



MICHAEL ANGELO LANGGONG YAMBOK

Search for Outstanding Volunteers (SOV) 2025
Regional Winner - Adult Category

Background



At the heart of Lake Sebu, South Cotabato lives Michael Angelo Langgong Yambok, a young man devoted to serving the community that raised him. Lake Sebu, home to several geographically-isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDAs), is also vulnerable to disasters like landslides, flooding, ground cracks, and repeated fish kills that threaten livelihoods. The municipality has faced clan conflicts that displaced families in remote areas. Despite this, it remains a place where the tri-people live together, sharing culture and struggles. Lake Sebu has a rich cultural tradition and scenic view but the area also suffers from persistent poverty. Since 2018, it has been the only municipality in the province classified under Level 3 Poverty Incidence, with more than half of its residents living below the poverty line.



Amid these challenges, Michael serves as the Tourism Operations Officer I and as the designated Local Economic Development and Investment Promotion Officer for the Municipal Government of Lake Sebu. He works to uplift both people and culture. Beyond public service, he runs a small handicrafts business inspired by the artistry of his T'boli heritage, which sustains his cultural roots and provides job opportunities for the community.

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In this context of significant socioeconomic challenges, Michael chose to dedicate his life to service. His passion for volunteerism is strong, stemming from the desire to create meaningful change, uplift lives, and inspire others to make a difference.

Michael has shown the true spirit of volunteerism in education, youth empowerment, cultural preservation, environmental care, and community development. As a proud son of Lake Sebu, he has spent 22 years selflessly serving marginalized groups, especially the youth and indigenous peoples, while protecting the heritage of the T'boli community.

As Founder and Chairperson of the Lake Sebu Youth Network, a registered organization with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Michael has provided opportunities for young people to engage in leadership, advocacy, and volunteer efforts. Through LSYN, he has mentored many youth volunteers, some of whom were named the Most Outstanding Youth of South Cotabato in 2022 under his guidance. His leadership has empowered a new generation of volunteers committed to serving their communities.





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His influence also includes cultural preservation. As President of the Helobung Community Dance Troupe, Inc. and former Cluster Head of the NCCA T'boli/Ubo Cluster from 2017 to 2022, he has strengthened cultural identity and raised indigenous voices on both national and international stages. These roles show his belief that culture is not just an identity, but a source of strength, dignity, and pride for indigenous peoples.

Michael also serves as Secretary of the Board of SIKAT (School of Indigenous Knowledge and Traditions) and Community Coordinator of the Dreamweaver Collection International. These roles support livelihoods, preserve heritage, and promote the passing down of indigenous knowledge.



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The impact of Michael's work is seen in children who stay in school, families who find support through community projects, and indigenous peoples who see their heritage respected and celebrated. His volunteerism is not just about programs, but a way of life that brings together education, culture, environment, and community empowerment.

What sets him apart is his steadfast commitment and inclusive leadership. He inspires others to volunteer, forge partnerships with government and civil society, and turn challenges into opportunities for shared progress.

Through the T'boli Community Library and Culture Hub, outreach and education programs, solar light projects, and youth mentorship, Michael has touched lives in ways that echo far beyond Lake Sebu. His efforts contributes to the advancement of quality education, reduction of inequalities, expansion of access to clean energy, and strengthening of communities, all while keeping culture at the heart of development.

For more than two decades, he has shown that true volunteerism is an act of love. It is love for people, love for culture, and love for the community that shaped him. Michael Angelo Langgong Yambok's story is a living testament that when one gives back to where he belongs, he gives hope, dignity, and a brighter future to all.



