



PH HAIYAN ADVOCACY INC.

“An Advocacy Group on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation”
No. 1 Beta Bayview Homes Subd. Barangay 88, San Jose Tacloban City
Email: phhaiyanadvocacy6500@gmail.com Website: phhaiyan.org
Tel. No. 053-832-5179 / Mobile no: +639 05-497-9574 / +639 54 179-3532

14 October 2025

To: All Partner Agencies, Organizations, and Supporters

Subject: Postponement of Kickoff Activity for the *Adopt-a-Tree: Tacloban Bypass Road Tree-planting Project*

Dear Partners,

Warm greetings from PH Haiyan Advocacy Inc.!

This is to formally inform all our valued partners and supporters that the Kickoff Orientation and Tree Planting Activity for our *Adopt-a-Tree: Tacloban Bypass Road Treeplanting Project*, originally scheduled for **August 16, 2025**, has been **moved to November 8, 2025**.

The postponement was made in view of the recent coordination and consultations with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) regarding the implementation of Department Order No. 73, series of 2014, which restricts tree-planting within the Road Right-of-Way (RROW). During our interagency meetings and joint site inspections, the DPWH Tacloban District Engineering Office and DPWH Region Legal/RROW Division advised that planting activities should be located outside the 15-meter RROW zone, in compliance with existing national policies.

To ensure that the project proceeds in full alignment with DPWH's road safety standards and development plans, PH Haiyan formally wrote to the DPWH Secretary requesting a review and possible amendment of the said Department Order which we furnished all of you dated August 11, 2025, sent to your respective emails.

Today, we received an official acknowledgement from the DPWH Central Office - Bureau of Maintenance Division, recognizing the validity of our arguments and confirming that the matter is under review by the DPWH Legal Services.

In light of this, and to avoid any potential conflict with national infrastructure policies, the kickoff orientation and Treeplanting has been **POSTPONED INDEFINITELY** until such time that we are able to secure DPWH's guidance and approval.

Please be assured that we remain fully committed to this shared environmental mission and sincerely thank all partner institutions and supporters—**DENR VIII, DPWH VIII, D.A R8., DOT R8, OCD R8, TINGOG, LEYECO II, CITY PNP, JTG TASKFORCE, Local Government unit of Tacloban, COMELEC, RECEMPCO, DOH Dulag, DEPED Leyte Division, DWU Hospital, BSP TACLOBAN BRANCH, PAFJ CONSTRUCTION SUPPLY, UNITED ARCHITECT LEYTE CHAPTER, ORNAP EV, CENTRAL DE SANTO NINO DE TACLOBAN,** and our community partners—for your continued trust, contributions, and active participation in advancing this initiative for a greener and more climate-resilient Tacloban City.

We shall provide further updates and details on the rescheduled activity once interagency clearances are finalized.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Very truly yours,

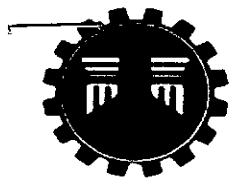
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Pete L. Ilagan', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

PETRONILO “PETE” L. ILAGAN
Chairman and CEO

Attachment:

PH Haiyan Letter and Appeal

DPWH Letters to PH Haiyan



Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS
CENTRAL OFFICE
NCR Compound, 2nd Street, Port Area, Manila



BAGONG PILIPINAS

DPWH, RMD, HRAS
DATE: 10-02-25
FILE NO. 403
GENERAL

September 25, 2025

Mr. PETRONILO L. ILAGAN

No. 1 Beta Bayview Homes Subd. Barangay 88
San Jose, Tacloban City

Dear Mr. Ilagan,

SUBJECT : Request for Presidential Intervention to Repeal DPWH Department Order No. 73, s. 2014, and Reinstate Tree Planting in Road Right-of-Way Areas (DPWH Reference Number LR-CFMC-20256477)

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated September 4, 2025 requesting to repeal Department Order No. 73, s. 2014 and reinstate tree planting in road right-of-way areas which was referred to this Department by the Office of the President for appropriate action.

We acknowledge the points raised in your letter and recognize the relevance and importance of promoting environmental sustainability. Your concerns regarding the ecological value of tree planting along road right-of-way (RROW) areas are valid and well-noted.

As an initial step, we are coordinating with the DPWH Legal Service to review the provisions of Department Order No. 73, series of 2014, and to evaluate the legal implications and feasibility of amending or repealing the said policy. This review will also consider current environmental laws, safety standards, and inter-agency coordination requirements.

We appreciate your initiative in bringing this matter to our attention and assure you that your proposal will be given due consideration in line with the Department's commitment to balance infrastructure development with environmental preservation.

