

Lone sanitary landfill in Antique already operational

By Annabel Consuelo Petinglay **March 18, 2021, 1:25 pm**

CLOSURE OF OPEN DUMPSITES. Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu (left) joins San Jose de Buenavista Mayor Elmer Untaran during the groundbreaking of the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office building on Wednesday (March 17, 2021). Untaran said they are now able to comply with the order of the DENR for the closure of open dumpsites. *(PNA photo by Annabel Consuelo J. Petinglay)*

SAN JOSE DE BUENAVISTA, Antique – Antique province's sole sanitary landfill here is already fully operational, in time for the order of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to close all open dumpsites this month.

"We have already closed our open dumpsite in Barangay Pantao," Mayor Elmer Untaran said in an interview on Thursday, adding that since last January they already been using the sanitary landfill for residual wastes.

The sanitary landfill, constructed in January 2020, through a PHP20 million fund from the office of Lone Antique Rep. Loren Legarda, is also located in Barangay Pantao.

Untaran said he was glad about the functional sanitary landfill as Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu has already directed the closure of all open dumpsites by end of March.

Cimatu announced during the groundbreaking ceremony of the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) in Barangay Maybato Sur on Wednesday that he directed Undersecretary Benny Antiporda for the closure of all open dumpsites last January.

He said the DENR would assist local government units (LGUs) with no such facility and could not afford to put up one during their transition mode "and for the eventual putting up of the sanitary landfill."

Cimatu is hopeful the LGUs would abide by the directive.

However, Untaran said that they could not accommodate wastes from other municipalities.

The other 17 municipalities are still using open dumpsites.

"The residents of Pantao might not like that the waste of the other neighboring towns would be dumped in their barangay," he said. **(PNA)**

<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1133967>