

Official Publication of KORONADAL INTERNATIONAL FOLKLORE FESTIVAL

Pyesta Kolon Datal



August 9-18, 2015 * Koronadal, Philippines



In support of UNESCO'S 70th Anniversary Celebrations

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization



Koronadal PHILIPPINES

welcomes

the world!

Philippine Indigenous People 'Blaans' take center stage - Page 2

The International Cultural Performing Contingents



SLOVENIA

ARMENIA

RUSSIA

SRI LANKA

MEXICO

TURKEY

POLAND

JAPAN

INDONESIA

CHINESE TAIPEI

INDIA

THAILAND

Come to Koronadal. Be our Guest.

All set for Koronadal International Folklore Festival 2015



The Blaans conquer the world stage @ Pyesta Kolon Datal

Colourful pageantry, high-energy performances, and an extravaganza of world-class performances in a repertoire of hundreds of traditional songs and dances... all these and more bring the rich cultures of the world in one splendid fusion in Koronadal - with our Blaans taking the center stage!

On August 9-18, 2015, twelve (12) international contingents and our (4) nationally-acclaimed performing dance companies will come to Koronadal to showcase their own folkloric cultural heritage.

Our very own Hinugyaw Cultural Dance Troupe, with the participation of our authentic Blaan people, is all set to dance on the world stage to enthral audiences with their own rhythmic moves to the beat of traditional musical instruments performed live from street dancing to special performances.

The Grand Opening on August 10 features all the contingents in a street dancing akin to a mardigras along the major thoroughfares of the city towards the convergence at the South Cotabato Sports Complex.

Beyond the regular norms of street dancing, spectators will get to witness a tremendous display of folkloric

presentations in a colorful celebration of style bringing people together in the spirit of friendship and peace. During the program, each group will present a 3-minute ensemble of traditional styles of expression through songs, music and dances. The night will end in a dazzling finale of fireworks display.

The City of Koronadal, as an associate member and representative of the country to the International Council of Organizations of Folklore Festivals and Folk Art (CIOFF), heralds the twin celebration of UNESCO's 70th anniversary and the CIOFF's 40th anniversary for the first time in the country by launching the Koronadal International Folklore Festival, locally dubbed as Pyesta Kolon Datal. This international event highlights Koronadal's 75th Year celebration also this year.

Under the Chairmanship of Koronadal City Mayor, Dr. Peter B. Miguel,

M.D., FPSO-HNS, Pyesta Kolon Datal nurtures the culture of its indigenous cultural community, the B'laans, who are thriving in an atmosphere of accord and respect amongst the multi-cultural communities comprising the population of the city.

This 10-day festival is packed with full shows, pocket performances and lecture-demos in the city of Koronadal, the neighboring municipalities in South Cotabato and the City of Tacurong.

The festival theme, "*Conserving the World Intangible Cultural Heritage in Exchange and Performance*," is in consonance with CIOFF's principles of safeguarding, preserving and enhancing world culture through cultural exchanges and worthwhile fellowship.

Visit Koronadal... and have a glimpse of Koronadal's vivid tapestry of history, cultural heritage and identity, authentic in all its forms and expressions.

Come Be our guest!

The Birth of CIOFF in the Philippines

Perhaps, it is destiny that brings this young city to the international spotlight.



CIOFF Philippines for many years was represented by the Cultural Center of the Philippines through its representative Corazon Yñigo but which representation, for some reason, became inactive for the last 20 years or so. On the other hand, a Filipina in the person of Leticia B.

Wheeler, a classical community oriented visionary with a driven mission at heart and founder of the Filipiniana Dance Company of Montreal and three other dance groups, became a CIOFF delegate for Canada in the late 1980's. Being known to be of Philippine origin, the founder and first President of CIOFF organization, Mr. Henry Coursaget, asked her to discuss the matter of CIOFF Philippines International Folklore Festival with Yñigo. When Mr. Guy Landry of Canada became the President of CIOFF, he also asked Wheeler to help Yñigo to reactivate CIOFF-Philippines.

