



Saked Broom-making

KALINGA, KALINGA PROVINCE, NORTHERN LUZON ISLAND, NORTHERN PHILIPPINES. *Broom weaving is known as saked among the Kalinga in the town of Lubuagan, formerly the epicenter of Kalinga culture. This activity is purely a male occupation.*

THE TALAGADAW (broom) is woven from bamboo, *uway* (rattan) and wild reeds gathered from the nearby mountain and fields during April to July by men, often accompanied by male children. This is woven at any time and any day except Sunday, which is a day of rest.

When the stalks of wild reeds (*sagad*) begin to mature, these are gathered from the open fields and brought to the house in bundles. The reeds are properly selected; those that are not mature yet are discarded. These are dried in open air and then set aside for a time. About seventy pieces of reed stalks are bundled together to be used as the “sweeping” part of the broom. The bundle is arranged to spread out flat, then attached to a piece of thin T-shaped piece of bamboo. The flattened bundle is then interlaced and woven, evenly distributing the individual reeds to spread out, fan-like. A flat cord and *uway* are used in weaving from 90 centimeters below the connection from the main stem. The main stem, consisting

of layers of reeds of about 15 inches (two *changga*) long, which will serve as the handle, is tied together cylindrically. Five layers of *laga* (weave) in a one-under-one-over technique are done covering the entire handle. The *pakaw* (woven cord) is attached to the upper tip of the handle to serve as hook for hanging.

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