

The role of consulate general in Davao City in strengthening Indonesia identity among the diaspora in Mindanao: An analysis of cultural diplomacy practices

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ABSTRACT

Most of the people of Indonesian descent (PIDs) lived in the Mindanao region of the Southern Philippines. they lived there for a long time, which makes them adapt and blend in with the Filipino environment. With assimilation, there is often a gradual loss of Indonesian pride and knowledge. . This article aims to examine the role played by the Indonesian Consulate General in Davao City as the Indonesian government's intangible representative abroad in enhancing the national identity and cultural identity of Person of Indonesian Descent (PIDs) in Mindanao. This article uses grand theory Nasionalism and also will be supported by various findings of previous research data (socio-cultural journals), official websites, and books related to nation and nationalism and also interviews conducted with Ms. Yanti Silalahi, as Consul for Information, Social, and Cultural Functions of the Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia Davao City as data reinforcement of this research. The findings show that the programs of the Consulate General in Davao significantly contribute to strengthening the sense of national pride and belonging among the Indonesian diaspora. Through various programs run by the Consulate General in Davao City such as cultural promotion programs, education programs, and community engagement initiatives, the Consulate General acts as a key institution in preserving Indonesia's cultural and national identity. One of the most impactful programs is the Indonesian School Davao, which is run by the Consulate General of Indonesia Davao to become one of the learning platforms of Indonesian culture for PIDs.

Keywords:

nationalism; Indonesian diaspora; KJRI Davao City

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INTRODUCTION

The first significant wave of Indonesian migration occurred in the early 1900s, but migration to Philippine shores has been documented since the 17th century (Manigbas, 2016). Many members of the Sangir and Marore clans from North Sulawesi migrated to the Balut and Saranggani Islands in Davao del Sur province due to the close maritime border with the Mindanao coast. Indonesia and the Philippines began delineating their borders after both gained their independence. But the boundaries did not prevent movement of people along the border, as they believed that the process of delineating the boundaries was arbitrary. This has led to a range of problems for people living along the border. Such issues can have an impact on the nationalism of those who have lived outside Indonesia for a long time (Faaliha & Azizah, 2024). This highlights the importance of strengthening a sense of national identity among citizens abroad.

National identity is an important foundation for every citizen. There are 8,745 people of Indonesian descent called PIDs (Person of Indonesian Descent) living in Mindanao. Most of them live in Mindanao without proper documents. Therefore, they have many limitations in accessing their rights. Although PIDs or people of Indonesian descent continue to identify themselves as Indonesians, this does not mean that they are Indonesian citizens. This is because they do not have identity documents that prove they are Indonesian citizens with official documents such as birth certificates and ID cards (Muh. et al., 2023). The impact of the absence of citizenship status, there are limitations on the right to life that affect the social life faced by PID's. Because most PID's do not have legal documents, they have weak life rights.

Nationalism is important to everyone. Some scholars have highlighted its benefits, stating that nationalism can unite different communities and foster "horizontal brotherhood" within a nation (Fossati, 2021). Nationalism itself is a quality that distinguishes one nation or state from another. It encompasses a person's strong sense of unity and nationalism, regardless of their actual citizenship status. The nation's culture, traditions, and distinctive features such as local languages, dances, music, and cultural components constitute national identity. In addition, a sense of nationalism also results from a country's desire to stand out from other countries and from its citizens' desire to be recognized as important around the world (Rengganis et al., 2023). One factor in the loss of knowledge of national cultural identity is the process of cultural acculturation that occurs when diaspora populations live in distant places. The diaspora's long stay abroad encourages a steady change in identity, alternating between their original identity and the identity they develop in the new place. Many of them have lived in the Philippines since birth and some of them have never even set foot in Indonesia. They mingle in their environment, which makes them adapt and merge with Filipino citizens. With the assimilation that occurs, it often causes a slow loss of pride in their cultural heritage and knowledge (cultural belonging) (Rengganis et al., 2023). It is the duty and obligation of the Indonesian government and educators who have access to the Southern Philippines to educate the Indonesian community there about Indonesia to enhance their national identity. The Indonesian Consulate General in Davao as a representative of the Indonesian government conducts various programs and efforts to strengthen national identity in PIDs in Mindanao.

