



PH HAIYAN ADVOCACY INC.

“An Advocacy Group on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation”
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Hon. Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez

Speaker, House of Representatives
Republic of the Philippines
Batasang Pambansa Complex
Quezon City, Philippines

Subject: A Call for Leadership on the San Juanico Bridge Issue in the Spirit of National Resilience

Dear **Speaker Romualdez**,

Warm greetings from PH Haiyan Advocacy!

Maayong adlaw. I am **Peteronilo “Pete” Ilagan**, 75 years old, a Yolanda Survivor and resident of San Jose, Tacloban, and currently the **Chairman of PH Haiyan Advocacy**—a movement grounded in the lessons of Typhoon Yolanda and committed to building a climate-resilient future for our people.

Before the winds of Yolanda changed our lives, I was once part of the *Filipiniana* group a cultural symbol of pride in our community graciously sponsored by your late father, **Mr. Cocoy Romualdez**. Those were years that taught me the value of presence, pride, and leadership. I carry those same values today in my advocacy, and I write to you with both respect for your family's legacy and hope for your personal leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I know you have a heart for public service. Your current position reflects that sense of duty. I believe you understand the enormous responsibility that comes with leading over 300 representatives as Speaker of the House. That role calls for not just power—but **presence**, especially when the people are looking for someone to take a stand.

On the issue of **San Juanico**, there was a moment for leadership that, respectfully, we had hoped to see from you. We acknowledge the efforts of **Tingog Party-list** in raising this concern, but as a party-list, it does not carry the weight of your personal leadership. We expected more—not for politics, but for **resilience**. This issue goes beyond local politics. It is about regional connectivity, infrastructure that protects lives, and planning that anticipates the worsening impacts of climate change.

I do not write this to dwell on what has passed. **Waray na kita mahihimo han naglabay**. But we look ahead—and we believe there is still time to show stronger, bolder leadership.

This may be the right moment for our leaders—national and local—to come together in one **consultative forum** to realign, recalibrate, and collectively act. PH Haiyan Advocacy is willing to initiate or support this effort, focusing not on politics but on long-term solutions. Though an emergency task force meeting was held, we believe in sustained dialogue, especially with the inclusion of governors, mayors, local agencies, and community advocates.

Mr. Speaker, this is a chance for you to reaffirm your leadership—not by words alone, but through **visible, solution-oriented action**. We still believe that you can step forward as a unifying figure—not just for Leyte, but for our country which is Philippines.

With respect and hope,

PETRONILO “PETE” L. ILAGAN

Chairman and President
PH Haiyan Advocacy Inc.