Policy and Program Framework on Solid Waste Management of Local Government Units and Initiatives of Key Sectors in the Province of Albay, Philippines

Joseph L. Bartolata

Email: josephbartolata@yahoo.com

Abstract

Home to the majestic Mayon Volcano, Albay Province is one of the Philippines identified provinces belonging to Super Region that focuses on tourism. It therefore behooves the Local Government Units and the other concerned sectors in Albay to revisit their policy and program framework and significant initiatives along environmental concerns, particularly on solid waste management. Using Republic Act 9003 also known as Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 as legal basis, this study assessed the policy direction and mechanics of implementation of the ordinances of the cities and municipalities in the province of Albay vis-à-vis the mandates of RA 9003; determined the status of implementation of the ordinances; identified and described the initiatives of key sectors in support to the LGU program on solid waste management; and proposed legislative/administrative measures to strengthen LGU policy and program framework. A highly qualitative research, it employed the following research tools: documentary analysis, focus-group discussion, and interview. By and large, both the spirit and the letter of the RA 9003 are not fully reflected in the policy and program framework of the LGUs in Albay. The over-all efforts exerted by the LGUs in the Province of Albay are wanting given the fact that most of the provisions of RA 9003 are not complied with either because the requirements themselves are virtually impossible to abide by due to monetary or behavioral constraints or the implementers simply lack or do not have the political will to implement the program. By the same token, being communal in nature, the solid waste management initiatives of key sectors like the religious organizations, academic institutions, non-government organizations and
other people’s organizations need to be enhanced if they want to make a dent on the revitalization of the Albay tourism industry and in the pursuit of a much cleaner and more sustainable environment. Certainly, vital to all these efforts to improve solid waste management in the Province of Albay is the proposed legislative and other related measures principally focused on administrative and financial aspects. Hopefully, this could serve as a supplement in the genuine implementation of RA 9003.

Keywords: corporate social responsibility, waste management, ordinance enforcement, qualitative data and analysis.

Introduction

Rationale
Economic growth and growing population have caused tremendous impact on the environment. More specifically, the increased economic activities as a result of the growth of the population have resulted in the deterioration not only of the urban environment but also the rural areas. Simply put, it is the environment that bears the brunt of the ill-effects of economic growth and over-population.

One of the areas that are beginning to experience this problem, especially along escalating generation of wastes that accompanies increased economic activities, is the Province of Albay. A rapidly increasing population and lack of adequate disposal sites is indeed a recipe for disaster, which if unchecked, will pose immediate threats to the people’s lives and well-being.

The passage of Republic Act No. 7160 (1991), otherwise known as the Local Government Code mandated the Local Government Units (LGUs) to manage their wastes produced from activities within their units, which include a combination of domestic, commercial, institutional, and industrial wastes and street litters.

This same mandate is reflected in Republic Act No. 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 which states that it is the declared policy of the State to adopt a systematic,
comprehensive and ecological solid waste management program. Specifically, Section 10 states that the LGUs shall primarily be responsible for the implementation and enforcement of the provisions of this Act within their respective jurisdictions.

Indeed, LGUs have the responsibility for the management of all solid wastes generated within their jurisdictions. In exercising that responsibility, they should be guided by the parameters set forth by RA 9003. To what extent have the selected LGUs in Albay complied with the provisions of RA 9003? Have they enacted ordinances along solid waste management in accord with the provisions of the law?

While it is true that the management of solid wastes chiefly rests on the shoulders of the LGUs, the problem triggered by escalating generation of solid wastes should not be left solely to them. Needless to say, this is one issue that needs the involvement and collaboration of the other sectors of the society like the academic community, religious organizations, people’s organizations, non-government organizations, to name but a few. What significant initiatives along solid waste management have these vital sectors in the society embarked on?

The aforesaid questions will serve as the backdrop against which this study is designed and pursued. Indeed, the over-all efforts of the Local Government Units of Albay and other concerned sectors become all the more important given the fact that Albay belongs to the GMA-identified super-region designed to become the nucleus for tourism industry.

