

DENR 12 & PENRO COTABATO CONGRATULATE EDC-MAGBU BINHI ARBORETUM PROGRAM IN SUPPORT TO NATIONAL GREENING PROGRAM OF DENR.

Kidapawan City, North Cotabato - The BINHI Tree for the future was launched yesterday at EDC-MAGBU Binhi Arboretum in Barangay Ilomavis, Kidapawan City.

On the side of EDC, present were Martin U. Daza, EDC HESS Group Head and EDC's staff. Also present and manifested support to the advocacy were DENR 12 Regional Director Nilo B. Tamoria, CESE, PENR Officer for Cotabato Mamutur D. Cariga, CENR Officer for Matalam Larry P. Curias, Kidapawa City Tourism Officer Joey Recimilla, Manobo Apao Descendant of Ancestral Domains of Mt. Apo (MADADMA) Council of Elders headed by Datu Damascu Bayawan, Dr. Hermie Gutierrez from the University of Southern Mindanao, CESO IV Schools Division Superintendent for Kidapawan Romelito G. Flores, Punong Barangay Jimmy Mantawil of Ilomavis, Kidapawan City and personnel from PENRO Cotabato and CENRO Matalam.

EDC-ESRG Cluster Head Maria Nancy P. Ibuna emphasized on her speech the value and significance of preserving our trees for the present and future generations to come. The arboretum is a component of EDC's BINHI Tree for the Future project which aims to save and propagate high-value but fast-dwindling Philippine trees such as yakal, tindalo, kamagong, mangkono and ipil, she added. According to Ms. Ibuna, EDC had already planted 6.3 million of indigenous seedlings with the help of 117 partners (People's Organization) in a total of 196 hectares. These arboretum will serve as seedling or gene bank for threatened Philippines tree species and a source of planting materials for forest restoration program. EDC is the only organization in the country that is heavily involved in the rescue of the Philippines rarest and most endangered premium species.

In the speech of DENR 12 RD. Nilo B. Tamoria as he graced the event "I felt overwhelmed of the project of the EDC especially in the restoration and collection of indigenous and endemic species of old trees in the country. This is supposedly the job of DENR and so I have to congratulate this company for their amazing endeavor". I will find ways to present and show this kind of efforts to the Secretary of DENR Roy Cimatu and hopefully he'll be able to visit this arboretum soon, he added.

Yesterday, during the inauguration of EDC-MAGBU BINHI Arboretum, 200 seedlings were planted. The seedlings are all from 36 native tree species, 10 of which are classified as critically endangered. EDC employees, DENR partners, and the local community joined the planting in the 0.8-hectare arboretum located within the EDC Mt. Apo Geothermal Business Unit. This is EDC's 9th arboretum in the country.



From left to right: Athena Custodio, EDC Community Partner; Maria Nancy Ibuna, EDC External & Stakeholders Relations Group Head; Martin V. Daza, EDC HESS Group Head; Dr. Hermie Gutierrez, University of Southern Mindanao; Joey Recimilla, Kidapawan City Tourism Office; Dir. Nilo Tamoria; CESE Regional Director, DENR Region 12; Jimmy Mantawil, Brgy. Chairman, Brgy. Ilomavis, Kidapawan City.