25.

The Tribal Peoples' Rights Act was passed by the Regional Legislative Assembly on June 11, 2008.

IPDev Manager Aveen Acuña-Gulo reported such development to the Project Sounding Board (PSB) in its third quarterly meeting held last November 22, 2012 at the IAG Conference Hall, Notre Dame University in Cotabato City.

After four months review and deliberations on the draft, the IRR was finally signed on October 25, 2012 by the members of the IP Technical Working Group headed by OSCC Executive Director Bai Fatima Kanakan.

The PSB is an advisory group of 15-20 members from different stakeholders who provide feedback and guidance on issues arising in the course of the project's lifetime.

The major agendum for the 3rd PSB was the recently signed Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro (FAB). Sub-agenda include identity of Indigenous Peoples in the ARMM, inasmuch as some groups within the three major tribes have issued unified statements asserting their right not to be called Bangsamoro.

Gulo said also presented to the PSB were feedback gathered from the ground through various forums initiated by IPDev.

While there were expression of support to the peace process, the communities still have reservations on whether the current protection they are getting from the government will continue.

Over the years, many IP communities have been displaced due to armed conflict and harassments from armed groups. Previous attempts to return to their places of origin were faced with their ancestral land already being titled to private individuals.

While relative stability is currently

being experienced in the last three months, some IPs are gradually going back to their ancestral land, preparing the land for cultivation and building their huts.

Members of the PSB were encouraged to discuss the findings with their principals, with the end in view of forging more partnerships in addressing the gaps in a timely manner.

The move is in keeping with the "Recognition of the Rights of the Indigenous Peoples in the ARMM for their Empowerment and Sustainable Development" or IPDEV which was launched in February 2012 and is co-funded by the EU and the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS).

IPDEV is a project implemented by the consortium: Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS), Institute for Autonomy and Governance (IAG), and DEVCON Development Consultants Inc.

Within a period of three years, the project team will work towards the protection and promotion of rights of Indigenous Peoples in 76 barangays in the ARMM.



Alim Bandara

Treasures in the Domains or Ruray Fusaka in Teduray is a hymn composed by Alim Bandara with the help of Fintailan Bun Segundo, narrator/singer of several Teduray epics.

The melody is based on the famous Téduray epic entitled “Londogon” and first sung by Fintailan Bun at Rendaw Mosela’s residence at Lahangkeb, Upi, Maguindanao on August, 1985.

The composition of the hymn was inspired by the “Alangkat”, a Téduray & Lambangian movement for territorial defense in the 1920s where Fintailan Bun had actively participated and aroused by the MNLF wars in the 1980s where issues of identity, territory, governance, livelihood, culture & spirituality are once again at stake.

The hymn was translated into English by Alim Bandara on November, 2012, due to popular demand from non Téduray who wants to know the message of the hymn.

Treasures in the Domains

I

*The message begins
With greetings to mother earth
God can surely hear our voices
To the shining stars above
The wisdom of our great leaders
Source of light for the world
With brightness that glows all over
Throughout the heavens*

II

*Our domains though sealed with
pacts*

*Yet we are so sad today because
To regain control over you is
difficult*

*But we swear
You will be our domains forever*

III

*Mamalu, the treaty holder
We greet you with all respect
For we are now fully aware
Of the trails you built for us
We pledge with all our souls
That you’ll still be our only guide*

IV

*With the command now from the
masses
Transform the dark into brightness
To expose the new pathways
We call for vigor and unity in
strength
Be it in bloody trek*

Without regret

*Just to establish the village
That is worthy
For the Teduray and Lambangian
To guard and take control over
time*

V

*In God’s name and leaders in
assembly*

*Don’t hesitate to
Take custody of everything within
the domains*

*Invoking the powers of all spirits
Our customs and traditions*

*Don’t put blame on our actions
For they that need to be blamed*

*Are the oppressors
Whose line of descent in the dark
They that should be cursed*

VI

*We will set up flags
Within the domains
With the stars aligned
Symbolizing our cultures*

*Crisscrossed with ax and spear
Markers of resources for livelihood
And with the morning star at sight
A new daylight is near and be glad*

*For the new crop of leaders
Will take good care of you*

(Repeat IV)

Ruray Fusaka

I

*Riruk sisoy guwede
Fanabiyab mégubar
Tulus gumba mériyang
Kénogon linaw-linaw
Tunggu léndag liyunén
Solo témikuf réndaw
Solo léminaw-linaw
Ramfung légawlaw laway*

II

*Ingéd gey sénsafaan
Dakél foy buku geye
Sambuli man undoyén go
Safa gey giyar geye
Fusa ékéy beem*

III

*Mamalu gefe safa
Ségita nékey beem
Fasad méntuléng geyén
Kéntédémo gitooon
Safa gey baul geye
Fanduga gey so beem*

IV

*Sugu-i soonomon
Bungkaséni fégalad
Mantu néto kirmon
Témawagén fégerang
Amuk sémusow dara
Tad foy furay sénule*

*Diyunén say fénuwo we
Dait kétororén sa ké
Téduray, Lambangian
Mégukuleb Fusaka*

V

*Lundaan Timfada Limud
Kago séfébénalani
Tamay ruray Fusaka-e
Témawagén lé mugén
Ukit Kitab Té gudoon
Kago dowoyén begey
Daitén sa dowoyén
San bay medusa-dusa we
Séfet té gélibakén
Beroy uleoy lolow*

VI

*Findégo key bandera
Fusaka geye Ingéd
Kéntédomo gitooon
Réndawi ké adatan
Sénfésulangi fatukeb
Dilék tanda-i aras
Gitooon solo mubod
Tanda ké baya-baya
Kagoy mantu we ganad
Féimu sen bé Fusaka*

(Repeat IV)



Coordination Office

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung
5/F Cambridge Bldg.,
108 Tordesillas cor. Gallardo Sts.,
Makati City, Philippines
Tel: (02) 403-6773
Mob: 0915-139-1449
Email: miriam.ipdev@gmail.com

Implementing Office

Institute for Autonomy and Governance
2/F UMEX Building
Notre Dame University
Notre Dame Avenue
Cotabato City, Philippines
Telefax: (064) 421-2071
Mob: 0999-991-3221
Email: aveen.ipdev@gmail.com

Delegation of the European Union to the Philippines

30/F Tower II, RCBC Plaza,
6819 Ayala Ave. cor. Gil Puyat
Makati City, 1200, Philippines
Phone: +63 2 859-5100
Fax: +63 2 859-5109
Website: <http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/philippines>
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/EUDelegationToThePhilippines>
Twitter: <http://twitter.com/#!/EUinthePH>

www.iag.org.ph/ipdev

"DISCLAIMER: This publication has been produced with the assistance of the European Union. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of IPDEV and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union."



This project is
co-funded by the
European Union



**Development
Consultants Inc.
DEVCON**

The European Union (EU) numbers 27 different nations determined to shape their future closely together. Over a period of enlargement of more than 50 years, they have, together, built a zone of peace, stability, progress and solidarity. The EU is a model for overcoming conflict and promoting reconciliation through close co-operation to achieve common goals, while respecting national sovereignty and territorial integrity. But the EU is not focused on itself. Its ambition is to share its achievements and values with countries beyond its borders.