

By JASMINE MOHAMMADSALI

Zamboangueños will converge today, June 25, at Talon-Talon to participate in the nationwide planting activity in celebration of Arbor Day.

Vice Mayor Cesar Iturralde will lead local officials and all participating local and national agencies, organizations and groups from all sectors of the City, and individuals, who will be joining the morning planting activity in mangrove forest sites identified by the Office of the City Environment and Natural Resources (OCENR).

A total of 9,500 mangrove propagules will be made available for planting for the Arbor Day activity, an activity which aims to encourage active participation of all citizenry nationwide to plant trees and to protect, conserve, and preserve natural resources.

The Arbor Day celebration in Zamboanga City will kick off with a simple program which will include an overview of the event and an orientation on mangrove propagule planting.

After the mangrove planting activity, the local government will also take the lead in declaring 10 trees as heritage icons, pursuant to the Century and Heritage Tree ordinance of 2008. Six century trees and 4 heritage trees in different parts of the City have been identified for recognition.

Century trees are trees that are 100 years old while heritage trees are those that are not yet 100 years old but are considered ecologically, historically or culturally valuable (or belonging to rare species, adjacent or near water source, spring or well and whose cutting or destruction will disrupt or destroy the water source) that can be effective symbols of taking care of the environment.

The Arbor Day celebration is pursuant to Ordinance 281, while the recognition and tagging of Century and Heritage trees is pursuant to Ordinance 341. — Jasmine Mohammadsali

Zambo joins 2016 Arbor Day celebration

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