

BPAR engages in fishing, spearheads Lake Tutay's conservation

DON CARLOS, Bukidnon (Sept. 19) - Through the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Region 10's (BFAR-10) Balik Sigla sa Ilog at Lawa (BASIL) program, residents, mostly Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team (BPAT) members of Barangay San Antonio East here, acquired a ten-by-ten-meter brush park after mustering efforts in debris clearing and beautification of Lake Tutay.

Designed to mimic the lake's natural habitats, the brush park will serve as an ideal sanctuary for its 100 common carp broodstocks and 32,000 tilapia fingerlings, offering shelter and breeding grounds for both species.

"Kami sa akong mga kaubanan sa buhat, gina-hagit namo ang amung kaugalingon nga amu-a g'yud ning panindigan ang amung nasugdan dinhi sa Lake Tutay total sa kadugayan, kami lang man gihapon ang makapahimulos niini," committed Rico Labay, president of the San Antonio East Fisherfolk Association.

Simultaneous with law enforcement, the team now also engages in nurturing inland aquatic life as it has taken on the responsibility of maintaining the natural wealth of the lake, ensuring that it remains a thriving refuge for fish species and vegetation.

Lake Tutay, a vital source of livelihood and natural beauty, has long relied on dedicated guardians like the beneficiaries to ensure its protection. The BASIL program represents a collaborative effort between BFAR-10 and the local government unit (LGU) of Don Carlos through its Municipal Agriculture Office (MAO) to restore and sustain the lake's aquatic resources.

Merlyn Los Baños, Municipal Agriculturist (MA), expressed gratitude to the BFAR-10 for its continuous support to the inland fishing community of Don Carlos.

"Mapasalamaton g'yud mi kanunay sa BFAR sa tanang suporta nga amuang nadawat. Sukad-sukad wala pa g'yuy saad nga wala gituman ang BFAR para sa mga katawhan ngari sa Don Carlos," conveyed Los Baños.

The turnover, under the BASIL program, not only empowers San Antonio East's community but also highlights their vital role in the conservation and maintenance of Lake Tutay's aquatic ecosystem. This new chapter in their service underscores the importance of community involvement in the lake's conservation. (CLViajante//BFAR-10)





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