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Mr. Takafumi Anan
Associate Expert
Minamata Convention Secretariat

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1 July 2020

Dear Mr. Anan,

On 14 May 2020, the Philippine Department of Health issued Administrative Order 2020-0020 (AO20), adopting a national phase-out of dental amalgam. The Order provides for a three-year phase-out period from the effectivity of AO20, after which the use of dental amalgam shall no longer be allowed in the Philippines.

The Order outlines specific guidelines for the phase-out of importation, manufacture, distribution and use of dental amalgam in the country. Moreover, it establishes health and safety guidelines in the handling, use, and disposal of dental amalgam. AO20 also aims to educate and promote awareness among consumers, as well as to identify measures to strengthen strategies on oral health promotion.

Critical provisions of AO20, which are immediately executory upon its effectivity are the following:

- ban on the importation of liquid mercury for use in dental restorative procedures and dental amalgam and its capsules; and
- ban on the use of dental amalgam and its capsules for children fourteen (14) years old and below, pregnant women and nursing mothers.

BAN Toxics believes that the step taken by the Philippine government in issuing AO20 is critical in protecting the health and environment of Filipinos. While not yet a party to the Convention, AO20 establishes the country's good faith in supporting the Convention it signed in 2013.

BAN Toxics wishes to inform the Minamata Secretariat of AO20, as other countries similarly situated as the Philippines may find a value in the approach our country has taken.

For ease of reference, please find attached copy of AO20.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Gutierrez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Richard Gutierrez
BAN Toxics