

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES KAGAWARAN NG KAPALIGIRAN AT LIKAS YAMAN



MEMORANDUM

FOR

The Directors

Legal Affairs Service

Policy and Planning Service Climate Change Service

Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service

All Bureau Directors

The Officer-In-Charge

Mines and Geosciences Bureau

All Regional Executive Directors

FROM

The Director

Legislative Liaison Office

SUBJECT

ADDITIONAL AGENDA RE: BILLS ON SINGLE-USE PLASTICS

(SUPs) FROM THE COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY OF THE HOUSE

OF REPRESENTATIVES

DATE

08 November 2023

In reference to the electronic letter received by our Office on 08 November 2023, the Committee on Ecology of the House of Representatives will also deliberate on bills regarding Single-Use Plastics (SUPs) in its meeting scheduled on 13 November 2023, Monday, 10:00 AM at the Commission on Appointments, Conference Room, 4th Floor, South Wing Annex, House of Representatives.

In this regard, we request your comments on the Draft Substitute Bill on Single-Use Plastics and your participation in the abovementioned meeting. Kindly send them on or before 10 November 2023, at 5:00 PM via email at denr.gov.ph. Further, kindly inform us of the name/s of the representative/s from your office who will participate in the meeting so we may include him/her/them as resource person/s.

Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1100, Philippines www.denr.gov.ph

Attached herewith are the Letter Invitation, Agenda, and the Draft Substitute Bill for your reference.



cc: Undersecretary for Special Concerns and Legislative Affairs Undersecretary for Integrated Environmental Science Assistant Secretary for Enforcement, Solid Waste Management, and Local Government Unit Concerns



Republic of the Philippines House of Representatives COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY

Committee Affairs Department, 3rd Floor, Mitra Building, Constitution Hills, Quezon City Telefax 8931-5346 * Trunkline 8931-5001 local 7136 * 0917-1206917 Email address: hrep.ecology@gmail.com



07 November 2023

HON. MA. ANTONIA YULO-LOYZAGA

Secretary

Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Dear Sec. Yulo-Loyzaga:

We are pleased to inform you that the Committee on Ecology will hold a meeting on 13 November 2023 (Monday), 10:00 A.M., at the Commission on Appointments Conference Room, 4th Floor, South Wing Annex, House of Representatives, to deliberate on bills regarding Single-Use Plastics (SUPs) which may be downloaded from www.congress.gov.ph. Attached hereto are the Agenda of the meeting and the draft substitute bill for your reference.

In this connection, may we invite you or your competent representative to attend the aforesaid meeting to share your views and recommendations on the above legislative proposals. We would also appreciate receiving your position paper at least two (2) days prior to the meeting.

Confirmation of attendance or any query may be coursed through https://hrep.ecology@gmail.com or to Ms. Marlyn Panganiban at 09171206917. The names of participants must be submitted to the Secretariat not later than 08 November 2023 (Wednesday) 5:00 P.M., as admission depends upon earlier coordination with House offices responsible for entry and security.

Thank you and we hope to see you at the meeting.

Very truly yours,

HON. MARLYN B. ALONTE

Chairperson

For the Chairperson:

ATTY. DILBERT N. QUETULIO

Committee Secretary



Republic of the Philippines HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY

Committee Affairs Department, CTSS-2, 3/F Mitra Building, Constitution Hills, Quezon City Telefax 8931-5346 * Trunkline 8931-5001 local 7136 * Mobile 09171206917 Email address: hrep.ecology@gmail.com



19th Congress 2nd Regular Session

COMMITTEE MEETING

13 November 2023 (Monday), 10:00 am-3:00 pm Commission on Appointments Conference Room, 4th Floor, South Wing Annex, House of Representatives

AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL
- II. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS / RESOURCE PERSONS
- III. OPENING REMARKS
- IV. DELIBERATION ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURES:

Philippine Environmental Assessment System/Environmental Impact Assessment (PEAS/EIA):

- 1. **H.B. No. 8594** An Act to Establish the Philippine Environmental Assessment System, and for Other Purposes, *by Rep. Marlyn B. Alonte*
- 2. **H.B. No. 7959** An Act to Rationalize the Philippine Environmental Impact Assessment System, and for Other Purposes, by Rep. Marlyn B. Alonte
- 3. **H.B. No. 1423** An Act Amending Section 9 of Presidential Decree 1586 by Increasing the Penalties Thereof and for Other Purposes, by Rep. Ramon N. Guico, Jr.

