

SAN JUAN CITY LAUNCHES 'KUHA SA TINGI' WITH GREENPEACE PHILIPPINES AND IMPACT HUB MANILA

Mayor Francis Zamora led the launch of "Kuha sa Tingi," a project created to help address the plastic pollution crisis by establishing refilling stations in existing sari-sari stores on Friday, November 4, 2022, at San Juan City Hall Atrium. The project is the first ever to be implemented by a Local Government Unit with Greenpeace Philippines and Impact Hub Manila.

Mayor Zamora was joined by Greenpeace Philippines Country Director Lea Guerrero, Zero Waste Campaigner Ms. Marian Ledesma, and Impact Hub Manila CEO and Founder, Ms. Ces Rondario.

"This is a very happy occasion for Greenpeace to be partnering with San Juan City. We are very happy to be a partner of this endeavor. This project is the first of its kind sa Pilipinas dahil hindi siya sari-sari store lang. Isa siyang sistema ensuring na we have a service na dati sa mga mahal lang na establishments available noon, pero ngayon ay mga refilling stations na mas accessible sa mga communities at malaki ang role ng cities at city executives sa sustainability. This is a pioneering project that can be and should be replicated in other parts of the Philippines," said Lea Guerrero, Country Director of Greenpeace.



Ces Rondario of Impact Hub Manila thanked the local government of San Juan for its cooperation in environmental projects like this, saying, "Walang pag-corrupt, lahat binigay sa 'min. Marami po kaming nilapitan na LGU, pero San Juan ang nag-open ng doors sa 'min." She added, "Ang goal po nito ay mabawasan ang single use plastic natin - maging solutions-oriented tayo. Kaya gumawa tayo ng mekanismo na sana mawala na ang sachets sa Pinas tulad nito."

"Maraming salamat sa Greenpeace at Impact Hub Manila sa programang ito dahil bahagi ng aming 10-point program ang pangangalaga sa kalikasan. Sa tulong po ninyo, magagawa na itong pag-reuse at refill sa San Juan. Kung ang ibang lungsod ay di po kayo papansinin, ang San Juan ay yayakapin kayo," San Juan City Mayor Francis Zamora declared.



"Imbis na sachet na ating pupunitin, pipigain palabas ung shampoo, tapos anong ggawin natin dun? Itatapon na natin. Nakakadagdag sa basura sa kapaligiran. Imbis na sa sachet, dito na lang tayo kumuha. This a culture that we want to develop, na instead of buying sachets, bibili na lang ng tingi dito," Mayor Zamora added.

Co-developed by the institutions, the project installed refilling stations in ten existing sari-sari stores. The store owners have undergone orientation and will have technical and business development support. A refilling station will also be available at the city hall to be hosted by the San Juan City Hall Employees Cooperative.

The ten partner sari-sari stores were given four (4) jerry cans of dishwashing liquid, liquid detergent, fabric softener, and shower gel. Each jerry can weighs four (4) liters. Store owners are also entitled to two (2) free refills of each product. Buyers are encouraged to bring their own reusable containers when they buy the products.

Mayor Zamora also addressed the store owners and said, "Ito ay pondo, mga produkto na pwede nating ibenta, na kung tayo ay magiging masigasig at masinop, pwede nating paikutin ang kita dyan at makapgbibigay ng magandang kabuhayan sa 'ting pamilya. At maganda rin na habang kumikita tayo ay napapangalagaan natin ang ating kapaligiran. Dual purpose ito, it is income generating at the same time enables us to take care of our environment and sustain our environmental efforts."

At the end of the project, the team aims to have a replicable model, which companies can implement in their operations to lessen plastic production and which other cities and institutions can apply in businesses, environmental initiatives and livelihood programs.

"We aim to normalize this idea. I-normalize natin na hindi na kailangan ng mga sachets. Of course, hindi lang dapat mga communities ang gumagawa nito, but companies have to do their share, their part as well in investing in solutions in reuse and refill. We need not just people to work on solutions, but governments like San Juan and corporations have to advance solutions that move us away from our dependency on plastics and dependency on fossil fuels," Greenpeace Zero-Waste Campaigner Marian Ledesma explained.

"It is not every day that we get to help 10 sari-stores. Let this be the start of a long-term partnership with Greenpeace and Impact Hub. Rest assured that the City of San Juan will always be supportive of environmental programs such as this because at the end of the day, we have to take care of our environment and sustain the earth that we live in," said Mayor Zamora.

Kuha Sa Tingi will go on a one-month road show in different locations in San Juan this November to inform the residents and encourage them to join the reuse and refill revolution. Aside from Kuha Sa Tingi, San Juan City is also involved in different environmental-friendly and sustainable programs with different organizations. In partnership with Incom Tomra, the first Reverse Vending Machine in the country is located in San Juan and it will soon be launched in Greenhills.

The city is also in partnership with Greenpeace in garbage waste disposal, and other reduce and recycle programs which the city believes are sustainable and implementable in San Juan.

