DATU COSME LAMBAYON'S VOICE

"Honourable Chairperson, distinguishes guest, friends, ladies and gentlemen "*maupiyan maapon*", that is a Matigsalug Language of greeting good afternoon.

First of all, my name is Datu Cosme Lambayon, married with two children (son and daughter), a Matigsalug Manobo tribe from Kitaotao, Province of Bukidnon in the islands of Mindanao, Philippines. I am a Secretary General of the Federation of Matigsalug Manobo Tribal Councils (FEMMATRICs), a legitimate organization of our community and a National Vice Chairman of the "Pambansang Lupon ng mga Nakakatanda sa Tribo (PLANT)", a national organization of indigenous people's elders in the Philippines. We have the ancestral domain territory of 102,324.8186 hectares duly recognized by the national government on July 25, 2003 under Certificate of Ancestral Domains Title (CADT) No. R10 KIT 0703 0011 located in the municipalities of Kitaotao, Quezon, San Fernando & Kibawe, all in the Province of Bukidnon; portions of Arakan, North Cotabato and portion of Marilog District, Davao City respectively.

I am so glad distinguish guests, friends, ladies and gentlemen to have been invited to attend to this Durban Review Conference to share with you, my personal experiences in our struggle for asserting our rights as indigenous peoples as well as reflections of today's event because sharing of these experiences would empower us on how to combat racism, racial discrimination and intolerance.

When I was studying at the elementary grade, I experienced racism and racial discrimination wherein most of the time my classmates called me Manobo instead of calling my real name and I am marginalized and treated like a second class citizen. I and my fellow tribe seated on a separate row far from my classmates. When they called me Manobo, I didn't mind them just to avoid conflict. In general this gave great dischalication that the property of the conflict is a second class citizen.

As I grew

older, I and my community encountered problem wherein our ancestral domains was occupied as pasture lands of big

Gawilan Sr. and to us tribal leaders that we were terrorist, criminal and other fabricated crimes, whichu94TD7n9necrimes,

October 29, 1997 a Republic Act No. 8371, otherwise known as "An Act to Recognize, Protect and Promote the Rights of Indigenous Cultural Communities/Indigenous Peoples, Creating a National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, Establishing Implementing Mechanisms, and Appropriating Funds therefore".

Immediately after the approval of said law, former a Cruz filed a complaint before the Supression out of the Philippon out of the Philippon again the implementation of programs for the indigenous parameters and interested individual to freely exercise their rights in accordance with the exist treaties, covenant and standards. In the holding held for the indigenous peoples organizations and mobilized to show moral suppo 903522

te Justic ourt of the Philip he s questi Rights Act (IPRA hereby l he indigenous pe s. This is ls do not want the digenous p les with the existin ws, intern ng held for the pu se, I and al on govennae **il#HeiritzátósÅrisGiÀ**thTf080TD0.0003Tc(moral)Tj/TT111Tf2.0 discriminate you by saying do not vote this guy, he is a Matigsalug Manobo, he is a warrior or he is a criminal. But today, when our ancestral domain was secured and titled in the name of our tribe, we were given the chance and opportunity to win in the election because we gained the respect of the migrants and truth of the matter is that yours truly was elected for three consecutive terms as member of the Legislative Council in our locality and my cousin is the incumbent Mayor in the place where I came from.

To this end, distinguish guest, friends, ladies and gentlemen I am encouraging everyone \$ 6[(f)tTc [9egguly