


SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1156

SEP 10 2014


Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
COMMENDING TABON-TABON, LEYTE FOR THEIR INNOVATIVE
RECYCLING PROJECT OF ACCEPTING PLASTIC MATERIALS AS PAYMENT
FOR PUBLIC SERVICES AS PART OF THEIR SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 16 provides: "The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature";

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 9003 also known as Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 mandates: "The LGUs shall be primarily responsible for the implementation and enforcement of the provisions of this Act within their respective jurisdictions. Segregation and collection of solid waste shall be conducted at the barangay level specifically for biodegradable, compostable and reusable wastes: *Provided*, That the collection of non-recyclable materials and special wastes shall be the responsibility of the municipality or city";

WHEREAS, the 24 June 2009 *Philippine Daily Inquirer* article reported that in Tabon-Tabon, Leyte, the local government is accepting plastics as payment for services, food or as barter item for financial aid in a bid to promote solid waste management;

WHEREAS, this fifth class municipality started this recycling project last March 2009; plastics such as bottles, sachets, broken parts of chairs and others are accepted as payment by the town;

WHEREAS, under this project, a kilogram of clean plastic materials could be used to pay for medicines or a kilogram of rice; residents needing an ambulance may pay for the service with a kilogram of plastic, otherwise the use of an ambulance would cost a resident P300 for its fuel load;

WHEREAS, according to Mayor Rustico Balderian, plastics are also accepted as payment for marriage licenses or business permits; the municipal government also dropped its program of dole to poor residents;

WHEREAS, with this project, any resident in need of cash may bring used plastic for cash; a kilogram of used plastic would fetch P300; 2 kg, P500; and 3 kg, P1,000; husbands who have pregnant wives start saving early clean plastic materials so they would not pay in cash for the diesel of the ambulance.

WHEREAS, the used plastics are turned into bags, slippers, bricks and tiles that are sold in markets outside town; this provides income to the municipality and jobs to the residents;

WHEREAS, workers in three-wheeled vehicles collect the used plastics which are brought to a facility in town that has a shredder, a boiler and a bioreactor that process garbage, including the used plastic;

WHEREAS, aside from making recycled products, the town also produces fertilizer from organic trash that it sells for P5 per kg;

WHEREAS, the recycling program worked wonders as residents learned to segregate plastics from their daily trash; it also weaned away some residents from resorting to stealing during lean months of July to August when there is no work to do in the farms as harvests are over;

WHEREAS, this municipality's initiative is worth commending and should be replicated by all local government units as part of their solid waste management program in order to mitigate the worsening problem of solid waste in this country;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to commend Tabon-Tabon, Leyte for their innovative recycling project of accepting plastic materials as payment for public services as part of their solid waste management program.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

/dpm