

**2007**

**GREEN ELECTORAL INITIATIVE**

**A. CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY (10 PTS)**

- 1. Will you support a moratorium on purposed coal-fired power plants and the transition of existing ones to renewable energy sources as a means to reduce the country's greenhouse gas emissions and help in the international effort to contain global warming? Will you also support a moratorium on other greenhouse gas emitting sources such as "sanitary" landfills, "waste-to-energy", cement kilns, etc?**

Answers: YES ; YES

- 2. Will you support a strong, renewable energy legislation with high and binding renewable energy targets that will reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and assure genuine energy security for the country's future?**

Answer: YES

- 3. What legislative measures (i.e. demand side management, market incentives, Integrated Resource Planning) will you initiate to mainstream energy efficiency in the country?**

Answer:

- A) Legislate into law measures complimenting or strengthening RA 8749-Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999, to further reduce and prevent greenhouse emissions, establish programs that will alter human activities affecting climate change, such as;
- 1) Shift from the use of fossil fuels like coal and oil into renewable sources like solar energy, natural gas, geothermal...
  - 2) Massive reforestation, planting of trees and vegetation all over the country including rural and urban centers, planting of plants on top of high-rise buildings...
  - 3) Convert more idle lands into safe sanitary landfills...
- B) Enact a law that shall severely penalize human actions and activities in violation of the new laws described above.

**B. WATER (10 PTS)**

- 1. Are you willing to commit a specific percentage of your Countryside Development Fund (CDF) for the development of septage and sewerage management, treatment and infrastructure?**

**Answer:**

**My party (Ang Kapatiran) platform is for the abolition of the pork barrel (CDF). I am committed to pursue this forthwith. Therefore, I will file a bill for the development of septage and sewerage management, treatment, and infrastructure, and appropriating funds therefor.**

- 2. The pollution of our sources for clean water (e.g., freshwater, groundwater) is exacerbating the water crisis, with the prospects of severe water shortages in the future looming large. What legislative measures would you propose to insure stricter protection of our aquifers (groundwater), as well as providing stiffer penalties to polluters of water sources?**

**Answer:**

**By legislation, I will put more teeth to the existing law (R.A. 6969 – The toxic and hazardous wastes control Act of 1990) against dumping of toxic waste and garbage by providing more stringent penalties for violations thereof.**

- 3. What steps will you undertake to ensure people's fair access to water and guard against monopoly?**

**Answer:**

**I will cause the enacting of a law mandating LGUs (cities, municipalities, barangays) to locate, identify, develop, and manage their own respective water sources (e.g., deep well, etc.) from which every person in these respective communities shall have free access to. The LGUs may or may not delegate, outsource, or grant franchises to private enterprises to provide said public service guarding against or prohibiting monopolies should the LGUs choose the former option. A program for public education and information about nature, care, and conservation water as a vital but pollutable and depletable natural resource shall be part and parcel of said piece of legislation.**

**C. SOLID WASTE (10 PTS)**

- 1. The Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 (R.A. 9003) mandates the closure of all dumps and the establishment of Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) or ecology center in every barangay or cluster of barangays. Six years after the law took effect, the country remains littered with more than 1,000 open and controlled dumps. To date, only 1,723 MRFs or ecology centers exist in the country's 42,000 barangays. What legislative action will you take to ensure the effective implementation of RA 9003?**

**Answer:**

**Amend the law and criminalize violations or non-compliance thereof by providing strict penal sanctions against recalcitrant barangay officials concerned. Also under this amendment, the municipal or city officials shall be given supervisory and disciplinary authority over barangay officials vis-à-vis the strict implementation of this law.**

- 2. Thousands of families subsist by collecting discards from bins and dumps. R.A. 9003 barely responds to waste pickers' socio-economic, health and other needs. How do you plan to plug this legislative loophole in R.A. 9003 so that waste pickers, including itinerant and dump based waste pickers will be recognized as integral players in the ecological and safe management of discards?**

**Answer:**

**Another amendment must be added to RA 9003 mandating a program or measure that shall directly and promptly address the socio-economic, health and other needs of the waste pickers and their families. For one, free, and periodic physical and medical check-ups must be provided them as well as treatment and medicines whenever necessary.**

