

Preparations are now underway for the destruction of the illegal firecrackers and pellet toy guns seized during raids conducted downtown the past weeks.

City caretaker and Administrator Antonio Orendain Jr. said the seized firecrackers include 691 cartons of piccolo and hundreds of other cartons of assorted firecrackers—all worth almost P100, 000.

Orendain said bulk of the haul was seized during intensified campaign against banned firecrackers pursuant to Executive Order No. CL 381-2010 issued by Mayor Celso amending section B of EO 372-2010 dated November 8, 2010 regulating the manufacture, distribution, sale and use of firecrackers and other pyrotechnic devises in the city.

EO 381-2010 includes piccolo in the list of banned firecrackers and pyrotechnics as it is said to contain yellow phosphorous, which is the same toxic substance found in the equally lethal firecracker, watusi. Numerous injuries that occurred in the city even prior to the New Year revelry were due to firecracker blasts with piccolo as the primary culprit.

The confiscated firecrackers as well as pellet toy guns will be submerged in water in public view to demonstrate the city's commitment to implement the rules and regulations set concerning firecrackers and pyrotechnics as well as pellet toy guns.

Orendain said operations against illegal firecrackers were conducted by joint operatives from the City Hall community police action center (COMPAC) in coordination with other law enforcement agencies.

While the confiscation was done by the police authorities, the sanctions against the violators of the law will be the responsibility of the Firearms, Explosives, Security Agencies and Guards Section (FESAGS) section of the police based at the Regional Police Office-9.

The city government has granted permits to 14 firecracker dealers who were earlier cleared by the FESAGS in Camp Crame.

The cartons of piccolo were confiscated from some dealers while the assorted firecrackers were seized from the fly by night vendors at the public market.

Meanwhile, the city has also confiscated pellet toy guns being sold illegally downtown. The ban on pellet toy guns is based on EO 372-2010 issued by Mayor Lobregat, also last Nov. 8, 2010.