

# After ban on aerial spraying, Davao City to go organic

DAVAO CITY—AFTER BANNING the use of aerial spraying in banana plantations, the city council launched another campaign for safe food production.

Recently, the Sangguniang Panlungsod passed a resolution urging farmers to adopt environmentally friendly practices by shifting

to organic pesticides and fertilizers.

Councilor Condrado Baluran, chair of the agriculture committee, said there was now a need for farmers to practice alternative farming methods.

"We know the dangers, all the harmful effects of these synthetic

chemicals to people's health and the environment," he said.

Baluran said many people were now recognizing the environmental costs of agriculture.

"(These include) the deteriorating quality of drinking water and soil. The impact of agriculture on landscape and wildlife is

increasing," Baluran said in the resolution.

Baluran said the resolution reflected the city government's support for organic agriculture.

"We would like to see more and more farmers shifting from their current practice to the safer one," Baluran said.

The resolution, Baluran said, aimed to "promote, support and strengthen organic agriculture."

There are currently around 2,000 organic farmers in the city, with around 300 hectares of farmlands devoted to organic food production. *Jeffrey M. Tupas, Inquirer Mindanao*