

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4722



Introduced by **HON. LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.,
HON. MIGUEL LUIS R. VILLAFUERTE, HON. TSUYOSHI ANTHONY "HORI" G.
HORIBATA AND HON. NICOLAS "NICK" C. ENCISO VIII**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

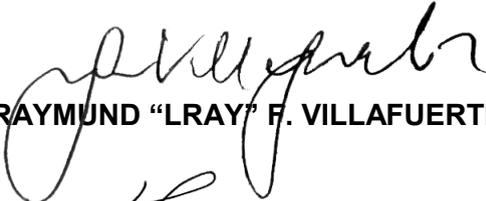
According to environmental group Greenpeace, the Philippines ranks third as the "worst polluter of the world's oceans", after China and Indonesia. The Philippines, alongside Thailand and Vietnam are responsible for as much as 60% of the plastic waste in the world's oceans.¹ The National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis estimated that over 8 million tons of plastic end up in the oceans every year and much more during the pandemic when even medical waste ends up in the ocean.

In the Philippines, with a 103 million population and a high rate of poverty, people opt to consume products with single-use plastics such as shampoo, instant coffee, cooking oil, food seasoning, and toothpaste. These low-value disposable sachets often end up as marine debris. This problem will surely increase with the exploding demands for these consumer products.

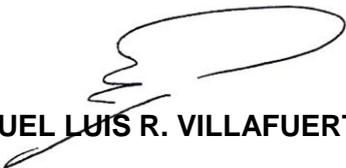
Hence, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) recognized the need to give our coastal and marine areas attention. They reiterated this call by implementing the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act as well as facilitating the clearing of coastal areas from trash and debris in 2017 during the International Coastal Cleanup Day which is presently done now every year.

This bill aims to institutionalize the observance of the National Coastal Clean-Up Day to improve the coastal and ocean ecosystem and promote a healthy aquatic life cycle. Similar to what the DENR has conducted, this bill proposes to turn coastal cleanups into an annual program by the agency and catalyze the support of other relevant agencies.

The approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.


TSUYOSHI ANTHONY "HORI" G. HORIBATA


MIGUEL LUIS R. VILLAFUERTE


NICOLAS "NICK" C. ENCISO VIII

¹ <https://www.greenpeace.org/usa/news/nestle-unilever-pg-among-worst-offenders-for-plastic-pollution-in-philippines-beach-audit/>

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AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEAN-UP DAY IN THE
PHILIPPINES PRESCRIBING EVERY SECOND SUNDAY OF SEPTEMBER A
NATIONAL COASTAL CLEAN-UP DAY

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* — This Act shall be known as the "*National Coastal Cleanup Day*".

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* — The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accordance with the rhythm and harmony of nature and to promote consciousness over the protection of our marine resources.

SECTION 3. *Observance of the National Coastal Clean-Up Day.* — An annual program of activities that would promote water pollution prevention via coastal cleanups shall be prepared and implemented by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). In support there, the:

- a. Department of Education;
- b. Commission on Higher Education;
- c. Civil Service Commission;
- d. Department of Interior and Local Government;
- e. Philippine National Police; and
- f. Armed Forces of the Philippines
- g. Schools (Public and Private); and

- h. National and Local Government Agencies, shall facilitate and encourage the commemoration of this day.

In addition, the Philippine Information Agency (PIA), in coordination with the abovementioned agencies, shall ensure the effective information dissemination of this Act.

SECTION 4. *Funding.* — The amount necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be charged to the appropriations of the DENR under the current General Appropriations Act (GAA). Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual GAA.

SECTION 5. *Separability Clause.* — Should any provision herein be declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity of the other provisions of this Act.

SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause.* — All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or other issuances or parts inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 7. *Effectivity Clause.* — This Act shall take effect in fifteen (15) days after publication in the *Official Gazette* or in one (1) newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,