



## PH HAIYAN ADVOCACY INC.

*"An Advocacy Group on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation"*  
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24 June 2025

**ENGR. VISITACION V. GIVA, CESE**  
City Director  
Department of Interior and Local Government  
Tacloban City



Subject: **Transmittal of Letters and Request for DILG Intervention and Enforcement Action on Tacloban City's Continued Failure to Formulate a Legally Mandated Comprehensive Flood Control Master Plan (CFCMP)**

Dear Director Giva,

Warm Greetings!

In accordance with the Department of Interior and Local Government's (DILG) constitutional and legal mandate to supervise local government units (LGUs), we respectfully submit to your office the enclosed documents, including our formal correspondences with the City Government of Tacloban from March to June 2025, in relation to its continued failure to formulate and adopt a Comprehensive Flood Control Master Plan (CFCMP) a core requirement for disaster risk reduction and climate resilience.

These correspondences reflect sustained efforts by PH Haiyan Advocacy, Inc. and its partner stakeholders to urge the City Government to fulfill its duty to protect lives, properties, and the future of the most vulnerable sectors of Tacloban. The legal basis for the CFCMP is unequivocal, grounded in the following national laws and administrative issuances:

- a. Republic Act No. 10121 – Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010
- b. Republic Act No. 7160 – Local Government Code of 1991
- c. Republic Act No. 9729 – Climate Change Act of 2009
- d. Department of Public Works and Highways Department Order No. 41, s. 2016
- e. DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2021-068

Despite these mandates and the city's own vulnerability to extreme weather events as dramatically demonstrated by Super Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) Tacloban City remains without an adopted flood control master plan. This is an inexcusable failure of governance and an abdication of public duty.

**We are constrained to underscore that the current Mayor of Tacloban is now serving his 16th year in office, having first assumed office in 2007. Tacloban has also held Highly Urbanized City (HUC) status since 2009. Yet after more than a decade and a half of administrative tenure and elevated city status, there is still no comprehensive, science-based roadmap to mitigate flooding and reduce risks to life and property. This prolonged inaction appears to reflect not merely neglect, but either willful disregard of statutory duties or gross administrative incompetence. In either case, we believe, it constitutes a breach of public trust.**

Accordingly, and **in the interest of transparency, accountability, and the safety of Tacloban's citizens**, we respectfully ask the following:

- 1. Why does Tacloban City, in its 15th year as an HUC and under a long-serving Mayor, still have no finalized and adopted Comprehensive Flood Control Master Plan despite repeated episodes of life-threatening flooding?**
2. Why has it taken a non-governmental organization and civil society volunteers not the City Government or the DILG to surface, document, and escalate this non-compliance, when national directives clearly vest the DILG with authority to monitor, regulate, and enforce compliance?

**The danger of continued inaction cannot be overstated.** Without a CFCMP, public infrastructure planning remains fragmented, reactive, and prone to inefficiency and corruption. Moreover, the lives and livelihoods of thousands of families living in flood-prone barangays remain at daily risk. The consequences of climate change demand proactive, science-based solutions—not excuses or political evasion. **Must we wait for another tragic event especially one involving the loss of lives before this long-overdue plan is finalized and implemented? The price of neglect is far too high.**

In view of the urgency and the public interest involved, we respectfully call on your good office to:

- 1. Immediately initiate a formal review and audit** of the City Government's compliance with the cited national laws and issuances on disaster preparedness and flood control planning;
- 2. Issue a directive to the City Government requiring full disclosure of the current status of the CFCMP, including relevant budget allocations, technical consultants, and timeline for completion;**
- 3. Enforce penalties or administrative action** where appropriate under law for non-compliance or negligence, and ensure accountability mechanisms are in place;
4. Facilitate public access to information and engage local stakeholders and technical experts in ensuring the plan, once drafted, meets scientific, environmental, and social safeguards.

In the interest of transparency and public participation, we further request that PH Haiyan Advocacy, Inc. be furnished an official copy of the results of the review and audit once completed, and be kept informed of all relevant findings, actions, and developments,

consistent with the public's right to information on matters affecting public safety, environmental governance, and disaster resilience.

**Director Giva, we believe that your leadership and decisive action at this time can prevent future loss of life and set a vital precedent for LGU accountability and climate resilience nationwide.**

We remain fully committed to collaborating with your office, the City Government, and all concerned agencies in forging a safer, more responsive, and climate-prepared Tacloban City.

Very truly yours,



**PETRONILO "PETE" L. ILAGAN**  
Chairman and CEO  
PH Haiyan Advocacy Inc.

Cc:

Hon. Jonvic Remulla, DILG Secretary.  
Hon. Arnel M. Agabe, DILG VIII Regional Director  
PH Haiyan Partners

Enclosures:

(See attached Letters from March 2025 to June 2025)