**Objectives of the Study**

This study looked into the policy and program framework on solid waste management of LGUs and the initiatives undertaken by key sectors along solid waste management in the province of Albay. Specifically, this study aimed to:

1. Assess the policy direction and mechanics of implementation of the ordinances of the cities and municipalities in the province of Albay vis-à-vis the mandates of RA 9003;
2. Determine the status of implementation of the ordinances;

3. Identify and describe the initiatives of key sectors in support to the LGU program on solid waste management;

4. Propose legislative/administrative measures to strengthen LGU policy and program framework.

**Research Framework**

RA 9003 (2000) defines Solid Waste Management (SWM) as referring to “the discipline associated with the control of generation, storage, collection, transfer and transport, processing and disposal of solid wastes in a manner that is in accord with the best principles of public health, economics, engineering, conservation, aesthetics, and other environmental considerations that is also responsive to public attitudes”.

Mandated by law, Local Government Units (LGUs) are obliged to comply with basic provisions to help lessen the troubles caused by escalating volume of solid wastes. Expectedly, LGUs should design programs and policies anchored on RA 9003. These should come in the form of plans and ordinances along solid waste management. Expectedly, too, the key sectors of the society should have launched initiatives along solid waste management because LGUs cannot simply do it by themselves. Besides, being communal in nature, the burden posed by rising volume of solid waste cuts across all sectors of the society.

Six years into the implementation of RA 9003, there is a pressing need to assess the status of its implementation. The focus of the assessment is on the extent of compliance by the LGUs of the mandates of the law and the initiatives undertaken by the key sectors of the society with the end in view of proposing legislative and administrative measures to boost the policy and program framework of the LGUs along solid waste management.
Research Method

This study used the following research techniques: documentary analysis of the existing ordinances and related issuances and accomplishment reports; focus-group discussion involving the key officials of the locality engaged in solid waste management; and interview of key informants from the community.

Analysis and Discussion

Policy Direction towards Solid Waste Management in the Province of Albay vis-à-vis the Mandates of RA 9003. RA 9003 is considered as one of the landmark legislations of Philippine Congress. It was enacted in response to the alarming problem posed by the escalating volume of solid wastes in the country. In essence, the law mandates Local Government Units (LGU) to take care of the management of the solid wastes within the area of jurisdiction. Moreover, it provides the proper mechanism to manage solid wastes properly.

While it is true that RA 9003 is a national law, and therefore should be implemented in all the LGUs throughout the country, there is still a need to adopt the same at the local level and incorporate distinct provisions where they are applicable, suited to a particular LGU.

Mandated Solid Waste Management Plan & Ordinances Related to SWM. Based on RA 9003 which officially became effective on January 6, 2002, all LGUs are required to come up with a 10-Year Solid Waste Management Plan consistent with the National Solid Waste Management Framework. Table 1 provides the data on the compliance of LGUs in Albay with the aforesaid mandate, and the data on the ordinances enacted relative to SWM.

The data show that only 6 out of 18 LGUs in Albay have come up with the required 10-Year SWM Plan with the following components: background information, waste characterization, source reduction, recycling, composting, collection and transfer, processing, solid waste facility capacity and
final disposal, education and public information, special wastes, resource requirement and funding, and privatization of SWM projects. These are Legazpi, Camalig, Tabaco, Tiwi, Polangui and Libon.

Table 1: Solid Waste Management Plan & Ordinances of LGUs in Albay

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local Government Units</th>
<th>SWM Plan</th>
<th>Ordinances Related to SWM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Legazpi City</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Ligao City</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Tabaco City</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Bacacay</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Camalig</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Daraga</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Guinobatan</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Jovellar</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Libon</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Malilipot</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Malinao</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Manito</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Oas</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Pio Duran</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Polangui</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Rapu-rapu</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Sto. Domingo</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Tiwi</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Environment & Natural Resources Office (Province of Albay)

The 10-Year SWM Plan requires a huge amount of data that is why LGUs find it difficult to come up with a plan consistent with the mandates of the law. The failure could also be attributed to putting SWM at the tailspin of the LGUs priorities, the change in leadership every three years, or simply inadequacy of resources.

