

Bacolod City, DENR ink agreement for 5-year greening program

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By Philippine News Agency

The City of Bacolod and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Negros Island Region (DENR-NIR) forged a partnership for the implementation of the five-year Bacolod City Urban Development Greening Program.

Mayor Evelio Leonardia, in behalf of the city government, and Regional Director Al Orolfo, representing the DENR-NIR, signed the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) in rites held at the City Mayor's Office on Thursday.



Bacolod City map | credit wikipedia | Manila Bulletin

The signing was witnessed by Vice Mayor El Cid Familiaran, and Councilors Cindy Rojas and Bartolome Orola. Also present were Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office-Negros Occidental head Edgardo Rostata, and incoming DENR-NIR Director Livino Duran, who took over Orolfo's post Thursday afternoon, hours after the MOA signing.

Before the signing rites, Leonardia led the ceremonial tree-planting at the Bacolod Government Center grounds that signaled the start of planting of one million trees under the program.

“This is something for a better future of Bacolod. We don't expect to finish this in a day, but the most important thing is the journey to a million trees begins with the first tree and we had done that,” the mayor said.

Under the agreement, both parties will formulate a five-year Bacolod City Urban Development Greening Program Plan in support to the National Greening Program to achieve five objectives.

First, to establish a Barangay/City Park in all 61 barangays in Bacolod; second, stabilize all riverbanks through planting of different species of bamboo, fruit and forest trees; three, enhance the beauty of the city through planting/growing of ornamental plants and other fruit-bearing trees along the national highway, provincial and barangay roads;

Fourth, intensify public awareness through information and education campaign vis-à-vis the importance of biodiversity conservation, protection and rehabilitation of denuded areas as strategy in addressing climate change; and fifth, enhance and encourage public and private sectors and other stakeholder participation in the conservation, rehabilitation and protection of the environment.

For its part, the City of Bacolod, aside from intensifying public awareness, will also conduct the survey, mapping and planning to determine the appropriate and suitable species to be planted on a specific site, undertake plantation establishment, and supervise the implementation of the project, allocate funds for capacity building and other related activities, and submit a monthly progress report to the DENR-NIR, among others.

Meanwhile, the DENR will support the city government's initiatives related to the program implementation, provide technical assistance, conduct capacity building, provide plantable seedlings, and jointly monitor with Bacolod City the progress of the project.

<http://news.mb.com.ph/2017/05/04/bacolod-city-denr-ink-agreement-for-5-year-greening-program/>