- 3. Will you support legislative measures that will compel companies to phase out toxic substances in their products, in packaging and in production systems as well as institute take back systems for their end of life products (e.g., computer waste etc.)?**

**Answer:**

**Yes, I will support.**

- 4. Do you support banning certain types of plastics and disposables which contribute to our worsening waste problems? What are your views regarding**

**slapping a kind of “sin” tax on disposable plastics packaging, taking into account that citizens and taxpayers are currently shouldering the costs of disposal of these types of waste materials?**

**Answer:**

**Yes, I support the banning of certain types of plastics and disposables.. I agree, too, that some kind of “sin” tax must be slapped on plastics packaging. In fact, we can do better than this by outlawing outright and altogether the use of plastics in packaging.**

**D. TOXIC WASTE TRADE & JPEPA (10 PTS)**

- 1. Malacanang has submitted the Japan-Philippine Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA) to the Senate for ratification. Considering the concerns raised by different sectors over the absence of democratic consultation and participation of civil society, and also regarding the toxic and nuclear waste trade, and other exploitive provisions under the proposed treaty, will you vote to reject or ratify JPEPA? Why?**

**Answer:**

**I will reject it precisely because of the absence of democratic consultation and participation of civil society. The other reason for my rejecting it, is the presence of provisions on toxic and nuclear waste trade, and other exploitive provisions in the proposed treaty.**

- 2. Parties to the Basel Convention adopted in 1995 the Basel Ban Amendment which prohibits the transboundary movements of hazardous waste from developed to developing countries for any purpose. The Philippines is a party to the Basel Convention but is yet to ratify Basel Ban Amendment. Will you initiate and support the ratification of the Basel Ban Amendment in the 14<sup>th</sup> Congress, and work to amend RA 6969 which contains a loophole that allows toxic and hazardous wastes to be sent to the Philippines for “economic reasons”?**

**Answer:**

**Yes, I will initiate and support the ratification of the Basel Ban Amendment in the 14<sup>th</sup> Congress, and work to amend RA 6969 which contains a loophole that allows toxic and hazardous wastes to be sent to the Philippines for “economic reasons.”**

- 3. The dumping of post consumer goods from developed to poorer countries containing toxic wastes, such as electronic waste, is becoming a global**

**concern. There are efforts underway in the developed world, particularly in Europe to hold manufacturers of these products responsible for the take-back and proper recycling of their products at its end-of-life. Will you support legislative measures that will hold manufacturers accountable for their products at end-of-life?**

**Answer:**

**Yes, I will support legislative measures that will hold manufacturers accountable for their products at end-of-life.**

**E. GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOs) (10 PTS)**

- 1. What steps will you take to protect the country's biodiversity and public health from the contamination and unpredictable adverse effects of the release and use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in agriculture and food?**

**Answer:**

**We must resort to increasing the production of natural food like rice instead of relying on the use of GMOs in agriculture and food. We need not endanger the life and health of our people when there is a safe and tested way of producing naturally raised food. We should indulge more in discovering and using newer or better technology and infrastructure in agriculture so as to improve and increase productivity.**

- 2. Despite widespread rejection of genetically modified (GM) rice in markets worldwide, illegal genetically modified rice is being sold in Philippine supermarkets and approval for the use of another GM rice strain for food, feed and processing is currently pending at the Bureau of Plant Industry. Do you support the introduction and commercialization of GM rice in the country?**

**Answer:**

**As a matter of national policy, the Philippines must put a ban on the use of GMO's and importation of GM rice and other GM foods for as long as the country is capable of producing food the old natural and safe way.**

- 3. Would you support the mandatory labeling of all products containing GM organisms sold in the Philippines?**

**This would not be necessary or applicable when the Philippines shall have banned, as mentioned above, the use of GMOs and the importation of GM foods.**

**F. SUSTAINABLE & ORGANIC AGRICULTURE (10 PTS)**

- 1. Will you support a legislation that will remove subsidies to synthetic farm inputs as well as measures that would significantly reduce the use of pesticides and agricultural chemicals in the country? Will you support that these subsidies be re-channeled to the promotion of organic agriculture practices?**

**Answer:**

**Yes to both questions.**

- 2. Will you support a legislation that will shift the DA's policy orientation from chemically based and synthetic agriculture towards the development of sustainable and organic agriculture as defined by Executive Order 481 or the Promotion and Development of Organic Agriculture in the Philippines?**

