



PHILIPPINE REGION

The Philippine Context



The Philippines is an archipelago located in Southeast Asia, consisting of over 7,000 islands. It is known for its diverse cultures, stunning landscapes, and rich history. The country's capital is Manila, and its official languages are Filipino and English. It is composed of three main groups of Islands, namely, Luzon, Visaya and Mindanao.

The Philippines has a population that reflects a blend of indigenous, Spanish, American, and Asian influences. It is a predominantly Christian nation, with the majority of the population adhering to Roman Catholicism. Additionally, the southern region of Mindanao is home to the Bangsamoro, a distinct cultural and political entity composed of various Muslim ethnic groups. Alongside the Bangsamoro, the Philippines also has a vibrant presence of indigenous peoples, each with their own distinct cultures and traditions, scattered throughout the archipelago.

The establishment of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) in 2019 aimed to address historical grievances and promote self-governance among these communities, while various initiatives strive to empower and uplift the rights and cultures of indigenous peoples.

The culture of the Philippines is a fusion of indigenous traditions and foreign influences, resulting in a unique blend of customs, festivals, cuisine, and art forms. The country boasts a variety of natural wonders, including pristine beaches, lush rainforests, and active volcanoes, making it a popular destination for tourists seeking both relaxation and adventure. The Philippines is also rich in marine biodiversity, making it a haven for divers and marine enthusiasts.

However, the Philippines also faces various challenges, including poverty, political issues, and natural disasters such as typhoons and earthquakes. Despite these challenges, the Filipino people, including the Bangsamoro and indigenous communities, are known for their resilience, hospitality, and strong sense of community.

In recent years, the Philippines, along with the Bangsamoro and indigenous peoples, has been striving for economic growth, political stability, and social development, while preserving its unique cultural heritage and natural beauty. The establishment of the BARMM and initiatives promoting indigenous rights exemplify the ongoing efforts to address historical issues and promote inclusivity and autonomy among various cultural groups in the Philippines.

The RNDM Sisters in the Philippines



RNDM Sisters established their missionary involvement in the Philippines in October 1987. With the invitation of the Archbishop of Cotabato Philip Smith, OMI, DD and local leader, Sultan Tagenek Dakias, two pioneer Sisters, coming from Bangladesh (Sr. Shanti Rozario, RNDM) and India (Sr. Andrea Sawian, RNDM), began their work among the indigenous people known as the Menubu Dulangan in Senator Ninoy Aquino (formerly Kulaman) in Sultan Kudarat, Mindanao. This ministry, with its components in education, health, and livelihood, continues to this day. In the years that followed, the missionary endeavors of the Sisters have expanded, with eight Filipinas joining the Congregation and RNDMs from various parts of the world being assigned to different ministries in the Philippines.

For many years, the Philippines has also served as a place for formation and study for numerous RNDMs worldwide. Currently, we have communities in three dioceses: the Archdioceses of Cotabato, Cubao, and Davao. Our primary ministries focus on indigenous peoples' justice advocacy and solidarity, peacebuilding, education, and spiritual accompaniment.

The logo of the Philippine Region features the bamboo, symbolizing the resilience of Filipino people amidst diversity and challenges. It also signifies the flourishing of RNDM life and mission in the Philippines.

RNDM COMMUNITIES AND MINISTRIES IN THE REGION

RNDM Lantana Community and Region House

18 Lantana Street, Barangay Mariana
New Manila, Quezon City 1112
Philippines



The RNDM Regional House, Lantana community, situated in Metro Manila, serves as the hub for regional leadership and administration. Since its establishment in 2008, the Lantana community has been accommodating students from various parts of the congregation, enabling them to make the most of local opportunities for preparing the congregation's missionaries. Their presence in their respective educational institutions functions as a way of sharing the essence of who we are as RNDMs in the Philippines. Likewise, their weekly engagement in apostolic outreach among the urban poor is a meaningful expression of our Mission.



A second house on the premises, known as RNDM Kanlungan, provides accommodation for adult students, lay individuals, and members of other congregations who are seeking short-term or long-term arrangements.



RNDM Cotabato Community
NDU Housing (Bormajeco Drive)
Barangay Rosary Heights II
9600 Cotabato City



In 1991, the sisters established a community in Cotabato City, situated in the heart of Central Mindanao. It now serves as the seat of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). Cotabato has endured many years of unrest and violence, yet through continuous peacebuilding efforts, it is now brimming with promise as its people yearn for lasting peace and sustainable development.

The city is a haven for diverse and intercultural individuals and communities. Our charism closely aligns with the aspirations of the people, who seek a just, sustainable, and inclusive society.

We actively engage in collaborative ministry with Notre Dame University, an institution that has consistently embraced our sisters' energy and passion in fields such as counseling, peace studies, education, and

campus ministry. Concurrently, we are dedicated to shaping and expanding the RNDM peacebuilding ministry within Cotabato.



RNDM Kulaman Community
Barangay Poblacion, Kulaman
Sen. Ninoy Aquino, Sultan Kudarat



This is the first foundation of the Philippine Region in 1987. We were graciously welcomed into the ancestral domain of the Menubu Dulangan People, where we carved a space for a cultural heritage home now known as "Delesan Kailawan." The logo vividly captures the center's purpose. The trio of

stars, referred to as *bituen telow*, embodies the aspirations, hopes, and dreams of the Menubu Dulangan People. These guiding lights accompany us as we journey together towards self-determination and fullness of life. The mountains portrayed in the logo

symbolize the formidable strength that stems from unity and community. As RNDMs, we wholeheartedly engage in the lives of the Menubu Dulangan as trusted friends and co-travelers. Our enduring bond and the tribe's unwavering trust have flourished over many years.



Moreover, we are excited to have an ecological initiative called Hinemulaan RNDM Eco-farm in Kulaman, that is currently in the process of taking shape. Our aim is to explore the depths of the RNDM charism and ecological spirituality, fostering a collaborative exchange of ecological values with the local community.



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