

Weaving through the Pandemic

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Salngan Livelihood Multi-Purpose Cooperative situated at the Southern part of Oton, Iloilo is a cooperative known for producing Hablon – a handloom weaved cloth. Hablon has been popularly used as staple product for creating shauls, malongs and even a vital material in sewing gowns made by well – known designers. This has been the primary source of income of most of the members of the cooperative.



The pandemic made a huge impact in their lives, especially to the weavers. Sales of the Hablon started to decrease gradually leaving them with no other source of income and livelihood. Due to the restrictions brought by the quarantine measures that were strictly implemented by the government, the cooperatives' movement became limited and for some were inaccessible.



However, thru the initiative of the Oton LGU, and in partnership with the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) community of Oton, the cooperative was able to rise above the situation and be able to do what they do best. They initiated the Ogtonganon Mask Stewards, a project focused on producing and selling face masks made of Hablon and other weaved cloth made by the cooperatives weavers.

Wearing face masks has been one of the new normal protocols that everyone needed to comply and follow, now considered an essential tool to protect oneself and a necessity.

This project will really help the coop members and the Oton LGBTQ community earns and be able to cope with financial difficulties despite of the health crisis the world is currently facing. The cooperative members with expertise on weaving, also trains the said LGBTQ community on how to weave Hablon and turn them into face masks.

The world literally stopped this 2020. Many lost their jobs, worst even their own lives. Yet those who were blessed to be able to make change and cope with the situation made their move and went on to the next step. Such is the likes of the Salngan Livelihood MPC. There may be obstacles along the way but it did not hinder them from overcoming their current situation. With helping hands they were able to innovate and continue on inspiring their members and the community.

Salngan Livelihood Multi-Purpose Cooperative is enrolled in the Cooperative Business Matching Information System (CBMIS) of CDA. According to the webpage, CBMIS holds a wide array of on-line agri-based buyers and sellers engaged by large, medium, as well as small-scale enterprises in an effort to minimize cost and maximize benefits to business.



Basta Ilongga Gwapa,
Ms. Rabiya Occeña Mateo



The pride of Salngan Livelihood MPC.....

Recently, Salngan Multi-Purpose Cooperative was accepted to the 2021 TENUN Fashion Week in Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia celebrating handloom weaving thru the initiative of a local designer, and their contemporary hablon blouse was showcased by Miss Universe Philippines Rabiya Mateo in the Miss Universe 2020 beauty pageant in Florida, USA.