

Our President of the Republic of the Philippines, His Excellency President Fidel V. Ramos, officials of the Presidential entourage, our honorable and distinguished guests, tribal leaders, youth leaders, past SOIL awardees, ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

The ~~Select~~ Outstanding Indigenous Leaders Awards 1996 or SOIL Awards started early in 1993 as a pioneering project of the Earth Savers Movement founded by Sen. Heherson Alvarez, in coordination with Tribal Communities Association of the Philippines (TRICAP) under the late Congressman Datu Joseph G. Sibug. This year's SOIL Awards was for the first time ever sponsored by the Office for Southern Cultural Communities, Office for Northern Cultural Communities and the Office of Muslim Affairs in cooperation with the Office for the Sectoral Representative for the Indigenous Cultural Communities and the National Committee of the Global Indigenous Cultural Olympics/Summit. The Soil Awards is a timely and fitting event to salute the celebration of the UN Decade for Indigenous Peoples. The SOIL Awards 1996 will recognize and appreciate outstanding achievements of selected indigenous leaders in their respective tribal communities or the ICCs in general --- who, in their own little way, have unrelentingly and unselfishly contributed to the general well-being or cause of their tribal constituents. "By outstanding achievement", we mean any activity, whether small or great, that have created an impact and generally accepted by their respective tribal constituents. Meaning, "outstanding" in the way the ICCs themselves primarily perceive or look at it and not so much on how we look at such.

The SOIL Awards 1996 Committee knew too very well that time element was a crucial factor in determining "who was who" among our indigenous tribal leaders, but then, we knew that we won't miss this event in awe of the UN Decade of the Indigenous People. This is our decade and we have to do the most we can for our constituents. SOIL Awards 1996 will continue and will forever be a traditional activity of the cultural community offices. We also knew that aside from those that were luckily chosen today, many of our indigenous cultural communities are leaders in themselves or in their own right and that we salute you all. Please do continue your efforts and cause for this is our time. Your endeavors will all be in place by the guidance of the spirits of our ancestors and being the ~~UN Decade for Indigenous Peoples~~, we do hope that all the calls for national action of the ICCs shall be given attention. Finally, in behalf of the SOIL Awards 1996 Committee, we extend our thanks and appreciation to the members of the Screening Board and Panel of Judges in the persons of Dean Connie Paz of U.P. and NCCA, Prof. Felipe de Leon of NCCA, Cong. Jeremias Zapata of the Lower House, ^{Assistant Secretary} Atty. Feliciano Clemencia who represented Executive Secretary Ruben Torres, Atty. Giovanni Reyes of the Phil. Rural Reconstruction Movement, Mr. Danilo Reyes of DENR and Mr. Roger Birosel of the Earthsavers Movement. Out of the 30 nominations submitted, only ten were chosen. We would also like to thank the NCCA for the support they have extended to the three cultural community offices. + *other supporters*

Para sa mga katutubo, mabuhay tayong lahat!

Thank you and good day.

Tribal Communities dapat magkaisa

TARLAC, Tarlac -- Sinisisi ni Datu Joseph Sibug, national president ng Tribal Communities of the Philippines (TRICAP) na isang samahan ng iba't ibang tribung minority na may populasyong 14 milyon sa buong kapuluan, ang nakaraang administrasyon dahil sa kaawa-awang kalagayan ng mga katutubo sanhi ng pagwalang-bahala ng pamahalaan.

sa kapakanan ng mga kaatubong minoritya.

Ito ang naging buod ng pananalita ng datu nang maging panauhing pandangal ng mga katutubong ita sa okasyong pagtatalaga sa tungkulin ng poor group ng TRICAP sa buong lalawigan.

Ayon pa kay Sibug, wala umanong batas para sa mga katutubo

ang iniakyat sa Kongreso at walang kinatawan ang mga ito sa alinmang sektor ng pamahalaan na nangahulugang walang pakialam sa kanila ang nakaraang administrasyon.

Sa puntong ito, hinihiting ng datu sa mga katutubong ita dito na magkaisa upang magkaroon ng boses na maaring pakinagan ng pamahalaan paramaka-

rating ang kanilang mga karaiingan at kung ano ang gusto nilang mangyari sa buhay.

Ayon pa rin kay Sibug, mabuti pa ang kasalukuyang administrasyon at nabibigyan na ngayon ng atensiyon ang mga katutubo at handa umanong tumulong ang pamahalaan para sa kanilang kapakanan.

Sa naturang ding

okasyon, nagpasa ng resolusyon ang iba't ibang angkan ng mga katutubo sa lalawigan na kanilang ipadadala kay Gov. Tingting Cojuangco, Sen. Ernesto Maceda at Sen. Alvarez na naglalayong mabigyan ng kahalintulad na benepisyo at allowances ang mga opisyal ng lokal na pamahalaan ng mga katutubo sa lalawigan. (Mark Manabat)

Enero 11, 1993

FVR appoints a Datu

SAN FERNANDO, Pangasinana -- The Central Luzon Aeta Association (CLAA) and 48 minority settlements in Tarlac province hailed the appointment of Datu Joseph Sibug by President Fidel V. Ramos as representative for the cultural communities in the country.

