

Philippines to auction off \$21m worth of Imelda Marcos's jewellery

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Hoard seized from late dictator Ferdinand Marcos' widow includes 25-carat, barrel-shaped diamond worth at least \$5 million and a Cartier diamond tiara



Imelda Marcos's jewellery was seized in 1986 when she fled with her husband and family to Hawaii. Photograph: Bullit Marquez/AP

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The Philippine government has approved the public exhibit and auction of the jewellery collection of late dictator Ferdinand Marcos' widow Imelda which international experts have appraised to be now worth at least 1bn pesos (\$21m).

The hoard was seized when Marcos and his family fled to Hawaii in 1986 following a popular revolt that ended his two decades in power.



Philippines revalues jewellery seized from Imelda Marcos in 1986

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It includes a 25-carat, barrel-shaped diamond worth at least \$5m and a Cartier diamond tiara that is now many times more valuable than the previous estimate of \$30,000 to \$50,000.

Andrew de Castro of the Presidential Commission on Good Government, an agency [tasked to recover the Marcoses' ill-gotten wealth](#), said on Monday they hope to hold the exhibit and auction before the end of President Benigno Aquino III's term in June, when the terms for the current members of the commission also end.

The government's Privatization Council headed by the Department of Finance last week approved the sale of the jewellery. A portion of the collection seized at the presidential palace when the Marcoses fled, however, is still being contested in court. Other pieces of jewelry were seized in Hawaii and at Manila's airport.

"The jewellery confiscated from the Marcoses remain a singular manifestation of the misguided priorities of the Marcos presidency during his reign," commission Chairman Richard Amurao said on Friday.