VOLUNTARY WORKS

1

T'boli Community Library and Culture Hub (2013 - present)

Michael's flagship initiative is the T'boli Community Library and Culture Hub. This is the first community library in Region XII and sits on family-owned land in Sitio Upper Kawig, Barangay Poblacion, Lake Sebu. What started in 2013 with just a few donated books has turned into a sustainable place for learning and culture. To date, the hub has served 300 beneficiaries, covering children, youth, and other community members. The hub offers **free access to books, literacy sessions, cultural workshops, summer reading and arts camps, dance lessons, and artisan demonstrations**. It also serves as a venue for small gatherings and offers homestay accommodations, making it a vibrant space that strengthens both education and heritage. By bringing resources closer to communities, the hub has improved literacy, nurtured a love for reading, and inspired youth to remain rooted in their cultural identity. More than a library, it stands as a living testament to cultural preservation and community empowerment, contributing directly to SDG 4 on Quality Education and SDG 11 on Sustainable Cities and Communities.

Outside of Lake Sebu, the T'boli Community Library and Culture Hub serves as a model that can be copied in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas. It demonstrates that with passion, volunteer work, and community-driven efforts, underserved areas can build sustainable spaces for learning, culture, and shared growth.



T'boli Community Library and Culture Hub





VOLUNTARY WORKS

2

We Care, We Share Program



September 7–8, 2024 – We Care, We Share Program; Distributed school supplies, slippers, and warm arroz caldo to the ancestral home of the Gentle Manobo-Tasaday people at Sitio Lemdel, Brgy. Ned, Lake Sebu



September 7–8, 2024 – We Care, We Share Program; Distributed school supplies, slippers, and warm arroz caldo to the children of Tasaday Elementary School (Blit Extension)



March 10, 2022 – We Care, We Share Program; Conducted donation drive for affected families of flash flood in Tau Sbu, Lake Sebu

We Care, We Share Program (2020–present): Reaching over 500 beneficiaries in 19 barangays of Lake Sebu, this program distributed school supplies, provided meals, and conducted tree planting and community outreach, directly contributing to SDG 2: Zero Hunger, SDG 4: Quality Education, and SDG 15: Life on Land.

The We Care, We Share program also raises community cohesion through kumustahan sessions that gives families, youth, and IP groups in GIDA areas a voice and platform for shared solutions. Additionally, its tree-planting efforts promote environmental responsibility and long-term sustainability among the younger generation.

VOLUNTARY WORKS

3 Alay Balik Eskwela (2022- present)

With Michael as the head, this initiative aimed at facilitating a smooth transition back to school. Supporting 200 students annually through school kits, workshops, and motivational sessions, helping ensure that no child in far-flung areas is left behind, in alignment with SDG 4: Quality Education and SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities.



4

VOLUNTARY WORKS

Give Love on Christmas Day

(2013- present)



This initiative has touched the lives of 20 households in the far-flung sitios of Lake Sebu. What makes this initiative extraordinary is how it reverses the traditional practice of caroling. Instead of asking for gifts, he and his fellow volunteers bring Christmas packs to households. For families who often struggle to prepare for Noche Buena, these simple packages bring not only food but also dignity, hope, and the assurance that they are remembered. Beyond easing their holiday burden, the initiative strengthens the spirit of bayanihan, compassion, and a genuine sense of belongingness in the community, aligned with SDG 1: No Poverty and SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being. For many, it has transformed Christmas into a season not just of receiving, but of being valued and cared for.



April 23-24, 2021 - Installation of Solar Lights at Sitio Talaytay and Sitio Botong Long Lake Sebu



May 21, 2021 - Installation of Solar Lights at Sitio Tbeeng, and Sitio Kangko Lake Sebu



February 21, 2021 - Installation of Solar Lights at Sitio Bohung Lake Sebu

VOLUNTARY WORKS

5 Layag Hendon (2005- present)

Layag Hendon or Lights of Hope is one of the longest-running initiatives of Mr. Yambok. It started with him providing ten solar street lights in 2005. Through his donation drive and fundraising events, his team has already distributed a total of 70 solar lights across the far-flung communities in Lake Sebu. Beyond illumination, this project symbolizes his vision of providing not only physical light to households but also hope, security, and optimism to communities, contributing to SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy and SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities.



