

Foundation Day Speech  
By Maximo B. Dalog

Governor Boni Lacwasan, Vice Governor Tauli, our Provincial officials and employees, municipal and barangay officials, visitors, kakailian, ladies and gentlemen.

Gawis ay agew tako amin. A pleasant day to all of us.

Our 49<sup>th</sup> foundation day which we are celebrating today is the darkest and saddest ever in our history as a people considering that as we celebrate, we are in the midst of mourning the loss of our beloved Governor Leonard G. Mayaen. I know that we are all shocked and deeply saddened, there is a feeling of helplessness in all of us especially that our governor left us at the eve of three significant events in our history: our 49<sup>th</sup> Foundation day, the 12<sup>th</sup> Lang-ay Festival and the 11<sup>th</sup> Igorot International Consultation.

But my dear kakailian, let us all be consoled by the fact that after death there is still life. Besides, if our governor were to talk before us today, I am sure he will tell all of us, “Kakailian, kasiyana. Adikayo unay menladingit. Ituloy yu ay maes-esa, mensisinakit ya menmadno para esnan sumayaatan di ili tako ya nan gumawisan nan biag tako.”

And so today, let us celebrate our 49<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day remembering with gratitude our past leaders including our beloved Governor Mayaen and all those who contributed to the progress and development of our province. For definitely, Mountain Province now is a better place to live in especially due to the development that happened during the last six years when almost 300 kms of our roads had been paved and a lot of local roads cemented and improved making our province very accessible. There will be no more shortage of classrooms as a lot of classrooms are being constructed in our province worth more than 350 million. The CCT program had been expanded, benefiting a lot of families in our province and our health services had greatly improved with the upgrading of the Luis Hora Regional Memorial Hospital, the expanded PhilHealth benefits, the numerous medical assistance and the construction of medical facilities like the Bontoc General Hospital.

By and large, our beloved Mountain Province is doing its best to find its place in the sun and it is all in our hands to make it happen.

So my beloved kakailian, let us despite the odds, work together so that by the grace of Almighty God, Gumawgawis pay koma nan Mountain Province.

Thank you.

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Speech delivered during the Mountain Province Foundation Day at the Plaza, Bontoc, Mountain Province on April 7, 2016.