

**HIGH LEVEL 12<sup>th</sup> REGIONAL 3R AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY FORUM  
IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

3 March 2025

JECC, Jaipur City, Rajasthan State, India

---

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Atty. Jonas R. Leones**  
DENR – Undersecretary  
The Philippines

---

**EXCELLENCIES,  
DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES,**

THE PHILIPPINES GENERATES APPROXIMATELY 61,000 METRIC TONS OF SOLID WASTE DAILY. THIS INCLUDES 52% BIODEGRADABLE WASTE, 28% RECYCLABLE MATERIALS, 18% RESIDUAL WASTE, AND 2% SPECIAL WASTE. OF THIS, ABOUT 12-24% IS PLASTIC WASTE. FILIPINOS CONSUME OVER 163 MILLION PLASTIC SACHETS, 48 MILLION SHOPPING BAGS, AND 45 MILLION THIN-FILM BAGS EACH DAY. ALARMINGLY, ONLY 33% OF THIS WASTE IS DISPOSED OF PROPERLY IN LANDFILLS, WHILE AROUND 35% IS IMPROPERLY DISCARDED, OFTEN LEAKING INTO THE ENVIRONMENT AND CONTRIBUTING SIGNIFICANTLY TO OCEAN POLLUTION.

**LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR WASTE MANAGEMENT**

THE COUNTRY'S WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IS PRIMARILY GOVERNED BY TWO KEY LAWS:

1. **REPUBLIC ACT 9003** (*ECOLOGICAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2000*) – ESTABLISHES A NATIONWIDE FRAMEWORK FOR SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT ACROSS ALL SECTORS.

2. **REPUBLIC ACT 11898** (*EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2022*) – SHIFTS THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR PLASTIC WASTE MANAGEMENT FROM LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND COMMUNITIES TO PRODUCERS.

**RA 9003** MANDATES LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (LGUS), THROUGH THEIR SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT (SWM) BOARDS, TO PREPARE AND IMPLEMENT TEN-YEAR SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLANS. THESE PLANS EMPHASIZE FEASIBLE PROGRAMS FOR REUSE, RECYCLING, AND COMPOSTING, WHILE ALSO IDENTIFYING LANDFILL AND TRANSFORMATION CAPACITIES FOR WASTE THAT CANNOT BE REUSED, RECYCLED, OR COMPOSTED.

HOWEVER, WHILE **89%** OF LGUs (**1,416 out of 1,515**) HAVE APPROVED THEIR TEN-YEAR **SWM** PLANS, ONLY **52.8%** OF BARANGAYS (**20,813 out of 39,416**) HAVE ACCESS TO MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITIES (MRFs), AND **53%** OF LGUs (**801 out of 1,515**) HAVE ACCESS TO SANITARY LANDFILLS.

TO SUPPORT WASTE MANAGEMENT, THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DENR) HAS ISSUED SEVERAL DIRECTIVES, INCLUDING:

- **DAO NO. 2006-09** – GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE CLOSURE AND REHABILITATION OF OPEN DUMPSITES AND CONTROLLED DUMP FACILITIES.
- **DAO NO. 2006-10** – GUIDELINES FOR CATEGORIZED FINAL DISPOSAL FACILITIES (SANITARY LANDFILLS).
- **DAO NO. 2019-21** – REGULATIONS FOR WASTE-TO-ENERGY (WTE) FACILITIES TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY SOLUTIONS.

IN JANUARY 2025, THE 24TH ANNIVERSARY OF **RA 9003** WAS COMMEMORATED, WITH DENR HIGHLIGHTING THE NEED FOR SUPPORTIVE INVESTMENTS, REGULATORY ENHANCEMENTS, AND COLLECTIVE ACTION TO ACHIEVE A SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT.

## **IMPLEMENTATION OF RA 11898: EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY ACT**

RECOGNIZING THE LIMITATIONS OF **RA 9003**, THE EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY LAW OR EPR LAW WAS ENACTED IN JULY 2022 UNDER **RA 11898** TO ADDRESS THE PLASTIC WASTE CRISIS. THIS LAW MANDATES PRODUCERS TO IMPLEMENT RECOVERY AND DIVERSION PROGRAMS AIMED AT ACHIEVING PLASTIC NEUTRALITY.

KEY MILESTONES IN **EPR** IMPLEMENTATION INCLUDE:

- **JANUARY 2023** – DENR ISSUED DAO 2023-02, OUTLINING THE IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS.
- **AUGUST 2023** – THE LAUNCH OF THE EPR REGISTRY THROUGH THE LOOPFORWARD CAMPAIGN TO TRACK COMPLIANCE.
- **DECEMBER 2023** – DEADLINE FOR PRODUCERS TO MEET THE 20% PLASTIC RECOVERY TARGET FOR THE PREVIOUS YEAR.
- **JULY 2024** – DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING THE 2023 EPR COMPLIANCE AND AUDIT REPORT (ECAR).

## **CHALLENGES IN EPR IMPLEMENTATION**

DESPITE PROGRESS, SEVERAL CHALLENGES REMAIN WITH THE EPR IMPLEMENTATION:

- **LACK OF COMPREHENSIVE DATA SYSTEMS** – DIFFICULTY IN TRACKING PLASTIC WASTE AND RECOVERY EFFORTS.
- **FRAGMENTED INFRASTRUCTURE** – LOGISTICAL ISSUES RELATED TO WASTE COLLECTION AND RECYCLING.
- **HIGH COSTS OF IMPLEMENTATION** – FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS FACED BY BUSINESSES AND STAKEHOLDERS.

