



My name is Ric Obenza, working for the protection of the environment using art as a medium. Together with several children who are interested to learn some of the techniques of the visual arts, a voluntary rehabilitation of the Malagos watershed was initiated in the late 1970's. We continue to work and expand areas of activity up to the far flung barangays of Marilog. Thru the years that we have laboured on this, we have experienced some need for art materials to sustain the activity and enliven new participants from among the children. We also need to expose the artworks of children. Specific concerns are proper framing methods and a suitable venue for exhibitions. In one of the previous exhibitions, some of their paintings were lost.

With the concern of the *Kalinawa Art Foundation* for the development of Indigenous Peoples' visual arts, we are more energized to pursue our mission to protect the land where these peoples live. With the support for art materials and financial assistance provided in December 2006 in Davao, we started various activities in January 2007:

- January 6, 13 and 20 in Sitio NamNam, Barangay Marilog, with 12 Indigenous People and 8 non-indigenous people.
- on January 25 in Upian, where a horse is needed as a means of transportation, there were 15 participants: Four Matislog (this group is the dominant one in the area), eight Bagobos and 3 Visayans
- on March 6, 7 and 8, a series of art workshops and seminars were held in Marilog Central Elementary school. There were only 6 Indigenous People registered among the 60 patricians, but part of this may be attributed to the fact that many did not want to identify themselves as Indigenous People.
- There were also three other events: Pag-Asa Hatch Day at the Philippine Eagle Center on January 14. Hugpong sa Kalabbuan on January 29, and an event at Bunawan Barangay Hall on January 22

I have submitted sign in sheets from these events. Some of the art materials have been used, but there is still enough for some future activities. Plans for the summer include art workshops and seminars at Calinan, 10-14 April and at the Institute for Indigenous Peoples in Davao, 18-20 April. For the php 1000 provided in cash, the money was used for food, transportation and some additional materials, such as batteries for the camera and film processing.



Art Material provided: 24 - #1 Mongol pencils, 27 sketching pencils, 7 boxes of acrylic paint sets, 7 boxes of water colour paint sets, 7 watercolor pads (24 sheets each) and 7 sketch pads (24 sheets each). Many of these art materials are still intact, waiting for a time when the children will be more ready to use them effectively.



With additional support for art materials and financial assistance, we will be able to assist in the future development of the talents among the lumads.

**With All the Blessings!  
Thank you so much,  
(Sgd) Ric Obenza  
April 7, 2007**

### About Ric Obenza



Ric Obenza is a self-taught artist. For him, nature is the personal symbol of life. As an artist, he has won numerous prizes and citations, including an Araw ng Dabaw on-the-spot painting contest. His main medium is acrylic and his favourite theme is landscapes, but he occasionally ventures into the use of oil, watercolour and pen/ink works. With other members of the Kalapati Club of painters, he originated the program of street paintings on city walls. In addition to encouraging cleanliness, these paintings distracted from the graffiti, and important factor as some of the walls painted were facing the Tomas Monteverde Elementary School on Ponciano street. He studied for an AB-BSE degree and for many years was a teacher and prime mover of arts among the students of the Calinan High School.



### **COMMENT:**



In the recent 2<sup>nd</sup> Indigenous Peoples' Visual Art Exhibit in Davao City Mr. Obenza also brought some of the children he conducts workshop with to join the exhibit and competition where two of them won a third prize under the Youth Category for their collaborative work entitled "Hariraya Fiesta".



The borders on the pages of this report are photos of the artworks and of the children (at the workshops), who at times are joined in by the parents, who want to express themselves at art, however, have never done so, until Ric Obenza came into their communities.