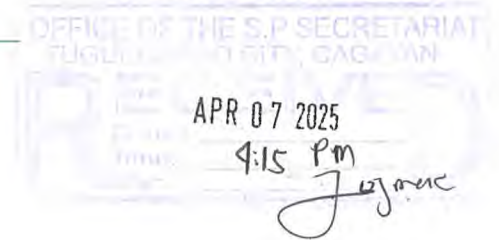




Republic of the Philippines
Province of Cagayan
Tuguegarao City
CITY MAYOR'S OFFICE
2nd Floor, Tuguegarao City Hall, Carig Sur,
Tuguegarao City Cagayan 3500



07 April 2025

THE PRESIDING OFFICER AND MEMBERS
Sangguniang Panlungsod
This City

Dear *Presiding Officer and Members of the Sanggunian*:

The following city resolution and ordinance were received by my office on March 28, 2025, to wit:

1. **CITY RESOLUTION NO. 205-09-2025 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "RESOLUTION ADOPTING AND APPROVING CDC RESOLUTION NO. 07-2025 TITLED RESOLUTION ENDORSING TO THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD THE HEREIN SUPPLEMENTAL ANNUAL INVESTMENT PROGRAM (SAIP) NO. 1 CY 2025"**
2. **APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE NO. 01-09-2025 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET NO. 01 (CY 2025) OF TUGUEGARAO CITY IN THE AMOUNT OF EIGHTY-THREE MILLION THREE HUNDRED FORTY-FIVE THOUSAND NINETY-FOUR PESOS (P83,345,094.00)"**

Pursuant to Section 54 of Republic Act No. 7160, being the Local Chief Executive of this City, I am exercising my veto power and vetoes the above-mentioned city ordinances.

This veto is being made in the interest of public welfare and good governance on the following grounds:

1. **THE REDUCTION OF FUND FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF INERT SOIL WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY CAUSE ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH PROBLEMS**

Under the 10th WHEREAS on page 2 of the City Resolution No. 205-09-2025, provides, to wit:

"1. xxx

2.Reduction of the allocation for the procurement of inert soil from Seven Million Two Hundred Sixty Thousand and Nine Hundred Six pesos (P7,260,906.00) to Three Million Pesos (P3,000,000.00)";"

In the same manner, the Appropriation Ordinance No. 01-09-2025 which pertains to the supplemental budget for CY 2025, it allocated the *fund for inert soil amounting to P3,000,000.00* under the MOOE of the City Mayor.

The drastic reduction in the allocation of fund for inert soil raises an immediate concern about the coherence of the resolution's intent and the practical implications of implementing such a cut. If the resolution and ordinance acknowledge the necessity for the procurement of inert soil, a reduction of this magnitude inherently questions whether the allocated funds are sufficient to meet the intended operational requirements.

It is of public knowledge that “waste” is considered as one of the major concerns in the city. The volume of waste generated and produced by households, businesses, and industrial activities are significantly increasing and uncollected waste can lead to environmental contamination and community safety issues. Addressing this concern is crucial. As a matter of fact, we are collecting tons of waste each day, leading to an overwhelming accumulation. Landfilling is an effective and environmentally-friendly method for waste disposal. The inert soil to be procured is intended to cover the collected waste in accordance with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) regulations on waste management and disposal. Ensuring our compliance with these regulations is a shared responsibility among residents, community and city leaders.

The soil we intend to procure serves the purpose of covering the waste and acting as a seal for our dumpsite. According to our program of work, we need to cover an area of 14,750 square meters, which requires approximately 16,596 cubic meters of soil, with a projected funding amount of P7,260,906.00. This quantity of soil would fully cover the designated area. However, if the funding is reduced, it will leave the 59% or the equivalent 8,703 square meters of the dumpsite uncovered.

