

THE MARANAO IDENTITY

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Kuya Edris Tamano said, and I Quoted, Thig ka a Mranaw ka. aya maana oto na thrb ka sa Ranaw, phaigo ka. Maranaw (Meranao; M'ranao; Muranaw; Maranao) is a misnomer. We are Iranaon (taw sa kilid a ranaw). Our Maguindanaon (maginged sa danaw) Refer to a Pulagi River which is "Lubog a Ig" danaw in Iranon. Brothers called us Iranon, eliding the "a"(also Ilanon).

If we go back to the tuthul o tarsila (sililatun nasb = genealogy), Maguindanaon and Iranaon (Maranao and Iranon) are one bangsa; so that Mindanao could be pronounced as Minranao without changing the meaning. Let us only hope that Mindanao will not have a pseudonym like Nueva Isabela, like what happened to Iliyan (Iligan), Kayaan (Cagayan), Pangadian (Pagadian), Zamboangan (Zamboanga), Mala i walay (Malaybalay)

"As I told my friends time and again that we are not Maranaos. Maranao, a misnomer, is a creation of our adversaries. It is not in our etymology for MA or Me to denote a people of a place. The prefix is I- as Iranaon for people living around or by a body of water. The Iranon with the elision of a before o refer to our kinsmen and to us, too. Dividing the Iranaons into Iranon and Maranao is a strategic scheme to divide and rule, if not to decimate and control. Of course, we know better our own affairs than outsiders."

"As Filipinos, we have the penchant for adopting western names that has no relation to us. The Philippines from Principe Felipe is a striking example. If he was a Christian saint, at least his name can be related to the religion of the majority. He is not even our hero. As for Moro and Indio, at least we can relate to both considering our colors."

"It is not much of a problem if our own places undergo little changes in the pronunciation of their names, as long as we do not forget the origin. Chances are people will come to their senses and bring forth the original, like Iligan for Iliyan (meaning gulf), Cagayan for Cayaan, Pagadian for Pangadian, Zamboanga for Zamboangan, etc. But if our places and people have to change to Santinoan, General Mc Bride, Sta. Barbara, Isabelle, San Salvattore, and the like, THAT IS TRULY ANOTHER STORY."

According to the Iranon tarsila, Iranaons or Iranons now days, as nation was one of the oldest existing nations in the world. It sprang from Karingke-Karibang Line of Descent. The Karingke and Karibang offspring was intermarriage with the people of Malay in origin, (Indarapatra a malay to Raina Laot a Karibang in a cave of a river along Masiu), probably from the Sri Vishaya Empire. Out of this breed line of descent, a group of people sprang into existence.

Iranon authorities in tarsila classified tribes in Mindanaw into two; namely: Muslim Moro and Non Muslim Moro. The identified Muslim Moro are: Iranaon Iranon in Illana bay, the original tribe (nation), Iranaon M'ranaw in lake Lanao area, Maguindanaon of Raya and Ilud Pulangi river a Danaw river, Tausog (Sulog), Sama, Jama Mapun, Yakan, Badjaw, Kalagan, Kalibugan or Kulibugan, Malbog, Palawani, and Sangil (Sangir in Iranun version). The non Muslim Moro are: Tiduray, Subanen, Balaan (Biran in some version),

Tboli, Bagobo, Manobo, other tribes are affiliated with major non Muslim Moro tribes. However, many of the non Muslims Moro have embraced and accepted Islam as an ideology way back 1960 up to the present. According to survey, more or less ten (10) non Muslims Moro who are embracing Islam everyday throughout Mindanaw.

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