

## **DENR monitors charcoal making in Bicol**



Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Regional Executive Director Gilbert Gonzales has directed his field officials to strictly monitor wood charcoal making in the Bicol region.

“The intention of the directive is to control indiscriminate cutting of trees in consonance with log ban policy of President Aquino and also to put a stop to the denudation of Bicol’s forests,” Gonzales said.

Gonzales’s order mandates all provincial and community officers of DENR-Region 5 to take stock of, and inspect all establishments involved in the buying and selling of wood charcoal, as well as determine the source origin of the wood charcoal being supplied in the local market.

The field officials were likewise under order to refrain from issuing Certificate of Verification or CoV to transport wood charcoal without seeking clearance from higher authorities.

“Transporting wood charcoal without the CoV and other permits is a violation of DENR Administrative Order 32 issued in 1997. Under such circumstances, the DENR can apprehend the tools, implements, conveyances used in the conduct of illegal tree cutting and/or charcoal making, and may also initiate administrative and criminal proceedings, if warranted,” Gonzales said.

The forest regulation sector of DENR was likewise ordered to provide 24-hour manpower support in checkpoints.

Based on reports, a total of 2,451 sacks of wood charcoal have been seized from January to September this year in the six Bicol provinces, namely: Camarines Sur (1,270); Albay (286); Camarines Norte (163); Masbate (72) and Catanduanes (5).

