



PH HAIYAN ADVOCACY INC.

“An Advocacy Group on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation”

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30 April 2025

HON. ALFRED S. ROMUALDEZ

Local Chief Executive

Kanhuraw Hills, Tacloban City

Subject: Inquiry on Compliance with Section 20 of R.A. 9275 (Clean Water Act of 2004), Water Quality Monitoring of Cancabato Bay, and Legal Basis of Reclamation Activity near Tacloban Astrodome

Dear Mayor Romualdez,

Greetings of peace and resilience.

PH Haiyan Advocacy, Inc., a civil society organization based in Tacloban City, respectfully writes to seek clarification and information on matters of urgent public and environmental interest.

As you are aware, **Section 20 of Republic Act No. 9275 (Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004)** obligates local government units to implement appropriate measures to prevent and control water pollution from both point and non-point sources. **Cancabato Bay**, a declared Marine Protected Area under a City Ordinance, holds ecological, historical, and economic significance to the people of Tacloban and the greater Leyte Gulf ecosystem. Ensuring the bay's protection is a matter of legal duty and public trust.

In this light, we respectfully request the following:

1. A summary of the **City Government's compliance with Section 20 of R.A. 9275**, including policies or programs to reduce pollution, protect marine resources, and rehabilitate the bay;
2. A **copy of the latest regular water quality monitoring report** of Cancabato Bay, including results for key parameters such as Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD), Dissolved Oxygen (DO), and fecal coliform levels, as required under the law;
3. The **complete legal basis, including permits, clearances, or ordinances**, for the **ongoing reclamation and development activities** near the Tacloban Astrodome, which appear to encroach upon or impact Cancabato Bay.

We respectfully emphasize the need for **transparency, accountability, and adherence to environmental laws**, particularly as reclamation projects in ecologically sensitive or protected areas must undergo due process and satisfy stringent legal and scientific standards, including Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and community consultation.

This inquiry is made in the spirit of **collaborative environmental governance** and with deep respect for the role of the City Government in ensuring that development is both sustainable and legally compliant.

We look forward to your timely response and assure you of our continuing support in safeguarding Tacloban's environmental and ecological future.

Very truly yours,

PETRONILO "PETE" L. ILAGAN

Chairman and President

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Cc:

- EMB Region VIII – Regional Director Engr. Alex Jimenez
- DENR Region VIII
- Sangguniang Panlungsod
- DPWH Region VIII
- City Planning and Development Office – Tacloban
- City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO)