



Image by [catanduanes tribune](#)

**Stop abaca 'bakbak' trading.
Ban the "gilitan" system of artificially inducing dried leaf sheaths.
No to large scale harvesting of "bakbak" for commercial purposes.**

Abaca "bakbak" (dried abaca leaf sheaths) gathering endangers the abaca industry since it contributes to the decreasing volume of fiber production. It imposes great damage to abaca plantations because its gathering intensifies the spread of abaca diseases.

Gatherers will not harm an abaca plant if they take only the naturally-dried leaf sheaths from disease-free plantations. They should not resort to artificially inducing the drying of leaf sheaths by cutting or slicing them near the bottom of the stem, forcing the leaf sheaths to dry quickly, thus, slowly killing the plant intended to produce world-class fibers.

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