

25 January 2023, Wednesday



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IRR for Extended Producer Responsibility Act signed

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga has signed the implementing rules and regulation (IRR) of Republic Act 11890, or the "Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Act of 2022."

The law mandates large-scale companies to establish a mechanism for the recovery of their plastic packaging.

Yulo-Loyzaga added that under the EPR, companies have the responsibility for the proper and effective recovery, treatment, recycling or disposal of their products after they have been sold and used by consumers. RA 11890 aims to reduce

the volume of plastic waste generation and extend the life of plastics by adding value or purpose through upcycling or recycling.

"The EPR Law will also help in advancing a circular economy that mitigates climate change and protects our life-supporting ecosystems by avoiding or minimizing pollution while maximizing the use of materials," Yulo-Loyzaga added.

Environment Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs Jonas Leones said the Department of Environment and Natural Resources led a series of public consultations for the IRR in different

regions across the country.

"The consultation solicited insights and contributions from the different sectors including nongovernment organizations, academic institutions, local government units and the private sector. Among the private sector representatives were sanitary landfill operators, manufacturing corporations and recycling/upcycling companies," Leones said.

Leones added that the last series of regional public consultations was held on Nov. 3, 2022 that was attended by over 650 participants. The dialogues were supported by the United Nations Development Pro-

gram and the Government of Japan.

"The success of the implementation of the EPR Law heavily depends on the cooperation and compliance of the private sector. It is always important to recognize the voices of different sectors and the public consultations provided everyone the venue to share and exchange their ideas that contributed to the crafting of the IRR," Leones said.

Under the IRR, large-scale enterprises are expected to initiate efforts on plastic recovery and diversion schemes as mandated by the EPR. The IRR also includes an online

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IRR for Extended

registry where producers and manufacturers need to register their information.

Yulo-Loyzaga said the implementation of EPR Law is a crucial step to the Philippines' transition to the circular economy.

"Corporations with total assets of over P100 million will be required to recover a certain percentage of their plastic packaging waste, or else pay a fine. Companies shall be responsible for allocating resources to support the collection, recovery, transportation, processing, recycling and disposal of plastic packaging wastes in environmentally sound ways," she added.

Yulo-Loyzaga said that with the passage of the law, the Philippines was included in a select group of states that promulgate EPR, including the United States, Canada, Japan, Singapore, India, South Korea, Chile, Mexico, Columbia, Peru and Brazil.

The EPR sets incremental targets that should be fulfilled yearly until 2030. For 2023, obliged companies must recover 20 percent of their plastic footprint. Producers, distributors and retailers implementing initiatives under the EPR law will be eligible for tax incentives.

Fines ranging from P5 million to P20 million will be imposed for failure to comply with the provisions and meet the target recovery rates of the EPR.

BELLA CARIASO



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NATIONWIDE ROUNDUP

Produce less plastic to address waste crisis — green groups; DENR issues rules for EPR law

RESOLVING the problem of plastic waste that has been harming the environment must start with reducing the amount of plastic produced for consumer goods, a global network of environmental groups said on Tuesday.

"We cannot solve that plastic pollution crisis without reducing virgin plastic production, especially single-use plastics," said Nicholas Mallos, Ocean Conservancy Vice President of Ocean Plastics in a statement.

Ocean Conservancy published a report in 2015 that largely blamed Asian countries for the plastic pollution problem, but the group retracted the report in July last year, acknowledging the "harm it caused," according to a statement released by the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA) Asia Pacific.

GAIA-Asia Pacific, along with Ocean Conservancy, Ecowaste Coalition, and Mother Earth Foundation (MEF)-Philippines have been



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Problema sa basura sa Parañaque, patapos na

Nangako si Parañaque City Mayor Edwin Olivarez na malapit nang matapos ang problema sa basura sa lungsod sa pagpapaigting ng paghahakot ng bagong garbage contractor sa iba't-ibang barangay.

Iniulat ni Olivarez na sa 16 na barangay sa siyudad, 10 barangay na ang nag-certify na 100% nahakot na ang kanilang basura, ang iba ay nasa 90% na, habang isang barangay na lamang ang nag-ulat na 70% ng kanilang basura ang nahakot.

"We are on top of the situation," ayon kay Olivarez. "Kaya nga po lubos ang pasalamat natin sa ating barangay officials sa kanilang patuloy na pakikiisa at suporta.

