

# DILG orders mayors to identify public roads

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The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) has ordered the Metro Manila mayors to make an inventory of all public roads in their respective turfs as efforts to reclaim them are being intensified.

DILG Undersecretary Epimaco Densing III reiterated on Saturday the inventory of road networks will allow authorities to identify sidewalks, and public properties occupied for private purposes.

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) earlier insisted that traffic congestion in the metropolis is further worsened on sidewalks and streets being occupied by illegal structures or illegal occupants.

Citing that concerted effort is a must, Densing asked the Metro Manila mayors to convince their respective city councils to immediately review their traffic management ordinances especially those with provisions that allow structures on the sidewalks and amend them to prohibit their existence in the streets and sidewalks.

DILG Secretary Eduardo Año will issue a memorandum circular to local chief executives (LCE) that will be used as a basis of compliance to President's directives orders during the last State of the Nation Address.

The MMDA asked the mayors to start with the national roads, Mabuhay Lanes and identified roads that serve as alternative routes.

For their reference, the MMDA has provided copies of the 17 Mabuhay Lane routes to the mayors.

The MMDA also has proposed the idea of converting open spaces into a parking area for motorists who do not have a space to park their vehicles.

Quezon City mayor Joy Belmonte said they have started the clearing of major thoroughfares in the city.

Even with the huge land area of Quezon City, Belmonte has remained steadfast in relentlessly conducting clearing operations in the locality.

She noted that this will be done until all Mabuhay lanes and national roads are reclaimed and be accessible to the public.

Also National Capital regional Police Office (NCRPO) Director, Maj. Gen. Guillermo Eleazar has instructed the district directors and chief of police to provide police assistance to the LGUs, MMDA, and DILG to reclaim all public lands being used illegally by unscrupulous persons or groups.