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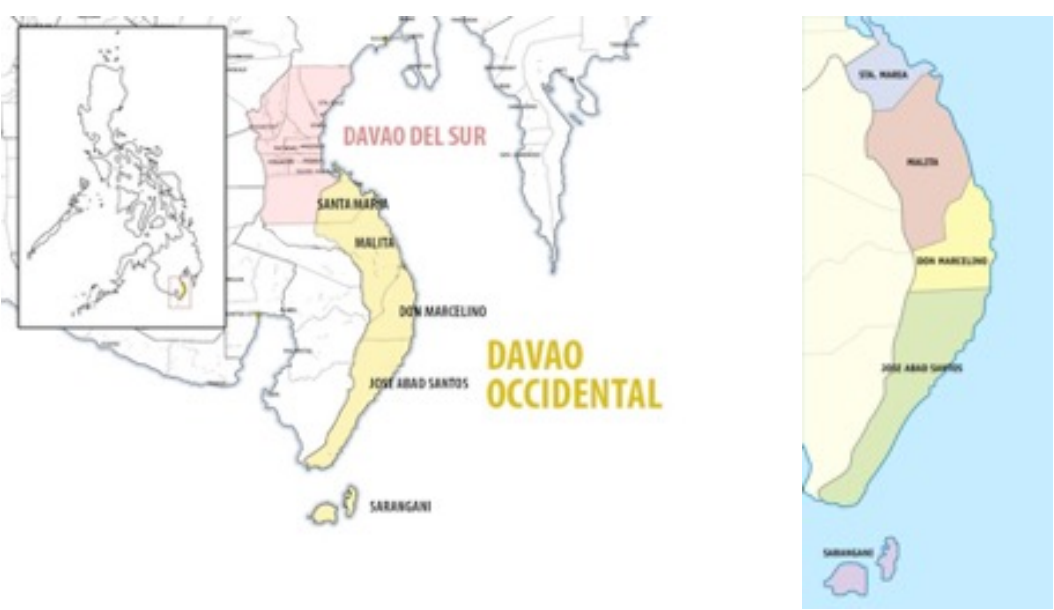
February 2021

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An IP School of Malita Tagakaolo Mission (MATAMIS)



THE LUMADS OF MINDANAO

The Lumads are the un-Islamized and un-Christianized Austronesian peoples of Mindanao. Simply said, they are our indigenous people which are very numerous. Due to politics, economy, various private and government projects, they are now considered as "vulnerable groups". They live in the hinterlands, forests, lowlands, and coastal areas. One of them is the Tagakaolo in Davao Occidental.

Davao Occidental is the 81st and newest province in the Philippines located in the Davao Region in Mindanao. Its capital is the municipality of Malita. The Municipality of Malita, is a 1st class municipality and according to the 2015 census, it has a population of 117,746 people.

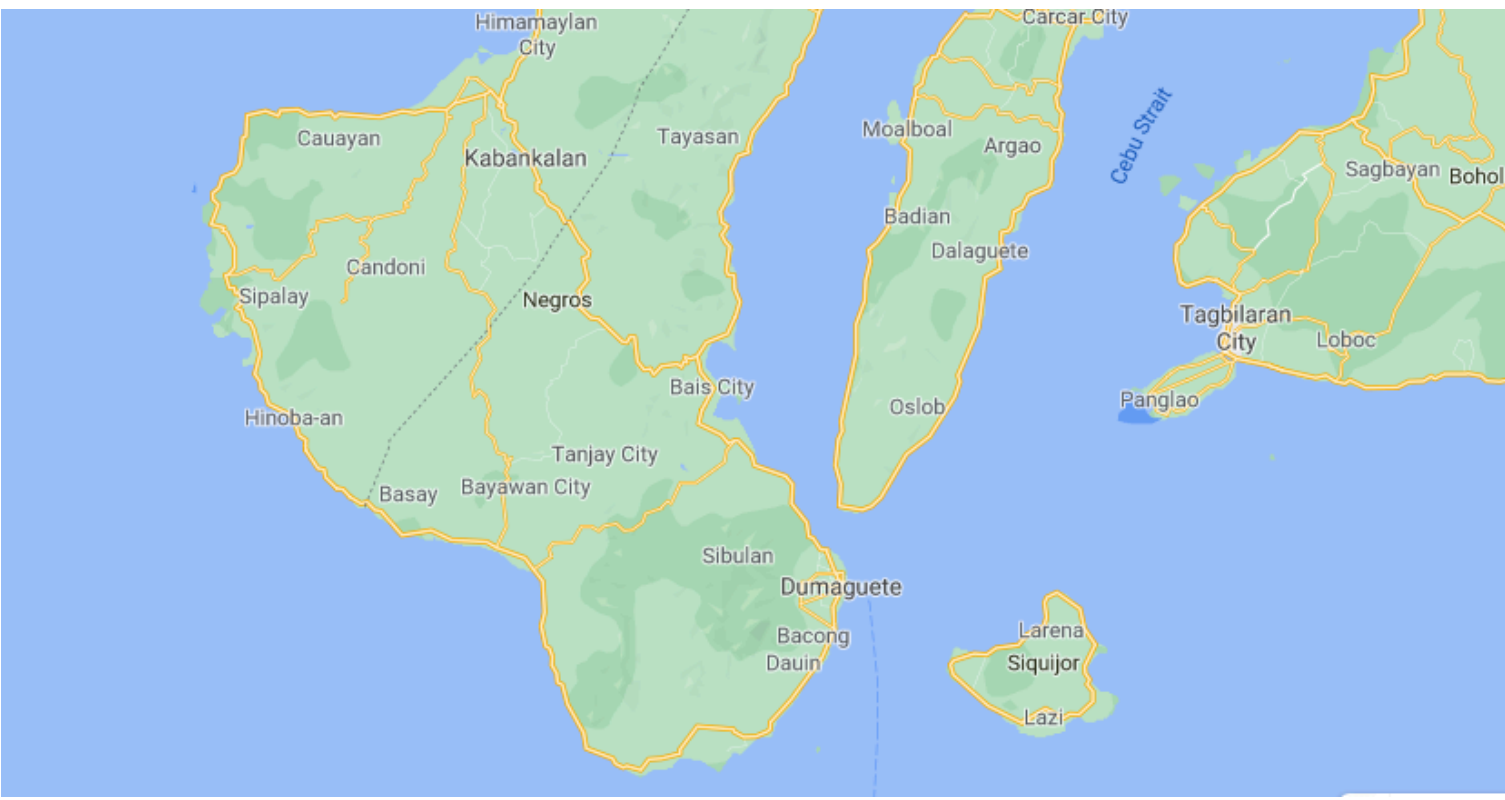
Missionaries of Jesus (MJ) is a Roman Catholic clerical public association that was founded on 12 June 2002. It considers as its greatest challenge the prophetic witness to live out radically God's option for the poor. It has opted to work for the marginalized sectors of society: the indigenous communities, the urban and rural poor, and the labor sector.

