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OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MAYOR ECOLOGICAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

STO. TOMAS' ENVIRONMENTAL VISIONS BEYOND 2010

Introduction

The world today is on a brink of another war. Not that we are into the Third World War or into a Nuclear War nor the threats posed by some terrorist groups but we are faced with a more destructive, annihilating and devastating type of war that might end the human race eventually.

This war is *Global Warming*. Today, millions of lives and properties are lost periodically because the changing weather patterns brought about by *Climate Change* being an immediate result of the Earth's over-heating atmosphere.

With this, communities, nations and leaders around the world are faced with a dilemma to solve this emerging crisis. Various call to action were made by different stakeholders to immediately address if not minimize this problem.

Sto. Tomas' Environmental Visions: A Call to Action

For the past five years since the implementation of the Municipality of Sto. Tomas, Davao del Norte, Philippines of its *Ecological Solid Waste Management Program* in relation to *Republic Act 9003* also known as the *Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000*, we have significantly proven that we can environmentally lessen the amount of waste generated daily and it helped us a lot in terms of reducing the pollutants being thrown into the atmosphere. By inculcating into the community the principles of “*waste reduction at source by mainly avoiding its generation*” and the “*waste segregation at source*” thus this “*best practices*” earned praises because even with the low technology that we have, we are able to apply it effectively and it is worth replicating.

With this, the Municipality of Sto. Tomas sees to it that all its undertaking will be geared towards exerting more efforts to mitigate the effect of the *Global Warming* phenomenon that we are experiencing today.

It is the environmental vision then, of the Municipality of Sto. Tomas, Davao del Norte, Philippines to:

1. Further increase its waste reduction schemes through composting of biodegradables, waste diversion of residual wastes into new products like concrete hollow blocks (CHB), concrete paving blocks (CPB), latrine bowls and other concrete products derived from pulverizing residual wastes and mixing it with concrete.
2. Enforce an institutional tree planting campaign and initiatives covering all graduating elementary and high school students and all those who will get married. To help fight air pollution, Lots trees are necessary. Thus, with current state of our environment and the prevalent effects of global warming, it is very imperative for all concerns to help.
3. It is also our sustainable aim to continuously educate our people of their Social and Moral Responsibility not only in waste disposal but also for a safer environment in general. A constituent that knows is an empowered citizen.
4. With the present state today, it is not enough to for the Municipality to hold a Solid Waste Management Office but to be able to establish a concrete Municipal Environmental Management Office to be able to address all the environmental concerns that are abound our vicinity.
5. Finally, it is our vision to develop a more responsive and environmentally conscious populace that gears toward a clean and safe environment for our generations and the generations to come.

Conclusion:

It really takes an ounce of *political will, commitment* and *priority* to dispose such great function and ideals. It is then our fervent hope that all leaders of the world, be it in the local government units or in the national scene, must prioritize the emerging “*call to action*” to act now to address the issue on global warming and climate change not just for our generation today but for the generations to come. That during their time (our descendants), they would say “*our forefathers did really cared for the future now that we enjoyed.*”



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