

DATE : 19 DEC, 2013

DAY : Wednesday

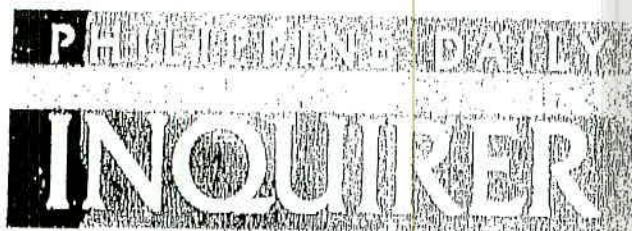
DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE



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DENR divides Manila Bay cleanup into 4 areas

The cleanup of Manila Bay is a difficult challenge since it will involve four areas – Metro Manila and the provinces of Cavite, Bulacan and Bataan – according to Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu.

“We have divided the cleanup based on these areas but we will concentrate first here in Metro Manila. This is urgent because I believe that during *habagat*, dirt and garbage is blown in the west and stagnates in Manila Bay,” Cimatu said in a recent interview, referring to the southwest monsoon.

Cimatu said they would soon start checking on establishments, factories and creeks that dispose of wastewater into the bay.

He said he is determined to close all establishments found violating environmental laws near and around Manila Bay.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will come up with remediation measures regarding the informal settlers living by the bay.

“They contribute to the waste that have accumulated in the bay. We need to look into that,” Cimatu said.

Earlier, Cimatu directed the Manila Bay Coordinating Council to draft a master plan for the rehabilitation efforts of the bay.

“In two weeks, we expect to receive the plan for the bay’s rehabilitation,” he said.

Aside from the DENR, 15 other government agencies will help draft the rehabilitation plan for Manila Bay. – Rhodina Villanueva



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
TECHNICAL COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

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INO

NEXT ON THE LIST With the Department of Environment and Natural Resources targeting Manila Bay as its next project, fishermen and other people dependent on this major body of water for their livelihood can only hope that once its rehabilitation is complete, it will be teeming with marine life again. —EARVIN PERIAS

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DENR prods LGUs on water treatment facility

By **LYKA MANALO**

MALVAR, Batangas — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon) urged the local government units (LGUs) to give priority to building wastewater treatment facilities.

DENR Regional Executive

Director Maria Paz Luna said cities and municipalities in the region should include in their Annual Investment Plan (AIP) the installation of such facilities for budget allocations.

Luna said there are practically no water treatment systems in the LGUs in the region and only industries and some subdivisions comply with the requirement.

However, the water treat-

ment facilities in some subdivisions were not working and there are land developers that empty sewage directly to the drainage system, she said.

Before issuing building permits, LGUs should require the inspection of septic tanks to determine if they are properly connected to sewage lines, Luna said.

Under the Philippine Water Act of 2004, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) must prepare a national program on sewerage and septage management.

Batangas City has heeded DENR's call, with the city council recently approving an ordinance on Septage Management requiring the water service provider to fund a treatment facility.

Councilor Nestor Dimacuha, who authored the ordinance, said one of the reasons the Batangas City Water District (BCWD) partnered with Prime Water last March was to build a Septage Management System.

Luna however discouraged such a partnership, saying the cost of putting up the treatment facility could be passed on to consumers.

"The cost of providing the water is one fourth of the cost of treating it, that means kung talagang irerequire mo na ang water provider ang maglinis ng water waste, four times ang water cost natin," Luna said.

EDITORIAL

Rehabilitating Manila Bay

AFTER the successful six-month rehabilitation of Boracay Island, the country's premier tourist spot, the government is eyeing the restoration of the pristine state of "sun-kissed" Manila Bay.

It is certainly lamentable and saddening that although Manila Bay is known for having one of the most beautiful sunsets throughout the globe, its waters are considered the most polluted.

This is due to toxic industrial effluents from factories and shipping operations and domestic sewage, among others, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

"We are preparing for an all-out strategy to bring the coliforms concentration in Manila Bay to a safe level so that millions of people who reside in the bay region and neighboring areas will enjoy its water and marine resources without fear of getting sick," said DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu.

