

Coronavirus (Mindanao, Philippines): Amidst local conflict and Covid-19, solidarity among peoples prevails

Sunday 3 May 2020, by [Tripod](#) (Date first published: 3 May 2020).

Amidst sad reality, where an ongoing conflict is taking place in one of our partner communities in Lebak, Sultan Kudarat (Barangay Kalamongog), our team in Lebak, led by Leonardo Saliga together with partner people's organizations - Poloy-poloy Farmers Association and the Mothers Club embark today in a kind of community solidarity kitchen initiative and joins this "other kind" of food chain dubbed as Kusina Bayanihan to fight against the impacts of Covid-19.



Unlike mainstream food chains run by big businesses, *Kusina Bayanihan* stations are run by ordinary citizens and grassroots people in depressed communities who are severely affected by the lockdowns and enhanced community quarantine. Covid 19 cuts off various survival mechanisms and life-lines like difficulty accessing food supplies, isolation causing social dis-integration and immobilization, and the feeling of helplessness being locked behind in the backlines to restrict virus infections.

Kusina Bayanihan models a collective initiative of people in a simple neighborhood who think they can do something more than being locked up and be useful to help their families and communities fight hunger, isolation and inequality by simply pooling together voluntary contributions and resources like food stuffs, cash donations, human efforts, friendships and good vibes - no matter how limited under the circumstance, in order to prepare one simple meal or snacks in a day together, feed themselves, their families and the families within their neighborhood.



Kusina Bayanihan - Palmera station is a mixed neighborhood of tri-people - Bangsamoro,

Lumads/IPs and Migrant Settlers where TRIPOD Lebak and partners people's organization considered home. With the ongoing armed conflict in Barangay Kalamongog where members of our partner Kalamongog Farmers Association are facing multiple challenges of protecting their families on evacuation, preserving what has remained of the social binds among the tri-people and how to fight Covid 19 together as a community, the opening up of Kusihan Bayanihan-Palmera station initiated today by the tri-people of Purok Palmera, Barangay Poloy-poloy, Lebak, Sultan Kudarat is even made more significant and meaningful.

Also bringing us good vibes today is another colleague at TRIPOD Edna Pangilamen with the launching of *Kusina Bayanihan* in Limbo, Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao where they served 21 Bangsamoro families for their Buka (breaking of the fast) – a solidarity kitchen initiative in time of the Ramadhan.

Let Peace reign in Kalamongog, Lebak, Sultan Kudarat!

Let there be no more communities displaced by conflicts!

Build Peace Now!

Tri-People's Organization against Disasters (TRIPOD)

For direct contacts, see the Facebook link.

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We keep you regularly informed via our website of the situation and use of the solidarity fund.

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