



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

# DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM

Tunay na Pagbabago sa Repormang Agraryo

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 04  
SERIES OF 2019

**SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF “NO TO SINGLE-USE PLASTICS IN DAR”**

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In the interest of the service and recognizing the vital role of DAR in the global campaign to end plastic pollutions, **“NO TO SINGLE-USE PLASTICS IN DAR”** is hereby implemented in the entire Department (i.e., CO/RO/PO).

### **Background and Legal Bases**

In the Philippines, 2.7 million metric tons of plastic wastes such as plastic bags, coffee cups, bottled waters, straws, and foods wrappers are being mismanaged every day which mostly end up in the oceans. In response to the looming garbage problems in the country, **Republic Act No. 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000** was passed into law. RA 9003 declares the policy of the state in adopting *a systematic, comprehensive and ecological solid waste management programs* that ensures, among others, the protection of public health and the environment at the national and local level, and the setting of guidelines and targets for **solid waste avoidance and volume reduction** through source reduction and waste minimization measures, including **composing, recycling, re-use**, recovery, green charcoal process, and others, before collection, treatment and disposal in appropriate and environmentally sound solid waste management facilities in accordance with ecologically sustainable development principles;

Further, **Republic Act No. 9729 or the Climate Change Act of 2009** was passed into law. RA 9729 enunciates the policy of the state to afford full protection and the advancement of the right of the people to a healthful ecology in accord with the **rhythm and harmony of nature**. In this light, the law requires that the State shall strengthen, integrate, consolidate and institutionalize government initiatives to achieve coordination in the implementation of plans and programs to address climate change in the context of sustainable development.

### **Implementation**

In order to realize the objectives of **solid waste avoidance and reduction** and to **mitigate the adverse effects of single-use plastics** in the environment, the following measures shall be adopted:

- Canteens and food outlets inside the premises of DAR and food catering services transacting with DAR shall not use “sando” bag or single-use plastic bags/containers, thin, flexible, plastic films, or similar primary packaging

materials out of polyethylene, polypropylene including plastic drinking straws, plastic stirrers and twine straws.

- Use of polystyrene/Styrofoam containers, doypacks, tetra pak cartons, and sachets shall not also be allowed for goods/items, or in serving food or drink, whether take out or dine in.
- Use of washable, recyclable, multi-purpose plastic bags or containers, eco-bags and utensils for items/food/baon is strongly encouraged.
- Use of wax or aluminum coated boxes, cups, plates and drinking straws is also recommended as alternative for Styrofoam as food containers and drinking vessels.
- Refusing/declining/rejecting checkout plastic wrappers/small plastic bags when buying small items that do not require secondary packing materials is greatly encouraged.
- Generally, DAR employees are encouraged to practice the 4Rs: reuse, reduce, recycle and refuse.


In view of ensuring that these measures are enforced and the monitoring of compliance thereto, a **Technical Working Group (TWG)** to be headed by General Services Division (GSD)-Administrative Service shall be created and the members of the TWG shall be proposed by the GSD for approval by the undersigned.

The TWG in coordination with concerned offices shall further enhance these measures by developing the implementation guidelines for effective and efficient implementation, compliance and monitoring.

This Memorandum takes effect upon approval of the Secretary.

MAY 02 2008

Diliman, Quezon City.

  
ATTY. JOHN R. CASTRICIONES  
Secretary

Department of Agrarian Reform

Office of the Secretary

  
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