

PRESS RELEASE

THE PHILIPPINE COCKATOO FESTIVALS

Save the Katala, tell the world!

23 June 2015, Palawan, Philippines – Again, JUNE HAS COME and the KATALA’s chirp is loudly heard again as we celebrated our annual festivals in Narra and Dumarán, Palawan!

“Save the Katala, tell the world!”, this year’s theme resounded the walls of the Narra gymnasium on June 26, 2015 as nearly 2,000 students had fun celebrating the 9th Katala Festival and a mini bird fest. Among the activities were birdwatching, photo exhibit on different behaviors of the Philippine Cockatoo, interactive lectures, environmental chant contest, quiz bee, face painting, origami and coloring. This year’s festivity in Narra was jointly organized by the Katala Foundation with the local government of Narra and the Protected Area Management Board of Rasa Island Wildlife Sanctuary. But not just that! The members of the Wild Bird Club of the Philippines (WBCP) joined our yearly festivity and added more zest and conducted a Teachers’ Lecture-Seminar on Bird Conservation which was double in attendance than expected!

Uniquely added in this year’s Katala Festival in Narra was the official launching of the Municipal Resolution No. 2015-2501 declaring June as the Katala Awareness Month in Narra, Palawan! What a way to end the day with a Zumba session that surely released all our worries and tensions!

Meanwhile in Dumarán (northern project site), the Kalabukay Festival 2015 marked its 12th year anniversary in June 19 hence the theme “Isang dosenang pagpupugay alay sa Kalabukay”. Mayor Pablico led the celebrations along with ca 520 adults and kids alike. The Birdwatch Palawan led the interactive lectures that were basis for the quiz bee competition for elementary and parents too! Nearly 500 participated in the tree planting activity at the high school’s eco park. Our fun activities of coloring, face painting and the chant contest were highly attended.

In both festive events our mascot, Kataly, always attracted kids and adults from all sectors. This year we acquired a new Kataly courtesy of RARE (an NGO based in the USA that funded Indira’s PRIDE campaign in Dumarán). The old Kataly mascot completed a makeover in time for the festivity in Dumarán and is now good as new. Both mascots will stay in each site for more fun and interaction! So expect more of Kataly’s activities in the months to come! Enjoy our photos of fun and learning!

Based on the survey conducted by the Katala Foundation, among the activities conducted in Dumarán, students enjoyed most the Tree Planting part of the Kalabukay Festival with 31% while participants in the Katala Festival liked the Lecture

as it garnered 34% which were also attested by the number of attendees on each activity. Like so, majority said that various parts of the festivals increased their knowledge about wildlife and their interconnection to their habitat and human's activities, gave them ideas on how to protect wildlife and their habitat, and encouraged them to help in preventing the illegal trade of wildlife and to support conservation programs.

Consequently, the survey also revealed that 97% of the respondents in Dumaran and 90% in Narra believed that the Katala, other wildlife and human can share a place to live. Thus, they also believed on their capabilities and they shoulder great responsibilities in protecting our natural environment as the survey showed almost a hundred percent of the respondents in two municipalities concurred.

Hence, during these annual festivals aside from promoting awareness while having fun, the Katala Foundation also assessed the participants to determine their level of awareness and the Foundation itself to offer them the most enjoyable and most efficient festivals.

Editors Note:

The Katala Foundation, Incorporated (KFI) initiates Kalabukay and Katala Festival to promote the awareness of local community on protection and conservation of its flagship species, the Philippine Cockatoo and encourage community participation to a holistic environmental security.

"Everything is connected to everything else"

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