

MINDANAO INDIGENOUS PEOPLES YOUTH ORGANIZATION INC (MIPYO)

SEC.REG. NO. CN201966093 <u>mipyo.organization@gmail.com</u> 0956-635-7814 (globe) / 0949-778-6209 (smart)

Press Statement 24 February 2020

TO OUR FELLOW FILIPINO BROTHERS AND SISTERS,

We are the Mindanao Indigenous Peoples Youths and Council of Elders (MIPCEL). We bring to your attention this suspicious **FUND RAISING SCHEME** of the **Save Our Schools (SOS) Network.** This SOS Network had been raising funds on behalf of "lumad children, students, teachers" who they alleged to be facing difficulties in the wake of violent displacements in Mindanao.

PLEASE DO NOT BE FOOLED. OUR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES YOUTHS ARE BEING UTILIZED BY THIS GROUP AND ASSOCIATED GROUPS UNDER THE DECEPTIVE SCHEME OF "FORCED EVACUATION" OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES (IP) TO RAISE FUNDS AND PROTEST AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT.

Some have travelled with them to Manila, in State Universities while about 200 are at the **Haran Compound** of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) in Davao – not allowed to go back home and deprived of basic necessities such as food and water.

One IP father, out of frustration, hanged himself at the Haran, months after he left his family in the hope of meeting with government officials and receiving family support. The wife also hanged herself, leaving behind four (4) children. Those who were able to return to their communities fear for their lives, as they told stories of inhumane living conditions, abuse, manipulation and indoctrination.

SALUGPONGAN and the Lumad Bakwit Schools of the Communist Party of the Philippines–New People's Army–National Democratic Front (CPP/NPA/NDF), where they teach our children to revolt and kill fellow <

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Filipinos, have already been ordered closed by the Department of Education for violating our Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) process and other violations.

AS FORMER TEACHERS AND STUDENTS OF SALUGPUNGAN, we know that the funds from local and international sources will be used for more protest actions against the government. Recruitment of young IPs and their involvement in the CPP/NPA/NDF's violent anti-government activities will continue.

WE PROTEST the continuing exploitation of IP children by the **Save Our Schools Network** and the alleged **Lumad Bakwit Schools.** The Indigenous Communities of Talaingod, Davao Del Norte to include the IP Mandatory Representatives (IPMRs), its IPS, the Municipal Tribal Council, the Municipal LGU of Talaingod and the Provincial LGU of Davao del Norte have already moved for closure of these Salugpongan Schools. They have been replaced with government schools where they undergo appropriate education and value formation.

WE PROTEST the continued detention of IP children in the Haran Mission Center. PLEASE JOIN OUR CALL for the CPP/NPA/NDF and the UCCP to allow our brothers and sisters to go home.

WE SEEK YOUR HELP IN STOPPING THIS DECEPTION AND DETENTION.

STOP THE CPP/NPA/NDF MANIPULATION OF IPs FOR THEIR VIOLENT REVOLUTIONARY AGENDA. INVESTIGATE THE CPP/NPA/NDF and their 50 years of destabilization, violence, killings, abuses, and elimination of our tribes.

MIPYO and MIPCEL

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