



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Reference person: Erie Maestro

(604) 732-4131 E-mail cps_hr@yahoo.ca

PHILIPPINE CORDILLERA DAY: A Day of Solidarity for Life, Land and Rights

Vancouver, B.C. – The Canada-Philippines Solidarity for Human Rights (CPS-HR) is proud to have Dr. Chandu Claver, Filipino Physician from Kalinga as the main speaker at the **Cordillera Day: A Day of Solidarity for Life, Land and Rights** celebration.

April 25, Saturday

St. Michaels Anglican Church

409 East Broadway (at Guelph St.)

Program starts from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Light dinner starts at 6:00 p.m.

Dr. Claver is also the Spokesperson for *Hustisya Northern Luzon*, an organization of families of victims of extra-judicial killings, and of the *Cordillera People's Alliance*, an independent federation of progressive peoples organizations among indigenous communities in the Cordillera Region, Philippines. He is also the Chairperson of *BAYAN-Canada*, a coalition of progressive Filipino mass-based organizations in Canada.

Cordillera Day (known from 1981-1985 as the Ama Macliing Dulag Memorial) is celebrated yearly in one of the provinces in the Cordillera region every April 24, a historic and significant date for the Cordillera people.

On April 24, 1980, soldiers of the Philippine Army shot and killed Ama Macliing Dulag, a respected *pangat* (tribal chieftain) of the Butbut tribe, a prominent leader of the Kalinga and Bontok peoples who were opposed to the World Bank-funded Chico River Basin Hydroelectric Dam Project of the late president Marcos.

These words of Macliing Dulag during the struggle against the Chico River Dam are well remembered: "Such arrogance to speak of owning the land when we instead are owned by it. Only the race owns the land because the race lives forever." "Life! If life is threatened, what should we do? RESIST! This we must do, otherwise, we are dishonored and that is worse than death. If we do not fight, we die anyway. If we fight, we die honorably... and our children may win and keep this land. And the land shall become even more precious when nourished by our sweat and blood."

Cordillera Day symbolizes the widening unity and solidarity among the different indigenous peoples of the Cordillera, wherever they may be, together with advocates and support groups of indigenous people's struggles.

For more inquiries in Victoria, please contact:

Victoria Philippine Solidarity Group

victoriapsg@gmail.com