

# Moros Now Clamor For Education

*Whereas Formerly Moros Were Reluctant To Send Their Children To The Government Schools, They Are Now Eager To Take Advantage Of The Educational Opportunities Offered-- Even Girl Pupils Are Increasing*

By ILUMINADO SILAO  
(Lanao Correspondent of GRAPHIC)

**T**HERE was a time when the efforts to spread education constituted an outstanding failure in the Moro region. For years, the indifference of Moro parents toward the education of their children was the chief drawback of their own progress. Only the persistent striving of the government has made possible the conquest of that indifference. The Moros, content in their ignorance did not seem to see any good in the opportunities afforded by the government.

forts for the education of their children.

We can single out Sultan sa Ditsa-an as an outstanding example of a man who was once openly against the sending of his children to the public schools. At that time, he did not see anything worth-while in the educational system sponsored by the government.

That was a few years ago. Today, the same Sultan sa Ditsa-an is the ardent supporter of education among the Moros, not that he plays a part in the training of the young,



Above are some Moro datu and Christian school authorities in Ramin, standing with the Moro school children under Mrs. Encabo. Marked (1) is Sultan sa Ditsa-an; (2) Domado Alonto, municipal district treasurer; (3) Constantino Zosa; (4) Esperidon Encabo; (5) Mrs. Encabo; and (6) Narciso Adeva, supervising teacher.

There is no need of telling all over again the part that Sultan sa Ramin played, and is playing, in educating Moro children. He was one of the first Moro leaders to advocate the education of his people and was largely instrumental in the building of more schools in Moroland. Though unschooled himself, he is nevertheless appreciative of the value of higher learning. His dream is to see his people educated like their average Christian brothers.

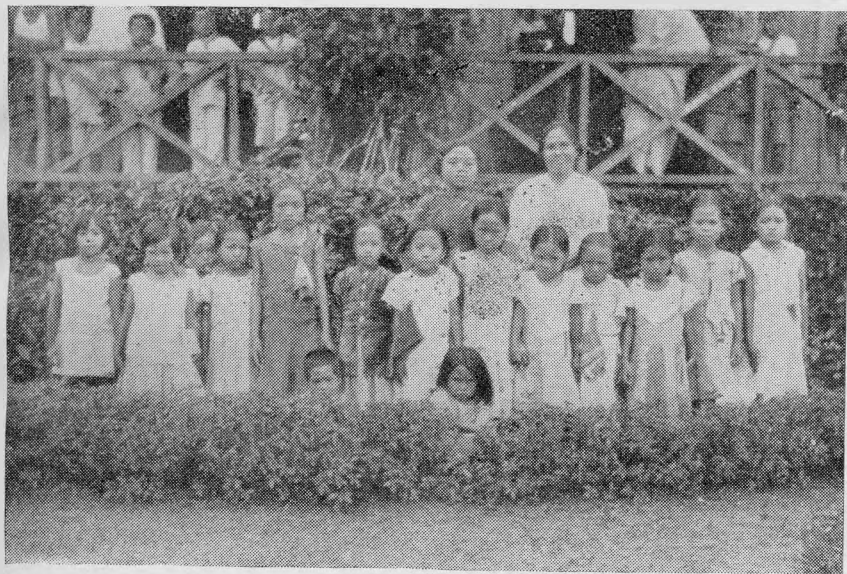
The present wave of enthusiasm for the education of the Moro children can partly be attributed to the heroic efforts of Eduard Kuder, division superintendent of schools for Lanao. With his co-operation with the district supervisors and Sultan sa Ramin, considerable progress in Moro education has been attained. It is expected that in a few more years schools in all non-Christian provinces will be as flourishing as those in any other places in the Philippines.

At present, two of the most progressive Moro schools in Lanao are to be found in Ramin and Kapai districts. The supervising teacher of Kapai, Narciso Adeva, together with the teachers, is largely responsible for the present enrollment of Moro pupils. There are also no less than twenty Moro freshmen in the Lanao High School, besides a number of other Moro students now taking vocational courses in Manila.

The enthusiasm of Moro parents to educate their children is boundless. It is said that mothers use to accompany their children to, and from, school. Mrs. Encabo, a Grade I teacher in Ramin, narrates that while she conducts her classes, parents of her pupils would eagerly watch her class, squatting on the floor. One would see the expression of satisfaction on their faces as they saw their young ones, including girls, stand up to answer the questions asked of them. Some of these parents would wait till class is over. Such interest is worthy of the high commendation and is encouraging.

Fourteen years ago, Ramin had only the First Grade class, but

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A group of Moro school children photographed with Mrs. Encabo, their teacher.

To-day, there is a different story to tell. The same parents that unwittingly were reluctant to open the eyes of their children, so to speak, are now clamoring for more schools and better educational facilities. Where before a mother forbade her son from going to school, she now conducts him herself to his classes and makes it a point to ask the teacher, almost every day, if her boy is making any progress.

As a result the outlook is not only encouraging but very bright for these non-Christian brothers of ours. Sultans, datu, and other ranking personages in Moroland are one and all making commendable ef-

but because he is instrumental in inducing his people to have their children educated. And datu who were formerly opposed to their children's getting any schooling are now emulating the example of Sultan sa Ditsa-an.

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