A 2017 report by the DENR's Environmental Management Bureau showed that the fecal coliform level in Manila Bay reached as high as over 300 million Most Probable Number (MPN) per 100 milliliters.

The safe level is only 100MPN/100ml., according to Cimatu, a former chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

In restoring Manila Bay's pristine state, the government, through the DENR, is adopting the same strategy that was used in the rehabilitation of Boracay Island in Western Visayas, said Cimatu.

The government will show the same level of political will in cleaning up the bay that spans three regions -- Metropolitan Manila, Central Luzon and CALABARZON or Region IV-A -- as it did in Boracay Island.

The beauty and splendor of the "Sunset at Manila Bay" continue to fire the imagination of thousands of foreign and local tourists, many of them nature lovers, throughout the year.

Thus, the planned rehabilitation of historic Manila Bay is indeed a positive development that can make Filipinos look forward to the coming years with more optimism, particularly in the field of tourism.

Let's not forget that the multi-billion-dollar tourist industry is a major pillar of the Philippine economy.



2-TAONG CHAIRMANSHIP NG PILIPINAS SA CTI-CFF NAGTAPOS NA

NATAPOS na ang dalawang-taong panunungkulan bilang chairman ng Pilipinas sa Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs-Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF) kasabay ng panawagan na higitan pa ang pagsisikap upang matugunan ang mga problema sa rehiyon.

"Moving forward, we must shift our focus on actions that can really deliver higher level of outcomes such as poverty reduction and improved food security," sabi pa ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary Jonas Leones sa kanyang opening remarks sa ginanap na CTI-CFF Senior Officials Meeting sa Makati City.

Ang dalawang araw na meeting ay ang pangwakas na aktibidad ng Pilipinas sa chairmanship ng CTI-CFF na isang multilateral partnership ng anim na bansa na nagtutulong-tulong upang magkaroon ng maayos na marine at coastal resources kasama na rito ang mga isyu tungkol sa food security, climate change at marine biodiversity.

Bukod sa Pilipinas, kasama rin sa anim na bansang ito ang Indonesia, Malaysia, Pa-

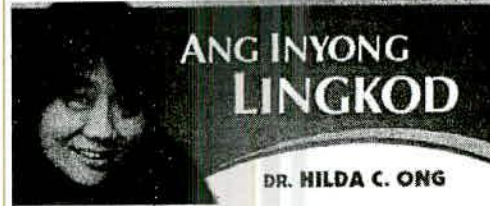
pua New Guinea, Solomon Islands at Timor-Leste na kilalarin sa tawag na Coral Triangle 6 o CT6.

Ayon pa kay Leones, chair ng CTI-CFF Committee on Senior Officials, hindi naging madali sa Pilipinas ang pagiging chairman sa loob ng dalawang taon dahil na rin sa mga naranasang pagsubok ng organisasyon.

Aniya, nakaranas ang rehiyon ng natural disasters na pinagbuwisang buhay ng mamamayan, pagbagsak ng ekonomiya ng mga bansang kasapi ng CT6 na siyang naging dahilan upang mahirapan ang organisasyon na makausad.

"Our coastal communities which have always relied on the richness of our seas remain highly vulnerable to an ever changing environment, which is why there is a need to develop programs and initiatives that are more adaptive and sustainable," saad pa ni Leones.

Sinabi rin nito, dahil na rin sa pagkakaisa ng mga bansang kasapi ng CT6 ay nakagawa ng solusyon ang organisasyon upang tuluyang



DR. HILDA C. ONG

makasulong para sa iisang adhikain.

Ibinahagi pa ni Leones ang naging pagsisikap ng Pilipinas para protektahan ang coastal at marine resources kabilang na rito ang naging hakbang upang muling pagandahin ang Isla ng Boracay.