Single-Use Plastics (SUPs):

- H.B. No. 26 An Act Regulating the Production, Importation, Sale, Distribution, Provision, Use, Recovery, Collection, Recycling, and Disposal of Single-Use Plastic Products, by Rep. Lord Allan Jay Q. Velasco
- 2. **H.B. No. 507** An Act Regulating the Production, Importation, Sale, Distribution, Provision, Use, Recovery, Collection, Recycling, and Disposal of Single-Use Plastic Products, by Reps. Edvic G. Yap, Eric Go Yap, Paolo Z. Duterte and Jeffrey Soriano
- 3. **H.B. 533** An Act Phasing Out and Prohibiting the Manufacture, Importation, Sale, and Use of Single-Use Plastic Products, Promoting Recycling, and Providing Funds Therefor, by Rep. Geraldine B. Roman
- 4. **H.B. 1038** An Act Banning the Use of Single-Use Plastics Nationwide to Eliminate Plastic Pollution in the Philippines, by Rep. Bernadette Herrera
- 5. **H.B. 1248** An Act Imposing a Nationwide Ban on the Use of Single-Use Plastics to Eliminate Plastic Pollution in the Philippines, by Rep. Ramon N. Guico, Jr.
- 6. **H.B. 2060 -** An Act Regulating the Production, Importation, Sale, Distribution, Provision, Use, Recovery, Collection, Recycling, and Disposal of Single-Use Plastic Products, by Rep. Francisco Paulo V.P. Ortega
- 7. **H.B. 2170** An Act Regulating and Further Prohibiting the Usage of Single-Use Plastic Products, Providing Penalties, Levies and Incentives for Industries, Business Entities and Consumers Thereof, and for Other Purposes, by Rep. Jose J. Teves, Jr.

