

Malibkung

This story is a story of our parents about where Malibkung got its name.

There was in the beginning, this Malibkung district [had] five barangays: Barangay Gakab, Barangay Juljulaw, Barangay Talipan, Barangay Liwang (which is now the *poblacion*), Barangay Vinasalan. And [for] everything that they wanted to discuss, there was this password which was *mantatalipnung*. Now, this *mantatalipnung* [means] that they come together, they gather to make agreements, on what they want to do, what the problems are, especially when it comes to peace pacts. So then, when they send, whenever someone is sent by them, what they say [is], “*Mantatalipnung!*” The moment they say, “*mantatalipnung*,” they would know that the Malibkung *poblacion* in Liwang is where they would be gathering for it is like the center. For those who would come from Manapnap, er, Sokaw, Manapnap, Vinasalan, and those who would come from Gakab and Juljulaw, they would meet in Liwang. For Liwang is the name of their *poblacion*.

And all those people from then on, that was their password, when they would say “*Mantatalipnung*,” not many words are needed for they would gather here in the center, in Liwang. And that Liwang, in Spanish is, “*porta*.” In Ilocano, it is “*liwangan*,” for it is the first to be approached from the national road coming from Bangued which is the first one to be reached. That is why it would have been “*porta*” if it’s in Spanish, “*liwangan*” in Ilocano. “*Liwang*” the elders would say because this is what they would say when they would enter a barangay.

And there were these surveyors who were sent by the priests, and it just so happened that they were about to assemble. When they met in Liwang, those who were sent by the priests asked (for they were taking the names of places): “What is this the name of this place?” they said. But it so happened that those who were going to join the assembly, they were the ones, er, they were asked but they could not understand. But they just said, “*mantatalipnung*” or “*mantalipnung*.” Now, because the people back then were not schooled, they could not pronounce well [the word] *mantatalipnung*, for “*Mantatalipnung*” they would say here. And based on what those who came to get names heard, they wrote “Malibcong.”

And that is how Malibcong got its name, from the password “*mantatalipnung*.” *Mantatalipnung* means, they would have a meeting to discuss when they had other problems. For instance, when someone dies, that is... or killed by the enemy, they would assemble to discuss what they would do. And when they again would make a peace pact, that is where they would meet, where they would assemble, for they knew that that was the password when there was a meeting, or when there was something they wanted to talk about for the welfare of the community.

Malibcong is still part of Vyanaw. For those Malibcong people came here from “Mother Banao.” That Malibcong came from the Banao tribe. And that is where Malibcong got its name, which is due to the password “*mantatalipnung*.” That is the story of how Malibcong got its name.

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