At makaaasa po ang ating mga mamamayan na

ginagawa natin ang lahat upang hindi lumaki ang problema," dagdag niya. Ipinaliwanag ng alkalde na nagtapos ang kontrata ng dati nilang hauling contractor nitong Disyembre 31, 2022 at hindi na nag-bid.

Dahil dito, napalitan ang contractor ngunit dito sumalubong ang napakaraming problema sa basura. "Noon pong around Christmas, or as early as December 12, meron na pong natatanggap na reklamo ang ating City Environment and Natural Resources na meron nang mga tambak ng basurang hindi nahahakot. Dumami lalo ang tambak noong Pasko, hanggang noong Bagong Taon," saad ni Olivarez.

Resulta ito ng maagang pag-pull out umano ng mga garbage truck ng dating con-

tractor kaya nagsimulang tumambak ang mga basura.

Nang pumasok ang bagong contractor nitong Enero 1, lumaki na ang problema at naghabol sa backlog ang bagong hauler. "Nalaman din po natin na nagkaroon ng problema sa aming garbage transfer station dahil wala nang tubig at kuryente noong dumating ang bagong contractor. Pati 'yung sewage treatment plant o STP ay sira rin, kaya sinulatan natin ang dating contractor para magpaliwanag," saad pa ng alkalde.

Nakiusap din si Olivarez sa mga pasaway na sumunod sa takdang oras at araw ng pagtatapon ng basura para hindi ito tumambak sa kalsada at para maging ma-tinis ang kapaligiran. (Danilo Garcia)



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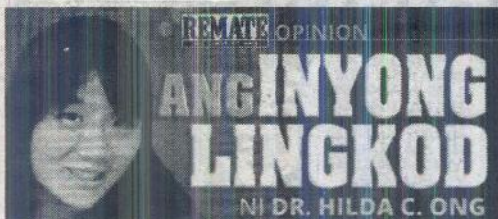
TOWARD A ZERO-WASTE ENVIRONMENT. Members of the Mother Earth Foundation, the Ecowaste Coalition, and the Ocean Conservancy conduct a waste assessment and brand audit at the Quezon City Circle to dramatize the hazards of plastic wastes and urge the government to support their crusade. **Manny Palmero**



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REIMATE OPINION

ANGINYONG LINGKOD

NI DR. HILDA C. ONG

NAKAGAWA ng isang eco-toilet o e-toilet ang Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na inilagay sa Sibul II Mangrove and Eco-tourism Park sa Orion, Bataan.

Bahagi ang pagbuo ng e-toilet sa responsibilidad ng Kagawaran na maba-

wasan ang matinding water pollution sa Manila Bay.

Matatandaan na kabilang ang DENR sa mga inutusan ng Supreme Court sa inilabas nitong Mandamus noong December 18, 2008 para sa paglilinis, rehabilitasyon at proteksyon ng kabuuan ng look ng Maynila na sumasakop sa mga lalawigan ng Bataan,

MAY E-TOILET ANG DENR-MGB

Bulacan, Cavite at Pampanga na mga coastal provinces, at kabilang din ang Laguna, Nueva Ecija, Rizal, at Tarlac, maging ang mga lungsod at bayan na bumubuo sa National Capital Region, kabilang din ang 17 principal river system na tumatagos sa Manila Bay.

Ayon sa DENR-MGB, isang dry toilet ang e-toilet kung saan inihihawalay ang mismong dumi ng tao at ihi na dumaraan sa isang urine diverting dehydrating toilet bowl.

Habang ang dumi ay lalagyan ng mga agro-

industrial materials katulad ng fly ash, bentonite, zeolite, mga pinatuyong dahon at carbonized rice husks. Nagiging fertilizer pa ang mga duming naiipon.

Dumaraan din sa hawalay na proseso ang ihi na nagiging liquid fertilizer naman.

Sa ganitong pamamaraan, nababawasan ang napupuntang dumi at ihi sa mga katubigan na direktso sa Manila Bay o ang antas ng E. coli.

Target kasi ng DENR na mapababa sa coliform limit na 200 most probable

number (MPN) per 100 mL para sa Class C water classification.

Naniniwala ang kagawaran na magiging isang epektibong pamamaraan ang paglalagay ng e-toilet sa mga pas-

ilidad sa kahabaan ng Manila Bay para mabawasan ang polusyon.

Sa ilalim ng Duterte administration, sinimulan ng

DENR ang kampanyang "Battle for Manila Bay" na sama-samang kumikilos para matugunan ang kautusan ng Korte Suprema.



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Basilan rubber trees ravaged by disease

Province placed under state of calamity as fungus spreads to plantations in 9 towns, 2 cities; livelihood of 17,000 farmers at risk

By Julie S. Alipala
@alipalajulieINQ

LAMITAN CITY—Agriculture officials in Basilan have expressed alarm over a disease infecting rubber trees in the province which, if left unchecked, could threaten 50,000 hectares of rubber plantation and affect some 17,000 workers.

Already, trees in more than 1,000 ha of rubber plantations in nine towns and two cities have shown symptoms of the disease earlier mistaken to be premature wintering.

Basilan Gov. Jim Salliman on Monday signed the Sangguniang Panlalawigan resolution declaring the entire province under state of calamity.

"It's very alarming. Our people are dependent on the rubber industry and we need all the help to rehabilitate the dying trees and prevent further spread of the disease," Salliman said.

Earlier, Eugenio Madayao, 57, a rubber tapper in one of the plantations here, expressed concern over what he first thought was the premature wintering of rubber trees.

"We just hope it's just about the climate," he said in Chavacano, adding that he noticed that the changes in appearance of the trees came too early.

A tapper since his late 20s, Madayao said he was aware of the seasonal changes in trees.

"Wintering' usually comes during summer, when leaves would turn yellow, then orange before they fall off. But the wintering these days started much earlier," he said. "We saw the signs since the start of November (last year) and it continued until now."



INFESTATION Rubber trees (right) start to dry up in this plantation in Lamitan City. Rubber tappers in Basilan thought it was premature wintering until a plant pathologist from the Philippine Rubber Research Institute confirmed it was an infestation by a fungus called *Pestalotiopsis microspora*, which caused the leaves to wilt. —JULIE S. ALIPALA

What disturbed the tappers was the sudden drying of leaves, without passing through the usual color changes before these fall off from the branches; and then, the trees failing to leaf afterward.

"The twigs and branches would turn grayish brown, then the leaves suddenly dry up," Madayao said.

Experts' confirmation

Sorhayda Aguisandra, provincial agriculturist, said many rubber tappers thought it was premature wintering but what actually was afflicting the trees was a plant disease caused by *Pestalotiopsis microspora*, a species of endophytic fungus capable of breaking down and digesting polyurethane, as shown in the drying of foliage and branches of rubber trees.

Among its indications is the circular spots found on leaves which gradually would turn

brown, later turning the entire tree bald and dry.

Aguisandra said they first detected this sometime in 2021. Like Madayao, they also thought it was just premature wintering, until a team from the Philippine Rubber Research Institute (PRRI), which was conducting an artificial intelligence project involving rubber trees in December, discovered the disease.

She said around 1,570 ha of rubber trees in nine towns and the two cities of Lamitan and Isabela had been affected. The affected towns are Al Barka, Hadji Muhtamad, Lantawan, Maluso, Sumisip, Tabuan-Lasa, Tipo-Tipo, Tuburan and Ungkaya Pukan.

In our assessment, almost 90 percent of rubber trees in the nine towns and two cities are infected, except for the towns of Mohammad Ajul and Akbar, of which rubber trees were only

10 to 15 percent infected," Aguisandra said.

Major livelihood

Basilan is home to rubber plantations. The province engages in large-scale rubber planting covering more than 50,000 ha, with 11 major cooperatives and thousands of farmers and small plantations engaged in it.

"Some of these rubber cooperatives employ between 300 and 500 workers. We have some rubber planters and farmers who own 2 to 10 ha of land planted to rubber, with tappers numbering around 10 to 30. We also have individual farmers," Aguisandra said.

Based on initial assessment, more than 17,000 rubber tappers will be affected in the province, if there will be work stoppage, which is inevitable, she added.

"It's a conservative estimate for now, until we get all their names," she said.

Aguisandra cited the recommendations of PRRI pathologist Gail Villanueva, who informed the province that they were already facing a rubber disease epidemic and that rubber tapping had to be stopped for at least three months to fertilize and declutter the ground.

"Naturally, when tapping stops, workers will not be earning a living, so this will really affect the economy of Basilan," Aguisandra said.

Salliman said the calamity fund will be used to assist affected farmers, workers and tappers, and support the affected rubber cooperatives. Part of the fund will also be used to acquire fungicides, drone sprayers and other farm inputs to rehabilitate the trees. INQ



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REGIONS

Tree fungus brings 'calamity' to Basilan

LAMITAN CITY—A state of calamity has been declared in Basilan due to the spread of a fungus-infecting rubber trees, a major source of livelihood in the province. If left unchecked, disease could threaten plantations covering an area of 50,000 hectares and affect 17,000 workers. Nine towns and two cities have so far reported the problem. "We need all the help to rehabilitate the dying trees," said Gov. Jim Salliman. —STORY BY JULIE S. ALIPALA





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State of calamity in Basilan over rubber tree disease

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Basilan has been placed under a state of calamity due to a disease affecting rubber tree plantations in the province.

The Sangguniang Panlalawigan approved a resolution declaring a state of calamity on Monday upon the recommendation of the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council.

PDRRMC chairman and Basilan Gov. Jim Hataman-Salliman said data provided by the provincial agriculture office and Philippine Rubber Research Institute showed that the rubber tree disease has affected 10 to 90 percent of rubber tree plantations in the province.

Scientists and experts have expressed concern that the disease may affect nearby areas.

The disease was initially detected in 1,000 hectares of rubber tree plantations.

"If this (infestation) is not arrested, it will have a very big impact on the economy. Initially, our action is the declaration of a state of calamity. I will communicate it to the national government and the regional government for intervention," Salliman said.

Basilan is among the largest rubber-producing provinces in the country.

– Roel Pareño



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MAHIHIRAP NA PINOY, SAPUL SA CLIMATE CHANGE

HABANG lumalakas ang panawagan para hindi lumala ang climate change ay tila hindi pa rin sapat ang kamalayan at ang lahat nang pagsisikap upang ang mga tao ay kumilos para hindi na tayo humantong sa pagkawasak ng nag-iisa nating daigdig.

Hindi lingid sa kaalaman ng marami na ang climate change ay ang pagbabago ng klima o panahon dahil sa pagtaas ng mga greenhouse gases (GHGs) na nagpapainit sa daigdig at isang karanasan na hindi nakasanayan ng mga tao.

Ang papainit na papainit na sitwasyon ay hindi dapat ipagwalang bahala dahil nagdudulot ito ng sakuna, tulad ng heatwave, baha at tagtuyot na maaaring humantong sa pagkakasakit o pagkamatay ng mga tao.

Napakaraming panawagan na kung hindi natin magagawan ng paraan o mapipigilan ang pagtaas ng temperatura ng mundo ay darami ang mga sakit, tulad ng dengue, diarrhea, malnutrisyon at marami pang iba't ibang karamdaman.

Ang Asian Development Bank (ADB) ay naglabas ng pag-aaral na posible umanong magdulot ng economic damage ang extreme weather events dahil sa climate change, na maaaring makaapekto sa mahihirap na Pilipino.

Ayon sa Climate Risk Country Profile ng ADB, posibleng makaapekto ang extreme hazards dulot ng climate change sa vulnerable sectors ng bansa, kabilang ang agrikultura at mahihirap na pamilya.

Malaking bahagi umano ng populasyon ng bansa ay mula sa hanay ng mahihirap at posibleng maharap sa malaking pagsubok dahil sa matinding epekto ng climate change sa buong mundo.

Kabilang sa inaasahang negatibong epekto ay kakulangan sa pagkain, tulad ng mga produktong agrikultura na nararanasan na natin sa sibuyas, pagmahal ng mga gulay at bigas na sanhi ng price inflation na sapul at bigas na nakararaming Pilipino.

Nagbabala rin ang ADB na nakaambang malugi ng 12% hanggang 15% o \$30 hanggang \$35 bilyon ang Pilipinas sa kabuuang economic gain nito dahil sa overpopulation at climate change sa 2040.

Kung inyong mapapansin, umabot na sa mahigit P620 milyong halaga ang pinsalang dulot ng low pressure area (LPA), shear line at amihan sa mga imprastruktura at agrikultura ng bansa mula noong Enero 2 lamang, ayon 'yan sa pagtataya ng Office of Civil Defense (OCD).

Kung dati-rati ay matitinding hagupit lamang ng bagyo at mga pagbaha ang nananalasa sa iba't ibang bahagi ng bansa ay tila maging ang LPA, amihan at ang

pinakabago nating naririnig na shear line ay pinanangambahan na rin.

Base sa datos na inilabas ng OCD, umabot na sa P206.9 milyon ang kabuuang halaga ng mga

nasirang imprastruktura sa Mimaropa, Bicol Region, Central Visayas, Northern Mindanao, Davao Region, Soccsksargen, at sa Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Nasa P414.3 milyon naman ang nasalanta sa agrikultura at iba pang kabuhayan sa Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Mimaropa, Western Visayas, Eastern Visayas, Northern Mindanao, Davao Region, at sa Soccsksargen.