TO ADDRESS THESE CHALLENGES, DENR ISSUED **DAO NO. 2024-04** ON APRIL 22, 2024, WHICH PROVIDES GUIDANCE FOR OBLIGATED ENTERPRISES (OES), COLLECTIVES, AND PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY ORGANIZATIONS (PROS) IN MEETING EPR COMPLIANCE. THE NATIONAL ECOLOGY CENTER (NEC) AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU (EMB) OVERSEE COMPLIANCE.

## **COMPLIANCE AND INDUSTRY PARTICIPATION**

AS OF DECEMBER 2024, **978 COMPANIES AND ESTABLISHMENTS** HAVE ENROLLED IN THE EPR REGISTRY, REFLECTING GROWING INDUSTRY COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABLE WASTE MANAGEMENT. COMPLIANCE RATES INCLUDE:

- **779 OUT OF 869** COMPANIES (**89%**) SUBMITTED THEIR ECARS.
- **64 OUT OF 155** OBLIGATED ENTERPRISES (**41%**) MET COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS.
- **50 OUT OF 77 COLLECTIVES** (**65%**) PROVIDED COMPLIANCE REPORTS.
- **375 OUT OF 448** COMPANIES UNDER **P-R-Os** (**83%**) SUBMITTED THEIR E-CARs.
- **290 OUT OF 298** M-S-M-Es (**97%**) VOLUNTARILY PARTICIPATED.

## **FUTURE POLICY DIRECTIONS**

ON SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT, THE EMB HAS PROPOSED SEVERAL INITIATIVES, INCLUDING:

- CONDUCTING A **WASTE ANALYSIS AND CHARACTERIZATION STUDY**.
- FEASIBILITY STUDIES FOR **WASTE-TO-ENERGY (WTE) PROJECTS**.
- MAINSTREAMING **EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY (EPR)** ACROSS SECTORS.
- PROGRAMS FOR THE **INFORMAL WASTE SECTOR**.
- LOCALIZATION OF THE **NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE PREVENTION, REDUCTION, AND MANAGEMENT OF MARINE LITTER** IN LGU SWM PLANS.

THE DENR, IN COLLABORATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES, HAS DRAFTED AND COMPLETED PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS ON THE FOLLOWING POLICIES:

- **DENR-DOE-DOST JOINT ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER** ON WTE FACILITIES UTILIZING COMBUSTION TECHNOLOGY.
- **DENR ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER** ON THE SITING OF WTE FACILITIES.

FURTHERMORE, THE DENR CHAIRS THE **NATIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION** AND HAS ADOPTED:

- THE **ROADMAP FOR PLASTIC WASTE MANAGEMENT AND REDUCTION**.
- THE **NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR MARINE LITTER**.

## **ENHANCING EPR IMPLEMENTATION**

TO ENHANCE EPR EFFORTS, THE DENR PLANS TO INTRODUCE THE FOLLOWING POLICIES:

1. **NATIONAL FRAMEWORK ON EPR** FOR ALL PRODUCT WASTES.
2. **GUIDELINES ON CERTIFICATION AND FISCAL INCENTIVES** UNDER RA 9003, AS AMENDED BY RA 11898 - A JOINT INITIATIVE BETWEEN DENR AND DOF.
3. **NON-FISCAL INCENTIVES**, IN COLLABORATION WITH DOLE AND DSWD.
4. **EPR REGISTRATION AND MONITORING FEES.**
5. AN **EPR PROCEDURAL MANUAL** TO STREAMLINE COMPLIANCE.

THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF **RA 9003**, AND THE ENACTMENT OF **RA 11898**, MARK CRUCIAL STEPS IN THE PHILIPPINES' ONGOING EFFORTS TO ADDRESS SOLID WASTE, PARTICULARLY PLASTIC WASTE POLLUTION, AND PROMOTE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY. WHILE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE, MUCH WORK REMAINS TO BE DONE. STRENGTHENING COLLABORATION AMONG GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, THE PRIVATE SECTOR, AND COMMUNITIES IS KEY TO ENSURING THE SUCCESS OF BOTH THE SWM AND EPR INITIATIVES.

ON THIS NOTE, WE ARE PLEASED TO ALSO HIGHLIGHT THAT IN 2023, UNDER THE ADMINISTRATION OF **PRESIDENT FERDINAND R. MARCOS, JR.**, AND THE LEADERSHIP OF **DENR SECRETARY MARIA ANTONIA YULO LOYZAGA**, THE PHILIPPINES OFFICIALLY JOINED THE GLOBAL PLASTIC ACTION PARTNERSHIP (**GPAP**) AT *THE 28TH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE UN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (COP-28)*.

FURTHERMORE, IN JANUARY 2025, THE DENR SPEARHEADED THE LAUNCHING OF THE *PHILIPPINES' NATIONAL PLASTIC ACTION PARTNERSHIP (NPAP)*, WHICH BROUGHT TOGETHER **OVER 140 LEADERS** FROM VARIOUS SECTORS— *INCLUDING GOVERNMENT, PRIVATE SECTOR, CIVIL SOCIETY, ACADEMIA, AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS*. THIS COLLECTIVE EFFORT FROM THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT AIMS TO DRIVE INNOVATION, IMPLEMENT ACTIONABLE STRATEGIES, AND ACCELERATE THE COUNTRY'S TRANSITION TOWARDS A CIRCULAR ECONOMY.

WITH THIS, WE REAFFIRM OUR STRONG CONVICTION THAT THROUGH THE CONTINUOUS REFINEMENT OF POLICIES, STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS IN INFRASTRUCTURE, A COMMITMENT TO ACCOUNTABILITY, AND COLLECTIVE ACTION, THE PHILIPPINES WILL STEADILY PROGRESS TOWARD REALIZING A CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND A CLEANER, MORE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR ALL.

THANK YOU AND I WISH EVERYONE A GOOD DAY.

**### END ###**