

## Bataris online petition

Filipinos looking for a comprehensive way to initiate people-powered movements and community action need look no further than Bataris .ph, the online petition platform launched by Greenpeace Philippines today.

Jenny Tuazon, Bataris Project Leader, said that Greenpeace is hosting the site because it wants to provide Filipinos with the tools and support they need to take meaningful action.

"Filipinos have a deep-rooted history of standing up and fighting for change. We at Greenpeace are happy to provide the technology to help them continue to make a difference," Tuazon said.

The Filipino word "bataris" means voluntary cooperative effort, and is synonymous to the more familiar term, "bayanihan," a well-known Filipino custom referring to the spirit of communal unity and cooperation towards achieving a common goal.

The Bataris platform allows people to come together to take government, businesses and other decision-makers to task on issues that require action and change. Petitions can be created about anything, provided that it covers issues that involve justice and sustainability.

Bataris .ph is hosted and maintained by Greenpeace Philippines, although the non-profit organization does not run or endorse any of the campaigns created there. Petition creators retain full ownership of their campaigns.

Tuazon says participants will also have regular contact with a Bataris team member who can offer technical and strategic advice on rolling out and managing their respective campaigns.

"The Philippines' rich history of people's movements has proven that every Filipino has the power to win campaigns and create positive change, Bataris is our contribution to the Movement, providing avenues where people can participate in," Tuazon added.

19 August 2021; Filipinos must continue to stand with communities amid challenges arising from the climate and environmental crises, which are exacerbated by the impacts of COVID19. This was the message of Filipino environmental advocates as Bataris .ph, a Philippine-made petition platform, today marked five years of fostering people power and empowering local communities.

Launched in 2016, Bataris has served as a tool for Filipinos looking for a comprehensive and inclusive way to initiate movements and community action. Bataris, another Filipino term for bayanihan, enables people to come together digitally to urge the government, businesses, and other target groups to act on pressing issues.

Among the successful campaigns are "No to Nickelodeon Theme Park in Palawan," "Stop Cove Manila

Balloon Drop," and "Save Masungi," which gathered over 360,000 petition signatures collectively.

Various youth groups maximized Bataris to call for a sustainable response to the pandemic, such as when ANAHAW-Laguna, a local agriculture advocacy group, called on the Laguna government to support farmers by directly procuring products for COVID relief packs.

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