Kaya nga nagsumite tayo ng Senate Resolution No. 262 noong Oktubre lamang na naglalayong magsagawa ng inquiry in aid of legislation hinggil sa matinding epekto na ng climate change upang masiguro ang kapakanan ng bawat Pilipino.

Matindi na ang banta na dulot ng mga natural disasters at iba pang kalamidad, kaya kailangan na ng sistema at polisiya na siyang maninindigan sa kaligtasan at katatagan hindi lang ng bansa kung hindi ng bawat Pilipino.

Habang tinitipa natin ang artikulo ay nasa 33 ang iniulat na nasawi sa mga pag-ulan at pagbaha pero 18 pa lang sa mga ito ang kumpirmado at bineberipika pa ang 15 sa mga ito.

Hindi agad mareresolba ng indibidwal ang climate change kung sisimulan niya sa kanyang sarili ang pagkilos para mapigilan ito, ngunit kung lahat tayo ay kikilos ay malaki ang pag-asa na makatulong.

Ilan sa mga puwedeng gawin ay ang pagtatanim ng puno o halaman para magmagsilbing taga-sipsip ng carbon dioxide at iba pang greenhouse gases (GHGs) at malaking tulong ang paggamit ng mga energy-efficient at environment-friendly na kagamitan, tulad ng paggamit ng compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) kumpara sa ordinaryong bumbilya.

Dapat magtipid sa kuryente, patayin ang mga ilaw, bunutin ang mga plug ng mga appliances hangga't maaari ay iwasan ang paggamit ng aircon at kung ligtas naman ang kapaligiran ay mas mabuting buksan ang bintana para makapasok ang sariwang hangin.

Kaya ang simpleng pagtatapon ng basura sa tamang tapunan ay malaking tulong sa ating kapaligiran, ang pagdampot ng kalat malaki man o maliit at hindi pagsusunog ng basura ay makalilikha ng malawakang pagbabago kung walang nakakalat na basura, walang bara sa mga kanal at walang bahang magaganap.

Napakarami pa ng dapat gawin, kahit maliliit na pagsisikap ay magiging malaking hakbangin kung lahat tayo ay magsisimula na—hindi bukas, hindi sa susunod na araw, kung hindi ngayon na!

Anak Ng Teteng!



NO HALT TO SERVICES DURING EMERGENCY



Bill wants 'go bags' for all gov't workers

By Jeannette I. Andrade
@jiandradeINQ

In a disaster-prone country like the Philippines, all government workers must be prepared with "emergency go bags" to face any calamity while ensuring that public services are not disrupted during a crisis, according to a lawmaker.

Cotabato Rep. Ma. Alana Samantha Santos has filed House Bill No. 6725, or the proposed Emergency Go Bags Act, for public servants to be "well-equipped not only to survive but to continue providing critical services even

BILL WANTS 'GO BAGS' FOR ALL GOV'T WORKERS

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during emergencies."

She has also authored a complementary measure, HB 6730, or the draft Public Service Continuity Act that would require all local and national government offices to craft a continuity plan for the delivery of essential services during emergencies.

What's in the bag?

In her explanatory note for HB 6725, Santos said: "When a disaster happens, time is of the essence and mere seconds can mean the difference between life and death."

According to the bill, "all government agencies and instrumentalities, as well as local government units, shall provide and distribute 'emergency go bags' to all its employees and personnel regardless of their employment status."

The emergency go bags should be waterproof and contain drinking water and ready-to-eat food enough for three days; a first-aid kit with face mask; flashlight, candles, match and whistle; power bank; can opener; personal hygiene items; nonprescription medicine; photocopies of IDs and other important documents; and pencil and paper.

Funds for the emergency go bags would be included

in the regular appropriation of national government offices, while local governments would make a similar allocation in their respective budget ordinances.

Delivery gaps

In HB 6730, Santos explained that "in the height of emergencies or disasters, the government is the main institution mandated to protect its jurisdiction. This also implies that the government must continue to exist and deliver its essential functions, particularly front-line agencies, regardless of any disruption that might occur."

"The public service continuity plan (PSCP) is necessary

to avoid the gap in public service delivery to its clientele and continue its internal capacities, lay down necessary recovery requirements and strategies in an agency or institution to continuously function during emergencies, disaster incidents and crises," she said in the explanatory note.