In 2010, Wheeler's Dance Troupe, Pamana ng Luzviminda, toured the Philippines and received training from the well-known Mr. Edwin Duero and his

dance company ECD. That was the beginning of Duero's search for a city where they could establish CIOFF Folklore Festival in the Philippines. In late 2011, Duero reported to Wheeler that the City of Koronadal had shown interest to hold a CIOFF International Folklore Festival after a long search.

During the 44th World Congress in October 2014, Pyesta Kolon Datal of Koronadal Philippines was awarded the CIOFF Associate Membership certificate, duly received by City Mayor Peter B. Miguel upon the recommendation of the CIOFF Council and unanimously voted upon by all CIOFF member-nations present. The Mayor then expressed his commitment to carry on the tasks embodied in such membership which included among others holding an international folklore festival to provide venue for cultural exchanges to safeguard, promote and enhance the country's intangible cultural heritage specifically through performances showcasing traditional songs and dances.

With all the preparations underway, Koronadal is all set to stage the first ever International Folklore Festival in the Philippines on August 9-18, 2015, transforming this young city into a spectacle of goodwill and a haven of merry-making while keeping the CIOFF tradition of promoting friendship and peace.



The festival behind the scene

CCP shares to Koronadal festival management expertise; CDRRMC, OCD XII, PRO XII set up contingency plan

Sleepless nights and endless coordination seem interminable until help came along.

Surfing the international realm for the first time in holding a festival in such a grand scale, Koronadal was up to the challenge of proving to the world it is ready to set up a dance stage according to international standards.

Preliminaries and backbone preparations were set up by the festival consultant, Mr. Edwin Duero from Iloilo City, who also manages the artistic production of the whole festival.

To delegate the management of every aspect

of the festival, a functional organizational structure was set up giving more emphasis on the artistic programming, as well as to the administration and promotion aspects.

However, the burgeoning amount of work builds up as the event comes to a close. The details in the making of the festival seem beyond imagination. The need to revisit all aspects of the preparations to ensure that every single detail is in place becomes a necessity.

To respond to the many requirements of

the festival, series of trainings, and capability building seminars were accorded to the event organizers, staff and volunteers by providing them essential information and practical tools in leading, handling and manning a festival. Series of Festival Management Trainings were given to the committee chairs to help the committee work effectively and stay on track throughout the process. People from the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) provided free trainings through strategies in

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The International and National Cultural Performing



SLOVENIA
Academic Folk Dance Group "OZARA"



Academic folk dance group Ozara Kranj has been lovingly keeping and sharing Slovenian dances, music and songs for over 60 years. The group performs for local community and for the needs of other parts of Slovenia as well.



INDONESIA
IOV Indonesia Youth Section

IOV Indonesia Youth Section has been an expression of traditional Indonesian way of life since Indonesian peoples were taken from various nations, enslaved and brought to the archipelago during the colonial period. To this day, Indonesian people remain true to their roots in some tribes where many of their ancestors originated practicing rituals and cultural traditions through dance, music, religion and everyday life. The group in IOV INDONESIA Youth Section has been producing consistently extraordinary new dance since it was formed.



POLAND
Wielkoponie

The Group was called upon to cultivate the musical and vocal traditions of its land - Wielkopolska and some subregions such as Szamotuły, Biskupizna, Dąbrowka Wielkopolska, also Bambrzy - inhabitants of former villages of Poznan.

CHINESE TAIPEI
The Lan Yang Dancers



MEXICO
Folkloric Ballet of the State of Mexico

Contingents

Experience culture. Experience the World.



INDIA

MALWA SABHYACHARAK CLUB (REGD.)

Our organization is working in the field of promoting Indian art & cultural activities by the way of presenting various folk dances / folk singing / dance ballet / plays / seminars for the last 19 years. Our organization came into existence on dated 14th June 1994. Most of the artists of this organization have already participated in various folk dance & music festivals held in Malaysia, Indonesia, Russia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Singapore and Lithuania.