- 8. H.B. 2274 An Act Regulating the Production, Importation, Sale, Distribution, Provision, Use, Recovery, Collection, Recycling and Disposal of Single-Use Plastic Products, by Reps. Luis Raymund F. Villafuerte, Jr., Miguel Luis R. Villafuerte, Tsuyoshi Anthony G. Horibata, Nicholas C. Enciso VIII
- 9. **H.B. 2372** An Act Banning the Production and Usage of Single-Use Plastic Products Nationwide, and Providing Penalties for Violations Thereof, by Rep. Robert Ace S. Barbers
- H.B. 2988 An Act Regulating the Production, Importation, Sale, Distribution, Provision, Use, Recovery, Collection, Recycling, and Disposal of Single Use Plastic Products, by Rep. Joseph Stephen S. Paduano
- 11. **H.B. 3021** An Act Regulating the Manufacturing, Importation, and Use of Single-Use Plastic Products, and Providing Penalties, Levies, and Incentives System for Industries, Business Enterprises, and Consumers Thereof, by Rep. Antonio B. Legarda, Jr.
- 12. **H.B.** 3309 An Act Banning Single-Use Plastics Nationwide and Appropriating Funds Therefore, by Rep. Josefina B. Tallado
- 13. **H.B. 3477** An Act Prohibiting the Use of Plastics, Other Non-Biodegradable Materials, and Hazardous Substances in Advertising Goods, Services, or Events, Including Election Propaganda, and Providing Penalties Therefor, by Rep. Lorenz R. Defensor
- 14. **H.B. 4037** An Act Regulating the Manufacturing, Importation and Use of Single Use Plastic Products, and Providing Penalties, Levies and an Incentives System for Industries, Business Enterprises and Consumers Thereof, by Rep. Michael M. Morden
- 15. **H.B. 4048** An Act Institutionalizing the Creation of "The Plastic Bag Recycling Act of 2022" and for Other Purposes, by Rep. Gus S. Tambunting
- H.B. 4915 An Act Regulating the Production, Importation, Sale, Distribution, Provision, Use, Recovery, Collection, Recycling, and Disposal of Single Use Plastic Products, by Rep. Bienvenido M. Abante
- 17. **H.B. 6260** An Act Regulating the Production, Importation, Sale, Distribution, Provision, Use, Recovery, Collection, Recycling, and Disposal of Single-Use Plastic Products, by Rep. Rudys Caesar G. Fariñas
- 18. **H.B.** 6453 An Act Regulating the Production, Importation, Sale, and Use of Single-Use Plastics, Providing Funds therefor, and For Other Purposes, by Rep. Angelo Marcos Barba
- H.B. 6662- An Act Prohibiting the Production, Importation, Sale, Provision, and Use of Single-Use Plastics and for Other Purposes, by Reps. Raoul Danniel Manuel, France L. Castro, Arlene D. Brosas
- H.B. 7365 An Act Regulating the Production, Importation, Sale, Distribution, Provision, Use, Recovery, Collection, Recycling, and Disposal of Single-Use Plastic Products, by Rep. Dante S. Garcia
- H.B. 8999 An Act Regulating the Production, Importation, Sale, Distribution, Provision, Use, Recovery, Collection, Recycling, and Disposal of Single-Use Plastic Products, by Rep. Sandro L. Gonzalez
- 22. H.R. 96 A Resolution Urging the Environmental Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Region XII and the Department of Trade and Industry to Provide Technical Skills and Support for the Integration in the Comprehensive Waste Management Program of the Province of Cotabato the Recycling of Plastic Refuse Products Into Raw Materials for Use in Making of Furniture, Households Items, and Other Marketable Products, by Rep. Ma. Alana Samantha T. Santos
- 23. H.R. 242 Resolution Strongly Urging the House of Representatives to Foster Sustainable and Environment-Friendly Practices in Order to Institute a 'Green' Government Office and Serve as a Role Model for Other Government Institutions to Emulate, by Rep. Ronald V. Singson
- 24. H.R. 338 A Resolution Mandating Ban on the Usage of Single Use Plastics in All Retail and Service Establishments Within the Premises of House of Representatives, by Rep. Eduardo C. Villanueva

V. OTHER MATTERS

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Republic of the Philippines HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Quezon City, Philippines

Draft Substitute Bill

NINETEENTH CONGRESS Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO.	
Introduced by	

AN ACT

REGULATING THE PRODUCTION, IMPORTATION, SALE, DISTRIBUTION, PROVISION, AND USE OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC PACKAGING PRODUCTS

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. *Short Title*. – This Act shall be known as the "Single-Use Plastic Packaging Products (SuPPPs) Regulation Act".

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is the policy of the state to protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature. The state recognizes the importance of ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being, building sustainable communities, promoting responsible consumption and production, and reducing marine, land or air pollution, towards achieving the sustainable development goals. To this end, it shall advance policies that will not only address recovery, treatment and disposal of waste products, but also the source reduction and resource efficiency of these, while recognizing the indispensable role of the private sector and enterprise as partners in bringing key sectors closer to a circular economy.