HB 6730 would require government offices to have PSCPs that undergo annual review to "ensure that the plan gets assessed for relevance and continual improvement."

The proposed measure gives the Office of Civil Defense the task of providing technical assistance in the formulation, development and updating of the PSCPs. INQ



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Tap mining industry earnings to fund MIF

A **LAWMAKER** has suggested tapping the earnings from the mining industry to support the creation of a sovereign wealth fund.

Surigao del Norte Rep. Robert Ace Barbers made the remark as he expressed full support to Finance Sec. Benjamin Diokno's plan to use the mining sector's earnings to bankroll the Maharlika investment fund.

"I fully agree and support Secretary Diokno in his proposal to use the earnings from the mining industry for the Maharlika fund. But I would even venture further. You see, where I come from, Surigao del Norte is not only the mining capital of the country, it is fast becoming a primary tourism destination. So I would propose that we also tap the huge earnings from the tourism industry," Barbers said.

He noted that these two combined industries would "no doubt rescue and lift" the country from the "pit of

debt" at P13.64 trillion, according to the latest data from the Bureau of the Treasury.

House Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez, meanwhile, said the keen interest shown by global leaders in the Maharlika Investment Fund during the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland has bolstered the wisdom of fast-tracking the passage of the proposed measure creating the sovereign wealth fund at the House of Representatives.

"The swift passage of House Bill No. 6608, creating the Maharlika Investment Fund, enabled the President and the Philippine delegation to take advantage of the enormous opportunity to showcase the positive developments in our country and creative strategies to gain growth momentum," Romualdez said.

President Marcos introduced the MIF during the Philippines' Country Strategy Dialogue at the WEF on Tues-

day, saying the process of establishing the country's first sovereign wealth fund is underway.

"Such a fund is one tool among many in our efforts to diversify our financial portfolio, which includes our existing institutions pursuing investment that will generate stable returns, but also welfare efforts spanning employment creation, improvement of public service, and a decrease in costs of economic activities," the President said in his opening remarks at the dialogue.

Romualdez credited the collective effort of the House, from the leadership to the opposition bloc, for the passage of HB 6608 featuring adequate safeguards to protect against corruption or abuse.

With Marcos certifying the bill as urgent, the House approved it on final reading on Dec. 15, 2022, and was transmitted to the Senate on Dec. 19, 2022.



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UN notes climate change a factor in human trafficking

EVIDENCE is emerging that climate-related disasters are becoming a cause of human trafficking as criminal gangs exploit a growing number of uprooted people, the UN said Tuesday.

The continuing war in Ukraine is

also another risk factor for increased human trafficking, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) said in a report.

The UN drugs agency noted that an increase in cases of human trafficking

had been observed in Bangladesh and the Philippines after devastating cyclones and typhoons displaced millions.

Droughts and floods in Ghana, and the Caribbean region – subject to hurricanes

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UN...

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and rising sea levels – were also forcing many to migrate.

“Climate change is increasing vulnerability to trafficking,” the UNODC report said.

“While a systematic global analysis of the impact of climate change in trafficking in persons is missing, community level studies in different parts of the world point at weather induced disasters as root causes for trafficking in persons,” it said.

The report is based on data from 141 countries collected from 2017 to 2020, and the analysis of 800 court cases.

The impact of climate change “disproportionately” affected poor farming, fishing and other communities mainly relying on the extraction of natural resources for their livelihoods, the report said.

Once “deprived of their means of subsistence and forced to flee their community,” people were becoming easy prey for traffickers, Fabrizio Sarica, the report’s main author, told a press briefing.

In 2021 alone, climate-related disasters internally displaced more than 23.7 million people, while many others fled their countries altogether. **AFP**



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MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 12

**TEMPORARILY MODIFYING THE RATES OF IMPORT DUTY ON
ELECTRIC VEHICLES, PARTS, AND COMPONENTS UNDER
SECTION 1611 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10863, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE "CUSTOMS MODERNIZATION AND TARIFF ACT"**

WHEREAS, Republic Act (RA) No. 11697 or the "Electric Vehicle Industry Development Act," declared it a policy of the State to ensure the country's energy security and independence by reducing reliance on imported fuel for the transportation sector;

WHEREAS, under RA No. 11697, the State shall provide an enabling environment that permits the development of electric vehicles, including options for micro-mobility as an attractive and feasible mode of transportation;