JAPAN

SUPER TAIKO JUNIOR

Super Taiko Junior established in 2012, the members consists of encouraging players of JAPANESE DRUM gathered from all Japan. They had started their stage activities since 2012 as charity concerts for the assistance of earthquake that attacked east JAPAN.



RUSSIA

Eline-Kitila Folk Dance Ensemble

Eline-Kitila Folk Dance Ensemble was founded in 1969.

The ensemble is the first folk group in Yakutia. The team of more than 70 people is divided into three groups: younger group, middle and high.

THAILAND



SRI LANKA

RANRANGA DANCE ACADEMY

The Ranranga Dance Academy is a well recognised aesthetic institute in The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka since 1994, developing students expertise in traditional and folk dancing. Up to now it has represented Sri Lanka in more than 30 international events recognised by international folk and cultural organizations.



ARMENIA

"SARDARAPAT" DANCE ENSEMBLE



PHILIPPINES

ECD DANCE COMPANY OF THE PHILIPPINES



PNU KISLAP SINING DANCE TROUPE



UP FILIPINIANA DANCE GROUP

PHILIPPINE BARANGAY FOLK DANCE TROUPE



The Festival

Koronadal International Folkloric Festival Pyesta Kolon Datal

The City of Koronadal holds an annual merry-making or "hinugyaw" (Ilonggo dialect meaning merry-making) with street dancing and tribal performances complete with a gala of colourful costumes and large attractive props and ornaments to the delight of the spectators who usually gather in throngs lining up the streets. From the street dancing and parade, the groups gather in one large venue for the group's full length performance entertaining an even larger audience.

Through the years, Hinugyaw has given tribute to the tri-people inhabiting Koronadal – the lumads, the Muslims and the Christians.

However, for 2015 in celebration of the 75th Year Anniversary of the City of Koronadal as a Settlement District, the year-long celebration will feature Pyesta KolonDatal as a distinct festival in honor of our lumads – the Blaans whom we consider as the first settlers of this land and who have endeavoured to stay in Koronadal and preserve their distinct identity as a people.

The word Koronadal is believed to have been derived from two (2) Blaan words Kolon (Cogon Grass) and Datal (Plain).

On the other hand, Marbel, which is another name for the Poblacion, is a Blaan term "Marb-El" which means "Murky Waters" referring to a river now called the Marbel River.

Pyesta is derived from Spanish Word "Fiesta" meaning "feast" or "festival" – the Philippines being under the Spanish regime for 333 years,

hence the strong influence on language.

According to history, the first dwellers of Koronadal were the Blaans hence, the naming of the place. It is interesting to note that the Blaans continue to thrive as a people, imbued with their own beliefs, culture and tradition and have endeavoured to preserve their own unique identity as lumads with their authentic apparel and accessories, usually hand-made and intricately beaded, despite the strong influence of modernization and the lure of a rather more dominant cultures – that of the Christians and the Muslims now co-inhabiting the area.

Most Blaans, though originally were "animist", believing that all plants, animals and objects have spirits, have now embraced Christianity as a religion but never left their love and respect for the things around them and continue to perform specific rituals and rites for their special occasions say, damsu in giving offering to the gods, aksunggod - dowry

for weddings, bawi for good harvest, nulo or tufa lam e-el for burial or paying last respect for their dead, saklanglu-as or sasdage in sealing an agreement, sbulong for healing and other celebrations.

Despite the wide education they have availed of from the early American missionaries and now from the local government, the Blaans have maintained their stature as a distinct group and people yet able to live harmoniously with the rest of the community.

Pyesta Kolon Datal then celebrates the timeless culture of this group of people we call the Blaans, giving tribute to their pride of culture.

Though a minority, they never left their roots just to blend with the world around them. In fact, these people could choose to be living in a rather remote place and enjoy the simplicity of life while continually keeping in touch with the things they love most – a culture truly their own.