The study of nationalism has been discussed by Rengganis et al. (2023) who stated about the role of community service in shaping national identity in General Santos City. Aspinal (2016) identifies the forces driving the rise of contemporary nationalism, especially the impact of democratization and also a deeper sense of insecurity about Indonesia's achievements.

In understanding the importance of strengthening nationalism among the Indonesian diaspora in Mindanao, the background of this study has outlined how global mobility and cross-cultural interactions can affect national identity. The Indonesian Consulate General in Davao, as a representative of the Indonesian government, has a strategic role in maintaining and strengthening national ties among Indonesian citizens residing abroad. National identity in the Indonesian diaspora is a complex and evolving phenomenon shaped by historical migration, cultural heritage and government involvement (Smith, 1993). National Identity, highlights how language, customs, and cultural symbols contribute to the strengthening of national identity. These components are crucial for the Indonesian diaspora to remain connected to their homeland.

For Person of Indonesian Descent (PIDs) in Mindanao, maintaining a connection to Indonesian cultural roots while integrating into Philippine society presents both challenges and opportunities. Talampas (2015) in his research on "Indonesian Diaspora Identity Construction", discusses how the Indonesian diaspora revived the culture of Indonesian culture such as tamo, tulude, and jontra with the Filipino population. They conduct mixed marriages, obtain facilities in the Filipino language, and integrate socially with the local population living in less developed areas and they still consider themselves to be Indonesians. Likewise, the analysis conducted by Berridge & James (2023) discusses how the Balinese diaspora, Indonesia in shaping Indonesian cultural identity through the preservation and implementation of Balinese values, traditions and culture in Europe. The Balinese diaspora in Europe serves as a compelling example of how Indonesian cultural identity can be preserved and promoted abroad through the continued practice of Balinese values, traditions, and cultural expressions. Similarly, in the context of Mindanao, the role of the Indonesian Consulate (KJRI) becomes crucial in supporting the formation and reinforcement of national identity among the Indonesian diaspora, particularly the Persons of Indonesian Descent (PIDs). Through cultural diplomacy, education, and community engagement, the KJRI helps ensure that a sense of belonging to Indonesia remains strong, even across national borders.

Meanwhile, Rengganis et al. (2023) also highlights how the Indonesian Diaspora, which is scattered in various parts of the world, has great potential to support the development of national identity. Indonesian Diasporas balance their national identity with assimilation into their new communities. This research also discusses the diaspora's reference to dual citizenship policies, analyzing the opportunities and challenges that arise and his research discusses the consequences of the presence of the Indonesian diaspora on human security. The presence of the Indonesian diaspora in the Philippines has an impact on the dynamics of individual, community and regional security. Discusses the difficulties faced by the diaspora in the Philippines such as assimilation issues, availability of educational and medical resources, and labeling. Regardless of viewpoints, national identity is something that must be prioritized. The leaders of all nation states act rationally in pursuit of the state's goals, i.e. the state adopts policies that its leaders believe advance the welfare of its people (Mediawan & Maksum, 2022).

Muhsin et al. (2023) this research discusses how the role of Davao international community service in the Philippines restores a sense of nationalism among children of Indonesian descent, with several projects carried out by students. Likewise, Research conducted by Rengganis et al. (2023) this research discusses the role of Community Service in strengthening National Identity. Community service here uses a model of civic education that includes three main components, namely civic knowledge, skills, and identity. According to this study, the community service program can increase the sense of nationalism of the

Indonesian diaspora. The importance of civic education for the Indonesian diaspora is to overcome the identity crisis experienced by diaspora members living abroad.