Aniya, ang anim na buwang pagpapasara sa Boracay ay naging eye opener sa local government units, coastal communities at national agencies upang makita ang epekto ng hindi makatwirang "tourism practices".

"Moreover, this initiative has rippled through all of our provinces and municipalities, triggering an increased environmental consciousness to those living along the country's coastline," dagdag ni Leones.

Sinabi pa ng DENR official na nagdagdag ang bansa ng sakop ng National Integrated Protected Area System (NIPAS) upang palakasin ang terrestrial at coastal protected areas sa buong bansa.

Binanggit din nito ang

pagpirma ng Presidential Proclamation 489 na nagdedeklara bilang "resource reserve" ang bahagi ng Philippine Rise o kilalarin sa tawag na Benham Rise.

Ang naturang underwater region na matatagpuan sa Luzon ay pinamamahayan ng malalaki at magkakadikit na coral reefs dahil na ito ay ideklara itong "ecologically and biologically significant area".

Ayon pa kay Leones, ang Boracay rehabilitation, pagpapalawak sa sakop ng NIPAS, proteksiyon ng Philippine Rise at iba pang coastal at marine conservation at protection ay mga hakbang para sa "international agreements" tulad ng CTI-CFF.

"Being an archipelagic country, we cannot emphasize further how important it is for our government to prioritize our seas. The country recognizes the interconnectedness of our neighbor countries' activities and management initiatives, which is why we continue to collaborate and strengthen our ties with existing regional cooperation," ani pa ni Leones.

Tiniyak din nito na bilang miyembro ng naturang regional cooperations ay nakahanda ang Pilipinas na gawin ang lahat bilang tugon sa panawagan ng ibang bansa para sa preserbasyon ng ating likas na yaman.



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PHOTO BY PHILIPPINE CHARITY SWEEPSTAKES



PCSO kasama ang PN at DENR sa pagsagip kay Mother Earth

HELLO, Bulgarians! Bago matapos ang 2018, sinigurado muna ng Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) kasama ang Philippine Navy (PN) at Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na malinis ang coastal area sa paglinis dito.

Sa lumalaking populasyon ng Pilipinas, lumalaki na rin ang basura ng ating bansa. Hindi na mapigilan ang mga taong nagtatapon ng basura kung saan-saan. Hindi lang tayo ang mga naaapektuhan sa ganitong maling gawain kundi pati na rin ang mga hayop na naninirahan sa dagat kaya hindi ito pinalagpas ng halos 100 volunteers ng PCSO, PN at DENR sa paglinis ng Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area (LPPCHEA), isang nature reserve situated south ng Manila Bay. Sumama rin sina PCSO GMAlexander Balutan, PN Grp. Comm. Col. Nestor Marcelino at Chief of Staff Col. Raymundo Liwag.

Taun-taon itong isinasagawa ng PCSO na kasama sa kanilang Social Corporate Responsibility upang patunayang hindi lang sa pagbibigay ng medical assistance ang kayang ibigay ng PCSO kundi kaya rin nitong panatilihin ang kalinisan ng kapaligiran.



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COMPLIANCE WITH RULES AND STANDARDS

15 MORE MINING FIRMS TO UNDERGO AUDIT

By Ben O. de Vera
@bendeveraINQ

Fifteen more mining firms will undergo audit of their operations by the interagency Mining Industry Coordinating Council (MICC) to determine compliance with rules and standards, the Department of Finance (DOF) said on Tuesday.

Also, the MICC, during its meeting cochaired by Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III and Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu last week, "deferred a recommendation on the lifting of the moratorium on the issuance of new mineral agreements," the DOF said in a statement.

"Executive Order (EO) 79 imposed a moratorium on new mineral agreements until a legislation rationalizing existing revenue-sharing schemes

and mechanisms shall have taken effect.' The Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) law, or Republic Act No. 10963, increased the excise tax on mineral products from 2 percent to 4 percent. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) queried whether the increase would be considered as having satisfied the condition of a legislation rationalizing the existing revenue-sharing scheme. However, the DOF clarified that TRAIN only increased the excise taxes and did not cover the implementation of a new fiscal regime for mining. The new fiscal regime proposed by the DOF covers other taxes and fees such as royalty, windfall, profit and incentives," the DOF explained.