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SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms*. - As used in this Act:

- a) Commercial establishment refers to an establishment or cluster of establishments engaged in commerce or sales of goods or services including market stores, shopping mall outlets, supermarkets, department stores, online stores, grocery stores, drug stores, convenience stores, food chains, restaurants, cafes, bars, sari-sari stores, ambulant vendors, with or without stalls, and the like;
- b) High in replaceability refers to a condition wherein a SuPPP is deemed highly non-acceptable, unnecessary, and can be reasonably replaced by an alternative or practice that is more environment-friendly;

- 1 c) Oxo-degradable plastic refers to plastic materials that include additives which, 2 through oxidation, lead to the fragmentation of the plastic material into micro-3 fragments or to chemical decomposition
- d) *Producer* refers to any entity that manufactures or distributes SuPPPs or goods utilizing SUPs, to any commercial establishment in the Philippines; and
 - e) Single-use Plastic Packaging Products (SuPPPs) refer to plastic packaging products covered under Section 44-C of Republic Act No. 9003, otherwise known as the "Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000", as amended by Republic Act No. 11898, otherwise known as the "Extended Producer Responsibility Act of 2022", which have non-compostable synthetic polymer as a component, and are designed to be discarded after one use, whether for reprocessing or for disposal thereof.
 - **SEC. 4.** *Phase-Out of SuPPPs.* The following non-compostable SuPPPs shall be phased-out within a period of four (4) years from the effectivity of this Act:
- a) Plates and saucers;
 - b) Oxo-degradable plastics;
 - c) Film wrap, packaging, or bags of less than 50 microns in thickness;

The following products shall be phased out within a period of one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act:

- a) Flexible drinking straws;
- b) Stirrers;

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- 21 c) Sticks for candy, balloon, and cotton bud;
- 22 d) Buntings;
- e) Confetti; and
 - f) Packaging or bags of less than 10 microns in thickness.

Thereafter, the production, importation, sale, distribution, provision or use of the said SuPPs shall be prohibited.

Properly labelled flexible disposable plastic drinking straws for persons with special medical conditions shall be allowed to be sold at pharmacies, when no suitable reusable or compostable alternatives are available.

SEC. 5. Phase-out of Other SuPPPs. – Two (2) years after the effectivity of this Act, and every two (2) years thereafter, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), in coordination with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), National Economic Development Authority (NEDA), and the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC), shall regularly determine whether other SuPPPs are deemed either high in replaceability, low in recyclability, or low in retrievability. Upon determination by the DENR, these products shall be phased-out within a period of two (2) years.

Products are low in recyclability or retrievability when these are not properly recovered or offset, in compliance with the provisions or standards established pursuant to Chapter III-A of Republic Act No. 9003, as amended.

- **SEC. 6.** Phase-out Plan for SuPPPs. A SuPPPs Phase-out Plan, hereinafter referred to as the Plan, shall be formulated by the DENR, in coordination with the NSWMC, and in consultation with relevant departments or agencies of the government and stakeholders, within six (6) months upon the effectivity of this Act. The Plan shall include the following components:
 - a) Consumption, Reduction, and Recovery Program. The DTI, in cooperation with the DENR, the DOST, and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) of the Department of Health (DOH), and in consultation with stakeholders, shall formulate a Consumption, Reduction, and Recovery Program, to achieve a significant reduction in consumption and increased recovery for recycling and treatment, or proper disposal of SuPPPs, within the phase-out period prescribed by this Act. Such measures shall include national consumption reduction, waste recovery targets, and other measures to ensure that reusable and compostable alternatives to SuPPPs are made available;
 - b) Producer Responsibility Schemes. Producer responsibility schemes shall be formulated to carry out the objectives of Chapter III-A of Republic Act No. 9003, as amended; as stated in Section 8 of this Act; and as part of interim measures, to cushion the impact of SuPPPs on the environment within the phase-out periods;
 - c) Alternatives to SuPPPs. Appropriate strategies to implement the requirements provided under Sections 7 and 14 of this Act shall be formulated to assist local manufacturers in developing or acquiring the appropriate technology and sustainable materials for the production of reusable or compostable alternatives to SuPPPs, which shall also be highly recoverable and highly recyclable. It shall also include measures that will implement the infrastructure and systems for reuse and refill models for consumer products;
 - d) Awareness-Raising Measures. As part of the Information and Education Campaign (IEC) under Section 12 of this Act, the DENR shall, together with the Department of Education (DepEd), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Philippine Information Agency (PIA), and Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), formulate an information dissemination plan. The plan shall include information to consumers on: (1) the impact of use and improper disposal of SuPPPs on the environment; (2) waste reduction, reuse, recycling and recovery systems; (3) other best practices in waste management; and (4) sustainable consumption, production and circular economy; and
 - e) Fiscal and Non-Fiscal Rewards and Incentives. The Department of Finance (DOF), the DILG, and the DTI, shall establish mechanisms that will provide fiscal or non-fiscal rewards and incentives allowed under existing laws, to encourage manufacturers, importers, sellers, and end-users to participate in the programs geared towards achieving the objectives of the Plan.

