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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **For Immediate Release**

#### **Empowering women and inmates: sewing for a cause**

**March 30, 2018, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan.** Two sets of skills trainings on sewing Cockatoo and other wildlife keychains were completed simultaneously on March 25-27, 2018. The skills training engaged both active local partners of the Katala Foundation (KFI) in conserving the Philippine Cockatoo and its habitat in the island province of Palawan.

*“Instead of wasting time doing nothing at home and getting bored, I thank Katala Foundation for this opportunity to be useful in conservation and raise awareness”,* says Kgd. Reynita Duguran, one of the twelve women partners from Narra and Puerto Princesa who completed the 3-day training hosted by Bgy. Luzviminda, Puerto Princesa City through its Bgy. Captain Hon. Angelita Dalma. Of the 12, six women partners from Narra, Palawan, pilot site of the Philippine Cockatoo Conservation Program implemented by the KFI. Narra holds up to 40% of the wild population of the critically endangered Philippine Cockatoo globally.

Meanwhile, 20 inmates from the Iwahig Prison and Penal Farm (IPPF) in Puerto Princesa City successfully completed the skills training finishing nearly 70 pieces of cockatoo and hornbill keychains. The participants who belong to the therapeutic community were enthusiastic and very receptive of the training which was held inside the medium security compound. This initiative offers opportunities for persons deprived of liberty (PDL) to prepare themselves once out of incarceration and better integrate themselves into the outside community.

The German Embassy and members of the German-Philippine Chamber of Commerce mainly sponsored the trainings together with the award funds from Whitley Fund for Nature. Trainors were Melanie Tan and Trinket Constantino from Manila who are both active birders in the Philippines.

For more information, please contact Indira Widmann, Katala Foundation, P.O. Box 390, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan or at [idlacerna@yahoo.com](mailto:idlacerna@yahoo.com) and visit our homepage at [www.philippinecockatoo.org](http://www.philippinecockatoo.org).

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Editor's Note:

- Katala Foundation, Inc. (KFI) uses the endemic Philippine Cockatoo as its flagship species to achieve its vision of conserving biodiversity with the active community involvement.
- The KFI works with the Iwahig Prison and Penal Farm (IPPF), Municipalities of Narra, Dumaran, Balabac, the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development, DENR-CENRO Puerto Princesa City, for the protection and conservation of the Philippine Cockatoo, associated flora and fauna and its habitats.
- Pictures attached: CREDIT TO KATALA FOUNDATION INC.



Participants, facilitators and resource persons with their first product, Philippine Cockatoo and Hornbill hand-stitched keychains. ©KFI



Participants from Bgy. Luzviminda cutting the cockatoo patterns





Trainer Melanie Tan patiently teaching one-on-one with the participants.



Sample products of Palawan Hornbill chains for Day 1



Sample products of Philippine Cockatoo keychains for Day 1





Resource Speakers instructing the inmate from Iwahig Prison and Penal Farm



Inmates carefully hand-stitching the materials.