

“Plant a tree, grow with me”
By: Atty. Shirly Parmisana-Bisnar

“I will color Iligan green. Plant a tree, grow with me”, was the marching slogan during the tree planting activity in the river bank of Hinaplanon held last Feb. 25. The site bore witness to the hundreds of lives lost wrought by Typhoon Sendong on Dec. 17, 2011.

Hundreds of Iliganons gathered at San Lorenzo Chapel, near Hinaplanon bridge early in the morning and was greeted by chilly, crisp air from the river as they approached the bank.

The tree planting activity was sponsored by the City Government of Iligan and was attended by various government employees, and representatives of NGOs and other multi-sectoral organizations. Pag-IBIG Fund Iligan actively took part in the tree planting activity and pledged to grow the seedlings.

It also marked the unveiling of the memorial site for the lives lost during the typhoon. The City Government aims to convert the grim site into a forest park where lovers may frolic, said Atty. Marlene Young, the city councilor who sponsored the resolution for tree planting activity.

Typhoon Sendong has left a deep scar in every Iliganons. It is the worst ever typhoon that hit Iligan, which claimed so many lives, destroyed dwellings and vital installations in horrible magnitude. Iliganons are still reeling from the catastrophe wrought by Sendong. Tree planting is just one of the measures to lessen the impact of, if not stop, flooding in the future.

Tree planting and tree growing have become a challenge to every Iliganon where illegal logging is rampant in the hinterlands. The so-called “killer logs” destroyed the bridge and nearby houses, causing the immediate extensive destruction on that fateful night.

Indeed, to color Iligan green is a dream worth fulfilling.

