VALUES OF TREE PLANTING IN EDUCATION

by

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We all know that we have a problem with the climate change. As educators, how can we help or teach our learners to be aware and responsible for the environmental stability? On February 2011, the former President Benigno C. Aquino signed the Executive order no. 26 entitled “National Greening Program (GNP)” with five major goals that include Food Security, Poverty Alleviation, Environmental Conservations, Waste Management and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation. In the Executive Order, the roles of various agencies were the guarantee to ensure that the deliverables are perpetrated.

To support to the directive of the Former President Benigno C. Aquino, the Department of Education issued Memorandum No. 58, s 2011, “Creation of a Task Force on National Greening Program” to take the lead in the planning and implementation of the NGP in Department of Education.

In connection with this and relative to the objectives of Department of Education Order No.33, s. 2008 re: Responding to the Threats of Climate Change and Global Warming through Massive, Intensive and Sustained Tree Planting, Tree Growing and Tree-Caring Program, each school (Sec.)/district shall designate a Tree Planting School/District Coordinator. In addition, a quarterly report regarding this program shall be accomplished.

Based on the implementing guideline it is hereby developed to serve as a guide and reference of program implementers to have a common understanding of the goals and objectives and to have unity in direction.

The objectives of the Greening Program are to:
1. Establish seeds/seedling propagation nurseries and vegetable gardens to serve as food basket and ready source of vegetables for sustainable in-school feeding program.

2. Integrate into the elementary, secondary and alternative learning system curricula concepts on environmental protection and land conservation planting and eating vegetables, waste management among others;

3. Participate in tree planting activities in school and the community.

4. Coordinate with other agencies, NGOs, private institutions relative to the program; and

5. Conduct a program monitoring and evaluation.

One of the program components is the Tree Planting. The Executive Order No. 26, section 2, clearly stipulates that the National Greening Program shall target 1.5 Billion Trees covering about 1.5 Million hectares in the following lands of the public domain.

- Forestlands, Mangrove, and protected areas
- Ancestral domains, Civil and military reservations
- Urban areas under the greening plan of the LGU’s, Inactive and abandoned mine sites, and other suitable lands.

The most important ecological function of trees is protecting the land and environment. In addition, trees and forest stores water resources that act as buffers for the ecosystem during the period of drought. Trees and forest also provide habitat, protection, and food for many plant and animal species. Likewise, they play an important role in global climate and atmosphere regulation-leaves of trees absorb carbon dioxide in the air and produce oxygen that is necessary for life.

For that significance, we, as educators should be the best example and good leaders to our pupils and community to plant more trees to secure and save our ecosystem and environment.