Research analyzing the role of the Indonesian Consulate General in strengthening nationalism in Davao Indonesian School students has been researched by **Faaliha & Azizah (2024)** highlighting how the Indonesian Consulate General Davao City's program programs in increasing the sense of nationalism of students at the Davao Indonesian School. The activities carried out by the Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia Davao City to foster a sense of love for the country among students of the Indonesian School Davao include the introduction of Indonesian language and culture, competitions, motivational speeches, and the enactment of regulations that require students to speak Indonesian. The students at the Indonesian School Davao demonstrate a strong sense of nationalism as a result of this program.

Various studies have highlighted the state of national identity of PID's and various efforts to enhance national identity by PID's in Mindanao, but none have discussed how the role of the Consulate General of Indonesia Davao in enhancing national identity and cultural identity in Mindanao, especially in the enclaves of Indonesian citizens in the work area of the Consulate General of Indonesia Davao City, Mindanao. Understanding the dynamics of nationalism in Person of Indonesian Descent, along with the assimilation of indigenous Philippine culture, the Indonesian diaspora, PID's in Mindanao, struggle to maintain their national identity. The Indonesian Consulate General in Davao City as a representative institution of the Indonesian government plays an important role in trying to enhance the sense of patriotism and national identity through various initiatives and programs undertaken. Taking into account the context, this paper seeks to critically analyze the role of the Indonesian Consulate General in Davao City in promoting a sense of nationalism and reinforcing cultural identity among persons of Indonesian descent residing in Mindanao. By situating the discussion within the broader scholarly discourse on diaspora, identity formation, and the functions of diplomatic institutions, this paper aims to offer a nuanced contribution to existing literature. It specifically underscores how the consulate operates not merely as a political or administrative entity, but as a cultural intermediary that actively engages in the construction and preservation of national identity within transnational communities and answer the question How is the role of the Consulate General in Davao City in fostering cultural identity and national identity in PIDs in Mindanao through the work programs carried out? The argument of this research is that the Indonesian Consulate General in Davao City as a representative of Indonesia in Mindanao, Southern Philippines has an important role in developing a sense of nationalism and building cultural identity in Person Of Indonesian Descent in Mindanao through various programs run by the Indonesian Consulate General in Davao City from 2024 to the present.

METHOD

To analyze the role played by the Indonesian Consulate General in Davao City, the author uses the grand theory of nationalism which has a correlation with the author's goal of further analyzing the role of the Indonesian Consulate General in Davao City in promoting a sense of nationalism and reinforcing cultural identity among persons of Indonesian descent residing in Mindanao. This theory was chosen to deeply understand the role of the Indonesian Consulate General in Davao City in fostering national identity among the Indonesian diaspora in Mindanao, especially those classified as Persons of Indonesian Descent (PIDs). The use of this grand theory will also be supported by various findings of previous research data (socio-cultural journals), official websites, and books related to nation and nationalism which are then further analyzed related to the factors of erosion of

national identity and cultural knowledge in diasporic communities abroad. and also interviews conducted with Ms. Yanti Silalahi, as Consul for Information, Social, and Cultural Functions of the Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia Davao City as data reinforcement of this research.

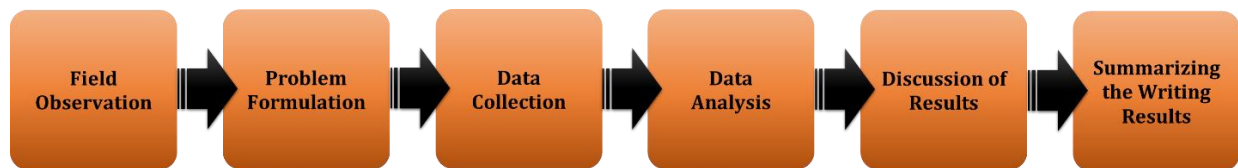


Figure 1. Research method framework

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

8,745 PIDs Indonesian diaspora communities have settled for generations in the Mindanao region, shaping new lives but still carrying traces of the archipelago's cultural identity and mostly PID'S in Mindanao, have limited knowledge regarding national and cultural insight of Indonesia as the country of origin. The situation of People of Indonesian Descent (PID) in Mindanao highlights the complexity of national identity in the context of cultural assimilation. Nationalism is an important thing for everyone to have. Ms. Yanti as the Consul of Social and Cultural Information Function said "In this context, the role of the state through its diplomatic representatives becomes very important, not only in providing administrative services, but also in maintaining and strengthening the national identity of citizens abroad. Moreover, PIDs live in remote areas that present limited access to an inclusive and independent life, both in terms of education, information, and socio-political involvement."

