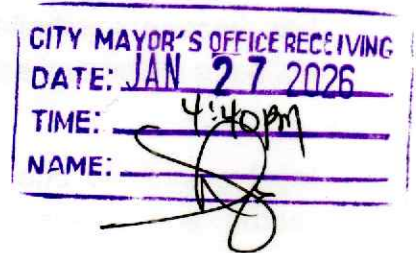




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27 January 2026



HON. ALFRED S. ROMUALDEZ
City Mayor
Tacloban City

Thru: ATTY. ANNALIZA A. QUILIOPE
Acting City Administrator

Subject: Urgent Concern on Uncollected Garbage and Enforcement of RA 9003 and Tacloban City Ordinance No. 2017-13-37

Dear Mayor Romualdez,

Good day.

We respectfully write as Taclobanons who deeply love our City and take pride in its progress and resilience, particularly after years of rebuilding and growth. It is precisely because of this sense of ownership and civic pride that we feel compelled to raise a growing concern regarding the continued presence of uncollected garbage along several side streets and inner roads of Tacloban City, as documented in numerous social media posts and community observations.

We candidly share that it is disheartening and embarrassing for many residents to see images of uncollected garbage circulating online, especially considering that Tacloban has been a Highly Urbanized City for the past seventeen (17) years. Such images do not reflect the standards of governance, cleanliness, and environmental stewardship that Taclobanons expect of their City, nor the image we wish to project to visitors, investors, and future generations.

The accumulation of solid waste in public streets and residential areas likewise poses potential risks to public health, environmental safety, drainage systems, and disaster preparedness, particularly given Tacloban City's vulnerability to flooding and extreme weather events.

In support of this request, we are attaching photographs sourced from publicly shared social media posts, showing apparent accumulations of uncollected garbage in several locations within the City, including major roads and residential areas (Annex "A"). These images are submitted solely for documentation and fact-finding purposes, and to assist the City Government in identifying areas that may require immediate attention and objective assessment.

We respectfully note that the City Government has a clear and continuing legal mandate under both national law and local ordinance to ensure the proper implementation of solid waste management, specifically:

1. **Republic Act No. 9003 (Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000)**
 - **Section 10** designates local government units as primarily responsible for the implementation and enforcement of ecological solid waste management within their respective jurisdictions.

2. **DENR Administrative Order No. 2001-34 (IRR of RA 9003)**
 - The Implementing Rules expressly retain **primary responsibility for implementation and enforcement** of solid waste management systems with LGUs.

3. **Republic Act No. 7160 (Local Government Code of 1991)**
 - **Section 16 (General Welfare Clause)** obligates LGUs to protect public health, sanitation, and a balanced and healthful ecology; and

 - **Section 17 (Basic Services and Facilities)** devolves to cities the responsibility for environmental management and sanitation services, including garbage collection and disposal.

4. **Tacloban City Ordinance No. 2017-13-37**
(An Ordinance Providing for an Integrated Ecological Solid Waste Management for Tacloban City)
 - **Sections 3 and 5** mandate the City to regulate and implement a **comprehensive ecological solid waste management program**;

 - **Sections 14, 16, 18, and 19** require the establishment of facilities, collection points, and **strict enforcement of collection schedules**;

 - **Section 28** requires the allocation of funds in the Annual Budget for effective implementation; and

 - **Section 29** directs the City Mayor to issue the necessary Implementing Rules and Regulations to ensure proper enforcement.

The Ordinance was duly enacted and approved on 25 January 2018, and remains valid, effective, and enforceable.

In light of these provisions, the situation observed on the ground suggests possible lapses in the implementation or enforcement of the City's solid waste management systems. While policies, schedules, and mechanisms are provided for under law and ordinance, the persistence of uncollected garbage in certain areas warrants verification and objective assessment to determine whether collection and management are being carried out in accordance with established standards.

In this connection, the matter likewise calls for an assessment of whether the offices and personnel tasked with the planning, supervision, and day-to-day management of the City's solid waste management system possess the necessary qualifications, technical competence, and training required under existing laws and the City's own Ordinance. Effective ecological solid waste management necessarily depends on adequately qualified, properly designated, and sufficiently trained personnel, supported by clear lines of supervision and accountability.

In the interest of public health, environmental protection, good governance, and civic pride, we respectfully request that the City Government:

1. **Cause the conduct of a prompt fact-finding review or internal investigation**, through the appropriate City offices including the City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO), to determine whether there have been lapses or deficiencies in the collection and management of solid waste in affected areas;
2. **Include in the review an evaluation of the organizational structure, designations, and qualifications of personnel responsible for solid waste management**, including their compliance with applicable competency and training requirements;
3. Pending the outcome of such review, **undertake immediate remedial measures** to clear accumulated garbage in public streets and prevent further risks to public health and safety;
4. **Ensure strict enforcement of collection schedules and coverage** in accordance with Tacloban City Ordinance No. 2017-13-37; and
5. **Inform the public, in writing, of the findings of the review and the corrective actions to be undertaken, within fifteen (15) days from receipt of this letter**, consistent with the principles of transparency and accountability in public service.

This concern is raised out of love for Tacloban City and a sincere desire to see it reflect the standards befitting a Highly Urbanized City, where cleanliness, environmental responsibility, and responsive governance are visibly upheld.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We trust that your Office will give it the urgent and appropriate action it deserves.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,



PETRONILO "PETE" L. ILAGAN
Chairman

Attachments:

Annex "A" – Photographs of Reported Uncollected Garbage in Selected Areas of Tacloban City (January 7 and January 25, 2026)

Source: Public social media posts (credited as indicated in the images)

Copy furnished:

Hon. Juanito Victor C. Remulla, Secretary, DILG
Hon. Arnel M. Agabe, Regional Director, DILG VIII
Engr. Visitacion V. Giva, City Director, DILG Tacloban
Hon. Raphael P. Lotilla, Secretary, DENR
Hon. Arturo N. Salazar, OIC Regional Director, DENR VIII
Hon. Idefonso Quillooy, PENR Officer, DENR VIII
Hon. Edgardo D. Alegre, RPF, CENR Officer, DENR VIII
Dr. Dennis De Paz, President, EVSU
Dr. Gil Nicetas B. Villarino, President, LNU
Dr. Patricia B. Arinto, Dean, UP Tacloban
Hon. Raymund Romualdez, Vice Mayor, Tacloban City
Honorable Councilors of Tacloban City
PH Haiyan Partners

SOURCE: SOCIAL MEDIA (Bandilyo Neil Glova)