While it may be true that these LGUs already have SWM Plan, the adequacy of the plan with reference to the requirements of RA 9003 must also be looked into. Laurin (2007) found that Ordinance Number 98-004, an ordinance adopting the comprehensive Solid Waste Management
(SWM) for Legazpi City was inadequate with respect to the mandates of RA 9003. But the 10-Year City SWM Plan adequately complied with the annotated pattern of the plan requirements of National Solid Waste Management Office. The plan, however, inadequately complied with what the law requires along current solid waste management conditions, waste characterization, and the proposed solid waste management system. Likewise, she found that the SWM Action Plan (CY 2005) was not fully implemented in Legazpi City. The plan was still on the process of implementation, specifically along conversion of open to controlled dumpsite, SWM information and communication, and establishments of demo farm. Segregation and composting were found to be not implemented.

Magdamit (2007) also found that Tabaco City had already developed a 10-Year SWM Plan in compliance with RA 9003, but the plan was found inadequate in substance compared to what the law requires. He highlighted the fact that per provision of RA 9003, all controlled dumpsites must be closed after February 16, 2006, and that LGUs must have their own sanitary landfill. But Tabaco City still has an open dumpsite which is a clear violation of the law.

Moreover, the study conducted by Naag (2007) found that the SWM Plan of Camalig did not fully comply with RA 9003, specifically the annotated outline for Local SWM Plan. More particularly, the municipal profile component was the only aspect found to be adequate. The rest, like current solid waste management conditions, plan strategy, implementation strategy, cost estimates, waste characterization, legal institutional framework, among others, were only partially complied with.

The inadequacy or the outright absence of the plan speaks clearly about the policy direction of the LGUs in Albay towards SWM. But while other LGUs have failed to come up with SWM Plan, 13 out 18 LGUs have enacted ordinances related to SWM. Most of them, however, come in the form of piecemeal legislations tackling just one or two functional elements of SWM.

Banton (2007) studied the case of the municipality of Guinobatan and concluded that it has failed to come up with the mandatory 10-Year SWM Plan. However, it has been implementing
Ordinance No. 03-2004 in response to RA 9003. The ordinance is focused on enhancing ecological balance of the community through sustainable and integrated solid waste management.

In the study on the three municipalities in the first congressional district, Sto. Domingo, Malilipot, and Tiwi, Rodriguez (2007) found that it was only Tiwi that has come-up with the compulsory 10-Year SWM Plan as prescribed by RA 9003. The three municipalities, however, have their own ordinances covering solid waste-related concerns. But they are all inadequate in substance with respect to the mandates of RA 9003.

Finally, Respeto (2007) found that Ligao City has inadequate SWM ordinances with regards to the mandates of RA 9003. The municipality has yet to come up with a 10-Year SWM Plan, but it has its own short-term plan.

RA 9003 also explicitly provides for the required appropriate dumpsites. It has set February 16, 2004 as the deadline for the conversion of Open Dumpsite (OD) to Controlled Dump Facility (CDF), and February 16, 2006 as the deadline for the closure of CDF and conversion of the same to Sanitary Landfill Facility (SLF).

Table 2 shows the types of dumpsites of LGUs in Albay. It is noteworthy to mention that only one LGU in Albay, that is Ligao, has converted its OD to CDF. But this is still a violation of the law because since February 16, 2006, what is required by RA 9003 is a SLF.

All the other 15 LGUs still have an OD, while 2 LGUs, Jovellar and Manito, have not even identified a dumpsite for final disposal of solid wastes. The 2 LGUs just rely on backyard composting in every household, presumably without regards to the types of wastes generated and disposed.

