

DENR under fire for Payatas closure

Feb 23, 2017, 10:00 PM

by *Charissa M. Luci / Manila Bulletin*

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has been under fire for ordering the Quezon City government to close down the Payatas dumpsite last month.

AKO BICOL party-list Rep. Rodel Batocabe, president of the House party-list coalition bloc, sought a congressional probe on the order made by Environment Secretary Gina Lopez on Jan. 21, 2017 supposedly due to ecological hazards.

“The transfer to an alternative landfill site will result in greater cost to the Quezon City government, considering that the proposed sites are located in areas outside Quezon City, which cost will in turn be passed on to the taxpayers,” he said.

“The livelihood of scavengers who will be affected by the closure should also be considered,” Batocabe said.

Spanning around four to six hectares, the landfill receives an estimated 500 garbage trucks daily with a fee of around P600 per ton, he noted.

The House leader filed House Resolution 714 urging the House Committee on Metro Manila Development to look into the DENR’s order.

“The Quezon City government has asked the DENR to give them until the end of the year to close down the Payatas landfill, citing needed preparations for the city’s solid waste management system,” Batocabe noted.

In a statement, Frederika Rentoy, who heads the City Environment Protection and Waste Management Department, said although they have been preparing for the closure of the waste facility since 2014, it would be best to defer the landfill’s closure to the end of the year.

Rentoy said they support the DENR’s decision, but they appealed for more time to prepare for the Payatas dumpsite’s closure.

The Quezon City government has identified the landfills in Rodriguez in Rizal, Navotas and Vitas Marine loading station as possible facilities that could be utilized in the event the Payatas dump is closed down.

(Article retrieved from: <http://news.mb.com.ph/2017/02/23/denr-under-fire-for-payatas-closure/>)