

Agenda No. 4

Review of developments pertaining to the promotion and protection of the  
human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples

A General Statement On

**Indigenous Peoples and their rights to development, including their rights to  
participate in development affecting them**

By:

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Founder/Chairperson

## **Kebager te Ked-Inged**

(The Lumad Peoples Movement for Peace, Power and Righteousness)  
and

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Delivered at the 19<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Working Group on  
Indigenous Populations

Sub-commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of  
Minorities

UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
23-27 July 2001

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

*your Excellency*  
THANK YOU, MADAME CHAIRPERSON ~~AND THANK YOU, MR. SECRETARY JULIAN BURGER~~. DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP, REVERRED ELDERS AND LEADERS OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF THE WORLD, REPRESENTATIVES <sup>like</sup> OF THE GOVERNMENT, ~~AND~~ NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS, <sup>was said by non-government</sup> SISTERS AND <sup>individual</sup> BROTHERS. WE GREET YOU PEACE AND HARMONY.

MY NAME IS JIMID MANSAYAGAN FROM CENTRAL MINDANAW, PHILIPPINES AND BELONGING TO THE ERUMANEN NE MENUVU, ONE OF THE 23 UN-ISLAMIZED INDIGENOUS <sup>identified</sup> POPULATIONS OF SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES. <sup>known collectively as Lumad Peoples.</sup> I AM WORKING WITH THE KEBAGER TE KED-INGED OR THE LUMAD PEOPLES MOVEMENT FOR SELF-DETERMINATION. I ~~ALSO~~ <sup>AM</sup>

~~ALSO~~ <sup>ALSO</sup> ACTIVELY INVOLVED WITH THE INSTITUTE FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES (IPDS) OF THE SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE (SCC) IN MIDSAYAP, COTABATO THAT WORKS FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT AMONG THE TRI-PEOPLES (CHRISTIAN SETTLERS, MORO AND THE LUMAD PEOPLES) OF CENTRAL MINDANAO.

I WAS SENT HERE BY OUR ELDERS AND LEADERS TO PRESENT OUR URGENT CONCERNS WITH REGARDS TO THE ISSUE OF DEVELOPMENT. MY COMING HERE WAS NOT POSSIBLE IF NOT OF THE FULL SUPPORTS OF MOSIGNOR EUGENIO POMA OF THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES (WCC) AND MS. BRIGITTE VONASCH OF THE INCOMIENDEOS.

THE ISSUE OF DEVELOPMENT IS AMONG THE MANY URGENT ISSUES THAT CONFRONTS OUR SURVIVAL AS DISTINCT PEOPLES. THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES SLOW RECOVERY IS THE FAILURE OF THE WHOLE (GOVERNMENTAL) SYSTEM TO RECOGNIZE, RESPECT AND PROMOTE THE INSTITUTIONS THAT GRANT CAPABILITIES OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS THAT AFFECTS THEM. LAST 29<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 1997, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES ENACTED A LAW KNOWN AS THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES RIGHTS ACT 1997 OR IPRA. THE RIGHT OF "FREE AND PRIOR INFORM CONSENT" WAS CLEARLY PROVIDED IN THIS LAW---SEEKING CONSULTATION AND DIALOGUE WITH THE AFFECTED COMMUNITIES. SAD TO NOTE HOWEVER, THAT THIS ESSENTIAL PROVISION OF IPRA WAS

*of national Commission on Indigenous Peoples or NCIIP in 1998,*

MANIPULATED BY INFLUENTIAL MINING COMPANIES. A DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER OR DAO WAS ISSUED TO SUSPEND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF "FREE AND PRIOR INFORM CONSENT". THUS, DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS CAN BE IMPLEMENTED WITHOUT ANY CONSULTATION WITH THE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES. ~~NOT~~  
*The* ~~WITH THEIR~~ MARGINALIZED CONDITION OF THE LUMAD PEOPLES, RECOVERY OF THE CONFIDENCE IN THEM TAKES A LONG PROCESS ESPECIALLY WHEN THE SYSTEMATIC PROCESS OF COLONIZATION FORCES THEM TO BE ALIENATED TO THEIR CAPACITY TO DETERMINE THEIR OWN DESTINY. THE SITUATION IN THE PHILIPPINES PARTICULARLY IN MINDANAW IS LIKE THAT. WITH THE PASSAGE OF THE LAW, EVEN THE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES HAS YET TO RECOGNISE AND RESPECT THE INSTITUTIONS OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONCEPT OF DEVELOPMENT MUCH MORE TO CONSIDER THEM AS PARTNERS. AT MOST, ALL WE GOT ARE RHETORICS AND LIP SERVICES BUT OUR SITUATION SPEAKS THE REALITY OF OUR ABJECT SITUATION OF POVERTY. THE INTRUSION OF MINING TO OUR ANCESTRAL DOMAINS, DAM PROJECTS AND THE LARGE SCALE INDUSTRIAL TREE PLANTATIONS CONTINUE TO DISPLACES US. IN THIS LIGHT, WE WOULD LIKE TO RESPECTFULLY DRAW THE ATTENTION OF THE DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP THAT IT SHOULD GO INTO THE RECORDS OF THIS 19<sup>TH</sup> SESSION THAT NOTHING HAS SIGNIFICANTLY CHANGE WITH THE SITUATION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF THE PHILIPPINES.

FINALLY, MADAME CHAIRPERSON WE ARE SADDENED TO LEARN YOUR ANNOUNCEMENT DURING THE OPENING OF THIS SESSION SAYING THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST CHAIRING OF THIS WORKING GROUP. IN BEHALF OF THE LUMAD PEOPLES OF MINDANAW WE, EXPRESS OUR SINCEREST THANKS AND GRATITUDES TO YOU AND THE DISINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP THAT THROUGH YOUR CONCERTED EFFORTS, THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF THE WORLD ~~WERE~~ *ARE* RECOGNISED AS HUMAN BEINGS INTO THE SYSTEM OF THE UNITED NATIONS. DESPITE OF THE CONVOLUTIONS, THE WORKING GROUP

UNDER YOUR EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP HAS ATTAINED AN UNPRECEDENTED SUCCESS. WE OFFER ALL THESE ACHIEVEMENTS TO OUR GRANDCHILDREN'S CHILDREN, HOPING THAT THEY MAY FINALLY LIVE IN PEACE AND SECURITY. EVEN THOUGH YOU ARE NO LONGER WITH US IN THE COMING YEARS ~~YET~~ WE ARE SURE YOU ARE WITH US IN OUR LONG STRUGGLE FOR PEACE AND HARMONY.

THANK YOU ~~FOR~~ YOUR ~~KEEN~~ ATTENTION. EXCELLENCY.

end