The Consulate General continues to foster emotional connections between the diaspora and the homeland through a number of work programs, including the introduction of Indonesian education, cultural preservation through arts and languages. In addition to fostering a sense of commitment to Indonesia, these activities serve as a tool for raising understanding of the value of national identity in a multicultural setting. The author of this study thoroughly examines in depth how the Consulate General in Davao oversees and fulfills its responsibility to bolster nationalism among the Indonesian diaspora in Mindanao, as well as the degree to which these initiatives are successful in reviving a sense of nationalism that may have started to wane with time and distance. In an effort to increase the sense of nationalism among the Indonesian diaspora in Mindanao, which we usually call PIDs, the majority of whom have limited knowledge related to Indonesia, the Indonesian Consulate General in Davao City held several programs to increase nationality Identity and fostering Indonesian Culture.

Consulate General Davao City's efforts to foster and strengthen cultural identity through cultural events

As one of the efforts made by the Consulate General in Davao City in fostering and strengthening cultural identity through cultural activities, the Consulate General routinely organizes cultural events to maintain a sense of nationalism in PIDs in Mindanao, such as the holding of an event named "*Sangihe Traditional Celebration - Tulude in Quilantang, General Santos City with the theme "Indahnya Kerukunan" (Beautiful Harmony)*". Tulude in Quilantang, General Santos City with the theme "Indahnya Kerukunan" reflects a tangible form of cultural diplomacy that aims to strengthen Indonesia's national identity abroad and build harmonious relationships with local communities. Tulude is a typical tradition of the Sangihe community that symbolizes gratitude for the year that has passed and hope for the

year to come. During the Tulude event, the Sangir community engages in various rituals and traditional ceremonies involving singing, dancing, and other customary processions. Mr. Harya K. Sidharta, consul of protocol and consular functions stated that the Consulate General of Indonesia Davao City as the representative of Indonesia always strives to preserve, appreciate, and advance Indonesia's cultural heritage as a basis for fostering peace in the international world. Tulude is a unique opportunity to explore and honor Sangihe's extraordinary ideals (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, 2023). The implementation of this celebration in the Philippines is part of an effort to maintain regional culture while promoting Indonesian culture in the international realm (Pourrajabali & Almasi, 2015).

The theory of nationalism can be linked to cultural diplomacy in the context of how a country builds and maintains its national identity in the midst of globalization and rapid cultural exchange. According to the theory of nationalism, national identity is formed through a nation's collective awareness of its history, culture, language and values that distinguish it from other nations as a means to achieve political and social goals. In this case, cultural diplomacy acts as a tool to strengthen and promote national identity in the international sphere. The concept of soft power, introduced by Joseph Nye, emphasizes that a country's power comes not only from military or economic strength, but also from the ability to attract and influence other countries through cultural values and ideas (Mbira, 2024). Soft Power applied through cultural diplomacy allows countries to introduce culture, art, and technology as part of a cultural nationalism strategy. In this case, the Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia (KJRI) functions as a government actor that applies soft power through cultural activities to increase mutual understanding between Indonesia and other countries. This shows how cultural diplomacy can strengthen national identity while building better international relations.

