

**Datakaya, Pagalunga, Maguindanao - MOP Turnover 13Jun08**

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Datakaya, Pagalunga, Maguindanao - MOP Turnover 13Jun08.zip (5368KB)

Dear Doreen,  
Dear Bong,

I'd like to share these photos to you and to the rest of MOP. I hope you will be inspired by these photos as these have truly inspired me and the rest of MinLand. Nakakawala ng pagod.

Today, MinLand staff Alih Bato, Zainudin "Nordz" Mamangkas and Sherwin Desierto conducted a turn-over of books to Barangay Datakaya, in the Municipality of Pagalungan, Province of Maguindanao (the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao).

Datakaya has been host to countless encounters (armed hostilities) between the armed forces of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). To name the recent the among the biggest encounters: the 2000 All Out War of the Estrada administration, the "War against Lawless Elements" in 2003 of the Macapagal administration, and the numerous wars in 2004 and 2005. Every time there was an encounter, literally, this community vacates their place and go to the Municipality of Pikit or other urbanizing areas, which is several miles away from Datakaya. Datakaya is situated at the middle of Liquasan Marsh (the great marsh area in Philippines), part of Buliok Complex (several MILF Camps are situated) and just right beside Camp Rajamudah (MILF Camp)

In order to reach datakaya from kidapawan:

Kidapawan - Pagalungan proper - bus - 1.5hours  
Pagalungan - raft station - motorbike - 1hour  
Raft station - Datakaya - raft/boat - 1hour

The reason really why I share immediately these photos with you is that I was so moved by the scene in the video we watched when alih, Sherwin and nordz arrived this afternoon from the field. I can't grasp enough how happy the children were by looking at their faces when they received the books. And I almost wasn't able to contain my tears thinking that these same children, in 2000, 2003, 2004 and 2005, have been victims of violence, fear and the trauma caused by conflicts that were completely had nothing to do with them.

Hahay nakakalungkot, pero on a lighter perspective, nakakataba ng puso na in some ways, we (especially move on) will be instrumental for change that will bring sustained development in this area, especially the children, through education.

A separate documentation shall be provided to move on (both video and

written/photo) over and above the regular photo documentation that MinLand is submitting to MOP. For now, we will not promise as to when the additional documentations be available.

For easier downloading: the attached file may also be accessed from this link: [www.minland.ph/mopturnover](http://www.minland.ph/mopturnover)

More power to MOP. You truly are a magnificent organization.

Sincerely,

Arvin

PS

Dahan dahan namin ginagawa ang turn-over. There was last Tuesday then today. 3 turnovers are scheduled next week.

-same-

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