

## **UNDP, DENR boost EPR drive**

By: Manila Times

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) teamed-up with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) for a nationwide campaign that will drive the recovery of waste materials and prevent leakage of waste into the environment. The campaign is in line with the implementation of Republic Act (RA) 11898, otherwise known as the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Act of 2022.

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Dubbed as "Loopforward: Linking Opportunities and Partnerships Towards Circular Economy through EPR," the campaign aims for full compliance and effective implementation of the EPR Act of 2022 by industries and other entities through attainment of time-bound waste recovery targets. It highlights the relevance of the EPR concept and law, gain better understanding among its stakeholders, and convene and gain commitments from the country's biggest private firms referred to as the "obliged enterprises" under the law. It also seeks to gather support and open possible areas for collaboration among national government agencies, local government units, and development partners.

During the Loopforward launch, Senator Cynthia Villar, who pushed for the passage of the EPR Act, delivered her message of support while Secretary Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga was the keynote speaker. Meanwhile, Climate Change Commission Secretary Robert Borje and UNDP Philippines Resident Representative Selva Ramachandran delivered special remarks as well.

Among the highlights of the program were the talks on the social dimension of single-use plastic in the informal sector by Dr. Emma Porio of the Ateneo de Manila University, and another on climate financing by UNDP Climate Action Programme Team Leader Floradema Eleazar; as well as panel discussions on enabling EPR implementation by key officials from the Department of Finance, the Department of the Interior and Local Government, the Department of Labor and Employment, the Department of Science and Technology, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the Department of Trade and Industry, with representatives from Holcim Philippines Inc., San Miguel Foods, Plastic Credit Exchange, Nestle Philippines Inc., Universal Robina Corporation, SM Prime Holdings Inc., Philippine Alliance for Recycling and Materials Sustainability, and CEMEX Holdings Philippines.

Throughout the event, the DENR facilitated the onsite registration and submission from private companies of their respective EPR programs either as an Obligated Enterprise, Collective or Producer Responsibility Organization. An exhibit on exemplary EPR programs from select enterprises and organizations was also featured.