

**TUBONG'S SOCIAL HISTORY: BACKGROUND, LYRIC ANALYSIS AND CUSTOM
OF PUTONG IN MARINDUQUE**
GEMARIE B. MANAO
SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS. MARINDUQUE STATE COLLEGE, BOAC, MARINDUQUE

Abstract: "Putong" which is known also as "Tubong" in some parts is a ceremony indigenous only to the island of Marinduque, Philippines. Literally, the word "putong" means to crown, is a song of thanksgiving, hope and prayer for a long, blessed life and held as a welcome or thanksgiving rite done through song and dance wherein guests are crowned and showered with flowers for good health and money for good luck. It is also done during birthdays, anniversaries, graduations or any special events that a person is thankful of and praying for a blessed path in life. It is only a small part of the island culture but with no one from any class of society being exempt to be honored with a crown of flowers bestowed upon an individual, it serves as the great island equalizer for all have equal shots at getting his or her crown and be showered with love and wishes for good luck, health and prosperity. It has been practiced in the island of Marinduque for over a century. There are numerous versions of the "Putong" in the province but the main ideas express through the song are similar. The original song-and-dance rituals used to last from 6 hours to a whole day, involving saints and "Maria" whose names must be invoked, followed by drinking tuba (coconut toddy), eating and merriment, using candles, floral crowns, incense and coins as props.