



DOT MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 2005-04

**DECLARING ZERO WASTE AS GOAL AND DIRECTION OF THE
PHILIPPINE TOURISM SECTOR**

Pursuant to Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, the tourism sector, among others, is called upon to avoid, minimize, segregate, reuse and recycle discards to the fullest extent possible, and to stop the unhealthy and illegal practice of dumping and burning waste, so as to conserve resources and protect the public health and the environment.

As it is, tourism like other human activities consumes resources and makes waste, which, if not ecologically managed will badly damage the ecosystems, impair the people's health, and drive away tourists, destroying valuable job and income opportunities for our people. Moreover, tourism establishments and facilities generate significant volume of waste that can be considerably reduced to zero if a policy on waste prevention, reduction, separation at source, recycling and composting is put in place and genuinely carried out by all stakeholders.

In this regard, the Department of Tourism (DOT) declares **ZERO TOURISM WASTE** as a goal and direction for sustainable tourism and development. The DOT and its attached agencies, including the private sector are encouraged to undertake the following:

1. Promote education and training on Ecological Solid Waste Management (ESWM) and to implement corresponding programs and systems that will include but not limited to the following components: education, engineering, enforcement, and entrepreneurial.
2. Update all policies and manuals for operations to make them consistent with Republic Act No. 9003 and other environmental laws, particularly removing as disposal options the dumping and burning of discards.
3. Comply with Executive Order No. 301 (29 March 2004), which establishes a green procurement program for all government offices, which aims to promote the culture of making environmentally-informed decisions in the purchase and use of products and services.
4. Incorporate ESWM as a basic requirement for the accreditation of hotels and other accommodation facilities, travel and tour services, and all other tourism-related establishments.

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5. Seek and support pilot projects that will demonstrate the beauty and viability of ESWM in tourism establishments and facilities, including the greening of tourist events and destinations.
6. Continue collaborating with the Ecological Waste Coalition (EcoWaste Coalition) and related entities towards the development and execution of this Zero Tourism Waste policy.
7. Carry out further research and study on the practical applications of the Zero Tourism Waste policy as provided for in this DOT Memorandum Circular.

This Order shall take effect immediately.

21 March 2005.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JAD', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

JOSEPH ACE H. DURANO
Secretary