

31ST MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE
MONTREAL PROTOCOL ON SUBSTANCES THAT DEplete THE
OZONE LAYER

Rome, Italy

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COUNTRY STATEMENT: PHILIPPINES

By

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MS. TINA BIRMPILI, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE OZONE
SECRETARIAT

CO-CHAIRS OF THE MEETING

MINISTERS AND DISTINGUISHED REPRESENTATIVES

FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

GOOD MORNING/AFTERNOON

MY DELEGATION WOULD LIKE TO APPRECIATE AND
RECOGNISE THE OZONE SECRETARIAT FOR THE EXCELLENT
ORGANISATION OF THIS MEETING OF THE MONTREAL
PROTOCOL PARTIES AND TO COMMEND THE GOVERNMENT
OF ITALY FOR HOSTING US IN THIS HISTORICAL AND
BEAUTIFUL CITY OF ROME.

IT HAS BEEN SAID OVER AND OVER THAT THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL IS THE SINGLE MOST SUCCESSFUL MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT WHICH HAS NOT ONLY BROUGHT BENEFITS TO THE HEALING OF THE OZONE LAYER BUT ALSO DELIVERED SIGNIFICANT CLIMATE BENEFITS OVER THE LAST 3 DECADES. WE MUST THEREFORE GIVE CREDIT TO ALL THE 197 PARTIES AS WELL AS THE SUPPORTING ORGANISATIONS, INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SOCIETY FOR THE GREAT WORK WE HAVE DONE TOGETHER.

FOR ALMOST 30 YEARS, SINCE WE RATIFIED THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL IN 1998, WE AS A NATION HAVE WORKED CONSCIENTIOUSLY TO MEET OUR OBLIGATIONS TO THIS INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT AND PHASE-OUT OZONE DEPLETING SUBSTANCES OR ODS ACCORDING TO THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL SCHEDULE. WE ELIMINATED MOST ODS EVEN BEFORE THEIR PHASE-OUT DEADLINES. HALONS, METHYL CHLOROFORM, NON-QPS METHYL BROMIDE, CARBON TETRACHLORIDE AND CHLOROFLUOROCARBONS ARE ALL HISTORY NOW (THOUGH IT SEEMS THAT CFC-11 IS TRYING TO MAKE A COMEBACK).

BUT THE BATTLE IS NOT YET OVER – THE PHILIPPINES IS NOW CONCENTRATING ITS EFFORTS TO REDUCE IMPORTATION AND CONSUMPTION OF HCFCs, AND WE ALSO STARTED PREPARING TO PHASE-DOWN HFCs.

CONSISTENT WITH OUR HCFC PHASE-OUT TARGETS, WE HAVE DEVELOPED AND CONTINUOUSLY IMPLEMENTED THE QUOTA AND LICENSING SYSTEM AND ASSIGNED QUOTAS FOR REGISTERED IMPORTERS.

IN COOPERATION WITH UNIDO, WE STARTED THE IMPLEMENTATION OF STAGE II OF THE HPMP AND THE ENABLING ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT THE KIGALI AMENDMENT RATIFICATION. FOR THESE ACTIVITIES AND INVESTMENT PROJECTS, WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE MULTILATERAL FUND OF THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL, THE IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES, OTHER SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS, AND OUR INDUSTRY PARTNERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND COOPERATION.

THE HCFC-141B PHASE-OUT IN THE FOAM MANUFACTURING SECTOR WAS COMPLETED FOUR YEARS AGO WHICH RESULTED IN A REDUCTION OF THE IMPORTATION AND CONSUMPTION OF HCFCs PARTICULARLY HCFC-141B. THE PHILIPPINE COMMITMENT TO REDUCE 161.97 ODP TONS BASELINE CONSUMPTION BY 10% WAS ALSO ACHIEVED IN JANUARY 2015.

FOR HPMP STAGE II, WE COMMIT FOR THE SUBSEQUENT 35% AND 50% REDUCTION OF HCFCs FROM THE BASELINE BY 2020 AND 2021, RESPECTIVELY. WE WILL WORK FOR A TOTAL PHASE-OUT OF THESE SUBSTANCES BY 2040.

CONTINUING REFORMS AND INITIATIVES ARE BEING PUT IN PLACE TO FACILITATE COMPLETION TO THE PHASE-OUT OF ALL ODSs. IN 2017, THE PHILIPPINES DEVELOPED AND INTEGRATED THE ON-LINE PERMITTING AND MONITORING SYSTEM FOR ODSs AND ALTERNATIVES.

IN 2013, WE HAVE ISSUED THE PHILIPPINES “REVISED CHEMICAL CONTROL ORDER FOR ODS PHASE-OUT” INTENDED TO: 1) FREEZE THE IMPORTATION FROM THE BASELINE LEVEL IN 2013, AND 2) REDUCE THE IMPORTATION BY 10% FROM THE BASELINE LEVEL IN 2015. THIS REGULATION ALSO PROVIDED AWARENESS TO THE STAKEHOLDERS AND ENABLED THE INTRODUCTION OF OZONE-FRIENDLY ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGIES IN THE MARKET.

WE HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO AS 2040 IS STILL 20 YEARS IN THE FUTURE, BUT WE REMAIN COMMITTED TO OUR MONTREAL PROTOCOL OBLIGATIONS AS WELL AS OUR COMMITMENTS IN OTHER MULTILATERAL AGREEMENTS SUCH AS THE PARIS AGREEMENT AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS.

THEREFORE, AS A DEVELOPING COUNTRY THAT IS ONE OF THE MOST VULNERABLE TO THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE, WE NEED TO EXPLORE WAYS AND OPPURTUNITIES IN ENSURING THE USE OF ODS-FREE, LOWER GWP AND ENERGY EFFICIENT ALTERNATIVES DURING HCFC AND HFC

REDUCTION EFFORTS. THIS WILL REQUIRE ADDITIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING FOR OUR SERVICING SECTOR ESPECIALLY IN ADDRESSING TOXICITY AND SAFETY ISSUES.

FINALLY, CONSIDERING THAT THE PHILIPPINES HAS ACCUMULATED THROUGH THE YEARS VOLUMINOUS STOCKS OF UNWANTED REFRIGERANTS, WE ALSO ASK PARTIES TO FURTHER LOOK INTO HOW WE CAN ADDRESS THE MANAGEMENT AND DISPOSAL OF THESE UNWANTED ODS.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THANK YOU VERY MUCH AND MABUHAY.