As such, the MICC de-

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ing the moratorium on new mineral agreements as the new revenue-sharing scheme under the proposed tax reform package "2 plus" remains pending in Congress.

Last month, the lower House already passed House Bill No. 8400 containing the new mining fiscal regime imposing taxes on all mine operations.

As for the next round of audit of mining companies' oper-

ations, the DOF said the MICC wanted to "commission the same team of experts following their outputs on the review of the environmental, economic, social, legal and technical aspects of the first batch of 26 mining companies."

Dominguez had said the technical review team was "highly commendable."

The MICC as early as the first half of last year was supposed to undertake a review of

the 26 mining sites ordered shut down or suspended by former DENR chief Regina Paz Lopez.

The review was delayed by more than a year due to lack of funding.

The MICC, formed through EO No. 79 issued by former President Benigno Aquino III in 2012, was mandated to conduct a multi-stakeholder review of mining operations every two years, but only now had it been able to do so. INQ



MICC defers recommendation on lifting

By MARY GRACE PADIN

The inter-agency Mining Industry Coordinating Council (MICC) has decided to defer its recommendation involving a moratorium imposed on new mineral agreements pending the passage of a bill which seeks to overhaul the mining industry's fiscal regime, according to the Department of Finance (DOF).

During a meeting last week, Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez and Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, co-chairpersons of the MICC, discussed the moratorium on new mineral production sharing agreements (MPSA), and the implications of the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) Law.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) asked whether the increase in excise tax on mineral products under TRAIN would be enough to satisfy the condition for the lifting of the moratorium, as provided under Executive Order 79.

The EO provides that a moratorium on new mineral agreements should be implemented until a legislation rationalizing existing revenue sharing schemes and mechanisms have taken effect.

However, the DOF clarified that TRAIN only increased the excise taxes on mineral products, and did not fully incorporate a new fiscal regime for mining.

The DOF said reforms on the mining

fiscal regime, including royalty, windfall and profit taxes, incentives, and revenue sharing schemes, are instead covered under Package 2 Plus of the Comprehensive Tax Reform Program, as contained in House Bill 8400.

Turn to B3

MPSA moratorium

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Power Situation Outlook
by Wednesday, 18 December 2013

	Luzon	Visayas	Mindanao
Available Capacity (MW)	12,195	2,151	2,461
System Peak (MW)	9,394	1,988	1,827
Gross Reserve (MW)	2,801	163	634

* Based on data compiled as of 11:00AM, 17 December 2013.
** Subject to change depending on actual power supply conditions.
*** For more info on power supply and emergency response, please visit <http://www.ngcp.ph>.

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MICC defers... From B1

As such, the MICC resolved to defer its recommendation to lift the moratorium on MPSAs until the package is passed into law.

House Bill 8400 has already been approved by the House of Representatives on

third and final reading. The bill was transmitted to the Senate last Nov. 13.

During the same meeting, the MICC also agreed to commence next year its review on the remaining 15 mining companies which

were part of the 41 mines initially reviewed by the DENR under former Secretary Regina Lopez in 2016.

MICC is eyeing to commission the same team of experts which conducted the first round of review on the 26 mining companies ordered suspended and closed by the

former DENR leadership.

Dominguez described their outputs as "highly commendable."

Meanwhile, the DENR was also tasked to study the process of delineating the go and no-go zones for mining application identified under EO 79.



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Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVE SERVICE

MPSA ban to stay new audits ordered

AMORATORIUM on the issuance of new mineral agreements will remain in effect until Congress approves a new fiscal regime for the mining industry, the Finance department said on Tuesday.

The issue of whether higher taxes under the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (Train) law had satisfied conditions that would lift the ban was clarified during a December 12 meeting of the Mining Industry Coordinating Council (MICC), the department said in a statement.

