Malinis na kapaligiran, panlaban sa COVID-19: DENR

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Manila, Philippines – Mariing nanawagan ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa publiko na panatilihing malinis ang kapaligiran upang malabanan ang nakahahawang sakit na COVID-19.

"While we take care of ourselves against the COVID-19 pandemic, we also need to consider that dirty surroundings also contribute to the spread of the virus. Thus, we need to sanitize our homes and workplaces," sabi ni DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu.

Pinayuhan din ni Cimatu ang publiko na maghanda ng cleaning solutions sa pamamagitan ng paghalo ng 10-15 percent na bleaching agent o sodium hypochlorite at malinis na tubig.

Ang mga karaniwang brand ng sodium hypchlorite na matatagpuan sa mga tindahan ay Zonrox, Chlorox, Mr. Muscle, at iba pa.

Ang iba pang uri ng disinfectant products ay matatagpuan sa link na ito: : https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2

Aniya, ang solution na ito ay maaaring panlaban sa virus at panglinis sa kapaligiran. Maaari din itong ipang-spray sa mga basura bago kolektahin ng mga basurero.

Maging ang mga garbage collector ay pinapayuhan din na gumamit ng parehas na solution sa mga nahakot na basura bago ito dalhin sa tamang tapunan. Kinakailangan ding linisin ang mga garbage trucks bago ito muling mag-ikot at maghakot ng basura.

“The idea is to kill the virus present in the solid waste and in the hauling trucks,” paliwanag ni Cimatu.

Samantala, binigyang diin naman ng kalihim na kinakailangang may maayos at tamang pagtatapunan ng basura na mula sa mga ospital tulad ng disposable masks, gloves, caps at hospital gowns na kadalasang ginagamit ng mga health workers para protektahan ang kanilang sarili laban sa COVID-19.

“The Office of the Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns led by Undersecretary Benny D. Antiporda will be coordinating with the mayors for the implementation of this collection, treatment and disposal procedure for solid waste to ensure that it will be followed,” paliwanag pa ni Cimatu.

Dagdag pa ng kalihim ng DENR na paaalalahanan din ang mga lokal na pamahalaan na mahipit na ipatupad ang hindi pagtatapon ng basura sa mga daluyan ng tubig bilang pagsunod sa Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act. ***Santi Celario***

DENR to require garbage collectors to wear PPE to prevent virus spread

By
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To prevent further spread of the novel corona virus that has triggered the Covid-19 a global pandemic, Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu is urging the public to disinfect their garbage before the scheduled collection.

At the same time, Cimatu is calling on garbage contractors to make sure that their garbage collectors are properly protected, suggesting that they provide all of their employees with personal protective equipment, face mask and gloves.

As secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Cimatu heads the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC).

Benny Antiporda, the DENR's undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and LGU Concerns, said Cimatu will hand down a memorandum to members of the Interagency Task Force on Covid-19 recommending that the two proposed preventive measures be strictly enforced or implemented.

Antiporda said one way of disinfecting garbage is by dousing bags with sodium hypochlorite and water solution.

"Sodium hypochlorite is the product commonly called Clorox or Zonrox. You mix 10 percent of this liquid with 90 percent water and spray it or douse it to garbage and garbage bag before the scheduled collection," said Antiporda.

On the other hand, he said, Cimatu is determined to make the wearing of the personal protective equipment, or PPE, for all garbage contractor personnel mandatory for their own protection.

Antiporda said garbage collectors interact with people all the time as they go about their work and they are among the most vulnerable as they may be compelled to work even during enhanced community quarantine in Luzon.

"That way, they won't be infected by the virus and potentially become a carrier and trigger the spread of the virus," Antiporda, the deputy spokesman of Cimatu, added.