President Ramos appointed Sibug while the later was on the mission representing the country at the United Nations (UN) launching of the "International Year of Indigenous Cultural Communities" in New York.

The appointment of the Datu was viewed by some 170 cultural communities in the country with a total population of more than 10M, as a break-through in a decade of massive attention of previous administration for the plight of upland settlers. Office of Northern Cultural Communities (ONCC) Regional Director Salong Sungod said, Sibug can articulate the needs of the minorities through legislation in the halls of Congress. ONCC Provincial Officer Roland Rivera also a tribal Governor in the



Province of Tarlac stressed that the appointment of Sibug can serve as the "light and hope" for the minorities who had been in repressive darkness for the past years without representation while all other sectors have both Sungod and Rivera.

Joseph Sibug, a

Manobo Datu, was a recipient of the Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) award for his involvement in minority affairs and also the president of the Tribal Communities of the Philippines (TRICAP) at the time of his appointment by Ramos. (Mark Manabat)

Outstanding indigenous leaders to be honored

The Select Outstanding Indigenous Leaders (SOIL) in ten fields of achievement will be chosen from among nominees of the country's 110 tribes.

One SOIL awardee will be selected in each of the following fields: community development, public ser-

vice, education, medicine, law, arts and culture, traditional crafts, human rights, anthropology, and sustainable development.

The SOIL Awards 1993 is a joint project of the Earthsavers Movement founded by Sen. Heherson T. Alvarez and the Tribal Communities Associa-

tion of the Philippines (TRICAP) headed by Rep. Joseph G. Sibug, in cooperation with the National Committee for Indigenous Peoples created by President Ramos.

Secretary Angel C. Alcala of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Secretary

Roberto M. Romulo of the Department of Foreign Affairs co-chair the national committee.

The awards highlight one of the major activities in observance of 1993 as the United Nations' International Year of Indigenous Peoples and in keeping with a resolution passed by the

GLOBAL YES convention held in Quezon City last April.

Deadline for the submission of nomination papers to the SOIL Secretariat has been reset for Nov. 25 and the awarding ceremony will be held in Malacanang during the Human Rights Day, Dec. 10, on the theme "Human and

Environmental Rights."

The SOIL secretariat holds office at the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center, Quezon Ave., Quezon City, 924-0103.

Matthews 7:7 — Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find.



SOIL AWARDS LAUNCHED -- Rep. Joseph Sibug (Cultural Communities sector, sixth from left) and Mrs. Cecile Alvarez, chairperson of the EarthSavers Movement, look over documents for the launching of the Soil Awards 1993 in recognition of the outstanding achievements of non-Muslim members of tribal communities in the country. Others in photo are Datu Deogracias Raiz, Bae Dayan, Datu Wilfredo Merino and Bae Nella Merino.

Search for outstanding tribal men, women starts

THE EarthSavers Movement and the Tribal Communities Association of the Philippines, (TRICAP) Inc., in conjunction with the National Commission for Indigenous Peoples, have launched the "SOIL AWARDS 1993".

The SOIL (Selected Outstanding Indigenous Leaders) AWARDS 1993 launching rites, held at the Batasang Pambansa complex last September 7, was spearheaded by Rep. (Dau) Joseph Sibug (Sectoral Representative for Cultural Communities) and Mrs. Cecile Alvarez (wife of Sen. Heherson Alvarez), co-chairperson of the EarthSavers Movement.

Alvarez and Rep. Sibug pointed out that the award is "in recognition of the outstanding achievements of selected indigenous leaders in their respective fields in their own community that affect their tribal concerns and constituents."

Following the launching rites, Speaker Jose de Venecia, Jr. lauded the Soil Awards project as a concrete move to help the total integration of cultural communities into the mainstream of Philippine society.

"This is one program which would give due recognition to the outstanding contributions of our brothers belonging to the cultural communities. Their achievements are certainly big blocks in hastening our unity as one people and strengthening the foundations of the Philippine economic development

drive," De Venecia said.

SOIL Awardees, will receive cash prizes, trophies and certificates from the Soil Awards Committee. The SOIL Awards come under the auspices of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

The fields of concentration covered by the awards include Community Development, Public Service, Education, Medicine, Law, Arts and Culture (prose and poetry), Traditional crafts, Human rights, Anthropology and Sustainable Development.

Datu Sibug explained that those qualified for the awards are members of the indigenous cultural communities belonging to any non-Muslim tribe duly certified by government agencies concerned.

The awards, Sibug added, are specially focused on the youth, men and women who have proven themselves worthy of honor and emulation based the following criteria:

1. Service to the community and/or to the nation (50 points);
2. Professional excellence in their respective fields of endeavor (30 points); and
3. Leadership, including moral rectitude, innovativeness and pioneering spirit (20 points).

Among those present during the launching were Datu Deogracias T. Raiz, Bae Dayan, Datu Raiz, Mrs. Elta Laurilla, Fundador Binahon, Jr., Josecito P. Fille, Datu Wilfredo Merino and Bae Nella Merino.