November 19-20, 2020 - Installation of Solar Lights at Sitio Tablisong, Lake Sebu



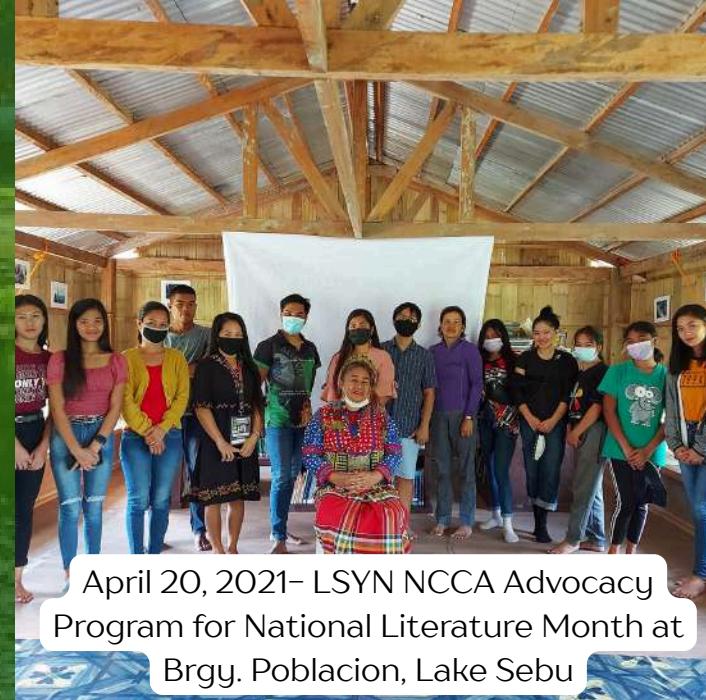
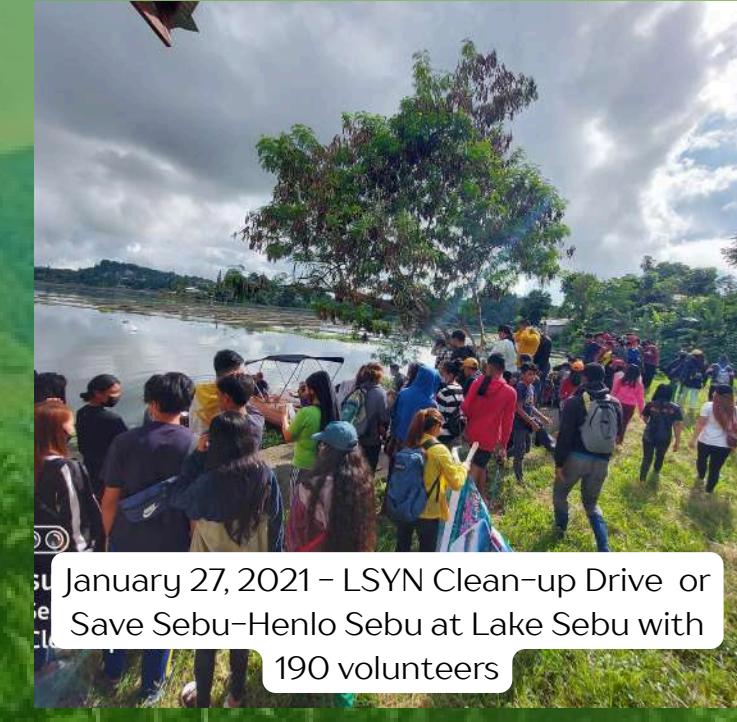
November 14, 2020 - Installation of Solar Lights at Sitio Lemsobuy, Lake Sebu

