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Tourist trade-Davao
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TRIBAL DANCE

Two "warriors" stage a warlike tribal dance during the "Araw ng Davao" festival sponsored by the Davao Tourism Association and the Mindanao Highlanders Association in cooperation with the Department of Tourism.

Cultural festivals boost local tourism

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Crowd-drawers

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with the Department of Tourism field office in Davao.

Participants in the exotic tribal festival were different authentic highland tribes of Manobo, Dibabaonon, Bagobo, Mandaya, Bilaan, Mansaka, Ilana, Ata, Kalagan, Tagakaolo in their colorful costumes.

City festival

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visitors and tourists who saw their unique tribal dances and heard their songs and music for the first time.

The conferment of the honorary title of "datu," performed in colorful primitive rituals, by Rajah Buntas in the presence of some 16 datos and chieftains of the tribes on six civic leaders, climaxed the first tribal festival ever held in the city.

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Other new crowd-drawer festivals are "Binirayan" and "Handugan" in San Jose, Antique, "Ati-atihan" in Iloilo, Bale in Zamboanga, "Tinigba" in Iriga City and "Parada ng Lechon" in Balayan, Batangas.

The Davao festival was sponsored by Davao Tourism Association (DATA) and Mindanao Highlanders Association in coordination

with the Department of Tourism field office in Davao.

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City festival

Some 250 natives, headed by Rajah Carlito Buntas and 16 datos, walked miles from their remote villages from as far as Kidapawan in North Cotabato to participate for the first time in the city festival, bringing with them their spears, shields, handicraft, gongs and other native musical instruments.

Their four-hour performance at the PTA grounds was warmly applauded by

visitors and tourists who saw their unique tribal dances and heard their songs and music for the first time.

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Highest honor'

Rajah Buntas said the title is the highest honor bestowed by the highland tribes upon Christian Filipinos who have given valuable assistance in the promotion of the tribes welfare.

Rajah Buntas said the tribes are thankful to the Department of Tourism and Davao civic organizations for giving them importance in such a city festival.

"It is the best opportunity for us to show our life and culture which had long been in existence since the pre-Spanish era in the Philippines," he said.

Pedro Lavinas of the Department of Tourism, who was given the honorary title of "Datu Mondabon," said the cultural minorities in Davao are colorful people and they live a peaceful life.

Encouraged by the success and importance of the Davao Tribal Festival in the promotion of tourism in the area, Larina and other civic leaders led by Ric Acuña of Davao Insular Hotel and Angel Corpuz of Aguinaldo Pearl Farm Resort plan to present a bigger tribal festival in May next year.

They hope to make it an annual cultural festival to boost tourism in Davao.

Binirayan fest set April 25-27

The Binirayan Festival '75, Antique's cultural development venture, has been rescheduled April 25-27 in San Jose de Buenavista, provincial capital.

Originally planned to take place last January, the festival was postponed due to the West Visayas Athletic meet held early February in San Jose's Binirayan sports complex.

The provincial government led by Gov. Evelio B. Javier and civic groups of Antiqueños are the organizers of the festival.

Cultural director

Designed as cultural director of this year's festival is Behn Cervantes, stage and theater director and a professor of drama at the University of the Philippines.

The festival features a reenactment of the landing of the 10 Bornean datos on the island of Panay, particularly in Antique's fabled Malandog cove, a cultural and agro-industrial fair, native sports fests, a beauty pageant for the "Lin-Ay sang Antique" and an awards night for outstanding Antiqueños.

A Binirayan mass caps the three-day festival on April 27 to be officiated by Bishop Corneli de Witt and accompanied by a native choir using the Ati musical compositions of Fr. Joaquin Dioso and Pablito Maghari. (PNA)