



### **EMB lauds Marikina and Paranaque City for being named ASEAN environmentally sustainable city**

The Environmental Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources recently endorsed two cities in the country for the prestigious 5<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Environmentally Sustainable Cities (ESC) Awards and 4<sup>th</sup> Certificates of Recognition.

EMB Assistant Director, Engr. Vizminda A. Osorio, as National Focal Point for the ASEAN Working Group on Environmentally Sustainable Cities officially nominated the cities of Marikina and Paranaque for their outstanding achievements in environmental management.

“The EMB sends its warmest congratulations to the cities of Marikina and Paranaque for the well-deserved recognition that they have received during the ASEAN ESC Awards. We will continue to work with other local government units in improving their compliance and help them make the big shift towards a sustainable future,” Osorio said.

In the recently concluded ASEAN ESC Awards held last October 21 in Jakarta, Indonesia, the City of Marikina achieved the highest performance score for all the three categories for clean air, clean land and clean water assessment for cities conducted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

The air quality of Marikina City is within the USEPA standard. The City operates against smoke belching vehicles with a dedicated anti-smoke belching unit that conducts daily roadside inspection checking the emission level of motor vehicles. A dramatic 47% reduction of apprehended smoke belchers compared was observed in year 2019. From 4,183 smoke belchers apprehended in year 2018, it drastically reduced to 2,204 in year 2019.

In the area of clean water management, 100% of Marikina households have access to water infrastructure of the city’s water concessionaire, the Manila Water, which tap water meets World Health Organization’s (WHO) drinking water standard. The company is also able to supply water in full capacity that meets the average consumption of Marikina consumers. Moreover, more than 70% of households and industries in the city are linked to two existing wastewater treatment facilities with combined capacity

of 110 million liters per day. With enough water available to residential, commercial and industrial, only one deepwell for groundwater is extracted for use by Manila Water.

Marikina City is also a pioneer in solid waste management in the Philippines. Its practices highlight storage of its 100% waste in dedicated holding areas/receptacles before being disposed properly; 100% collection of household waste through door to door system; and 100% waste transportation via covered vehicles.

Marikina scored high for green spaces. The amount of green spaces in Marikina, at 515.61 hectares exceeded the required green spaces of 428.20 hectares needed for a healthy living based on World Health Organization standard of 9.5 square meter green space per capita.

Also winning a certificate of recognition is Parañaque City under the category “Clean Land for Big Cities.” The city was recognized for its solid waste management program. In Parañaque, 16 out of 16 barangays are practicing segregation at source and segregated collection. The City, through the City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) and a third-party solid waste hauler, increased its efforts in the collection of segregated solid wastes. Source separated materials are transported to the City Transfer Station beside the City Material Recovery Facility along C-5 Road, Barangay La Huerta. Though per barangay, segregation at sources is done, the collection of solid waste by the city’s hauler is further sorted at the City MRF where biodegradable wastes will be used for composting while recyclable wastes will be reused and recycled. Residual Wastes will then be transferred for final disposal at the Rizal Provincial Sanitary Landfill.

Through its “Zero Plastic sa Landfill” project which aims for the elimination of plastic wastes in the sanitary landfill. Parañaque conducts a separate collection of plastics, recyclables, and residuals with potential for diversion like soft sachets collected from barangays, commercial establishments, institutions, and homeowners’ associations. Some of these plastic wastes are shredded and mixed with the cement to make bricks while the rest are upcycled and transformed into new products like bags, slippers and display ornamentals as part of its livelihood program. As of January 2021, a total of 16, 575 kilograms were collected since the start of operation last 2019. Although this was temporarily stopped during the Enhanced Community Quarantine due to the COVID-19 pandemic last March 2020, operation at the City MRF resumed by September 2020.

Parañaque also stands by how it is defined, a city by the bay. The Las Piñas - Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area (LPPCHEA) is found in Parañaque. Even though the monitoring is spearheaded by the DENR – NCR, the City of Parañaque continues to collaborate with the DENR – NCR for the protection of LPPCHEA, a RAMSAR site and area within the Manila Bay. It also conducts regular clean-up drives at LPPCHEA including the eighteen (18) waterways of the City that drains to Manila Bay. These actions prevent the leakage of solid wastes in Manila Bay to help protect the site’s biodiversity.

Previous winners of the ESC award from the Philippines were Puerto Princesa in 2008 and 2011 and San Carlos City in 2014 and 2017.###