

Stop using plastic – DENR

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BY EIREENE JAIREE GOMEZ ON JUNE 5, 2018NATION

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) urged Filipinos to stop using single-use plastic items that usually end up polluting the oceans and waterways.

“It is high time we refrain from using disposable plastic products that are used for minutes, but persist in the environment forever,” Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatú said as the country joins the world in observing Environment Month.

He made the appeal not only in consonance with this year’s theme “Beat Plastic Pollution” of World Environment Day to be celebrated on June 5, but also in preparation for the rainy season.

Cimatú said the easiest and best way to reduce plastic waste is to use reusable alternatives such as eco-friendly tumblers and eco-bags.

DENR Undersecretary Jonas Leones said the use of plastic can be devastating for marine biodiversity.

“Small litters like candy wrappers end up in our oceans. It is eaten by marine species, clogging their stomach and causing their death,” Leones explained.

Next to China and Indonesia, the Philippines is the third biggest ocean polluter, according to a 2015 study conducted by the University of Georgia and reported by Ocean Conservancy and McKinsey Center for Business and Environment.

Leones said this should serve as a “wake up call” for the Philippines to reduce its plastic consumption.

At present, the Philippine Alliance for Recycling and Materials Sustainability is doing a pilot study on recycling flexible packaging or multi-material film packaging, which is expected to be operational by the end of the year.

The DENR said it will continue to encourage industries to get involved in environmental efforts through programs that increase recovery of packaging materials, which end up in dumps and oceans.

<http://www.manilatimes.net/stop-using-plastic-denr/404516/>