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Artistic side of the Lumads

Tagum City – The Tagum City Tourism Council headed by the First Lady of Tagum Ms. Alma L. Uy in collaboration of the Provincial Government of Davao del Norte and Kalinawan Art Foundation call for Press Conference for the 1st Indigenous People's Visual Art's Exhibit last October 15, 2007 at the Tagum City Cultural and Trade Center. Together with Ms. Uy are Arlene Llamada, Provincial Tourism Officer IV and Ms. Raquel Palma-Gil, Program Officer of Kalinawa Arts Foundation, who served as the panelists of the said conference.

More than two hundred (200) art pieces from the twenty-nine (29) Lumads and contemporary artists of Region 11 are displayed on the venue. The said creative outputs are made of indigenous materials and some are non-indigenous materials. The art works depict the richness of the cultures and traditions of our Lumad brothers and sisters. Moreover, it conveys their situation in the upland areas, their anxieties, struggles, and visions of their future.

The Kalinawa Art Foundation helps the indigenous peoples through uploading their art pieces in the Internet marketing facility named E-bay, wherein the artists and their individual masterpieces will be viewed internationally. If there are buyers abroad who are interested with the uploaded art pieces, the said foundation will be the one to facilitate the sale. The art pieces costs ranges from one thousand eight hundred pesos to five hundred thousand pesos depending on the creativity and materials used. The art pieces are auctioned in the Internet for three days starting last October 15 and ends up on October 17, 2007. The community-based buyers will be given the privilege to purchase the remaining products on the 18th day of October 2007.

On the other hand, there are artists who did not sell their art pieces because they wanted to keep these creative outputs for themselves and for public viewing only.

The First Indigenous Peoples Arts Exhibit opens officially through a ritual performed by the Dibabawon Tribe from the Municipality of Asuncion, Davao del Norte.

This Indigenous Peoples' Visual Arts Exhibit is still in line with the one month-celebration of Lumadnong Dalit 2007 with the theme Kahitasan, Kinaiyahan, Kaliwatan ("Consulting the Spirits, Working with Nature, Sharing with Others Celebrating Indigenous Knowledge, Pathways to peace"). (Faith D. Cadulong and Photos by: Bryan Jimenez)

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