



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:

- Program Director* Alec Francis Santos, Chief-of-Office, Arts, Culture and Tourism Office
- Members* 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



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- d. Develop an information and education campaign to maximize acceptance and support of the FOM Program
- e. Maintain maximum visibility and public knowledge of the FOM Program through multimedia promotions and regular field activities

SECTION 5. SCOPE AND COVERAGE OF THE PROGRAM. The FOM Green Team shall identify appropriate areas for the planting of mini-forests in the following settings, guided by the provisions of RA 10176:

1. Public spaces
 - a. Public parks (green spaces)
 - b. Local roads (city and barangay roads)
 - c. Government institutions (open spaces)
 - d. Public schools (with identified open spaces as per site development plans)
 - e. Housing resettlement sites (open spaces)
 - f. Waterways (buffer zones and easements)
2. Private properties
 - a. Commercial establishments (open and unutilized spaces)
 - b. Housing subdivisions (open spaces and roadways)
 - c. Academic institutions (open and unutilized spaces)
 - d. Resorts (open spaces)
 - e. Mt. Isarog Natural Park

SECTION 6. THE USE OF INNOVATIVE TECHNIQUES. Given the space constraints of Naga City, the city government shall adopt and employ the Miyawaki method of afforestation. To achieve the same levels of environmental and ecological benefits as conventional man-made forests in a significantly shorter period of time, the FOM Program shall prioritize the use of the Miyawaki method with its following attributes:

1. Space – minimum of 100 square meters for urban mini-forests
2. Density – 3 to 5 seedlings per square meter for faster growth
3. Growth – 10 to 15 years for full forest maturity, instead of 100 years for conventional man-made forests and 1,000 years for natural forests
4. Climate-change mitigation – 30 times more effective in capturing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere
5. Biodiversity – 100 times more biodiversity than regular forests using indigenous tree species

SECTION 7. FOREST SITE IDENTIFICATION, PREPARATION, AND PLANTING. The FOM Green Team shall be responsible for the identification, assessment, and



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preparation of the forest-planting sites. It shall be guided by the following activities and procedures:

1. Stakeholders consultation. Prior to the assessment of a potential FOM site, a consultation meeting shall be conducted to gather inputs and feedback from stakeholders.
2. Technical evaluation. The FOM Green Team shall perform a technical assessment of the proposed forest site to determine the most viable use of the space, as well as the suitable species for planting.
3. Site development plan. Upon determining the viability and suitability of a proposed FOM site, the FOM Green Team shall develop a site development plan to determine the placement of the seedlings, as well as the resources needed for the site preparation.
4. Site preparation. The FOM Green Team shall secure and provide necessary resources such as equipment and personnel for the soil amendment and site preparation.
5. Forest-planting. The proponent shall provide the necessary manpower and support for the planting of the identified and approved tree species in the FOM forest site and shall be assisted by the FOM Green Team.
6. Forest maintenance program. The proponent of an FOM forest site shall automatically be considered as primarily responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the site. The FOM Green Team shall provide technical assistance until such time that the forest is capable of self-growth.

SECTION 8. PLANTING MODELS AND DESIGNS. The FOM Program shall take into full account and consideration the implications of planting dense urban forests in the approved sites and shall be guided by a design guide to be developed by FOM Green Team. The planting models and guides for green strips and FOM forests shall adhere to national and local laws, codes, and regulations. The design guide shall cover the following areas, whenever feasible:

1. Local roads and streets
 - a. Shoulders
 - b. Islands
 - c. Walkways and sidewalks
 - d. Public parking areas
2. Parks and open spaces
 - a. Recreational parks
 - b. Mini-parks
3. Government institutions and facilities
 - a. Public schools
 - b. Open spaces
 - c. Urban gardening demo site and training center
4. Residential areas



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- a. Integrated community food production sites
- b. Community open-spaces
5. Waterways
 - a. Agricultural areas
 - b. Residential areas
 - c. Agro-forestry areas
 - d. Themed forests
6. Commercial establishments
 - a. Urban mini-forests
 - b. Parking areas
 - c. Themed forests

SECTION 9. FOREST GROWING, MAINTENANCE, AND MANAGEMENT.

For the FOM Program to be successful, close attention shall be given to the post-planting period up to 3 years or until the forests are deemed capable of self-growth. To maximize the chances of survival of the forests, the following stakeholders shall develop the necessary capabilities:

1. FOM Green Team
 - a. Development of maintenance procedures and protocols
 - b. Acquisition of equipment and materials
 - c. Deployment and scheduling of maintenance activities
2. Barangay governments
 - a. Capacity-building of personnel
 - b. Development and adoption of monitoring system
 - c. Regular reporting
3. Schools and academic institutions
 - a. Capacity-building of students
 - b. Regular monitoring of FOM sites
4. Partner organizations
 - a. Partnership development and MOA signing
 - b. Technical support from LGU
 - c. Capacity-building of members

SECTION 10. PROMOTION AND INFORMATION AND EDUCATION CAMPAIGN. Since the success of the FOM Program lies in its social and cultural acceptability, the city government shall endeavor to document the entire process of the program, most notably its successes and lessons and shall promote the same to stakeholders.

The Arts, Culture and Tourism Office and the City Events, Protocol, and Public Information Office shall develop an integrated information and education campaign to encourage



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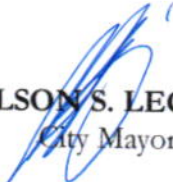


potential partners to provide suitable areas for FOM forest sites or to adopt sites for their maintenance and upkeep. The city government shall explore the possibility of conducting the following activities:

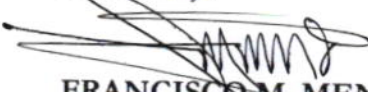
1. Public and private schools
 - a. Alignment with Deped Naga policies
 - b. Inter-school competition and recognition
 - c. Possible inclusion in curriculum and/or academic requirements
 - d. Possible inclusion in NSTP activities
2. Business and commercial establishments
 - a. RA 10176 compliance certification for owners and employees
 - b. Industry-wide competition
 - c. Recognition by the city government
3. General public
 - a. RA 10176 compliance certification
 - b. Publication of citizens' names upon complying with RA 10176
 - c. Civic recognition by the city government

SECTION 11. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE. This Executive Order shall be effective immediately.

Issued this 30th day of September, Two Thousand Nineteen in the City of Naga, Philippines.


NELSON S. LEGACION
City Mayor

Attested by:


FRANCISCO M. MENDOZA
Acting City Administrator