

## Visit to Subic Bunkers Ecotourism Project

Agriculture Secretary visited the proposed site for the Subic Bunkers Ecotourism Project on December 4, 2020.

The project was a collaborative initiative of the Department of Agriculture, Kanawan Magbukon Aeta community through Magbukon Agro Ventures, Inc., Subic Bay Metropolitan Area (SBMA), and other private companies such as Go Negosyo Mentor Me project, Planters Products Inc, among others.

Mr. Michael Caballes, owner of Bukid Amara Flower farm in Lucban, Quezon, and part of the Go Negosyo Mentor Me project, presented the proposed plan for the development of an ecotourism park.

The project aims to utilize SBMA bunkers located at Ilanin Forest and convert them into productive agribusiness ventures. It will be converted to two main zones: Agri Processing Hub and Agri Eco-Tourism Hub.

Under the proposal, six identified bunkers will be developed as an agricultural zone with various agribusiness activities promoting modern and smart agriculture infused with Kanawan Magbukon culture.

Caballes said the project will undergo four phases: 1) establishment of ecotourism attraction such as bloom fields and sunflower maze; 2) innovation of smart farming and precision agriculture; 3) establishment of Dampa Outdoor Area, Events Area, Food Hub; and 4) bringing in the culture of the Kanawan tribe through the establishment of an Outdoor Exhibit Area.

The proponents also said that apart from bringing in the produce of Kanawan, they also plan to employ them.

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