

DENR13 shifts to ‘greening economy’

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Butuan City — The regional office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) here is now shifting their program into a “green economy” by conducting massive tree planting in targeted 14,900 hectares in different locations in the five provinces and six cities in Caraga region.

The “green economy” program will strengthen the natural environment and provide well-paying and decent jobs to local communities, officials of the DENR 13 based here said.

Of the targeted wide lands in various parts of the region, the DENR 13 also targeted 5,000 hectares for bamboo plantation and 2,000 hectares for mangrove this year under the expanded National Greening program (NGP) of the government.

Bamboo is considered one of the fastest growing members of the grass family known to sequester as much as 400 percent of carbon per unit area while giving off 35 percent more oxygen than other trees. Both mangroves and bamboo can stabilize embankments and prevent erosion brought about by sea level rise which is one of the identified impacts of climate change.

DENR 13 officials here believe that shifting to green economy will create opportunities for inclusive growth, job creation and poverty reduction while implementing global warming and climate change mitigation.

“Green economy is taking care of the environment that all the Caraganons will truly benefit,” Regional Public Affairs Office chief Eric Herzon F. Gallego told The Manila Bulletin yesterday.

The expanded NGP is a government’s flagship reforestation program which hopefully will turn into a tool to improve the lives of the poor. For 2017, the DENR is seeking a budget allocation for the enhanced NGP of P1.4 billion.