



# PRESS RELEASE

Date: 04 Feb 2019 (Mon)

---

## **533 illegal aliens nabbed in 2018; 611 deported - BI**

MANILA, Philippines—The Bureau of Immigration (BI) said it arrested a total of 533 foreign nationals last year as a result of the agency's intensified campaign against illegal aliens.

At the same time, the BI said that a total of 611 aliens were deported in the same year after they were found guilty of violating the country's immigration act.

Immigration Commissioner Jaime Morente disclosed that many of those arrested were caught in flagrante working without permits or engaging in gainful activity without proper visas.

"I am proud to say that due to our intensified campaign against illegal aliens the number of arrests we made last year was 326% greater than those apprehended in 2017," Morente said.

As for the more than 600 aliens who were deported, the BI chief said that they expedited the resolution of pending deportation cases in order to decongest the detention facility.

BI Acting Intelligence Chief Fortunato Manahan Jr. reported that many of those arrested included overstaying aliens, illegal foreign vendors, and aliens illegally employed as construction workers, miners, and other blue collar jobs.

Manahan said that 393 Chinese nationals topped the list of the arrested nationals, followed by 52 Koreans, 12 Americans, and a number of Africans.

Morente also explained that the 533 arrested aliens do not include the more than 200 foreign fugitives apprehended by the bureau.

"These 533 aliens pertain only to those who were arrested in operations conducted by our intelligence division which is separate from our Fugitive Search Unit," he said. "Combined, our arrests are close to 800," he added.

Morente said that they will be relentless in their drive against illegal aliens. "It's very simple. If you enter our country, you have to comply with our laws," he said. "If you don't, you will be deported," he warned. #