Mining firms who want the ban to be lifted, meanwhile, also face the prospect of another industry review as the MICC ordered new evaluations for 15 companies for possible regulatory

violations.

Executive Order 79, issued in 2012 by then President Benigno Aquino 3rd, imposed a moratorium on new mineral production sharing agreements (MPSAs), among others, "until legislation rationalizing revenue sharing schemes and mechanisms shall have taken effect."

In response to an Environment department question regarding the 4-percent mining excise tax (up from 2 percent) under Train, the Finance

department said the law did not encompass the fiscal regime envisioned by the government.

"The new fiscal regime proposed by the DoF (Department of Finance) covers other taxes and fees, such as royalty, windfall, profit and incentives," it said.

The MICC subsequently deferred a recommendation to lift the moratorium, noting that a new revenue-sharing scheme and mechanisms for mining would be included in Package 2 plus of the Comprehensive Tax Reform Program.

The House of Representatives has already approved this under House Bill 8400, which is now being reviewed by the Senate.

The MICC also tasked the Environ-

ment department to study the process of delineating "go and no-go zones" for mining applications identified under EO 79.

"Considering the continuing issues and concerns on the identification of these areas, particularly the delineation of Strategic Agriculture and Fisheries Development Zones, the DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources) and other concerned member agencies were tasked to form a technical working group that will identify a pilot area for the implementation of the updated no-go zones," it said.

The MICC also instructed DENR to check whether the issues concerning the go-no go zones could be resolved by

➤ **Audits B2**

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AUDITS FROM B1

MPSA ban to stay

revising implementing rules and regulations.

New review

Meanwhile, the Finance department said 15 mining firms — part of the 41 that were initially investigated by the DENR in 2016 — would come under an “objective, science-based, and fact-finding” review.

“MICC is eyeing to commission the same team of experts following their outputs on the review of the environmental, economic, social, legal and technical aspects of the

first batch of 26 mining companies that Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez 3rd has described as “highly commendable,” the Finance department said.

The council convened in February 2017 after then DENR chief Regina Lopez’s closure and suspension orders against 26 mining operations led to an industry outcry. This led to Congress’ deciding not to confirm her appointment and the MICC subsequently created five technical teams to conduct another review.

Last month, the DENR announced that three mining firms would be definitely be shuttered while another nine were up for suspension.

The three firms to be closed were identified as Surigao del Norte-based Claver Mineral De-

velopment Corp., Oriental Synergy Mining Corporation in the Dinagat Islands and Ore Asia Mining and Development Corp. in Bulacan.

Up for suspension instead of closure, meanwhile, are Dinagat Islands-based AAMPHIL Natural Resources and Development Corp., Krominco, Inc., Libjo Mining Corp. and Wellex Mining Corp.; Carrascal Nickel Corp. in Surigao del Sur; Zambales Diversified Metals Corp. in Zambales; and Emir Mineral Resources Corp. and Mt. Sinai Exploration and Development Corp. in Samar.

Rounding out the list of nine is Strongbuilt Mining Development Corp. whose suspension was affirmed by the review.

The suspended companies can still appeal to Office of the President or resolve their violations by undertaking corrective measures

**FROM A REPORT BY
MAYVELIN U. CARABALLO**



19 DEC 2013

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MICC to hold second round of mining review

THE interagency Mining Industry Coordinating Council will conduct next year the second round of "objective, science-based, and fact-finding" review of mining operations in the country.

MICC said in a statement Tuesday the review would cover the remaining 15 mining companies which were part of the 41 mines initially reviewed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources under former secretary Regina Lopez in 2016.

MICC plans to commission the same team of experts following their outputs on the review of the environmental, economic, social, legal and technical aspects of the first batch of 26 mining companies that Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III described as "highly commendable."

The 33rd meeting of the MICC on Dec. 12 was co-chaired by Dominguez and Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu.

The MICC deferred a recommenda-

tion on the lifting of the moratorium on the issuance of new mineral agreements.

