

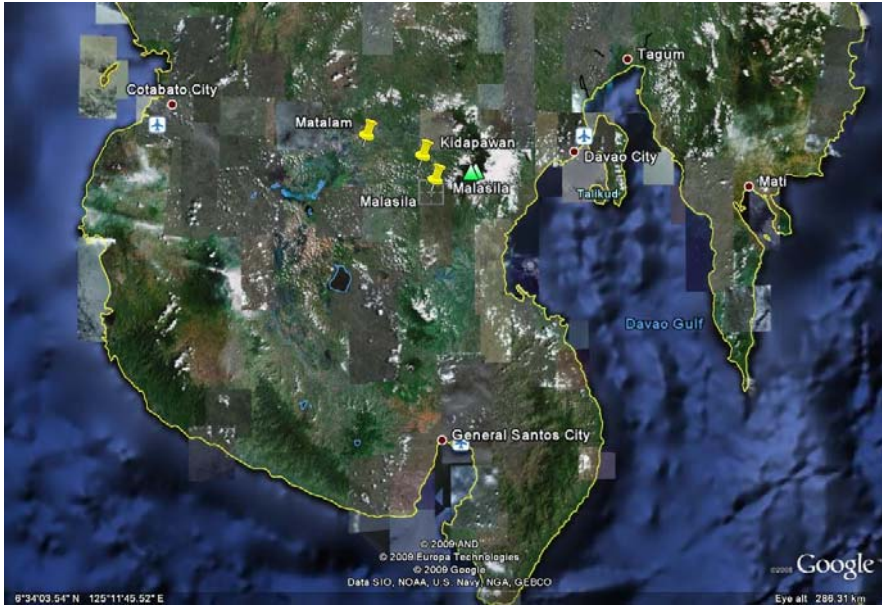
NORTH COTABATO VISIT REPORT

12 December 2008

Submitted by: Warlito N. Vicente, Jr., MoP Volunteer

As MoP representative, I visited beneficiaries of the Breakfast Feeding Project and participated in a books turnover as well.

From Davao City, I drove to Kidapawan where I was joined by MinLand's Arvin and EJ. We then proceeded to Datu Ambel in Matalam, Cotabato to visit the beneficiaries of the Breakfast Feeding Program. This was followed by a books turnover to Cabilao Elementary School in Malasila,



Cotabato. The team returned to the Minland office afterwards. An assessment meeting was conducted. There were also discussions on the possible operational adjustments due to the economic recession in the US. I returned to Davao City afterwards.

I admire the children's will and desire to learn and go to school despite all the

inconveniences. More admirable are the teacher's commitment and dedication towards their students.




It was elating to see former rebel leaders actively supporting education. Datu Ambel, a former MNLF state commander expressed that books are special because these provides the basic and advanced knowledge that enables students to go beyond asking for fish but choosing instead to learn how to fish. He also thanked MinLand for helping to put together the project because it empowered the parents to organize shifts that would cook breakfast for their children. It was truly a community at work and being actively involved in their children's education. We will be receiving a report on the school's drop-out rate before and after implementing the breakfast feeding program.




Also, the DAMHS Principal requested assistance to fill in their new library.

Likewise, In Cabilao, Cotabato a former NPA guerilla has rejoined the community and was elected a councilor. She is a strong advocate of education and thanked MoP for providing the books. She and the principal asked for support in terms of classroom supplies – writing pads, pencils, pens, and notebooks.

Itinerary (more pictures available at the MoP online photo gallery)

Time	Activity	Remarks
7:00 AM	ETA - MinLand Office	Bong arrives at MinLand office in Kidapawan 
7:00 AM 7:30 AM	Breakfast	Breakfast at MinLand office in Kidapawan
7:45 AM	ETD – MinLand Office	Bong and MinLand leave office for Datu Ambel
8:30 AM	ETA – Datu Ambel Memorial High School (DAMHS)	 <p>Team arrives at DAMSH. DAMSH is the recipient school for the School Breakfast Program. All students are Maguindanao. It has received books and other learning materials from MoP. The school has 2 scholars of Ms. Pauline Dyer of the First Filipino Baptist Church in Jacksonville Florida. The scholarship assistance was materialized through MoP and MinLand.</p>
8:30 AM 9:30 AM	Short Program and SBP	A short program will be conducted, which is scheduled to start at 8:45 AM. The program culminates with the feeding activity at 9:15 AM. 

Time	Activity	Remarks
9:30 AM	ETD – DAMHS	The team will head for Cabilao Elementary School in Makilala. A short stop over to the riverside where most students of DAMHS traverse everyday to attend school.
11:00 AM	ETA – Cabilao Elementary School, Brgy. Cabilao, Makilala, Cotabato	 <p data-bbox="735 764 1240 793">Team arrives at Cabilao Elementary School</p>  <p data-bbox="735 1274 1338 1325">Pupils come from mixed tribe of IP (B'laan), Ilonggo and Cebuano.</p>  <p data-bbox="735 1806 1338 1856">The school has been a recipient of MoP learning materials donations and has 2 pupil-scholars of Ms. Pauline Dyer.</p>
11:00 AM 12:00 NN	Short Program	A short program will be conducted, which is scheduled to start at 11:15 AM.

Time	Activity	Remarks
12:00 NN	ETD – Cabilao Elementary School	The Team returns to MinLand office in Kidapawan
12:45 PM	ETA – MinLand Office in Kidapawan	
1:00 PM 2:30 PM	Lunch and Informal Activity	Lunch together with Mr. Bong Vicente and MinLand Staff. Informal exchanges and discussions over lunch.
2:30 PM	ETD – MinLand Office in Kidapawan	