**Table 2: Existing Dumpsites of LGUs in Albay**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Municipalities/ Cities</th>
<th>Barangay</th>
<th>Area (ha.)</th>
<th>Type of Dumpsite</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Legazpi City</td>
<td>Banquerohan</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Open Dumpsite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Ligao City</td>
<td>Bonga</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Controlled Dumpsite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Tabaco City</td>
<td>Pinagbubong</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Open Dumpsite</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The interesting question is, “What constrains these LGUs from complying with what the law requires?” The non-compliance, can of course, be attributed to a number of factors. First and foremost is the lack of funds. A Sanitary Landfill, based on a fair estimate, would entail P50 Million per hectare. This is a huge amount that not many of the LGUs in Albay can afford. Nevertheless, RA 9003 also allows for clustering of LGUs so that they can pool their resources to lessen the financial burden. Needless to say, this would also necessitate extraordinary effort on the part of the LGUs that may be clustered to coordinate and carry the load. Yet another concern that may be anticipated is the identification of disposal site. Presumably, no LGU would be willing to be the dumpsite for all the wastes in the clustered LGUs. The same observation holds true as far as a particular LGU is concerned--that is the difficulty in convincing a particular barangay to be the dumpsite for solid waste.
wastes coming from all the barangays. Perhaps this is the main reason why two LGUs in Albay have yet to identify their disposal sites.

The conversion of OD to CDF (a requirement since 2004) also involves money. Unfortunately, LGUs in Albay are constrained by the lack of equipment and personnel to get the job done.

The issue is that if other LGUs in other provinces (that also face all sorts of constraints, although not that many) can do it, why can’t the LGUs in Albay? This is where the issue on political will comes into the picture. Needless to say, SWM requires a sustained effort which may be hampered by a change in political leadership every three years, or a leadership that relegates SWM to oblivion.

**Status of Implementation of the Ordinances**

Local ordinances are needed to provide legal framework for the SWM program at the local level. While it is true that a number of the LGUs in the province of Albay have enacted ordinances related to solid waste management before and after the enactment of RA 9003, most, if not all of them, dealt with only one or two of the many functional elements of SWM. Among the six functional elements of SWM, only collection, transfer and transport, and disposal were the main focus of the ordinances, thereby setting aside the equally important functional elements like waste generation, storage, and processing and recovery.

But while it is a fact that there are appropriate ordinances tackling collection, transfer and transport, and disposal among the LGUs in Albay, their implementation is another story. For example, as regards to collection of solid wastes, RA 9003 provides the following basic requirements: the collection crew shall be equipped with protective equipment, the collection crew shall be properly trained, collection of waste shall be done in a manner which prevents damage to the container, and
spillage of wastes. One then may feel sorry at the sight of collection crew wearing no protective equipment at all, and upon seeing the scattered wastes after the dump truck is gone.

With regards to transfer and transport, the basic requirements under RA 9003 are: separate collection schedules and/or separate trucks may be used for collection of different types of wastes, or the trucks may be compartmentalized, and the waste shall be covered during transport. Again, as one may observe, dump trucks just collect solid waste wastes regardless of their types, and their foul smell spreads to the dismay of the motorists temporarily trapped in traffic.

With regards to disposal, RA 9003 requires that all solid wastes be disposed of in a sanitary landfill facility since February 16, 2006. Unfortunately, to date, no sanitary landfill facility has yet been constructed because of financial constraint. As emphasized earlier on, based on a fair estimate, one hectare of Sanitary Landfill Facility approximately costs P50 Million. Needless to say, LGUs in Albay could not afford to appropriate this huge amount from their Internal Revenue Allotment.

To complete the picture, the other three functional elements of SWM which were not covered by the ordinances of the LGUs in Albay, are just as important. As far as waste generation and storage are concerned, RA 9003 requires Mandatory Segregation of Solid Wastes, where segregation of wastes shall primarily be conducted at the source, and the LGU shall promulgate regulations for premises with 6 or more residential units. Moreover, there shall be a separate container for each type of waste and the container shall be properly marked. It is sad to note that these are not just done. To put it bluntly, there is no segregation at source whatsoever. If ever there are those who will attempt to segregate solid wastes at source, its essence is defeated when dump trucks collect and dump all sorts of solid wastes in one container.

Yet another mandate of RA 9003 is that all LGUs shall divert at least 25% of all solid wastes from waste disposal facilities through reuse, recycling, composting, and other resource recovery activities within 5 years after the affectivity of the Act. The waste diversion goals shall be increased every 3 years thereafter. Related to this, there shall be established a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in every barangay or cluster of barangays. The facility shall be established in a barangay-
owned or leased land or any suitable open space to be determined by the barangay through its Sanggunian. For this purpose, the barangay or cluster of barangays shall allocate a certain parcel of land for the MRF.