Nowadays, cultural exchange can happen very quickly and deeply. Promoting a country's culture is known as cultural diplomacy including science and technology, but most highlighted is the spread of arts and culture (Berridge & James, 2023). As we know the swift and significant cultural interchange of today is both a difficulty and an opportunity. Openness to other cultures may, on the one hand, broaden perspectives and create a more accepting community. However, if not counterbalanced by initiatives to protect one's own culture, it may potentially weaken national identity. The Sangihe-Tulude traditional celebration event conducted by the Consulate General of Indonesia in Davao City reflects the current global reality where boundaries between countries are increasingly blurred, especially in the context of culture. The Indonesian Consulate General in Davao City promoting Indonesian culture is not just a matter of introducing traditional dances or specialties, but more than that, it is part of a long-term strategy to strengthen a sense of belonging and pride in Indonesian identity, even in a land far from the archipelago. This not only strengthens national identity but also creates space for deeper intercultural dialogue. For example, activities such as art festivals or music performances can help reduce feelings of "otherness" among different countries, by highlighting shared experiences and values. In the context of the role of the Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia (KJRI), cultural diplomacy is a form of implementation of nationalism in international relations. The Consulate General acts as a state actor that not only introduces Indonesian culture but also strengthens the national identity of Indonesian communities abroad. As one of the efforts made by the Consulate General in Davao City in fostering and strengthening cultural identity through cultural activities, the Consulate General routinely organizes cultural events to maintain a sense of nationalism in PIDs in Mindanao. Bernadette et al. (2022) citing the words of Milton Cummings, he said that cultural diplomacy is the process of exchanging

ideas, information, art, and other cultural elements between countries and peoples around the world in an effort to increase understanding of each other. Soft Power is a bridge to facilitate increased mutual understanding. Soft Power can involve both government and non-government actors. The role of the Consulate General here is as a government actor who undergoes Soft Power. The Consulate General as a state actor who spreads through cultural activities to influence other actors to increase mutual understanding. This builds communication between international relations actors. The Indonesian Consulate General as an Indonesian representative institution carries out several soft diplomacy efforts to improve national identity in PIDs in Minadano through the cultural event Sangihe culture in Tulude. With the theme "*Indahnya Kerukunan*", this celebration also emphasizes that nationalism is not always exclusive, but can be a bridge to build harmony in diversity. In an increasingly connected world, cultural diplomacy like this is an important tool to strengthen relations between nations and show that national identity can evolve dynamically without losing its cultural essence.

The Consulate General supports the preservation of the Indonesian language to facilitate communication among Indonesians.

Most PIDs, especially children and youth of Indonesian descent in Mindanao, do not recognize or understand the language because they have lived away from Indonesia since birth. Thus, it is necessary to introduce Indonesian traditions and culture so that PIDs can be closer to their ethnic roots. Therefore, the Indonesian Consulate General's efforts in supporting the preservation of the Indonesian language through programs such as KPDI and SID is a tangible form of cultural nationalism that aims to strengthen the attachment of the Indonesian diaspora to their ethnic roots and national identity. This effort is in line with Indonesia's soft power strategy that emphasizes cultural diplomacy to increase Indonesia's credibility and influence in the international arena.

Indonesian Davao School (SID)

One notable initiative is the establishment of Sekolah Indonesia Davao (SID) which has been in operation since 1968. SID provides formal education from elementary to high school level for children of Indonesian descent living in the Southern Philippines, including those at risk of statelessness. The school serves as a means to instill Indonesian cultural values and national identity to its students (Nurcahyadi, 2023). Indonesian Davao School (SID), which operates under the auspices of the Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia (KJRI) in Davao City, is also one of the representative forms of soft diplomacy for the enhancement of cultural knowledge in PIDs. Through SID, the Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia in Davao City actively promotes and socializes Indonesian culture, by utilizing this institution as a platform for outreach and cultural exchange through the curriculum and activities owned and run by SID. SID provides many nationality activities and also provides civic education. SID also provides various books in Indonesian that are given to students at SID. It is intended that by reading these Indonesian books, students can learn Indonesian and develop a stronger sense of national identity (Faaliha & Azizah, 2024). Socialization and promotion of Indonesian culture to the local foreign community is actively carried out by the Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia in Davao City. Located in Davao City, Philippines, Sekolah Indonesia Davao is an Indonesian overseas school that actively promotes and fosters Indonesian culture. The school also uses this as a way to instill a stronger sense of nationalism in its students by introducing Indonesian culture.

