

MIGUEL ZUBIRI

A. CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY

1. It has always been my advocate to protect the environment from any kind of destruction. I will fully support the moratorium on using coal to generation power plants. In fact, my first act in the Senate will be to advocate the renewable energy bill. The bill aims to further reduce our dependency on imported fuel by harnessing various sources of renewable energy such as hydro, solar, biomass, geothermal and wind energy, among others. These types of renewable energies are among the most environment-friendly substitutes to fossil fuels that can be utilized. It is now time to find ways on how to make use of locally-available organic substances and renewable energy sources.
2. Yes. Aside from my plan to push for a renewable energy bill once elected senator, I have already authored the recently passed the Biofuels Act of 2006 that will not only lessen our dependency on fossil fuels, but also promote the development of our countryside. Aside from generating huge savings for the country, the law would also lead to the reduction of pollution caused by fossil fuels' emissions.
3. No answer

B. WATER

1. Yes. Water contamination has been a perennial problem for this government, not only in Metro Manila, but also in nearby suburbs. I believe that it is a must to put in place such infrastructure to ensure the safety of our people's drinking water.
2. No answer
3. We have laws in place to protect the basic services from being monopolized. What we should do is ensure that these laws and regulations are strictly followed and that the bidding process for such basic services – such as water, electricity, and health – have full transparency.

C. SOLID WASTE

1. RA 9003 already covers every aspect of how to effectively dispose ecological solid wastes which are deemed harmful to human health. What needs to be done now is to ensure the proper and full implementation of the law at all sectors of our society. If still needed, what we can do is make amendments to that law so that it can fully serve its purpose.
2. No answer

3. Yes. I have always advocated the recycling of used materials, which be reused in various ways; such as paper bags and cups among others. I also agree that our manufacturers should refrain from using plastic since it is not biodegradable. Some companies already have 'take back systems' when their product life expires. What we can do is initiate the gradual phasing out of the use of plastic materials for packaging as well as the gradual implementation for companies to put in place a take back system for their products once its operational life expires, with incentives and perks to companies which will put in place a take back system. However, the most important step to take is to educate the people on the proper disposal of waste products.
4. I agree that plastics are the prime causes of our worsening waste problem and I support the idea of slapping 'sin' taxes on disposable plastic packaging. Slapping 'sin' taxes on manufacturers of disposable plastic containers could serve as a deterrent for using non-biodegradable disposable plastic packages. However, I will again reiterate that one of the best ways to solve of waste problem is to education the public on the proper disposal of their solid wastes.

D. TOXIC TRADE & JPEPA

1. Our primary concern should be the protection of our environment, especially from toxic wastes and technological junk. The protection of our environment is non-negotiable. The government should carefully look into the concerns being raised by different sectors over the absence of democratic consultation. We should reject the JPEPA if it has exploitive provisions.
2. As with any agreements with other countries, it is *utmost* that we protect our environment against toxic, nuclear and technological wastes. We will always reject any bilateral or multilateral agreements which contain exploitive provisions.
3. No answer

E. GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS

1. Although genetically modified organisms used in agriculture and food gives us abundant supply and more efficient processing, the most detrimental effect of this is its unknown effect on safety more specifically to the health of the users. We will always be against the alteration of our natural means to produce healthy food for our people.
2. Again, I am for the safety of the health of the people. GM rice has only been available in the market recently and pre-testing of this product is still ongoing. Once used, we are placing our health as well as the environment at risk. We are not sure

about its effects on the soil in the long run. We should only use and support such a product if indeed we are sure that it is 100% beneficial for us and the environment.

3. Yes, I would support it. It is in the people's best interest to know if the product they will be using is genetically modified or not; since we are not guaranteed of the effects of the product vis-à-vis the well being of the consumers.

F. SUSTAINABLE AND ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

1. I will support the move towards the use of more organic means for farming rather than synthetic farm inputs. As a matter of fact, I have a pending bill in congress which is an act to promote the bio-organic farming in the Philippines. Once elected, I will further push for the bill to be enacted. The effect of this lessens the use of synthetic farming and enhances the use of organic practices which is more beneficial for our environment.
2. Yes, I will support this because I believe in organic agriculture. As I have said, I will push for the use of organic means of farming and by doing so, lobby my bill to promote the use of bio-organic farming in our country.

G. LOGGING

1. I intends to pursue my environmental advocacies by pushing for laws that will strengthen forest management policies, such as the systematic commercial timber farming, selective harvesting and the protection of the country's remaining primary and secondary forest areas.
2. Yes. I fully support any moratorium on commercial logging. Also, the government could better protect our remaining forests if communities, themselves, will be trained to better manage and monitor forests in their respective areas. There is an urgent need to protect and conserve nature and wildlife now, before damages to this national treasure become irreversible. What is called for are concrete and more stringent conservation and protection measures that would allow nature and our wildlife to replenish their populations. Doing so would allow us the opportunity to engage in their wiser utilization in the future.

H. MINING

1. Our environment is non-negotiable. I am basically against all forms of mining and other activities that will wreck havoc on our already fragile environmental system.
2. No. We cannot say that small scale mining can be environmentally-friendly. Small scale mining, such as gold panning can wreck the environment – pollute rivers, cause soil erosion and contaminate water – just like mining activities of large companies.
3. What should be done is iron out conflicts and inconsistencies on some provisions of the Mining Act and strictly enforce the law, specifically on provisions concerning NIPAS.

I. AIR POLLUTION

1. We could drastically lessen pollution by banning importation of second-hand diesel engines. However, outright banning of second-hand diesel engines will be very hard to do since some sectors – such as transportation – rely heavily on cheap diesel engines. What we could do is the gradual phasing out of these second-hand engines. We could also put in place safety nets – such as periodical emission testing – to lessen its negative effects on the environment.
2. I have already started the campaign to clean our environment through the Biofuels Act of 2006, which blends biofuels into gasoline and diesel. The procedure is not difficult and costly since it does not require any engine modifications. Aside from generating dollar saving for the country, the law would also lead to the reduction of pollution caused by fossil fuels' emission.

J. YOUR ENVIRONMENTAL TRACK RECORD

1. My three terms in Congress were spent on legislating pro-environment laws such as the Biofuels Act of 2006 (RA 9367) which promotes the use of biofuels to minimize air pollution; The Wildlife Conservation Act (RA 9147); The Act to Revise the Country's Environmental Code; and the Act to protect and preserve Mt. Kitanglad Range, among others.

Once elected to the Senate, I intend to pursue my environmental advocacies by pushing for laws that will strengthen forest management policies, such as the systematic commercial timber farming, selective harvesting and the protection of the country's remaining primary and secondary forest areas.

My first act in the Senate will be to advocate the renewable energy bill. The bill aims to further reduce our dependency on imported fuel by harnessing various sources of

renewable energy such as hydro, solar, biomass, geothermal and wind energy, among others. These renewable forms of energies are among the most environmentally-friendly substitutes to fossil fuels that can be utilized.