

CRISIS, SOCIAL CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT AMONG THE SALUGNON
SUBANUN: THE CASE OF A POLITICAL REFUGEE SETTLEMENT
IN JOSEFINA, ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR

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By
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APPROVAL SHEET

This dissertation entitled "CRISIS, SOCIAL CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT AMONG THE SALUGNON SUBANUN: THE CASE OF A POLITICAL REFUGEE SETTLEMENT IN JOSEFINA, ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR" prepared and submitted by Florentina Z. Lasaca in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Ph. D. in Anthropology has been examined and is recommended for acceptance and approval for ORAL EXAMINATION.

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Any errors are expressly my own responsibility.

Ms. Florentina Z. Lasaca

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D E D I C A T I O N

To the Salugnon Subanun

This is their story

And it belongs to them.

F.Z.L.

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Chapter 1

THE RESEARCH DESIGN

INTRODUCTION

The Subanun of the Zamboanga Peninsula exist in a local society dominated by lowland settlers. Because of their simple agricultural technology, kin-based social organization and status as a cultural minority, they do not command any political and economic power. The Subanun subsisted in the past on swidden agriculture, hunting, fishing and gathering of wild plants. Today, even though they wish to retain ancestral rights to their traditional territory and economy, find that their micro-region has been invaded by loggers and Christian settlers from other islands. As a consequence, many of their ancestral lands have been parceled out and claimed by the migrants who engaged in cash-crop production to meet their basic needs. Recently, with the rise of insurgence and military operations, one group of Subanun have had no option but to abandon their ancestral homes in Mount Malindang. They have become refugees in a lowland community in Karayagan. In this work the researcher is interested in the response of the Subanun to this new settlement surrounding them, to culture contact and to chances of involvement in a market economy and development. Is the Subanun response one