## **Exploring Local Biodiversity: Mabalacat City College's BS-Biology Students Lead Plant Specimen Collection Project**

In a significant stride towards better understanding the region's natural environment, the BS-Biology faculty and students at Mabalacat City College, have embarked on an ambitious project centered around the collection and study of plant specimens.

The pioneering initiative involves students taking an active role in gathering plant samples within the confines of the Biology Laboratory. These meticulously acquired samples originate from the riparian zones of Sapang Balen, Poblacion, and Sta. Ines, areas nestled within the heart of Mabalacat City, Pampanga.

Riparian zones, the transitional areas between land and water bodies such as rivers and streams, offer a unique ecosystem supporting an array of plant species that have adapted to the specific conditions of these environments. By focusing on these distinctive habitats, the project aims to unravel insights into the local flora's diversity, distribution, and adaptive strategies.

This endeavor holds substantial promise for a variety of reasons, including the documentation of local biodiversity, assessment of the surrounding ecosystem's health, educational enrichment, research and conservation prospects, and active engagement with the community.









## "City ENRO and Institute of Arts and Sciences, Mabalacat City College Unite to Restore Sapang Balen River in Pampanga"

In a decisive stride towards environmental restoration, a pivotal meeting transpired on July 6, 2023, within the premises of the City Environment Resource Office (CENRO). This significant gathering brought together a host of esteemed participants, all converging to deliberate on the forthcoming Sapang Balen project.

Engr. Jesusa Santiago: Spearheading the charge, Engr. Santiago, the Head of CENRO, stands as a guiding force towards sustainable initiatives.

Ms. Marilyn S. Arcilla: As the Dean of the Institute of Applied Sciences (IAS), Ms. Arcilla lends her expertise and academic acumen to the endeavor.

Faculty Members of Mabalacat City College: A dedicated team of educators from Mabalacat City College adds valuable insights and dedication to the unfolding project.

The primary focus of the meeting was to discuss the Sapang Balen project. The main objectives of the project include:

Restoration or Development of Sapang Balen: The project could encompass the restoration or development of the Sapang Balen River, involving ecological restoration, community development, and sustainable resource management.

Environmental Conservation: With CENRO's involvement, the project has the potential to promote environmental conservation and protection in the Sapang Balen River. This might encompass habitat restoration, waste management, and biodiversity conservation.

Community Engagement: The presence of faculty members from Mabalacat City College underscores the significance of community engagement and involvement. The project could prioritize engaging local communities in restoration and development efforts, taking into account their needs and aspirations.

Educational and Research Opportunities: Aided by the presence of the Dean of IAS and faculty members, the project could also integrate educational and research components. It may offer students and researchers opportunities to study the ecosystem, cultivate sustainable practices, and conduct pertinent studies.

Budget Discussion: Among the primary agenda items of the meeting, budget allocation would undoubtedly hold prominence. This might encompass funding for a range of activities including surveys, research initiatives, restoration work, and community engagement programs.

This convergence at the heart of this vital initiative promises a collaborative effort that could potentially reshape the landscape of environmental preservation and community involvement. Through this collective pursuit, the Sapang Balen project is poised to ascend to new heights, carrying the hopes of a greener and more sustainable future for the community and its natural surroundings.



