

Bamboo, mangrove plantations seen to enhance Eastern Visayas environment

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Tacloban City – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) under the leadership of Secretary Regina Paz L. Lopez is undertaking the “massive planting of bamboo and mangrove all over the country, especially in the super-typhoon Yolanda-hit areas,” said DENR-8 Regional Director Leonardo Sibbaluca.

The department is allocating a bigger budget for the flagship project and a multimillion-peso fund allocation have been set aside to put up massive bamboo and mangrove plantations in Region 8. “She instructed us to conduct massive planting of mangroves. In fact, she is giving more funds for these purposes and that we have to establish more bamboo and mangrove plantations in Eastern Visayas.”



GIANT BAMBOO/Photo by Restituto Cayubit / Manila Bulletin

Sibbaluca said for Eastern Visayas, about R600 million is allotted for the massive planting of bamboo and mangrove with R200 million allotted for Leyte; R200 million for Western Samar; R100 million for Eastern Samar; and another R100 million for Northern Samar.

Eastern Visayas is suited for mangrove and bamboo planting, said the DENR official, adding that soil and environmental conditions are favorable for growing these plants.

The director explained that the primary objective of the mangrove plantation establishments is to strengthen the coastal communities against the rise of sea water.

Meanwhile, bamboo is best for erosion control, especially in steep slopes or landslide prone areas. He added that bamboo strengthens riverbanks. “There are many rivers in Eastern Visayas where bamboo plantations will be established to strengthen the riverbanks and protect these from possible erosion,” Sibbaluca said.

The leaves of bamboo are also known to absorb more than 100 times than that of the ordinary tree. Bamboo also has many economic uses – as building material, furniture, fencing, food, and has export potentials.

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