In an effort to increase the sense of nationalism in SID students, the Indonesian Consulate General in Davao also facilitated 7 students from Universitas Lambung Mangkurat

(ULM) and Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia (UPI) to conduct cultural arts and sports workshops at Sekolah Indonesia Davao on October 13, 2023. Traditional dance, pencak silat, traditional Indonesian singing, and kuring sheep gymnastics were some of the performances given by ULM and UPI students Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (2023) with this workshop, the Consulate General of Indonesia Davao hopes that it can be a means of motivation for SID students to be able to continue their education according to their respective talents and interests, including in the fields of sports, arts and education. And the Consulate General hopes that this can be a means to increase the sense of nationalism and increase cultural knowledge in SID students. This activity reflects the thinking of Smith (1993) who emphasizes that nationalism is not only shaped by political factors but also by cultural and historical elements that are passed down from generation to generation.

Indonesian Basic Knowledge Course (KPDJ)

KPDJ is one of the efforts to preserve the Indonesian language as a unifying language, national insight education, and strengthening the relationship between the Indonesian diaspora and the homeland taught by pamong-pamong who have been provided by the Consulate General in Davao City. The KPDJ ensures that Indonesian children living in the Philippines remain attached to their culture and national identity.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (2024) on the other hand, the Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia (KJRI) also has a strategic role in supporting the sustainability of KPDJ and SID, especially in maintaining the existence of Indonesian language and culture abroad. The Consulate General often provides facilities for KPDJ programs implemented in Indonesian diaspora enclaves in Mindanao. In addition, the Consulate General also supports various cultural activities aimed at introducing Indonesian language and culture to the diaspora and the international community. The Consulate General's efforts in organizing Indonesian language exams is also an important step to ensure that young Indonesians abroad retain their mother tongue as a key communication tool that strengthens national identity. KPDJ which is one of the work programs from the Consulate General, the preservation of Indonesian language and culture abroad can be maintained.



Figure 2. Personall documentation, KPDJ peer evaluation in Glan, Mindanao

After direct observation, the Consulate General in Davao City also conducts regular evaluation and monitoring of the Pamong Pamong assigned to the KPDJ Program. KPDJ can help build a community of nationality were Indonesians, despite being away from their homeland, still have a strong attachment to Indonesia. In addition, these efforts also contribute to strengthening communication and unity among Indonesians abroad, while ensuring that the younger generation retains a high sense of nationalism.



Figure 3. Personal documentation, KPDI peer evaluation in general Santos City, Mindanao

According to Gellner (2006) nationalism is a product of modernization that requires cultural homogenization through education as the main means in building a nation's collective consciousness. In the perspective of nationalism theory, the role of Sekolah Indonesia Davao (SID) and Indonesian Basic Knowledge Course (KPDI) in the Philippines can be linked to the concept of cultural nationalism which emphasizes the importance of language, culture and education in maintaining national identity. SID and KPDI functions as an educational institution that not only provides academic lessons, but also teaches Indonesian national values to Indonesian diaspora (PIDs). Thus, SID and KPDI not only functions as an educational institution, but also as a strategic tool in strengthening nationalism among the Indonesian diaspora. Through education, language, and culture, SID ensures that national values are kept alive and passed on to the next generation, even though they are far away from their homeland.