Executive Order No. 79 imposed a moratorium on new mineral agreements "until a legislation rationalizing existing revenue sharing schemes and mechanisms shall have taken effect".

The Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion law or Republic Act No. 10963 increased the excise tax on mineral products from 2 percent to 4 percent.

The Environment Department asked whether the increase would be considered as having satisfied the condition of a legislation rationalizing the existing revenue sharing scheme.

The Finance Department clarified that the Train law only increased the excise taxes and did not cover the implementation of a new fiscal regime for mining. The new fiscal regime proposed by the DOF covers other taxes and fees, such as royalty, windfall, profit and incentives. **Julito G. Rada**



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NGOs sue France for climate neglect

PARIS: A group of Non-government Organizations (NGOs), including Greenpeace and Oxfam, has launched a lawsuit against the French state accusing it of taking insufficient action to tackle climate change.

It comes after similar action was launched by farmers in Germany, and the Dutch government lost a landmark case brought by an environmental rights group on cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

"The failure of the state in the fight against climate change reflects a lack of respect in its obligation to protect the environment and the health and security of the population," the NGOs said in a joint statement on Monday (Tuesday in Manila).

The French government will have two months to respond to the legal action.

"We are seeking redress for damages and asking the state to act straight away at all levels," Greenpeace campaigner Laura Monnier said.

The NGOs allege that France, where greenhouse gas emissions rose again in 2015, has not met its short-term climate objectives.

President Emmanuel Macron, who has attempted to paint him-

self as a leader in fighting climate change since his election last year, recently backed down on anti-pollution fuel tax hikes in the face of country-wide "yellow vest" protests.

In October, the Dutch government lost an appeal against a ruling which ordered it to slash greenhouse gases by at least 25 percent by 2020.

Environmental rights group Urgenda fought the successful case on behalf of some 900 Dutch citizens who accused the Netherlands of doing too little to prevent dangerous climate change.

In Germany, dismayed farmers who have suffered damage to their crops and dairy farms as a result of record drought have also filed a lawsuit, with the aid of Greenpeace, against Berlin to force action.

Last month the UN's Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change said in a report that warming is on track toward an unliveable 3 C or 4 C rise, and avoiding global chaos will require a major transformation.

A deal reached at the UN's COP24 climate summit earlier this month was criticised for not matching the ambition of the world's most vulnerable countries.

AFP



Basura, kailan ibabalik sa South Korea?

Iginiit ng environmental group na EcoWaste Coalition sa South Korean Embassy na magbigay ng eksaktong petsa kung kailan ibibiyaha pabalik sa kanilang bansa ang 6,500 toneladang basura na dinala sa Pilipinas.

Sa pamamagitan ng e-mail, hiniling ng EcoWaste Coalition kay Ambassador Han Dong-man na kumpirmahin kung kailan aalisin ang shipments ng mga basura mula sa Misamis Oriental.

Idiniin ng grupo na dapat itong mangyari "before Christmas Day". Nauna rito ay tiniyak ng South

Korean Embassy sa mga lokal na awtoridad na gagawa ito ng mga hakbang para maibalik sa Korea ang mga basura sa lalong madaling panahon.

"Almost one month has passed since South Korean authorities promised to return the illegal wastes as soon as possible," reklamo ni Aileen Lucero, National Coordinator ng EcoWaste Coalition.

"Our exasperating experience with the illegal trash imports from Canada, which are still stranded in our country, has taught us how important it is to have a defined

date. That's why we want the South Korean government to give us a 2018 return date and keep its promise for expedited action."

Samantala, kinumpirma ni Bureau of Customs (BoC) Region X Port Collector John Simon sa EcoWaste Coalition na ang basura "is now ready for pick-up and repatriation back to Korea."

Nitong Disyembre 6, nag-isyu ang BoC ng "Re-Exportation Order" para sa basura na inilarawan nitong "misdeclared, heterogenous and injurious to public health."

Chito A. Chavez