SEC. 7. Philippine National Standard for Compostable Plastic Packaging. - Within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, the DTI, in coordination with the DENR, DOST, Leagues of Local Government Units (LGUs), NSWMC, and other government and private agencies and organizations concerned, shall promulgate and periodically review the appropriate Philippine National Standard (PNS) for compostable plastic packaging products to ensure the integration of the latest standards for the product, and procedures and requirements for the identification and labeling of compostable plastics.

Producers, importers, and commercial establishments may provide compostable plastic packaging products: *Provided, That* the products carry appropriate labels for compostability.

- **SEC. 8**. Responsibility of Producers and Importers. Producers and importers of SuPPPs, whether compostable or not, shall implement the Extended Producers Responsibility, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter III-A of Republic Act No. 9003, as amended.
- **SEC. 9.** Responsibility of Commercial Establishments. Sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act, covered commercial establishments shall undertake the following activities:
 - a) Promote the use of highly reusable, recyclable, and retrievable products in their establishments, or make available for sale locally-made products such as bayong, buli, and other reusable containers and bags that are made of abaca, water lily, and other organic or compostable materials or reusable or recyclable containers that promote circular economy;
 - b) Charge their customers a minimum fee of PHP 5.00 for every single use plastic bag: *Provided*, That the imposition of the minimum fee shall not preclude the LGUs from imposing other fees and charges on the use of plastic bags;
 - c) Charge take-out food or delivery services a minimum fee of Five pesos (P 5.00) for every SuPPP provided, regardless of whether it is a disposable or compostable alternative; and
 - d) Establish an effective in-store recovery program that will facilitate and encourage customer return of their used SuPPPs to the commercial establishment, and implement the recovery scheme established pursuant to Section 8 of this Act.
 - e) . Implement the adoption of refill systems for frequently purchased consumers' food, cosmetic, and household products which are packaged in SUPs.
- The periodic review for updating fees under paragraphs (b) and (c) of this Section shall be undertaken by the NEDA, taking into account emerging economic and social factors.
 - The fees collected pursuant to paragraphs (b) and (c) shall be reflected in the receipts. The DOF shall prescribe the rules and regulations to be issued to implement this Section with respect

to the collection, recording, and remittance of fees: *Provided*, That fifty percent (50%) of the said fees shall be remitted to the National Government and deposited to the National Solid Waste Management Fund pursuant to Section 46 of Republic Act No. 9003, as amended, while the other fifty percent (50%) shall be remitted to the barangay where the fee was collected, to finance exclusively local solid waste management programs, which includes the recovery, diversion, and disposal of SuPPPs.