WHEREAS, the transportation sector is one of the largest sources of air pollution and energy-related greenhouse gas emissions in the country at 34%, with road transportation accounting for 80% of those emissions;

WHEREAS, the State has the paramount obligation to protect the health and well-being of the people from the hazards of pollution and greenhouse gases;

WHEREAS, temporarily modifying the rates of import duty on electric vehicles, and their parts and components, will help boost the electric vehicle market in the country, support the transition to emerging technologies, and encourage consumers to consider electric vehicles as a cleaner and greener transportation option;

WHEREAS, Section 1608 of RA No. 10863 or the "Customs Modernization and Tariff Act," empowers the President, in the interest of general welfare and national security, and upon recommendation of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), to increase, reduce or remove existing rates of import duty; and

WHEREAS, on 24 November 2022, the NEDA Board endorsed the temporary reduction of the Most-Favored Nation (MFN) tariff rates on certain electric vehicles, and their parts and components for a period of five (5) years;

THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES



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NOW, THEREFORE, I, FERDINAND R. MARCOS, JR., President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution and existing laws, do hereby order:

Section 1. Rates of Import Duty. The articles specifically listed in Annex A hereof, as classified in compliance with Section 1611 of RA No. 10863, shall be subject to the MFN rates of duty in accordance with the schedule indicated opposite the article.

Upon the effectivity of this Order, all articles specifically listed in Annex A hereof, which are entered into or withdrawn from warehouses in the Philippines for consumption, shall be levied the MFN rates of duty as prescribed therein.

The rates of import duty on tariff headings and subheadings which are not listed in Annex A hereof, and those listed but represented by the symbol "X X X" shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 2. Review. The MFN tariff rates shall be subject to review after one (1) year from the implementation of this Order. For this purpose, the NEDA shall submit to the President, through the Office of the Executive Secretary, its findings and recommendations on the matter.

Section 3. Separability. If any section or part of this Order is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 4. Repeal. All orders, rules, regulations, and issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Order, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 5. Effectivity. This Order shall take effect thirty (30) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation, and shall be in full force and effect for a period of five (5) years from the date of effectivity.

DONE, in the City of Manila, this 13th day of January, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty Three.

[Handwritten signature]

By the President:

[Handwritten signature]
LUCAS P. BERSAMIN
Executive Secretary

Office of the President
MALACANANG RECORDS OFFICE
CERTIFIED COPY
[Handwritten signature]
ATTY. CONCEPCION M. E. FERROLINO-ERAD
DIRECTOR IV
[Handwritten date: 1/19/23]





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ANNEX A

HEADING NO.	AHTN 2022 CODE	DESCRIPTION	MFN RATE OF DUTY (%)	
			For 5 years from the date of effectivity	After the 5th Year
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
85.37		Boards, panels, consoles, desks, cabinets and other bases, equipped with two or more apparatus of heading 85.35 or 85.36, for electric control or the distribution of electricity, including those incorporating instruments or apparatus of Chapter 90, and numerical control apparatus, other than switching apparatus of heading 85.17.		
	8537.10	- For a voltage not exceeding 1,000 V :		
		-- Other :		
	8537.10.91	--- X X X		
	8537.10.92	--- X X X		
	8537.10.99	--- Other	1	5
	8537.20	- X X X		
	to	.		
	8537.20.90			
87.02		Motor vehicles for the transport of ten or more persons, including the driver.		
	8702.10	- X X X		
	to			
	8702.30.99			
	8702.40	- With only electric motor for propulsion :		
		-- X X X		
	8702.40.10	--- X X X		
	to			
	8702.40.49			
		-- Other :		
	8702.40.50	--- Motor cars (including stretch limousines but not including coaches, buses, minibuses or vans)	0	20
		--- Other, for the transport of 30 persons or more and specially designed for use in airports :		
	8702.40.61	---- Of a g.v.w. exceeding 24 t	0	20