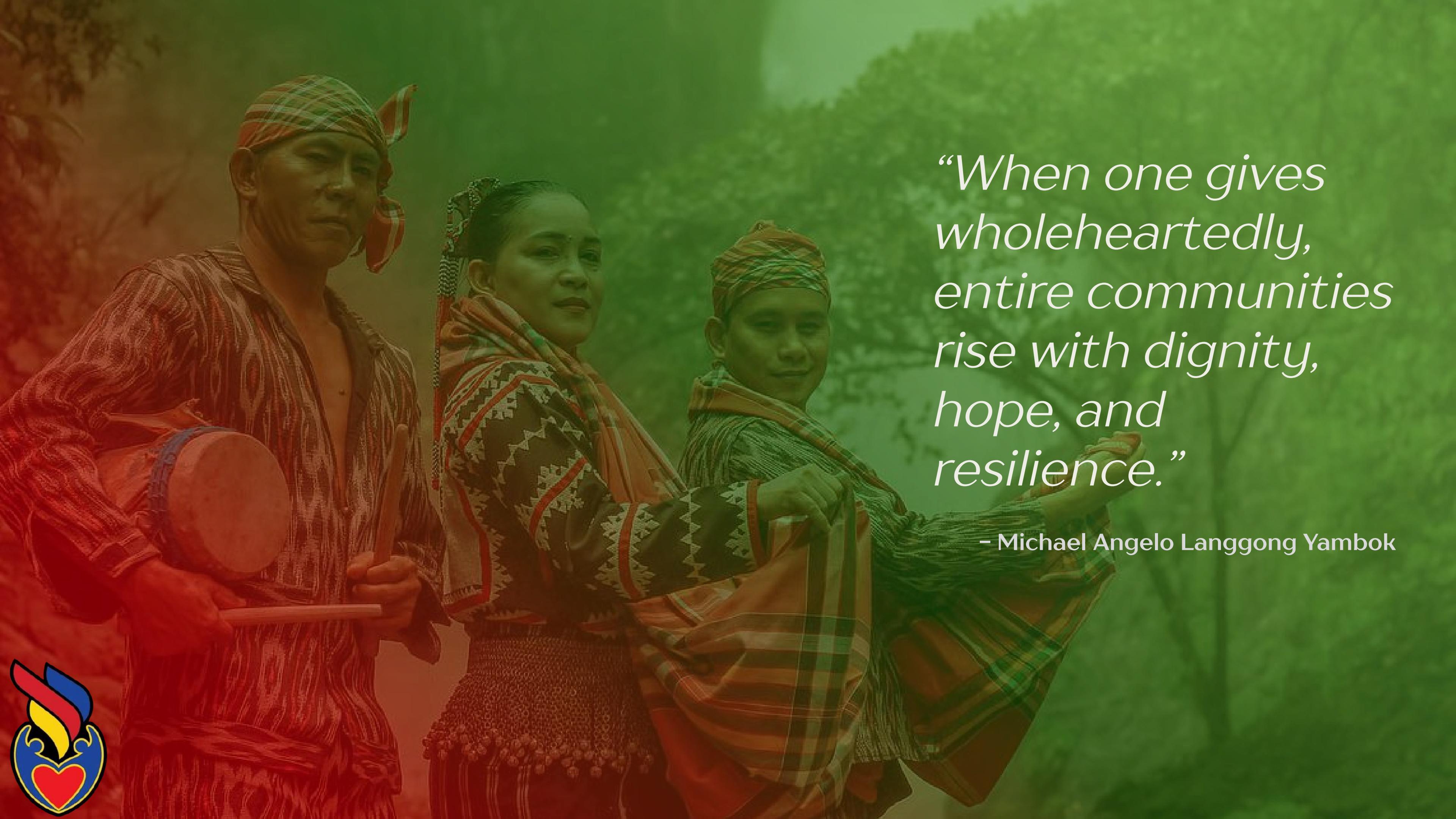


February 21, 2021 - Installation of Solar Lights at Sitio Bohung Lake Sebu

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Various Outreach Programs and Voluntary Works of Lake Sebu Youth Network, Inc.





“When one gives wholeheartedly, entire communities rise with dignity, hope, and resilience.”

- Michael Angelo Langgong Yambok



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Department of Economy, Planning, and Development Regional Office XII*

Thank you!

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMY,
PLANNING, AND DEVELOPMENT
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