- **SEC. 10**. *Lead Agency*. The DENR, in coordination with the NSWMC, unless otherwise provided herein, shall be the primary government agency responsible for the implementation and enforcement of this Act.
- **SEC. 11.** Monitoring and Market Inspections. The DENR and the DTI shall, in coordination with the LGUs and local law enforcement agencies, instigate the regular and routine inspection and monitoring of the facilities of commercial establishments, producers, and importers, to determine compliance with this Act. Inspection and monitoring shall include the following:
- 15 a) Entry or access to the premises of operation and business, including storage rooms and stockrooms;
 - b) Inspection of off-site storage facilities, distribution centers, and trans-shipment points; and
 - c) Inspection of the recovery, recycling, treatment, and disposal facilities, to determine if residual SuPPPs are being properly diverted and disposed of.
 - **SEC. 12**. *Information and Education Campaign*. The DENR, in coordination with the LGUs, DILG, DTI, DepEd, CHED, PIA, Climate Change Commission, TESDA, DOST, and other private or nongovernment organizations and concerned agencies, shall conduct a continuing IEC on the proper implementation of this Act, including the necessity to regulate SuPPPs in the country, in relation to our environment. The DENR shall conduct surveys or other monitoring schemes to evaluate the effectiveness of the IEC program.
 - **SEC. 13**. Linkage Mechanism. The DENR and the NSWMC, in coordination with the DTI, may consult, and enter into an agreement with other government agencies, LGUs, or with concerned non-governmental organizations (NGOs) or people's organizations (POs), or private enterprises and other stakeholders in the furtherance of the objectives of this Act.
 - **SEC. 14.** Shift to Alternatives. The DOST, in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture (DA), DTI, DENR, and NSWMC, shall develop and implement a program that will assist local manufacturers in developing or acquiring sustainable sources of raw materials, appropriate technology for the production of highly reusable, recoverable, recyclable, or compostable materials, as an alternative to SuPPPs and provide applicable incentives therefor. Consistent with the program, the DTI, through the Bureau of Philippine Standards, shall take the lead in developing the appropriate standards for alternatives.

SEC. 15. Production and Importation Control. – The DTI shall, in cooperation with the DA, DOST, DENR, and NSWMC, develop a framework plan that will ensure that the SuPPPs being produced or imported in the country will maximize its purpose, minimize its waste footprint, and increase its recoverability and recyclability. For this purpose, standards shall be established for the dimensions, thickness, labelling, structures, capacity, color-coding, materials and other relevant parameters of a particular SuPPP.

SEC. 16. Role of the National Solid Waste Management Commission. – The NSWMC, created pursuant to Section 4 of Republic Act No. 9003, as amended, shall, in addition to its functions under the said law, aid and assist in the implementation and enforcement of this Act.

The NSWMC shall, in partnership with research institutions and academic communities, conduct relevant studies to realize the harmonious implementation of this Act with Republic Act No. 9003, as amended. It shall also ensure that the provisions of this Act are made part of the programs being implemented under Republic Act No. 9512, otherwise known as the 'National Environmental Awareness and Education Act of 2008".

The DENR shall provide the necessary financial and manpower resources to enable the NSWMC to perform its additional functions under this Act.

SEC. 17. Role of Local Government Units (LGUs). – The LGUs shall include the local implementation strategy on the phase-out of SUPPs in the 10-Year Solid Waste Management Plans. It shall ensure the compliance of covered commercial establishments with the provisions of Section 9 of this Act. The LGUs may enjoin the participation of other concerned government agencies, local stakeholders, private entities, and industries for this purpose.

The DENR shall, in coordination with the NSWMC and the DOST, provide the LGUs with technical assistance, trainings, and continuing capability-building programs to attain the objectives of this Act.

- **SEC. 18**. Fines and Penalties. Deliberate violations of Sections 4, 5, 7, 8 and 9 of this Act, and the falsification of documents required pursuant to this Act, or misrepresentation of persons producing, importing, or distributing SuPPPs, and commercial establishments shall be penalized in the following manner:
 - a) Large, Medium and Small Enterprises:

- 1. A fine of not less than Two hundred fifty thousand pesos (P 250,000.00) but not exceeding One million pesos (P 1,000,000.00) for the first offense;
- 2. A fine of not less than One million pesos (P 1,000,000.00) but not exceeding Two million pesos (P 2,000,000.00) for the second offense; and
- 3. A fine of not less than Two million pesos (P 2,000,000.00) but not exceeding Three million pesos (P 3,000,000.00) and automatic revocation of its business permit for the third offense.

b) Micro Enterprises:

1. A fine of not less than Fifty thousand pesos (P 50,000.00) but not exceeding One hundred thousand pesos (P 100,000.00) for the first offense;

2. A fine of not less than One hundred thousand pesos (P 100,000.00) but not exceeding Three hundred thousand pesos (P 300,000.00) for the second offense; and

3. A fine of not less than Three hundred thousand pesos (P 300,000.00) but not exceeding Five hundred thousand pesos (P 500,000.00) and automatic revocation of its business permit for the third offense.

