

NGOs tell importers: return trash to Canada

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Five cause-oriented groups have demanded that the parties responsible for the illegal importation of garbage from Canada follow the court's "return to origin" order without further delay.

The groups namely: Ang Nars Party-List, EcoWaste Coalition, Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives, Public Services Labor Independent Confederation and the Sentro ng mga Nagkakaisa at Progresibong Manggagawa made the plea after the prosecution appealed to the Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 1 to order defendants Adelfa Eduardo, Leonora Flores and Sherjun Saldon to comply with the directive to send back the garbage shipments to Canada.



(EcoWaste Coalition / MANILA BULLETIN)

Prosecution attorney Christine Fatima Estela submitted the "motion for compliance" to the clerk of court last March 6, which was subsequently addressed at the hearing on March 17.

On March 31, the interveners filed a “no objection” comment to the prosecution’s “motion for compliance.”

The five groups and three other individuals are interveners in Criminal Case No. 14-311191 versus importer Eduardo et al for violation of R.A. 6969 or the Toxic Substances, Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act in relation to DENR A.O. 28-1994 and DENR A.O. 29-1992.

Earlier, Judge Tita Bughao Alisuag in a ruling issued on June 30, 2016 “side (d) with the intervenors that the disposal and destruction of the wastes will violate equally important environmental laws such as RA 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act and RA 9275 or the Clean Water Act.”

The court further ordered the return of 50 container vans of garbage “back to Canada, the place of its origin,” stressing that the Philippines is not a “trash bin” and that the incident “should not be made a precedent for other countries to follow.”

The DENR in 2015 had certified that “the contents of the container vans imported by Chronic Plastics are bailed municipal wastes or garbage for immediate local disposal and cannot be recycled.”

“Nine months have passed since the June 30 court order was issued, and the reeking wastes from Canada are still in our territory. The prolonged delay in the execution of the directive is totally upsetting and unfair for our nation, which is bearing the brunt of illegal and unethical waste trade,” said Dr. Leah Paquiz, representative of the Ang Nars Party-List in the 16th Congress.

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