Language not only functions as a means of communication but also as a symbol of national unity and identity. Language can be seen as the identity of a nation, and can also be the basis of communication for humans and can easily communicate with others. Language is also a bridge that unites tribes and cultures (Bulan, 2019). This reflects the thinking of Smith (1993) who emphasizes that nationalism is not only shaped by political factors but also by cultural and historical elements that are passed down from generation to generation. In the case of the Indonesian diaspora in the Philippines, the role of language becomes even more important as it serves as a bridge that connects them to Indonesian culture, values and traditions. Programs such as SID and KPDI run by the Consulate General in Davao City are vital cultural and educational strategies. In the absence of which civic education and the strengthening of national identity become highly relevant. Without concrete efforts to nurture a sense of nationhood, the diaspora generation could potentially lose their sense of identity and feel disconnected from their cultural roots.

In addition language maintenance becomes key to maintaining its collective identity. National goals in increasing the credibility of Indonesian culture, RI abroad, and human resources can be achieved through Soft Power diplomacy, particularly in the fields of education and culture (Soesilowati, 2017). Through language-based cultural diplomacy and citizenship education, the Indonesian Consulate General can help PIDs maintain emotional and intellectual ties with Indonesia, even though they are far from their homeland. Benedict Anderson's idea in *Imagined Communities*, which states that national communities can still be imagined and strengthened through cultural elements, including language and education (Anderson, 2006). Thus, the Indonesian Consulate General's efforts in preserving Indonesian among PIDs are not just about maintaining communication, but also a nationalism strategy to ensure that the diaspora generation continues to have a strong attachment to Indonesia. Cultural diplomacy conducted through education in Indonesian language and traditions not

only increases awareness of national identity, but also strengthens Indonesia's position on the international stage as a country with a rich culture and history. The Consulate General actively supports the preservation of the Indonesian language to facilitate communication among Indonesians in Mindanao through “*Sekolah Indonesia Davao (SID)*” and “*Indonesian Basic Knowledge Course (KPDJ)*”.

The Indonesian Consulate General in Davao City synergizes with community service programs employing civic education models. These models encompass civic knowledge, skills, and identity to strengthen the national identity of the Indonesian diaspora.

By integrating the civic education model in community service programs, the Consulate General of Indonesia Davao City plays a significant role in strengthening the national identity of the Indonesian diaspora in the Southern Philippines. This step not only ensures the attachment of the younger generation to their cultural roots but also prepares them to become active and responsible citizens. One such initiative is the “*Official Meeting with 12 students participating in the International Community Service Program (KKN) from Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta*”. Through this program, students engage with the Indonesian diaspora, providing educational activities that promote awareness of their cultural heritage, national values, and civic responsibilities. By integrating civic education into community service, the initiative fosters a deeper understanding of Indonesian identity, ensuring that the diaspora remains connected to their homeland while actively contributing to their local community in Mindanao.



Figure 4. Personal documentation, discussion between the community service and the Consulate General in Davao City regarding synergy learning for PIDs in Mindanao

Students who will carry out the Community Service Program (KKN), gave a brief explanation of the program they will carry out during their community service in the PIDs enclave in Mindanao. In their explanation, these students will educate the community starting from culture, and also the Indonesian language. The students also plan to educate the students of the Davao Indonesian School with Indonesian language, teaching batik, making traditional food, and conducting health evaluations while they are there. After direct observation, The Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia (KJRI) in Davao City has been active in strengthening the national identity of the Indonesian diaspora in the Southern Philippines through community service programs that adopt civic education models. This model encompasses civic knowledge, skills, and identity formation to instill national values in the younger generation of Indonesian descent. By integrating the civic education model in community service programs, the Consulate General of Indonesia Davao City plays a significant role in strengthening the national identity of the Indonesian diaspora in the

Southern Philippines. This step not only ensures the attachment of the younger generation to their cultural roots but also prepares them to become active and responsible citizens.

According to the theory of nationalism, national identity is formed through a collective awareness of shared history, culture, language, and values that distinguish one nation from another. Anthony Smith explained that nationalism can function as an ideology that demands the right to self-determination and as a behavior that reflects a shared identity (Agung, 2017). The Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia (KJRI) Davao City synergizes with community service programs that carry out their programs in various regions of Mindanao. Community service conducted in Mindanao conducts various civic education programs to strengthen the national identity of the Indonesian diaspora in Mindanao. The initiatives undertaken aim to foster civic knowledge, skills, and identity while promoting cultural integration and bilateral cooperation. One of the objectives of this synergy program is to increase access to education about Indonesia for PIDs in Mindanao's regional areas by involving students in the Community Service Program (KKN). The Consulate General in Davao also provides an opportunity for students to directly contribute to the development of the quality of education through the KKN program at Sekolah Indonesia Davao (SID).

