Talaandig and Mamanwa youth come together

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From 6 to 9 July 2012, a Bentela daw Sayuda (Bukidnon-Pulangiyen tribal term for visiting and sharing) activity between Talaandig and Mamanwa youth groups will be undertaken.

The Talaandig youth from Barangay Sungco in Lantapan, Bukidnon will go to Surigao del Norte and engage the youth in two Mamanwa communities in Surigao del Norte in small group discussions, group dynamics, and teambuilding activities to learn about other cultures and other indigenous youth. The youth activity also hopes to develop among the participants a deeper appreciation and understanding of their challenges and hopes.

A particular topic that will be of interest to the youth groups is in relation to mining and the current discussions at the national and local levels, as the communities they come from in Claver, Surigao del Norte are hosting mineral development activities. And there are Mamanwa communities in the area who oppose existing mining activities.

How do the indigenous youth in these areas see mining and the future that it holds for them? Do they know about the laws that relate to mining and indigenous peoples? What are their questions about mining and other activities surrounding their communities? What matters confuse them or are clear to them? What are their dreams and aspirations? How do they see the future in general or in relation to their communities?

These are some of the questions that will be asked as part of ESSC's work Bridging Leadership in Mindanao that seeks to provide different venues for learning and engagements for indigenous youth groups in Mindanao.