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## Villar calls on farmers to turn animal wastes into compost, renewable energy

By VANNE ELAINE P. TERRAZOLA

Senator Cynthia Villar urged farmers to take small steps in mitigating the effects of climate change by turning animal wastes into compost and renewable energy sources.

Villar, who chairs both the Senate Committees on Agriculture and Food, and Environment and Natural Resources, said animal wastes management will "really go a long way in minimizing the effects of climate change and protecting the environment."

Speaking at a recent event, Villar underscored the significance of farmers' training on animal waste manage-

ment, particularly how to efficiently and appropriately manage and utilize wastes into biogas and vermicompost.

"(It) is very relevant and unique because farmers should not only learn hog-raising or animal production but also the profitable aspect of it," said Villar in a statement.

She added that farmers should also learn how to care and protect the environment, citing the training's relevance on the climate change and disease prevention.

Villar said such course and topics are very crucial to the Philippines for two main reasons.

"First, the Philippines is an agri-

cultural country. About two-thirds of the country's population is, directly or indirectly, involved in agriculture. Second, the Philippines is an archipelago, and as such, is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change," she said.

She cited a United Nations report which identified the country as the third-most at-risk from climate change in the world.

Villar said that while the Philippines was ranked behind the South Pacific island nations Vanuatu and Tonga, its respective populations of only about 255,000 and 105,000, respectively, are incomparable to the country's population of 100 million.

"Given their smaller population, the extent of risks associated with climate change between our country and theirs are really not comparable," she said.

\* FARMING

\* ENVIRONMENT