CIOFF AND UNESCO BRINGING OUR CULTURE TO LIFE

CIOFF is an international cultural non-governmental organization (NGO) in formal consultative relations with UNESCO.

Founded in 1970, CIOFF continues to work for the safeguarding and dissemination of traditional culture and folk arts, including identification, documentation, research, preservation, protection, enhancement and transmission of intangible heritage.

CIOFF endeavors to promote intangible heritage through such forms of expressions as dance, music, games, rituals, customs and other arts; serve the objectives of UNESCO; support the activities of its members and those of non-governmental organizations and all other institutions working in the field of cultural heritage; and serve the cause of peace through the foregoing objectives.

CIOFF has a strong total membership of 110 countries covering 68 National Sections, 12 Associate Members and 30 corresponding members. It is responsible for the coordination of National Folklore Groups performances in countries worldwide.

For more information about CIOFF, please visit www.cioff.org



Blaan Cultural Village:

B/Assumption & S/NgaBango, B/Saravia

Both idyllic and mystical as it is typically set upon a hill at Barangay Assumption, City of Koronadal, the Blaan Cultural Village offers opportunity for visitors to learn about the cultural inheritance of our very own Blaans and their way of preserving their rich heritage.

With about 412 households living in a cluster, the cultural village features nipa huts (bahaykubo) with some huts housing a gallery of Blaan traditional musical instruments, dresses, headdresses, beaded artworks and other artifacts that speak of the old way of life in a rural village community.

Among the 27 barangays of Koronadal, 11 has Blaan communities. Hence, this was captured in NgaBango as mini-complex of traditional huts for the 11 IP Barangays were set up to give visitors an exceptional experience of having close interaction with the IPs from the 11 other barangays. Here, the Blaans from other barangays make a new home with their tribe when they come to visit.

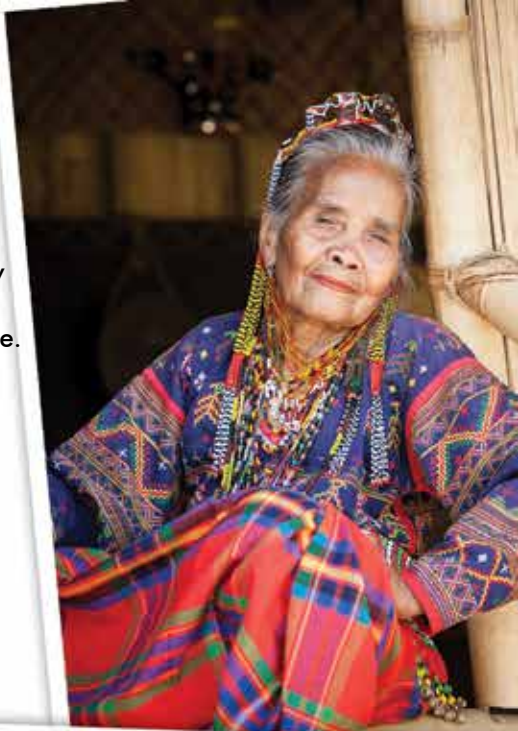
Meanwhile, Sitio Nga Bango in Barangay Saravia seems to take comfort from the rest of the world as it is nestled deep into the woods with the breathtaking Roxas Mountain Range for a backdrop. A chain of small rivers to hurdle before reaching the place makes the trip even more worth the adventure as visitors are introduced to their daily rigors and

lifestyle. This village also features a tribal house used for nurturing age-old crafts like wood carving, basket-making and weaving. With the traditional artifacts on display, the village illustrates many facets of the ancient Blaan way of life: social, economic and religious.

In each village, there is a cultural staging area that showcases a live performance of traditional Blaan dances and songs, as well as serves as a repository for indigenous plants and herbs, display of their handicrafts and local delicacies. Activities include sculpting, weaving, beads making, cooking, knitting, handicrafts making, playing of musical instruments, engaging in their own brand of indigenous games and dancing to the beat of gongs and drums.

