



PH HAIYAN ADVOCACY INC.

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27 January 2026

HON. GIOVANNI Z. LOPEZ

Secretary
Department of Transportation
EDSA corner Connecticut
Greenhills, San Juan City

Subject: Follow-Up on Landscaping of the New Tacloban Airport Terminal and Proposal for a Public Forum

Thru: HON. JIM C. SYDIONGCO
Undersecretary for Aviation and Airports

Dear Secretary Lopez,

Warm greetings.

We respectfully write to follow up on our letter dated **17 October 2025** regarding the maintenance, fencing, and landscaping of the access road and frontage areas of the New Tacloban Airport Terminal. To date, we have not yet received a formal written response to the matters raised therein. In early December 2025, we were grateful for the opportunity to meet with **DOTr Undersecretary Jim C. Sydiongco**, who informed us that a bidding activity was scheduled on **11 December 2025** for the landscaping of the New Airport Terminal. We subsequently learned that the said bidding did not push through.

We further note with appreciation the Department's public announcement that the **Tacloban Airport development is targeted for completion by April 2026**, underscoring the urgency of ensuring that the remaining components particularly landscaping and frontage design are thoughtfully planned and implemented. By way of context, the development of the Tacloban Airport has unfolded over a significant period. Initial terminal expansion works were undertaken in **2017–2018** to ease congestion and increase passenger capacity. In **September 2020**, the design of a new passenger terminal building was formally approved, signaling a major upgrade intended to bring the airport closer to international standards. From **2021 to the present**, construction of the new terminal has proceeded in phases, with substantial public investment and regular inspections by the DOTr and the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP). Government announcements have since reiterated that the

project is on track for completion by **2026**. Despite the scale, cost, and long gestation of this flagship infrastructure project, we respectfully note that no public forum or structured stakeholder consultation has yet been held to allow local professionals, academic institutions, and the broader community to engage meaningfully with its design particularly on elements such as landscaping and frontage that directly shape public experience and regional identity.

In this light, we respectfully submit that there is a timely and compelling opportunity to elevate the landscaping phase of the Tacloban Airport Development into a public, consultative, and multi-disciplinary forum, in partnership with concerned institutions.

We wish to emphasize that this initiative is anchored on a shared aspiration: **to make the Tacloban Airport a source of inspiration and pride not only for Taclobanon's, but for the entire Waray-Waray region**. We hope to help shape an airport that reflects the resilience, creativity, and identity of Eastern Visayas—one that allows every arriving passenger and every Waray traveler to say with confidence that **we have a truly beautiful airport**.

We therefore propose that the **Public Forum on Airport Landscaping and Frontage Design** be undertaken under the following partnership framework:

- **PH Haiyan Advocacy, Inc.** – as convenor and responsible for inviting participants from local and Region VIII agencies, the academe, professional groups, civil society, and reputable media;
- **Eastern Visayas State University (EVSU)** – as host academic institution, provider of the EVSU Auditorium, and lead in the preparation of the forum program; and
- **Department of Transportation (DOTr)** – as forum sponsor, to shoulder the costs related to the conduct of the activity.

The forum may include representatives from the **CAAP, DENR, DPWH, DOT**, concerned **LGUs**, architects, urban and environmental planners, engineers, and members of the academe, all based in Eastern Visayas. We strongly believe that landscape design is not merely ornamental. When thoughtfully planned, it can significantly **enhance the airport's role as the region's primary gateway**, improve passenger experience and safety, and help shape a positive and enduring image of **Tacloban City and Eastern Visayas** as the airport nears completion.

We respectfully seek your guidance and favorable consideration on this proposal and on the appropriate steps for formal coordination among the proposed partners.

Thank you for your continued leadership and attention. We look forward to your favorable response.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

PETRONILO "PETE" L. ILAGAN

Chairman

Copy furnished:

His Excellency, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.

Hon. Ralph Recto, Executive Secretary

PH Haiyan Partners