

## *Lake Sebu, here we come !*

“ You can’t claim to have been in General Santos City if you haven’t seen Lake Sebu ”. With this in mind, some conference participants led by PAARL President Fe Angela Verzosa were treated to an afternoon trip to Lake Seburon Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> of April, 2004.

On the way, the group passed by Polomolok, popularly known as DOLE country , owned by an American company exporting fruits like pineapple & papayas and vegetables like asparagus in cans. The participants were so much awed with the vast Dole plantation growing along the foot of Mt. Matutum to the national highway. Some participants even admitted it was their first time to see asparagus plants since they’re only familiar with the shoots.

On reaching Kablon Farm, we had a stop-over to buy guaples (guava apple simplified). Rain threatened to pour down but it failed to dampen the high spirit of the group amidst jokes and laughter, despite the uncomfortable ride. One hour from Koronadal City, the center of Region 12 and the capital of South Cotabato, the group had to make another stop over to give the cramp legs the much needed relief.

Negotiating the winding road of Matulas, we left Koronadal City behind, proceeding to Surallah, which is the start of our trail to Lake Sebu. Up, up and away and we’re now on top of the world slowly but surely moving till we reached the place.

Exceeding our expectations, the beauty of Lake Sebu compensated for all the inconvenience we suffered. The lake sits as a mountain basin, and we also learned that there were three lakes – lakes lahit, the smaller one, lake Sebu, the biggest, and lake Seleton, the deepest, which unfortunately was way out of our route.

We stayed for a while in a lake resort for a photo-stop, some sight-seeing and merienda, before proceeding to the nearby T’boli Museum. After more picture-taking of displayed artifacts, we stopped by a T’boli craft store, to buy T’nalak, and trinkets for pasalubong, and watch a spontaneous exhibition of songs and dances, while the women continued their weaving, . As the sun started going down, we began our way back to Gensan, making a side-trip to a durian garden just to be able to see some durian fruits hanging from trees. Tired, exhausted, and hungry we arrived back at Isla Parilla Resort for dinner and a quiet, cool, evening by the poolside.