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HEADING NO.	AHTN 2022 CODE	DESCRIPTION	MFN RATE OF DUTY (%)	
			For 5 years from the date of effectivity	After the 5th Year
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
	8702.40.69	---- Other	0	20
		--- Other motor coaches, buses or minibuses :		
	8702.40.71	---- Of a g.v.w. exceeding 24 t	0	20
	8702.40.79	---- X X X		
		--- Other :		
	8702.40.91	---- Of a g.v.w. exceeding 24 t	0	20
	8702.40.99	---- Other	0	20
	8702.90	- X X X		
	to			
	8702.90.90.900			
87.03		Motor cars and other motor vehicles principally designed for the transport of persons (other than those of heading 87.02), including station wagons and racing cars.		
	8703.10	- Vehicles specially designed for travelling on snow; golf cars and similar vehicles :		
	8703.10.10	-- Golf cars (including golf buggies) and similar vehicles :		
	8703.10.10.100	--- Electric vehicles	0	30
	8703.10.10.900	--- Other	30	30
	8703.10.90	-- Other :		
	8703.10.90.100	--- Electric vehicles	0	30
	8703.10.90.900	--- Other	30	30
		- X X X		
	8703.21	-- X X X		
	to			
	8703.70.97			
	8703.80	- Other vehicles, with only electric motor for propulsion :		
		-- X X X		
	8703.80.11	--- X X X		
	to			
	8703.80.19			
		-- Other :		
	8703.80.91	--- Go-karts	0	30
	8703.80.92	--- All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV)	0	30



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HEADING NO.	AHTN 2022 CODE	DESCRIPTION	MFN RATE OF DUTY (%)	
			For 5 years from the date of effectivity	After the 5th Year
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
	8704.10.35	--- g.v.w. exceeding 24 t but not exceeding 38 t :		
	8704.10.35.100	---- Electric vehicles	0	3
	8704.10.35.900	---- Other	3	3
	8704.10.36	-γ- g.v.w. exceeding 38 t but not exceeding 45 t :		
	8704.10.36.100	---- Electric vehicles	0	3
	8704.10.36.900	---- Other	3	3
	8704.10.37	--- g.v.w. exceeding 45 t :		
	8704.10.37.100	---- Electric vehicles	0	3
	8704.10.37.900	---- Other	3	3
		- X X X		
	8704.21	-- X X X		
	to			
	8704.52.99			
	8704.60	- Other, with only electric motor for propulsion :		
		-- X X X		
	8704.60.11	--- X X X		
	to			
	8704.60.19			
		-- Other, g.v.w. not exceeding 5 t :		
	8704.60.21	--- Pick-up trucks	0	30
	8704.60.22	--- Three-wheeled vehicles	0	30
	8704.60.29	--- Other :		
	8704.60.29.100	---- X X X		
	8704.60.29.900	---- Other	0	30
		-- Other :		
	8704.60.91	--- g.v.w. exceeding 5 t but not exceeding 10 t :		
	8704.60.91.100	---- X X X		
	8704.60.91.900	---- Other	0	30
	8704.60.92	--- g.v.w. exceeding 10 t but not exceeding 20 t :		
	8704.60.92.100	---- X X X		
	8704.60.92.900	---- Other	0	30
	8704.60.93	--- g.v.w. exceeding 20 t but not exceeding 45 t :		
	8704.60.93.100	---- X X X		



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HEADING NO.	AHTN 2022 CODE	DESCRIPTION	MFN RATE OF DUTY (%)	
			For 5 years from the date of effectivity	After the 5th Year
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
	8703.80.93	--- Ambulances	0	30
	8703.80.94	--- Hearses	0	30
	8703.80.95	--- Prison vans	0	30
	8703.80.96	--- Motor-homes	0	30
	8703.80.97	--- Sedan	0	30
	8703.80.98	--- Other motor cars (including station wagons and sports cars, but not including vans)	0	30
	8703.80.99	--- Other :		
	8703.80.99.100	---- X X X		
	8703.80.99.900	---- X X X		
	8703.90	- X X X		
	to			
	8703.90.99.900			
87.04		Motor vehicles for the transport of goods.		
	8704.10	- Dumpers designed for off-highway use :		
		-- X X X		
	8704.10.13	--- X X X		
	to			
	8704.10.18			
		-- Other :		
	8704.10.31	--- g.v.w. not exceeding 5 t :		
	8704.10.31.100	---- Electric vehicles	0	3
	8704.10.31.900	---- Other	3	3
	8704.10.32	--- g.v.w. exceeding 5 t but not exceeding 10 t :		
	8704.10.32.100	---- Electric vehicles	0	3
	8704.10.32.900	---- Other	3	3
	8704.10.33	--- g.v.w. exceeding 10 t but not exceeding 20 t :		
	8704.10.33.100	---- Electric vehicles	0	3
	8704.10.33.900	---- Other	3	3
	8704.10.34	--- g.v.w. exceeding 20 t but not exceeding 24 t :		
	8704.10.34.100	---- Electric vehicles	0	3
	8704.10.34.900	---- Other	3	3