MRF includes a solid waste transfer station or sorting station, drop-off center, a composting facility, and recycling facility. Based on record, however, only the cities of Ligao and Legazpi have established MRF in one of their barangays and only one barangay in Legazpi City has a composting and recycling facilities. In other words, all these are again clear violations of the law.

The next interesting question to ask is, “Are the violators given sanctions?” The obvious answer is No. Records show that no LGU to date has been slapped a penalty for failure to implement RA 9003.

**Initiatives of Key Sectors in Support to the LGU Program on SWM**

Due to its communal-oriented operation, solid wastes management needs the collective effort of all members of the society. Put differently, it is a concern that demands the cooperation of everybody regardless of his status and orientation. Some, if not most, of the key sectors of the society, therefore, must contribute, in their own big or little ways, to help mitigate the ill-effects of poorly-managed solid wastes. Unfortunately, very few initiatives are undertaken by those who are supposed to be partners of LGUs on SWM.

As far as the private sector, non-government organizations, and other organizations are concerned, no data from the concerned agencies have yet been recorded, to indicate their direct participation on SWM. Although there was a group of women in Sto. Domingo engaged in recycling, no report has yet been submitted to the concerned offices. There is no question about the fact that these organizations help maintain cleanliness in their immediate environment by taking care of their trash. But if the Albayanos are indeed serious about SWM, then the key sectors of the society must take the extra step and do more than just taking care of their trash.
As far as the other sectors of the society are concerned, the conduct of sporadic activities on SWM is also evident. For example, Perez (2007) assessed the SWM initiatives of selected academic institutions in Legazpi City. The three academic institutions – Aquinas University of Legazpi (AUL), Bicol University (BU), and Divine Word College of Legazpi (DWCL), have their own solid waste management initiatives that are being undertaken through their various functions.

In the area of instructions, AUL and BU have integrated SWM in the appropriate curricular course offerings while DWCL has yet to do it. There are completed and on-going researches regarding SWM both in AUL and BU. DWCL said that it is not yet its priority to conduct any research on SWM. In the area of extension, all the three academic institutions have complete and on-going extension activities such as cleanliness campaigns and holding of seminars in coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Yet another sector that has some noteworthy undertakings along SWM is the religious group. Lana (2007) assessed the SWM initiatives of selected religious organizations in Legazpi City – Islam, Iglesia ni Cristo, Seventh-Day Adventist, and Iglesia Watawat ng Lahi. All the members of Islam segregate their wastes and place them in the proper trashcans. They also practice recycling to eliminate wastes. Iglesia ni Cristo relies on dump trucks for disposal of their solid wastes. Aside from waste segregation, they also recycle plastics and paper. They also convert biodegradable wastes into fertilizers. The Seventh-Day Adventist, on the other hand, is totally committed to cleanliness. The youth of the church have their Clean and Green Program. The church also has trashcans for biodegradable and non-biodegradable wastes. Iglesia Watawat ng Lahi also has its proper trashcans for different types of wastes to be collected by the dump trucks. Moreover, all the members of the church cooperate in the clean and green program.

While all these are noteworthy to mention, it must emphasized that these worthwhile activities are conducted independently, without necessarily coordinating with the concerned LGUs, some of which do not even have SWM Program in the first place.
Proposed Legislative, Administrative and Other Measures

RA 9003 is indeed an ideal legislation that contains comprehensive mechanisms dealing with SWM. Its complete implementation, therefore, should serve as a challenge to the local executives’ leadership so that most of the law’s objectives are achieved. It must be emphasized that the law already provides the map to guide all LGUs in Albay in chartering their course towards a well-managed solid wastes, and eventually a much cleaner and sustainable environment. Be that as it may, the law still offers opportunities for a particular LGU to rise up to the challenge and institute measures that may be adopted locally. On the whole, however, strengthening the LGU policy and program framework on solid waste management necessitates the adoption of the following measures:

**Formal Adoption of RA 9003.** While it is true that RA 9003 is a national law, its adoption at the local level is still in order, especially that there may provisions of the law that need to be localized. The formal adoption of the law at the local level may serve as the first big step in the overall effort of the LGUs to manage their solid wastes properly.

