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UNEP DTIE OzonAction Programme

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## **Table of Contents:**

- 1. Rich Countries Betray Local Flower Industry
- 2. Anti-Ozone Imports Cut
- 3. Singapore Reaffirms Commitment to Protect Ozone Layer

## 1. Rich Countries Betray Local Flower Industry

Nairobi- Flower farmers have been thrown into a quandary over the use of a chemical now widely shunned in Europe.

The Montreal Protocol allows the use of methyl bromide until 2015. But despite a 10-year grace period, lobbyists in the West are now campaigning for a boycott of crops grown with the chemical.

Many anti-methyl bromide advocacy and lobby groups in the Netherlands and Europe in general are asking supermarkets and other retail outlets to label products that were produced without methyl bromide. This, they hope, will enable consumers and the market to make informed choices. In the UK, the Food Commission, a consumer advocacy group, has asked supermarkets to label fruits and other produce "Grown without use of methyl bromide."

The mounting pressure means that Kenyan flower farmers have to switch to alternatives immediately. Continued use of methyl bromide would simply mean they lose their export market.

Full article @: http://allafrica.com/stories/200101040195.html Source: AllAfricaCom, By: Wandera Ojanji, 04 January 2001

## 2. Anti-Ozone Imports Cut

Philippines Department of Environment and Natural Resources has imposed, starting today, a 20-percent reduction in all imported ozone-depleting substances (ODS).

Environment Secretary Antonio Cerilles said the move is in accordance with the provisions of the department's Administrative Order No. 2000-18 of 1996, which calls for the gradual phaseout of eight ODS, including 12 other minor-controlled substances until the end of the year.

"The import limitation means a 20-percent reduction of all ODS importation or equivalent to only 80 percent of the 1996 recorded ODS imports which was reported at some 3,176 metric tons.

"The 2001 annual importation quota is non-cumulative and the 1996 estimated ODS consumption based on the Updated Philippine Country Program will be used as the baseline level," Cerilles explained.

With the ban on the importation and local manufacture of some 15 chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), three halons, carbon tetrachloride (CCl4), and 1-1-trichloroethane/methyl chloroform (C2H3Cl3) effective this year, the DENR has identified about 74 substitutes allowed for importation.

Cerilles said those allowable imports include CFC substitutes, such as 40 kinds of hydrochlorofluoro-carbons (HCFCs) and 34 kinds of hydrobromofluocarbons.

This is being done, he said, to provide businesses and industries a transition phase into using ozone-friendly substances, he said.

But Cerilles is quick to point out that their importation must be subjected to Pre-Shipment Importation Clearance as prescribed by the administrative order. The implementation of such order is also in accordance with the mandate of two environmental laws namely the Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act of 1990 (Republic Act 6969) and the Clean Air Act of 1999 (RA 8459).

Similarly, the implementation is also part of the country's commitment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that deplete ozone layer. The protocol came into force on Jan. 1, 1989 which states that "the measures that

parties must take to limit production and consumption of the controlled substances, originally five OFCs and three halons."

The protocol also details how signatories should reduce their production and consumption of ODS.

The principle that countries would agree internationally to take steps to protect the ozone layer was established in the Vienna Convention for the Protection of Ozone Layer, Cerilles said.

Source: The Manilla Times, internet edition, 01 January 2001 @: http://www.manilatimes.net/2001/jan/01/top\_stories/20010101top5.html

## 3. Singapore Reaffirms Commitment to Protect Ozone Layer

Singapore has taken another step towards protecting the ozone layer. The Environment Ministry says it has acceded to two more amendments to the Montreal Protocol that will take effect on Thursday.

The Montreal Protocol, which Singapore signed in 1989, calls for the international community to phase out the use of ozone-depleting substances.

The Ministry says it will work closely with the Trade Development Board and local industries to meet the obligations.

Source: Channelnewsasia, By Camie de Souza, 20 December 2000

@: <a href="http://www.channelnewsasia.com.sg//articles/2000/12/20/singaporenews23875.htm">http://www.channelnewsasia.com.sg//articles/2000/12/20/singaporenews23875.htm</a>

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