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### **LUMADS: TRUE TO THEIR NAME AS NATURE'S PROTECTORS**

Hoodwinked by the dominant rationality of “development,” the Philippine government closed down many Salugpongan schools for allegedly teaching an ideology among indigenous Lumads. It can be gleaned, however, that the Nationalist, Scientific, Mass-Oriented (NSMO) curriculum was completely opposed to the exclusionary and destructive narratives about so-called “progress.” Many Lumads are ready to defend their ancestral domain against mining and logging companies seeking to destroy their environment in the name of profit and greed.

Many Lumads are not willing to sell their souls to an economy of selfishness and wanton consumerism. They are not intimidated by being called “ignorant” when the economy only knows how to plunder the natural wonders and sustenance of their home. They are not convinced that the answer to poverty is the destruction of the Pantaron mountain range. They cannot accept the killing of community leaders who dissent against exploitation and marginalization.

Even as refugees, many Lumads are not uprooted from their commitment to shared agricultural practices, as the purpose of knowledge and innovation is not opposed to their deep relationship with the environment. For many Lumads, there is no moving forward when the community and nature are left behind by unsustainable corporatization and unshared growth.