The Missionaries of Jesus (MJ) has a project called MATAMIS (Malita Tagakaolo Mission) that administers two Indigenous Peoples (IP) Schools. They are situated in Sitio Kyasan, Brgy. Kilalag (3,000), and in Sitio Lebleb, Brgy. Pinalpalan (5,000), Malita, Davao Occidental.

On September 19, 2019, our Society started a partnership with the Missionaries of Jesus to annually fund the education of 10 "lumads" in Malita, Davao Occidental through the MATAMIS PROJECT - Malita Tagakaolo Mission. A grant of US\$2,000 covers \$1,800 for ten students and \$200 for the development of teachers. This is a follow up to our mission of helping our indigenous people like the one we successfully completed in 2018 with the Aeta Foundation.



The Convent of Lazi built in 1887.



TWO SCHOLARS FROM THE CARMELITE COLLEGE OF SQUIJOR

Siquijor is an island off the east side of Dumaguete, Negros Oriental. Its capital is the municipality also named Siquijor. To the north is Cebu, to the northeast is Bohol, and to the south, across the Bohol Sea, is Mindanao.

Early Spanish adventurers called it *Isla del Fuego* ("Island of Fire") due to the many fireflies that lit the island at night. It is famous for the Lazi Convent that was built by the Spanish missionaries in 1887. The U-shaped Bahay Na Bato convent is one of the largest convents built during the Spanish colonial era and declared National Cultural Treasure by National Museum of the Philippines and nominated for the UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE.

In early 2015, with no resources available, two young very intelligent high school graduates from the Carmelite College of Siquijor dreamt of making a life for themselves as teachers. Here is what they say:

The greatest dream that I aim to reach is to take away my parents from poverty. I want to make the big change in our lives from nothing to almost everything. Because I don't want my family to suffer more and I want them to taste the sweetness of success. And I can only make it if I study hard, believe in my best and pray for God's help. Nina Rhose Ocho (RBEC 2019).

Life is full of unexpected things that may encounter. Full of struggles to face and problems to be solved but a reality to be experienced. The thing that I want to do with my life are to study hard with dedication so that I can reach my dreams in life. I want to help my parents to educate my siblings and so that we can have our own house. Novelyn Jumawan (RBEC 2019).

In May of 2015, both young girls were admitted to our first scholarship program outside of the FEU-NRMF School of Medical Technology to reach out to the most qualified but financially challenged youth of our country. The grant is \$500 per person per semester.

On March 30, 2019 both Nina Ocho and Novelyn Jumawan graduated with Bachelor of Education RBEC (Revised Basic Education Curriculum) with flying colors and a few months later passed the Board Examination for teachers.

GO FUND ME

Since our founding in 2009 up to and including 2020, the FEU-NRMF MTIAS has provided a total of \$34,605.00 towards various programs: \$10,850.00 for the development of excellence in the education of our students at the FEU-NRMF SMT through the Excellence Awards (\$4,850.00) and the Academic Scholarship Programs (\$6,000.00). Our Outreach Program has also contributed \$13,000.00 for relief works to areas devastated by disasters and calamities, and \$10,755.00 for upliftment in the lives of our less fortunate and Indigenous Peoples in the Philippines through education and other works.

The funding of these programs came from the membership, alumni and friends all over the world. Through our biennial reunions and the Continuing Education Series, raising of funds for these projects was very much possible. With current COVID-19 pandemic, our ability to raise money has been severely curtailed. We are committed to continue all these programs and with your help – it will be possible! Any contribution is welcome. Please be generous!

Go Fund Me will be unveiled in our March Newsletter!



Providing for the victims of Ulysses in the Bicol Region!

ARTICLES ARE WELCOME

If you have anything exciting and interesting to share, you are more than welcome to write a short article and send it to me: bertgomez497@gmail.com