In both villages, the Blaans have enjoyed a life very close to nature while keeping their kin intact.

As everyone will be introduced to the many colorful and fascinating aspects of the cultures of the Blaans, a traditional welcome awaits as local escorts take you to "their" village.



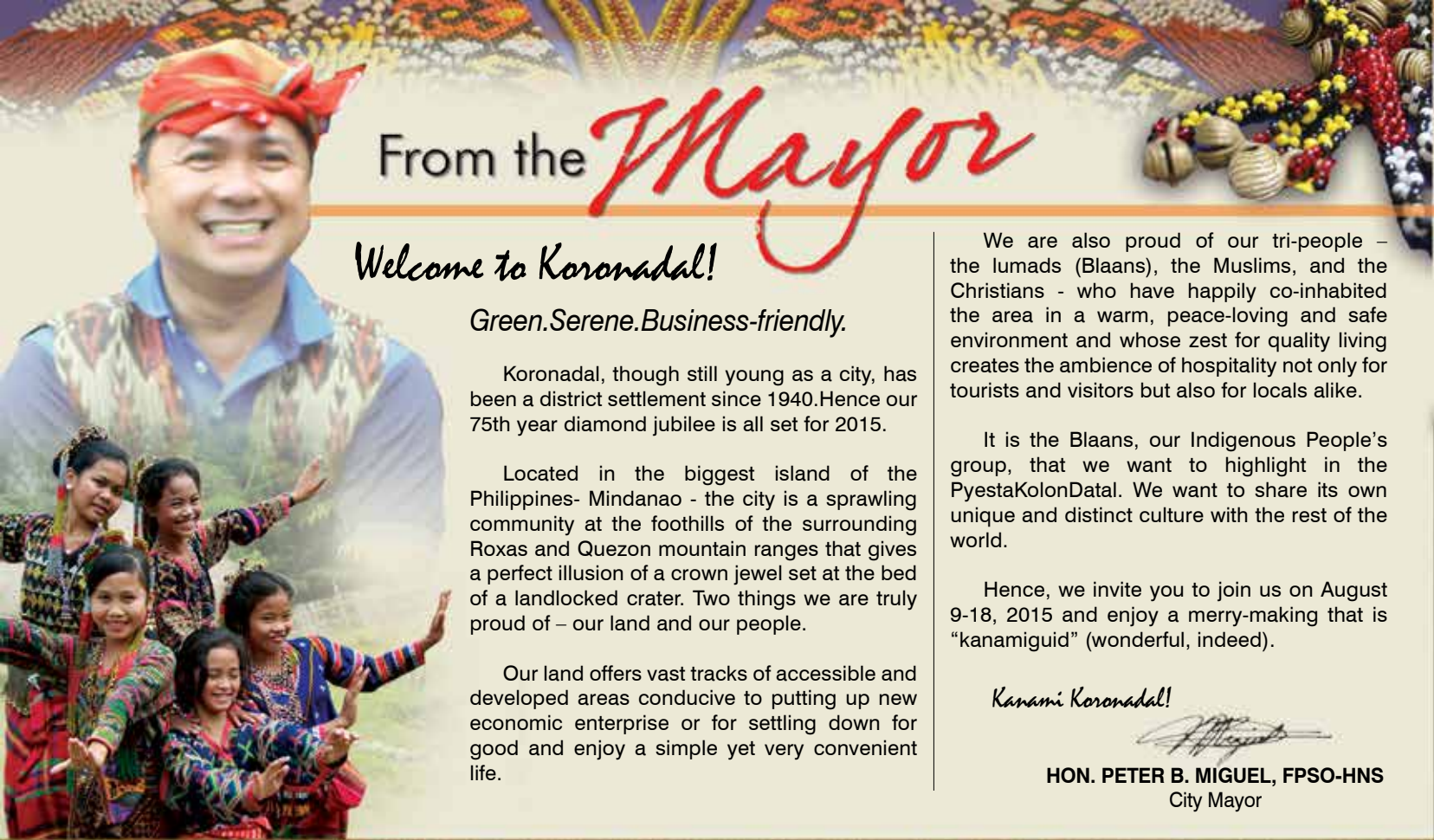
The Art of Blaan Weaving

The village takes pride in its art of weaving called Mabal. The finished product of the weaving is called the Blaan Tabih. Weaving in the Blaan culture is a productive hobby done in a household setting called Gumne Gumabal (Weaving House). The plants used to dye the threads are also commonly planted in the backyard garden while the abaca plant, the main fiber, is abundant in their farms, and even in the valleys, creeks, and river streams. However, the art of Blaan Mabal was left to very few old folks and the beautiful Blaan Tabih is truly in danger of becoming extinct as evidenced by very few holders of Blaan Tabih among Blaan communities.

To avert this scenario, the local government of Koronadal provided funds to bring the weaving craft back to life. The fund afforded the Blaans raw materials and a more improved, although still traditional, weaving machines, and most importantly gave them the motivation to carry on with an art that is truly timeless.

LGU-Koronadal is all-out in its support to bring the Blaan community to the mainstream of opportunities and progress towards quality life while making an effort to preserve, perpetuate and safeguard its own cultural distinct identity.





From the *Mayor*

Welcome to Koronadal!

Green.Serene.Business-friendly.

Koronadal, though still young as a city, has been a district settlement since 1940. Hence our 75th year diamond jubilee is all set for 2015.

Located in the biggest island of the Philippines- Mindanao - the city is a sprawling community at the foothills of the surrounding Roxas and Quezon mountain ranges that gives a perfect illusion of a crown jewel set at the bed of a landlocked crater. Two things we are truly proud of – our land and our people.

Our land offers vast tracks of accessible and developed areas conducive to putting up new economic enterprise or for settling down for good and enjoy a simple yet very convenient life.

