



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2019-046

Establishing the “Forests-in-our-Midst” Program in the City of Naga, defining its goals, objectives, scope and coverage, as well as mechanisms for the planting and growing of urban mini-forests in appropriate and suitable areas of Naga.

WHEREAS, the latest climate change models predict that by 2030, the effects of excessive carbon emission may be irreversible, leading to potentially catastrophic meteorological, ecological, social, and economic impacts on vulnerable countries and communities;

WHEREAS, the Philippines is ranked third most vulnerable to natural disasters among all countries, further worsened by the impact of climate change due to human neglect and lack of concrete unified actions;

WHEREAS, Naga City, which lies at the center of the Bicol River basin, is expected to experience the full brunt of the effects of climate change such as rising sea levels, increasing frequency and strength of typhoons, more frequent dry spells and droughts, decreasing water quantity, and increasing average air temperature;

WHEREAS, given Naga City’s limited land area, there is a need to employ new and effective techniques of reforestation, greening, and afforestation to mitigate the effects of global climate change, and to allow the city’s present and future residents to adapt to the “new normal” brought about by climate change;

WHEREAS, Republic Act 10176 or the “Arbor Day Law” of 2012 requires all able-bodied Filipino citizens aged 12 and above to plant and support the maintenance of at least one tree per year.

NOW THEREFORE I, NELSON S. LEGACION, Mayor of the City of Naga, by virtue of the powers vested in me hereby order the following:

SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FORESTS-IN-OUR-MIDST PROGRAM. Given Naga’s limited land area and the urgent need to maximize the effects of trees on the environment, resources, and health of the people, the Forests-in-our-Midst (FOM) Program is hereby created.

SECTION 2. GOALS OF THE PROGRAM. The FOM Program shall be guided by the following goals:

1. Improved carbon sequestration of trees
2. Increased oxygen generation of trees
3. Lower average air temperature in the vicinity of FOM forest sites



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4. Improved water quality and quantity of aquifers
5. Improved soil retention and erosion prevention of waterways
6. Increased biodiversity through planting and growing of indigenous trees
7. Improved food security through planting of food forests

SECTION 3. PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT. In order to ensure that the FOM program shall remain as inclusive and responsive as possible, major policies and decisions regarding the program shall be discussed and decided by the FOM Executive Committee, with the following composition:

<i>Chairperson</i>	Nelson Legacion, City Mayor
<i>Co-chair</i>	Cecilia Veluz-De Asis, City Vice Mayor
<i>Members</i>	Salvador Del Castillo, City Councilor and Chairman, SP Committee on Environment
	The Schools Division Superintendent, DepEd Naga
	The President, Metro Naga Chamber of Commerce and Industry
	The Chairman, Naga City People's Council
	The Archbishop, Archdiocese of Nueva Caceres
	The Chairman of the Board, Metro Naga Water District
	Engr. Alexander Caning, Department Head, City Environment and Natural Resources Office
	The President, Naga City Hall Press Corps
	The Director, Institute for Environmental Conservation and Research, Ateneo de Naga University
	The President, Philippine Native Trees Enthusiasts
	The President, Bicol Native Trees Enthusiasts
	Atty. Angel Ojastro, Consultant to the Senate of the Philippines on Urban Development



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A composite group from various city government departments and offices, herein referred to as the FOM Task Force or "Green Team" shall be responsible for the research, development, implementation, maintenance, and evaluation of the FOM Program and forest sites. It shall be composed of the following personnel:

<i>Program Director</i>	Alec Francis Santos, Chief-of-Office, Arts, Culture and Tourism Office
<i>Members</i>	Johan de la Rosa, Community Affairs Division, City Mayor's Office
	Alex San Jose, City Environment and Natural Resources Office
	Marvin Sagun, City Environment and Natural Resources Office
	Engr. Dhan Cea, City Environment and Natural Resources Office
	Ernest Asence III, City Agriculture Office
	Ar. Sherwin Mamansag, SWMO-Special Concerns Office
	Engr. Francisco Lim, City Parks and Recreational Facilities Management Office
	Engr. Ervin Nierva, City Engineer's Office

SECTION 4. ROLES OF CITY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND OFFICES. The FOM Program shall initially utilize the existing resources of various departments and offices of the city government of Naga with aligned or similar mandates to achieve its goals. The following shall be their respective roles and responsibilities:

1. The City Environment and Natural Resources Office shall:
 - a. Craft a comprehensive plan for the development and implementation of the FOM Program
 - b. Assist in the assessment of potential FOM sites
 - c. Identify and propagate suitable indigenous tree species for the FOM Program
 - d. Coordinate with groups and organizations for manpower needed for the FOM Program activities
 - e. Maintain a verified list and record of trees planted as part of the FOM Program, including the identity and details of forest-planting volunteers



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- f. Serve as the FOM Program's secretariat in coordinating efforts of partners and stakeholders
2. The City Agriculture Office shall:
 - a. Assist in the assessment of potential FOM sites
 - b. Identify and propagate suitable fruit trees for food forests
 - c. Identify and secure sources of natural soil implements for target FOM sites
 - d. Determine the suitable quantity, variety, and placement of seedlings during FOM forest-planting activities
 - e. Coordinate with potential distributors, retailers, and end-users of agricultural products from FOM sites
 - f. Help maintain and monitor food forests planted by the city government and FOM partners
3. The City Engineer's Office shall:
 - a. Provide equipment and personnel for the preparation of FOM sites
 - b. Assist in the regular maintenance and upkeep of the FOM sites
4. The SWMO Special Concerns office shall:
 - a. Provide equipment and personnel for the preparation of FOM sites
 - b. Assist in the regular maintenance and upkeep of the FOM sites
 - c. Identify and secure appropriate organic materials for possible use as soil implements in FOM forest-planting activities
5. The City Parks and Recreational Facilities Management Office shall:
 - a. Provide equipment and personnel for the preparation of FOM sites
 - b. Take the lead in the maintenance and upkeep of FOM sites
6. The Community Affairs Division of the City Mayor's Office shall:
 - a. Help assess the viability of a proposed FOM site for forest-growing
 - b. Coordinate with civic organizations and resettlement sites homeowners' association regarding the FOM Program
 - c. Take the lead in the urban gardening, food forests, and commercial forests aspect of the FOM Program
7. The Arts, Culture and Tourism Office shall:
 - a. Ensure the widest possible dissemination of the FOM Program and its benefits
 - b. Identify and coordinate with potential partners and sponsors for the FOM Program
 - c. Incorporate the FOM Program and sites in tourism development and promotions