



# THE ASCLEPIAN VOICE

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**E**xperience is a way of holding onto time after it passes. Just as we are keeping memories when we visit new places, the experiences toward manhood deserve to be cherished as well.

As for the 114 boys from Brgy. Man-Up, Altavas, Aklan, their journey towards manhood was etched in their memories as the local barangay officials in coordination with Samahang Magdalo-Altavas Chapter and Health Assistance Brought Locally Once Needed (HABLON) organized an 'Operation Tuli', April 22, 2015 at the barangay hall.

Headed by Dr. Anastacio Rufon (OA Batch 11), who represents HABLON, resident members of the Order of Asclepius, John Christopher Luces from Batch Excelsior and staff nurses from St. Therese Hospital, took part in fulfilling the first step towards manhood of these young individuals: circumcision.

With the barangay session hall as an operating room suite, the said circumcision drive catered to boys aged 9-15 years of age from Brgy. Man-Up as well as from other nearby barangays.

Moreover, this activity was a first in the history of the barangay according to Punong Barangay Leticia B. Ureta. "Happy gid ako na we were able to organize this event sa amon barangay.", said the local barangay chief. It is also worthy to note that among the 114 boys, 4 of them were members of Indigenous People in the barangay.

"Manami kay successful ang ini nga event and we became part sa kabuhi sang mga bata nga ini." said Macario F. Almero Jr, Barangay Kagawad who is also a member of Samahang Magdalo-Altavas Chapter.

Indeed, knowing that what we have experienced, more or less, is what each of us amounts to, being part of the memory of these boys toward becoming a man, is as well worth treasuring.#

## From Boyhood to 'MAN-UP'!

BY: ALLEN ALIPEN