The community service program conducted by KKN students plays a vital role in strengthening the national identity of the Indonesian diaspora in Mindanao. By teaching Indonesian culture and language, students help the PIDs community preserve their heritage and maintain a strong sense of national identity, despite being abroad. Multicultural education based on local wisdom serves as an effective strategy to reinforce these values. Additionally, the introduction of batik art not only provides new skills but also instills Indonesia's rich cultural values, fostering a sense of pride and deeper attachment to their homeland. Furthermore, this program promotes care and solidarity—core Indonesian values—that enhance social cohesion within the diaspora community, ensuring that their connection to Indonesia remains strong.

In addition, the synergy between the Consulate General in Davao City and the KKN program reflects cultural diplomacy efforts aimed at promoting cultural integration and bilateral cooperation between Indonesia and the Philippines. By improving access to education and knowledge about Indonesia for PIDs in Mindanao, the program not only maintains national identity but also facilitates harmonious integration within the local community. Thus, through the lens of nationalism theory, this community service program plays a significant role in fostering civic knowledge, skills, and identity, which in turn strengthens the national identity of the Indonesian diaspora in Mindanao. Education is one of the main means to instill this “national imagination”, especially in the Indonesian diaspora community in Mindanao who live in a different and multicultural social space. In other words, education becomes a tool that not only binds individuals to their nation, but also bridges cross-cultural understanding. It is in this context that I see Anderson's approach as very relevant—that the nation is not something static, but is formed, imagined, and strengthened through shared experiences, one of which is through education and the institutions that accommodate it. With the synergy between Community service UMY can be a learning platform for PIDs.

CONCLUSION

Of the 8,475 PIDs living in Mindanao, Southern Philippines, many of whom were predominantly born and raised in the Philippines and have no direct experience of life in Indonesia. This group tends to be more assimilated into the Philippine social environment, and their daily interactions are predominantly influenced by the local culture. Many of them reside in geographically remote and socially marginalized areas, where access to basic rights

and space for active participation in the life of the nation is severely limited. As an Indonesian diaspora, the Person of Indonesian Descent (PIDs) population in Mindanao suffers significant obstacles in preserving their national and cultural identity, according to this study. Their limited usage of the Indonesian language, ignorance of the country's history and ideals, and lack of involvement in Indonesian activities are all signs of their identity crisis, which goes beyond a loss of pride in their ancestry.

The program implemented by the Consulate General in Davao City in increasing the nationalism of the descendants of Indonesian citizens or Person of Indonesian Descent (PID) has been implemented. The programs implemented have certainly been adapted to the problems that occur in PIDs in Mindanao. The programs implemented can not only increase the knowledge of PIDs related to the Indonesian nation, but can increase the sense of Nationalism towards the Indonesian nation. By improving access to education and knowledge about Indonesia for PIDs in Mindanao, the program not only maintains national identity but also facilitates harmonious integration within the community of fellow nations despite being abroad.

However, the effectiveness of these programs has been uneven. One of the main challenges identified is the limited participation of third to fifth generation PIDs who have been deeply assimilated into Philippine society, as well as the lack of infrastructure and resources to support long-term sustainability programs. In addition, there are still limitations in reaching subgroups of PIDs who are scattered in rural areas or have limited access to official information and activities of the Consulate General. Given the limited digital infrastructure in some areas, the Consulate General could develop alternative information media such as periodic printed newsletters, local Indonesian language radio broadcasts, or the use of lightweight communication platforms such as WhatsApp and SMS to reach communities with limited internet access.

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