

## **MWSS Holds Cultural Sensitivity Training**

The MWSS-CO held its first ever Cultural Sensitivity Training at MWSS Bulwagan Hall together with the representatives of Manila Water Company, Inc. (MWCI) and Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (MWSI). The training, focused on Indigenous People's (IP) culture training and was facilitated by the National Commission on Indigenous People (NCIP) aiming for participants to acquire basic knowledge of the IP's culture and identity and become culturally sensitive bearers in the implementation of projects inside the ancestral domains of Dumagat and Remontado Indigenous Cultural Communities (ICCs) of Rizal and Quezon. This workshop was not just intended for the New Centennial Water Source - Kaliwa Dam Project (NCWS-KDP) but for all projects where MWSS interacts with ICCs.

The two-day interactive workshop started with a welcome message by MWSS Deputy Administrator (DA) for Engineering and Technical Operations Group Leonor C. Cleofas followed by opening remarks of Dir. Roberto L. Almonte, Regional Director for NCIP-Region IV. Subsequently, speakers such as Executive Director for NCIP Ed Rogelio Francisco Bantayan Jr., Dr. Angelica Caliba-Cachola, Ma. Theresa Santos, Dr. Carlos P. Buasen, Jr., Dr. Marie Grace T. Pascua delivered messages, and discussed expectation settings, understanding of IP, basics of culturally responsive projects and presented laws and concepts to familiarize the audience on IPs work and daily living routine.

The second day was marked by sharing on the culture of Dumagats and Remontados with resource speakers Conchita Calzado, Marcelino Tena, Marissa Villa, Angelo Sallidao and Joan Umli using interactive exercises to stimulate the audience and further enhance the learning experience.

Through respect, open-mind and compassionate attitude to the needs of cultural sensitivity, much could be achieved affirming the proposition that a culturally diverse populace could be diverse yet could act united towards national development.