**Involvement of Key Sectors in the Society.** If the LGUs would attempt to do the management of solid wastes alone, then for sure it is going to be tough & lonely battle. That is why there is need to involve the other sectors of the society. For example, assistance from the academic community may be sought in the preparation of SWM Plan which requires thorough research and report writing, in entrepreneurial trainings, and in educating households. The private sector may also extend help especially along resource improvement. While the religious sector and other non-government organizations may be tapped to help in whatever form. The possibilities are actually too many to mention, if only the LGUs, the ones that are mandated to manage their solid wastes within their jurisdiction, will take the lead.

**Pursuit of Clustering of LGUs relative to SWM.** Managing solid wastes, especially relative to their disposal, is capital intensive. That is why it behooves LGUs to pool their resources for the construction of sanitary landfill facilities. The clustering of LGUs with reference to their
representation in Congress may be adopted so that at least there will be one sanitary landfill facility in each of the three districts in Albay. Of course, the district representatives can also help lobby for more funds.

**Imposition of Administrative Sanctions on Government Officials.** As provided for in the aforesaid legislation, government officials who fail to comply with and enforce rules and regulations promulgated relative to RA 9003 may be meted administrative sanctions. To date, however, no government official has yet been slapped a penalty for violations of the law. It is high time for the concerned authorities to send a strong message that the law has its own teeth by issuing a last call and thereafter imposing the appropriate penalty to the erring government officials who wantonly violate the law.

**Non-Collection of Unsegregated Wastes At Source.** Strict implementation of non-collection of unsegregated wastes at source may send a strong message especially to the households that segregation is a must. But then again, the other basic requirements especially in the collection and transport of solid wastes must also be complied with.

**Collection of Garbage Fees.** An ordinance may be passed authorizing the collection of minimal garbage fees from households to help finance SWM activities. The local executives and politicians should go beyond the “collect, no re-elect mentality”, after all, the minimal amount, if taken together, will go a long way in the management of solid wastes.

**Learning from other LGUs’ Experience.** Solid waste has become a national concern, challenging to the utmost the creativity of the local executives. That is why it would help if the LGUs SWM Board, headed by the governor at the provincial level and the mayor at the city or municipal level, including the barangay SWM committee, should learn lessons from the significant experiences of other LGUs.
Conclusion

The national policies as explicitly stipulated in RA 9003 otherwise known as “Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000” are not fully reflected in the policy and program framework on Solid Waste Management in the Local Government Units in the Province of Albay. On the whole, the efforts exerted by the LGUs in the Province of Albay are inadequate given the fact that most of the provisions of RA 9003 are not complied with. Ordinances dealing with one or two functional elements of SWM come in the form of piecemeal legislations. All these could be attributed to the fact that the requirements themselves, as enumerated in the law, are virtually impossible to abide by due to monetary or behavioral constraints. This inadequacy is likewise manifested in the lack of or outright absence of political will to implement the law.

By the same token, being communal in nature, the solid waste management initiatives of key sectors like the religious organizations, academic institutions, non-government organizations and other people’s organizations are wanting. There may be sporadic conduct of activities related to SWM but they are conducted independent from the SWM Program of the concerned LGUs. Needless to say, they need to be enhanced in the pursuit of a much cleaner and more sustainable environment to revitalize Albay tourism industry. Certainly, vital to all these efforts to improve solid waste management in the Province of Albay is the proposed legislative, administrative and other measures. These are the formal adoption of RA 9003 in the local level, involvement of the key sectors in the society, pursuit of clustering of LGUs relative to SWM, imposition of administrative sanctions on government officials, collection of garbage fees, non-collection of unsegregated wastes at source, and learning from other LGUs’ experience. Hopefully, this could serve as a springboard to start up the much-needed drive towards a clean and green environment.


