

## **News Release**

### **Pasig anti-smoke belching teams set intensified roadside apprehension**

As part of the renewed campaign for healthy air by various clean air advocates, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) along with the Pasig Anti-Smoke-Belching Unit (ASBU) conducted intensified roadside apprehension starting March 8, 2012 in strategic areas along C5 road in Pasig.

DENR Secretary Ramon J.P. Paje personally observed the operations of Pasig ASBU as it flagged down vehicles spewing excessive smoke.

“This shows how serious government is in going after smoke belchers who show no concern for public health. Instead of cleaning up their acts, they continue to ply our roads without seriously fixing their vehicle exhaust,” he added.

A total of 4 ASBU teams conducted road apprehension activities in support of the Clean Air campaign. More teams will be dispatched as more smoke meters or opacimeters will be given to various ASBU teams in Metro Manila.

Since 2009, Pasig City has apprehended a total of 14,000 vehicles.

Based on the ordinance they issued, violators will be penalized with fines ranging from Php 1000 – Php 3000 for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> offense.

To date, there are 16 operational ASBU teams in the Metro. These are from the cities of Manila, Makati, Pasig, Pasay, Mandaluyong, Muntinlupa and Quezon City.

The intensified roadside apprehension forms part of the commitment of local government units in Metro Manila from the recently concluded Clean Air Summit held last February 29.

The summit was organized by the DENR’s Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), along with the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC), the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP) and the Philippine Medical Association, who on December 9, 2011, signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that seeks to strengthen the anti-smoke belching program in Metro Manila in an effort to maintain a reduced particulates in the National Capital Region.