LITERACY AND LEADERSHIP TRAINING FOR INDIGENOUS LOCAL COMMUNITIES OF MT. MALINDANG RANGE NATURAL PARK

The Mount Malindang Range National Park (MMRNP) cover 53,028 hectares which includes 3 cities, 11 municipalities and 65 barangays. It was declared as the 29th ASEAN heritage in 2011 and presently nominated as a potential UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. MMRNP is the home of 9,157 Indigenous People (Subanen) which lifestyles greatly dependent to the Park’s provisions. Hence, partnership and collaboration with the indigenous local communities of the Park will enhance the forest protection and address various environmental concerns of the PA.

Relative to the protection and conservation of the PA, one of the key strategies is to equip and enable ILCs with knowledge and ideas relevant to the protection of MMRNP. Thus, the MMRNP – PAO conducted leadership training for indigenous local communities of MMRNP on May 13 and 14, 2016 at DENR-PENRO Function Hall to allow and capacitate them to become effective Managers of the Park.

The activity was attended by the Municipal Indigenous People Mandatory Representative and Barangay Tribal Chieftains of the Park.

During the workshop, lectures and valuable inputs were delivered to relay significant ideas on forest protection, hereunder are the highlights of the activity;

I. RITUAL

The program was formally started with a ritual led by Timuay Barimbao, it is their way cultural way upon conducting any activity to ask the guidance and blessing of the Almighty One. Followed by the singing of National Anthem and Malindang Hymn.
II. OPENING REMARKS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PARTICIPANTS

Belen O. Daba, Ph. D, the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer of Misamis Occidental and at the same time the Protected Area Superintendent of Mt. Malindang Range Natural Park gladly welcomed everyone and thank full for spending their time and effort. She recognized and acknowledge the resource speakers and participants of the activity and hoped for a fruitful discussion that would bring effective and efficient management to MMRNP.

III. EXPECTATION SETTING

To know what the participants felt about the training, Ms. Dela Calzada ask questions for them answer. Questions are (i) What they fell about the training? (ii) What DENR laws and regulations do they know relative to forest protection? And (iii) How do they protect Mt. Malindang in their own perspective. The questions were left to serve as guide for the succeeding resource speakers.
LITERACY TRAINING (DAY 1 – MAY 13, 2016)

IV. EXECUTIVE ORDER 23

Park Maintenance Foreman Fenando Oling presented EO. 23 “declaring a moratorium on the cutting and harvesting of timber in the natural and residual forest and creating the anti-illegal logging task force” he emphasized that the anti-illegal logging task force composed of DENR Secretary, Secretary of the Interior and Local Government, the Secretary of the Department of National Defence, the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. He also pointed out that the task force is mandated to take the lead in the anti-illegal campaign and ensure the implementation of E.O.23 under the supervision of the DENR. It shall also assist the DENR in the enforcement of other environmental laws.

V. EXECUTIVE ORDER 26

For. Pito presented the EO. 26 “National Greening Program” to the participants, he informed the IPs that MMRNP is one of implementing office in Misamis Occidental. He stressed out that the goal of the program are to address Sustainable Development, Poverty reduction, Food security, Biodiversity conservation and Climate Change mitigation and adaptation.
VI. REPUBLIC ACT 9304

For. Angel P. Jumawan presented the RA 9304 “an act to establish Mt. Malindang Rangenatural Park as a Protected Area & Its Peripheral Areas as Buffer Zone”. He discussed the salient features of the law, he informed the body that the PA is managed by the Protected Area Management Board which regulates the activity within the PA. He articulated the prohibited within the PA such as hunting, destroying, trapping, disturbing or possessing of any wild plants or animals or products.

VII. REPUBLIC ACT 9147

PENRO Daba presented the “Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act”, she emphasized that MMRNP is the home of endemic species that can be seen nowhere else in the world. She mentioned the wildlife that fall under the jurisdiction of DENR such as terrestrial plants, all terrestrial mammalian species, Dugong, all bird species including water birds, terrestrial snakes, freshwater turtles and tortoises, sea turtles, crocodiles, all lizards, including sailfin lizard, all terrestrial invertebrates, including land snails. Wildlife conservation projects of national concern in Palawan.
VIII. Simple Bookkeeping and Financial Management

Ma. Hannah Rozzel Torres, Accountant III of PENRO discussed about Simple Bookkeeping and Financial Management. She discussed what is bookkeeping and benefits if properly managed. She emphasized the importance of financial management to avoid shortage.

IX. Republic Act 9175

For. Eden C. Pito presented RA 9175 “an act regulating the ownership, possession, sale, importation and use of chainsaws, penalizing violations thereof and for other purposes”. He emphasized that chainsaws should be register and the only agency that is allowed to issue permit to chainsaw is DENR.
X. Biodiversity in Mt. Malindang Range Natural Park

For. Armstrong F. Hedoquio presented the Biodiversity of the Park. He mentioned the endemic species of the Park and encourage the participants to help protect the remaining population of those threatened species such as Philippine Eagle. He also enumerated threats in biodiversity such as habitat destruction, Pollution, Species Introductions, Global Climate Change and mineral exploitation.

The first day of the training was formally ended through a closing prayer led by Timauy Magante.
I. STRUCTURE LEARNING EXERCISES

During the Leadership Training, the Participants were given an opportunity to lead and to interact with their members. One of their activity was "Tower Construction". In this activity, each group will build a tower. A tower that is tall where each members could experience the height of the Paris’ Eiffel tower and the strong foundation of the Pyramid of Egypt. The activity was facilitated by For. Pito.

Photos showing the participants constructing their respective towers
This activity showcased each and every selected leaders their capability on bringing people and their ability and capability to influence leadership value unto their members. After they have built their “tower”, Forester Eden Pito enumerated and discussed the different kind of leaders; Participative, dictator, Supportive and Achievement Oriented leaders. The constructed tower then was tested thru blowing wind to it.

II. INPUT ON LEADERSHIP

Mr. Kirby Cabañeros, the NCIP Provincial Director discussed about leadership. He emphasized that being a leader is also a follower, he articulated that leaders should learn to listen to their members and to be open – minded.
III. SUBANEN LEADERSHIP STYLE

Subanen leadership style has its own uniqueness and was discussed by Provincial Board Member, Hon. Dodge L. Cabahug. His message was delivered in message form to be understood well by the participants. Accordingly, if such person dreamt of becoming a leader, one should be self-disciplined. As the adage says, “if such could not discipline oneself, how much more to others”?

Accordingly, Mt. Malindang is the home of the Subanen people. Definitely it is just appropriate that Subanenn people would take the first step in protecting and conserving Mt. Malindang.

IV. RESPONSIBLE LEADERSHIP

As one of the effective and efficient leader, For. Belen Daba also discussed inputs on leadership. As she always says, Leadership isn’t about Gender, it’s about the capability of influencing and guiding others.

As part of her discussion, she also mentioned the Seven Demands of leadership such as visioning, maximizing values, challenging experiences mentoring, building a constituency, making sense of experience and knowing self.
To further materialize and concretely discussed the topic, PENRO Daba facilitated a role play for the participants to clearly learn leadership. The participants were divided into four groups and were given situation to act portray and act with.

V. CLOSING REMARKS AND DISTRIBUTION OF CERTIFICATES

PENRO Daba express her profound gratitude to the resource speakers and participants for lending their time. She emphasized that together they can strongly protect and preserve the PA for the next generation’s benefit. The distribution of certificates immediately followed.
Photos showing the successful participants of the activity