



FIESTA SA MINDANAO!

The Colorful Festivals of Mindanao, Philippines



Photographs by Bobby Timonera

Contents

1	Hudyaka sa Lubi , Linamon, Lanao del Norte
9	Kalilangan Festival , General Santos City
23	Kaamulan Festival , Malaybalay City, Bukidnon
35	Araw ng Dabaw , Davao City
41	Araw ng Lanao del Sur , Marawi City
47	T'nalak Festival , Koronadal City, South Cotabato
61	Kadayawan Festival , Davao City
85	Tsada Kagay-an Festival , Cagayan de Oro City
93	Tuna Festival , General Santos City
103	Diyandi Festival , Iligan City
121	Regatta de Zamboanga , Zamboanga City
127	Lanzones Festival , Camiguin Island
137	Helobung Festival , Lake Sebu, South Cotabato
145	Shariff Kabungsuwan Festival , Cotabato City
153	Giant Christmas Symbols Display , Tangub City, Misamis Occidental

Hudyaka sa Lubi

Linamon, Lanao del Norte

Every 23rd of January, the municipality of Linamon holds the “*Hudyaka sa Lubi*” (Coconut Festival) as a form of thanksgiving to this tropical plant – sometimes dubbed as the “Tree of Life” – that is abundant in the locality, and thus a major source of income to the populace. On this day, residents dance in the streets with elaborate costumes made from the various parts of the coconut. The date coincides with the town’s founding anniversary.

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Kalilangan Festival, General Santos City



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Kaamulan Festival, Malaybalay City, Bukidnon



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Kadayawan Festival, Davao City



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FIESTA SA MINDANAO! is a presentation of the colorful festivals of Mindanao. This southern Philippine island has a mixed population of indigenous Lumads, the Moro people and the Christian settlers. This beautiful mixture of people can be best seen in Mindanao's festivals, the peoples' rich culture expressed in the colorful costumes and exotic street dances. A festival involves thousands of details of costumes and props and dances and people. Each photograph in this book captures a group of details which, taken together, conveys the spirit of the festival. From the wide angle view of a dance formation, to a close up of the participants' expressions, these photographs have captured exuberance, humor, amazing feats and drama. Each picture is a story as told by a photojournalist.



ROBERT DONATO TIMONERA taught himself photography in his senior year in college, experimenting with black-and-white in his makeshift darkroom which he set up in his parents' bathroom. He has been a journalist all his career life, doing both writing and photography. He was a staff reporter of the Philippine Daily Inquirer in Manila from 1992-1997, then went home to Mindanao and helped found MindaNews, a news agency run by a cooperative of Mindanao-based journalists. Bobby lives in Iligan City with his wife Miyam, kids Kara and Arkay, and their dog Padfoot.