

# **ANCESTRAL DOMAIN POLICIES AND MANAGEMENT MECHANISMS**

## **LAWS/POLICIES GOVERNING THE ANCESTRAL DOMAIN AND *MAALAGAY DOGAL/MATILO* OF THE AYTA ABELLEN COMMUNITY IN SITIO MAPORAC, NEW SAN JUAN, CABANGAN, ZAMBALES, PHILIPPINES**

### **I. INTRODUCTION:**

We, the Ayta/Abellen of Sitio Maporac jointly crafted these laws and policies governing our ancestral domain, which shall be implemented in our ancestral domain territory in Sitio Maporac, New San Juan, Cabangan, Zambales.

### **II. OBJECTIVES AND VISION:**

- a. To develop a community where one can move freely and have proper use of the natural resources
- b. To implement different development projects that will address the day-to-day needs of the community.
- c. To maintain the community's unique culture and tradition and to pass it to the next generations.
- d. To have a developed and progressive community.

### **III. ANCESTRAL DOMAIN POLICIES**

Our Ancestral Domain is given to us by OUR CREATOR **APO NAMALYARI**.

#### **A. ANCESTRAL DOMAIN MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION**

1. Deputation of forest guards.
2. Planting of trees.

3. Prohibition of any illegal activities within the ancestral domain.  
Example: mining, cutting of trees, charcoal making, illegal fishing and others that cause destruction to the environment.
4. Any development projects of the government and private sectors that will be built within the scope of the ancestral domain such as roads, dams, ranch or any use of natural resources should require community consultation and permission from the leaders and the council of elders.

## B. HUMAN RIGHTS

1. Every person (Indigenous person) has the right to live well.
2. All Indigenous people are free to cultivate and use the natural resources without damaging the environment and without violating human rights.
3. Everyone has the right to be respected as a human.
4. Everyone has equal rights to acquire education, health and financial help to be given by the government and private sector in MAO.
5. Everyone has the right to suggest, express his/her feelings, criticize, elect, be elected and request change according to the wishes of the majority.

## C. LEADERSHIP

### 1. CHOOSING A LEADER

- a. Choosing a leader in the community is based on the appointment of the tribal elders who are then approved by the leaders, men, women, and youth of the community.
- b. Replacing a community leader is dependent on the decisions of the elders.

- c. The appointed leader should have a strong commitment; have the ability to defend the community, setting aside his/her personal interest.
- d. The implementation is made using traditional governance and traditional practices.
- e. Free Prior and Informed Consent of the community is being recognized and respected by foreign and local investors inside the ancestral domain territory.

## 2. MANAGEMENT OF LEADERSHIP (MAO)

- a. Any migrants or outsiders who enter the ancestral domain territory without the permission from the tribal council and MAO have no right to violate and oppose the existing laws and policies and therefore have no right to own a land.
- b. The tribal council have the right and authority to evict any migrants who do not show respect and violate the existing laws of the organization.
- c. Anyone who violates the law implemented by the Maporac Ayta Organization (MAO) has a corresponding penalty of imprisonment from one year to five years and a fine of five thousand pesos to fifty thousand pesos.

## D. NATURE AND FOREST MANAGEMENT

### 1. FOREST

- a. Continuous tree planting.
- b. Forest fire prohibition.
- c. Gathering, researching and collecting medicinal plants without the permission of the Council of Elders and MAO is prohibited.
- d. Prohibition of slash and burn farming on sacred sites and thick forest.

- e. Rattan cutting and orchids gathering by outsiders are prohibited without permission from the Council of Elders and MAO.

## 2. HUNTING

- a. No hunting from the month of September until January for it is the mating season of the animals in the forest.
- b. No hunting without permission from the Council of Elders and the leaders of each tribe.

## IV. CUSTOMS AND CULTURE:

- A. Maintain the customary practice of thanking the creator APO NAMALYARI.
- B. Teach and foster the beautiful customs and traditions to the next generation.

## V. EDUCATION:

- A. To have a school inside indigenous peoples community and also have literacy program for children and adults.
- B. Training workshops for innovative technology that does not damage the environment and culture like agriculture, industry, society and politics.
- C. To have a community based scholarship program.

## VI. HEALTH:

- A. To have their own health center and health worker.
- B. Develop indigenous or traditional medicine and treatment.
- C. To have health training for women and youth.