Drastically reducing funding for inert soil procurement has direct implications for environmental and public health concern. Without adequate inert soil to cover waste materials, there is a higher probability of surface and groundwater contamination. This may expose communities to hazardous materials, leading to health complications over time. Likewise, inadequate inert soil can cause unpleasant odors, air pollution and attract pests, heightening the risks of disease transmission among community members. Allocating sufficient funds for procuring inert soil is therefore critical for maintaining environmental and public health standards.

The insufficient fund for the procurement of inert soil could result in far greater costs in terms of environmental remediation and public health interventions should pollution or health crises arise. If environmental management and public health problems arise as a direct result of inadequate funding, the city may find itself compelled to allocate emergency funds to address these issues, leading to potential budget overruns in the future.

2. THE DRASTIC REDUCTION OF THE ALLOCATION FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF INERT SOIL WOULD AFFECT OUR COMPLIANCE

WITH THE WASTE MANAGEMENT LAWS AND OTHER EXISTING POLICIES

The drastic reduction of the allocation for the procurement of inert soil raises significant concerns regarding our city's ability to comply with existing waste management laws and policies. Adhering to these legal frameworks is not only a legal obligation but also a fundamental responsibility to protect public health and the environment.

Local government units are mandated to adhere to national and local waste management laws, such as the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act (Republic Act No. 9003) and local ordinances that govern solid waste disposal, treatment, and environmental protection. Inert soil plays an essential role in compliance with these regulations.

Inert soil is critical for the proper capping or covering of dumpsites. This practice is a legal requirement aimed at minimizing contamination and managing waste effectively. Reducing the allocation undermines our ability to meet these essential legal requirements. The procurement of inert soil is vital for ensuring that waste is managed according to the stringent environmental safety measures prescribed by law.

Non-compliance with waste management laws can lead to legal implications, including fines and sanctions imposed by regulatory agencies. This financial burden could far exceed the savings anticipated by reducing the allocation for inert soil. Also, it can lead to public health risks, including exposure to hazardous waste or contaminated water supplies, which may result in litigation, increased healthcare costs, and harm to community well-being.

Beyond legal compliance, the procurement of inert soil aligns with our city's broader environmental policies aimed at fostering sustainable waste management practices. Our city has developed a Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan that emphasizes responsible waste handling. Ensuring adequate procurement of inert soil is a fundamental component of executing this plan effectively. As our community moves towards sustainability goals, reducing the procurement of inert soil contradicts these objectives. Sustainable practices necessitate adequate resources to manage waste responsibly, thereby demonstrating our commitment to environmental stewardship.

From an ethical standpoint, the city has a moral obligation to protect the environment and ensure the health and safety of its residents. Prioritizing funding for inert soil procurement is not only a legal and fiscal responsibility but also a societal imperative.

The people of Tuguegarao City expect their local government leaders to prioritize environmental protection and public health. A decision to reduce funding for waste management initiatives could undermine public trust and jeopardize community well-being. Investing in effective waste management solutions today ensures that future generations inherit a healthier environment. The decision to reduce funding for inert soil procurement reflects a lack of foresight regarding intergenerational equity.

In light of the potential environmental degradation and public health risks with the reduction in funding for the procurement of inert soil, it is imperative to veto City Resolution No. 205-09-2025 and Appropriation Ordinance No. 01-09-2025. Restoring the allocation for inert soil to the original amount of P7,260,906.00 reflects a commitment to safeguarding the environment and ensuring public responsibility. The well-being of Tuguegarao City's residents must remain a priority, and prudent investment in environmental management is fundamental to achieving this goal.

The drastic reduction in the allocation for the procurement of inert soil presents significant challenges in maintaining compliance with waste management laws and policies, safeguarding public health, and upholding ethical obligations as a governing body. Funding allocation is essential to fulfilling legal requirements, avoiding negative consequences of non-compliance, and aligning with our all-encompassing sustainability goals. It is imperative that we protect our community and environment through responsible and informed decision-making. Thus, a reconsideration of this funding reduction is not only necessary but critical to the best interest of all stakeholders in our community.

For your information and appropriate action.

Thank you!

In the name of public service,


MAILA ROSARIO S. TING-QUE
City Mayor