

Mindanao (Philippines): Overcoming the Covid-19 Pandemic - Lessons from the “dulet”

Monday 6 July 2020, by [BANDARA Alim M.](#) (Date first published: 21 June 2020).

The author of this essay is *Minted sa Inged* (MSI) Alim “Kim” Bandara, is a member of the Supreme Council of Chieftains of Timuay Justice and Governance (TJG) or *Kesefanangguwit Timuay*. The Covid-19 pandemic and the lockdown in Mindanao reminded many Teduray and Lambangian (T&L)! of old stories passed through generations of highly transferable sickness where deaths took not only individuals but whole communities. The disease was recalled by the storyteller as the *dulet*.

Covid-19 and dulet are similar in many aspects. First, they are both transmitted by a carrier to the next person through body contact. Second, it is a disease that makes proper medication difficult to come by. Third, forms of lockdowns and physical distancing were implemented as!preventivemeasures.

(...)

In the past, the area of refuge in times of emergencies for the Non-Moro Indigenous peoples (NMIP) are along the creeks, the rivers, beside the mountains or under the trees and bushes. However, these traditional refuge areas are endangered since the encroachment of cash economy driven by profiteering business people and economic lords into the traditional territories. This caused massive logging, expansion of industrial agriculture and widespread use of chemicals in farming and electronic equipment in fishing and hunting.

For the T&L, this has always been the “new normal” ever since. In communities’ view, this created an abnormal condition for the peoples and humanity

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The Covid-19 pandemic came to a surprise to the global community, critically affecting even countries with most modern and advanced medical technologies and health care systems. There are speculations that it was a man made biological weapon that went wrong. Although on going studies show that Covid-19 was caused by a corona virus that might have come from bats, which then transmitted to another wildlife, most likely the pangolin, and infected humans. The virus spread very rapidly through human to human transmission; hence resulted to the introduction of many quarantine protocols, ranging from international, national and down to the smallest units of the government territorial jurisdiction, in order to prevent the spread of the virus. A number of observers see the entire phenomenon as symptomatic of the changing relationship between nature and humans.

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See the link (Focus on the Global South) :

<https://focusweb.org/overcoming-the-covid-19-pandemic-lessons-from-the-dulet/>

P.S.

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