

PENRO Kidapawan holds Mount Apo Natural Park Fire Prevention and Management Training



The recent forest fire in Mt. Apo Natural Park served an eye-opener to all concerned stakeholders. Forest fire damaged vast areas of vegetation preserved for a long period of time. Such damage socially, economically and environmentally affects the biodiversity which takes a lifetime to restore.

For this reason, the need to capacitate technical staff and volunteers facilitates creation of a PENRO Special Order No. 67, dated September 14, 2016, that authorizes the conduct of capability training on selected technical staff, green brigade and other volunteers of Mt. Apo Natural Park (*MANP*) for the basic fire prevention and management training to 55 participants on September 27-28, 2016 at Hof Mansion, Balindog, Kidapawan City, followed with a field activity at Mt. Apo Natural Park on September 29 - October 1, 2016.

It aims to equip the participants on firefighting and suppression techniques, establish a core of response team equipped with feasible communication system to respond in case of fire occurrence and to disseminate awareness on the practical and necessary action/s to do by every concerned sector in the event of fire occurrence.



Participants came from the green brigade volunteers of Barangays Ilomavis and Perez of Kidapawan City (4 pax); Barangays Buhay, New Israel, Batasan, Biangan of Makilala (9 pax); Barangay Manobo of Magpet (2pax); Foresters (2 pax) , Forest Rangers (7 pax) and Forest Technician (1 pax) of PENRO Cotabato; Development Management Officer III (1 pax) and Park Maintenance Foremen (1 pax) of CENRO (*Community Environment and Natural Resources Office*) - Matalam; Fire Fighting Volunteers within the Community, Kidapawan City (7 pax), Makilala Municipality (6 pax) and Magpet Municipality (7 pax).



In his message, CENRO/TSD (*Technical Services Division*) Chief Forester Saga A. Akmad of PENRO North Cotabato, stated that fires are important but socially and economically unwanted disturbances of the ecosystems in protected areas. Protected areas, just like MANP, are created to protect biodiversity, and strict protection should

be oftenly applied.

Speakers for the first two days came from the Kidapawan City Disaster, Risk Reduction Management Officer (*CDRRMO*) Psalmer Bernalte, who gave the local situation/back ground of the MANP during the month of May 2016 actual observation, while FO1 Eljay T. Balibago together with FO1 Lenard Paul Halasan of the Bureau of



Fire Protection, North Cotabato Provincial Office, discoursed on the fundamentals on

planning phase, response phase and recovery phase during outbreaks. Marlon Ceballes talked about on Basic Life Support Training accompanied with actual workshops.

The field activity was led by the PASu (Protected Area Superintendent) himself, DMO III/ Acting DMO IV Gabriel Baute, done at the Mt. Apo Natural Park.

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