We are also proud of our tri-people – the lumads (Blaans), the Muslims, and the Christians - who have happily co-inhabited the area in a warm, peace-loving and safe environment and whose zest for quality living creates the ambience of hospitality not only for tourists and visitors but also for locals alike.

It is the Blaans, our Indigenous People's group, that we want to highlight in the *PyestaKolonDatal*. We want to share its own unique and distinct culture with the rest of the world.

Hence, we invite you to join us on August 9-18, 2015 and enjoy a merry-making that is "kanamiguid" (wonderful, indeed).

Kanamí Koronadal!

HON. PETER B. MIGUEL, FPSO-HNS
City Mayor



CCP shares to Koronadal... from page 3

running a successful event from start to finish. Trainings for liaising and documentation were provided to intensively prepare the participants and capacitate them in the task ahead.

Meanwhile, the workshop on contingency planning was facilitated by the City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (CDRRMC), with the help of the Office of the Civil Defense, Region XII and the Police Regional Office XII, to set up a comprehensive plan for security and peace and order for the whole festival.

Hosting an international event for the first time calls for lengthy preparations, extending over many months. Indeed, the fact that the preparations for a festival take place over quite a long period of time allows the marketing and

promotion committee to develop several distinct marketing and promotion strategies including gathering as many different sources of support as possible up to the neighboring municipalities and cities. Marketing and promotion collaterals were made available to drumbeat the upcoming

event.

With all our preparations, we are hoping to bring the people together to have fun and meaningful experience in this definitely jovial occasion.

Koronadal International Folklore Festival

General Schedule

Opening Ceremony on August 10, 2pm

South Cotabato Sports Complex
Alunan Avenue, City of Koronadal

2-hour full shows daily

Matinee 2-4pm : SoCot Gym and Cultural Center

Gala 6-9pm : Rizal Park

Pocket Performances

@ KCC, Gaisano Grand Mall, Ace Centerpoint,
SM Gensan, Veranza Mall, Robinsons Mall

Lecture-demo

Municipalities of South Cotabato and City of Tacurong

Come to Koronadal. Be our Guest.