**Answer:**

**Yes, I will support.**

**G. LOGGING (10 PTS)**

- 1. What measures would you propose to advance community-based forest management and enforcement of laws against illegal logging? Do you agree that natural forests should be kept free from commercial logging or conversion into other uses?**

**Answer:**

**A.) One such measure is to deputize responsible forest inhabitants or residents as forest rangers to report and/or stop illegal loggers and other violators of forestry laws. Providing these duly deputized forest inhabitants as forest rangers with incentives such as rewards or commissions would make them more vigilant and effective.**

**B.) I agree that natural forests should be kept free from commercial logging or conversion into other uses.**

- 2. Will you support a five year moratorium on commercial logging to allow our forests to regenerate and while our communities are trained to do**

**community-based forest management and in monitoring their respective areas?**

**Answer:**

**Yes. In fact I would go for a longer period of moratorium like, perhaps, ten (10) years.**

## **H. MINING (10 PTS)**

- 1. What legislative measures will you initiate to make mining companies accountable in the acute and long term impacts caused by their activities on public health and the environment?**

**Answer:**

**Very strict and prompt sanctions must be imposed on mining companies that violate or are indifferent to public health and the environment. Sanctions like temporary suspension of operations or permanent closure or revocation of the mining permit or franchise must be imposed. For extraordinary or graver violations, penal sanctions should even be meted.**

- 2. Will you support a community-based, environment-friendly small scale mining legislation?**

**Answer:**

**Yes, for as long as close supervision and control by government are put in place.**

- 3. How do you intend to uphold the Indigenous People's Rights Act (IPRA) and National Integrated Protected Area System (NIPAS) especially in the context of the said laws' outstanding conflicts and inconsistencies with provisions to the Mining Act?**

**Answer:**

**Serious attempts at reconciling, as much as practicable, the IPRA and the NIPAS, on the one hand, and the Mining Law, on the other hand, must be resorted to first. For points or areas where reconciliation is impracticable, exemptions or special considerations must be made in favor of the indigenous peoples.**

## **I. AIR POLLUTION (10 PTS)**

1. **Air pollution remains a serious threat to public health. What legislative step will you initiate to make the Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999 more effective? Would you support a ban on the importation of dirty, second-hand diesel engine?**

**Answer:**

**A.) There must be a serious review of the Clean Air Act of 1999 to discover its kinks, if any. Where it is found weak, it must be given more teeth. Where the culprit is in its implementation, then concerned and responsible agencies of government must be made strictly and severely accountable for their acts of commission or omission.**

**B.) Yes, I would support a ban on the importation of dirty, second-hand diesel engines.**

2. **What legislative measures will you propose that would mainstream the production and use of clean fuels, increase motor efficiency and reduce fuel consumption?**

**Answer:**

**There ought to be a law to:**

- a.) **Establish or provide higher scientific standards in testing fuels to determine the fuels' cleanliness, effect on motor efficiency, and cost effectiveness or rate of consumption;**
- b.) **Discover and develop other or alternative fuels like bio-fuels as substitute to fossil-based fuel; and**
- c.) **Consider and further develop electric as well as solar energy for use as mechanical or industrial fuel.**

**J. YOUR ENVIRONMENTAL TRACK RECORD (10 PTS)**

**Please enumerate and describe your earlier and existing initiative(s) in the environmental field (not necessarily in the legislative area) including sponsoring, voting, history in congress with respect to environmental bills, environmental programs implemented, benefits for the environment, etc. Please include your party platform in the environment, if any.**

**Answer:**

- A.) –question is not applicable to me-  
B.) My party platform on environment:

**1. Article II, Declaration of Principles, Constitution and By-laws, Ang Kapatiran Party: - “Section 8. Care for God,s Creation. The world that God has entrusted to us, yet our use of it must be directed by God’s plan for creation, not simply by our own benefit.”**

**2. No. 31, Social Dimension (Good Governance): - “Promote a safe, clean, healthy and wholesome environment, particularly zero waste management; promote stewardship as a way of life; and promote the development of parks throughout the country.”**

**JESS PAREDES  
Senatorial Candidate  
Ang Kapatiran Party**