The Pollution Adjudication Board of the DENR shall hear and adjudicate cases of violations or offenses in this Section, and impose appropriate fines therefor. For purposes of the imposition of appropriate fines hereof, the DTI shall establish the classification of commercial establishments based on their capitalization.

Forty percent (40%) of the fines collected under this Act shall be allocated to or retained by the barangay where the fined prohibited acts are committed in order to finance the solid waste management of said unit.

The LGU shall not promulgate ordinances imposing lesser sanctions for any act penalized under this Section.

SEC. 19. Administrative Action. — Without prejudice to the right of any person to file an administrative action, the DENR shall, on its own instance or upon verified complaint by any person, institute administrative proceedings in the proper forum against any natural or juridical person who violates any of the provisions of this Act with respect to standards and limitations provided by this Act, or such order, rule, or regulation issued by the DENR pursuant thereto.

SEC. 20. *Independence of Action*. – The filing of an administrative suit against any person or entity does not preclude the right of any other person to file any criminal or civil action.

 SEC. 21. *Joint Congressional Oversight Committee*. – The Joint Congressional Oversight Committee created under Section 60 of Republic Act No. 9003, as amended, shall likewise monitor the implementation of this Act and review the rules and regulations promulgated by the DENR to implement this Act. The Joint Committee shall be cochaired by the Chairpersons of the House Committee on Ecology and the Senate Committee on Environment.

SEC. 22. Citizen's Suit. - Any citizen can file an appropriate civil, criminal, or administrative action in the proper courts or bodies against: any person who violates or fails to comply with the provisions of this Act and its IRR; the department or other implementing agencies with respect to orders, regulations, and issuances inconsistent with this Act; and any public officer who willfully or grossly neglects the performance of an act specifically enjoined as a duty by this Act or its IRR, or abuses the authority vested upon him in the performance of

duty, or in any manner improperly performs the duties assigned under this Act or its IRR; *Provided, however*, That no suit can be filed until after a thirty (30)-day notice has been given to
the public officer and the alleged violator concerned and no appropriate action has been taken
thereon. With this, free and accessible legal help should be given to individual persons who shall
file a lawsuit under this Act.

SEC 23. Suits and Strategic Legal Actions Against Public Participation (SLAPP) and the Enforcement of This Act. - Where a suit is brought against a person who filed an action as provided in Section 22 of this Act, or against any person, institution or government agency that implements this Act, it shall be the duty of the investigating prosecutor or the court, as the case may be, to immediately make a determination not exceeding thirty (30) days whether said legal action has been filed to harass, vex, exert undue pressure or stifle such legal recourses of the person complaining of or enforcing the provisions of this Act. Upon determination thereof, evidence warranting the same, the court shall dismiss the case and award attorney's fees and double damages.

This provision shall also apply and benefit public officers who are sued for acts committed in their official capacity, there being no grave abuse of authority, and done in the course of enforcing this Act.

- SEC. 24. Implementing Rules and Regulations. The DENR, in coordination with the NSWMC, DTI, DOST, Metro Manila Development Authority and other relevant government agencies and organizations, shall promulgate the IRR governing this Act, within six (6) months from its effectivity.
- **SEC. 25**. Separability Clause. If, for any reason, any provision of this Act or part thereof is declared unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the other provisions or parts hereof not affected shall remain in full force and effect.
- **SEC. 26.** Repealing Clause. All laws, decrees, orders, issuances, ordinances, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.
- SEC. 27. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,