

Villar proposes extended producer responsibility to limit plastic wastes

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To address the country's problem on plastic wastes, Senator Cynthia Villar is pushing for the implementation of extended producer responsibility (EPR), a measure now being practiced in European nations.



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The senator raised the concept of EPR during a recent public hearing of the Senate committee on environment and natural resources, which she chairs.

The EPR, Villar said, is an environmental protection strategy requiring the manufacturers using plastic materials in their packaging to be responsible in recovering the plastic wastes. It may take the form of a program to reuse, buy-back or recycle packaging materials.

The practice shifts the responsibility for waste management from government to the manufacturers.

“Our plastic waste problem cannot be solved by token CSR (corporate social responsibility). Companies should also do voluntary work or work in convergence with government agencies to significantly reduce prevalence of plastic wastes in our seas,” she said.

Villar said she is also considering the amendment of Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, which failed to reduce plastic wastes despite enactment in 2001.