Further updates will be provided once the review process has progressed.

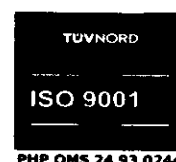
Thank you.


GENE RYAN A. ALTEA
Director IV
Bureau of Maintenance

cc: Undersecretary ERIC A. AYAPANA, Technical Services, NBCDO, and Operations for External Convergence Projects
Director RANDY R. DEL ROSARIO, CESO III, Stakeholders Relations Service
Director GLIRICIDIA C. TUMALIUAN-ALI, Legal Service
Director RYAN JOSEPH A. SARTE, Office of the President

7.1.1 MALD/EDC

Website: <https://www.dpwh.gov.ph>
Tel. No(s): (02)5304-3000





Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS
CENTRAL OFFICE
DPWH Central Office, Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila



RAGONG PILIPINAS
DPWH PACE IRAS
DATE: 9/23/25
FILE No.: 403
General

September 18, 2025

Director GENE RYAN A. ALTEA
Bureau of Maintenance
2nd St, Port Area, Manila

Dear Director Altea:

SUBJECT : Suggestions on the DPWH Department Order No. 73, series of 2014

May we respectfully endorse an email from Mr. Petronilo L. Ilagan through Presidential Action Center with PACE Code No. PM-GDP-09-05-2025-004, seeking intervention in addressing a policy matter of urgent environmental and national significance on Department Order No. 73, series of 2014. The details are enclosed to this letter.

Please reply directly to Mr. Ilagan (pnhaiyanadvocacy6500@gmail.com), copy furnished this Office through email at citizens_feedback@dpwh.gov.ph.

For your information and appropriate action. Thank you, Sir.

Very truly yours,


RANDY R. DEL ROSARIO, CESO III
Director IV
Stakeholders Relations Service

17.1.1 MGG/AVS


PACE Code Number **PM-GDP-09-05-2025-004**
DPWH Reference Number **LR-CFMC-20256477**

RECEIVED
BOM DPWH
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
Date: 24 SEP 2025
By: SRC-1978 LTD





Office of the President
Malacañang

08 September 2025

SECRETARY VIVENCIO B. DIZON
Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH)
Bonifacio Drive, Port Area
1000 Manila

Dear Secretary Dizon,

May we respectfully refer, for any action you may deem proper, the attached letter with enclosure/s, addressed to **PRESIDENT FERDINAND R. MARCOS, JR.**, with details provided below:

PACE Code	PM-GDP-09-05-2025-004
Name of Client	PETRONILO L. ILAGAN
Contact Number / Email	0905-497-9574 / phhaiyanadvocacy6500@gmail.com
Address	No.1 Bayview Homes Subd., Brgy. 88, San Jose Tacloban City
Nature of Request	Suggestions
Details	Request to repeal DPWH Department Order No. 73, Series of 2014

A reply direct to the party/ies concerned, copy furnished the Center, citing the abovementioned PACE Code, will be highly appreciated. Further, the purpose of this letter is to only forward the attached correspondence and should not, in any way be construed as interceding in the recipient's own evaluation and action, in accordance with existing laws, rules and regulations.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,


DIR. RYAN JOSEPH A. SARTE
Head

GDP
Enclosure/s: a/s
cc: party/ies concerned

PRESIDENTIAL ACTION CENTER
PACE Building, Malacañang Complex, JP Laurel Street,
San Miguel, Manila City 1005, Metro Manila, Philippines
T: 8249.8310 local 8175 | E: pace@op.gov.ph



"An Advocacy Group on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation"
No. 1 Beta Bayview Homes Subd. Barangay 88, San Jose Tacloban City
Email: pnhaiyanadvocacy6500@gmail.com Website: pnhaiyan.org
Tel. No. 053-832-5179 / Mobile no: +639 05-497-9574 / +639 62-105-9169

4 September 2025

HON. VIVENCIO "VINCE" B. DIZON
Secretary
Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH)
Bonifacio Drive, Port Area
Manila

DPWH REGIONAL OFFICE VIII	
RMS, ADMIN DIVISION	
RECEIVED	
SIGNATURE: <u>ELASIS G. JUA</u>	NO: _____
PRINT NAME	
DATE: <u>04 Sep 2025</u>	TIME: <u>11:46</u>

Thru : HON. EDGAR B. TABACON
Regional Director Region VIII

Subject: Request for the Repeal of DPWH Department Order No. 73, Series of 2014, and for the Reinstatement of Tree Planting in Road Right-of-Way Areas

Dear Secretary Dizon,

Warm greetings!

First and foremost, we extend our sincere congratulations on your recent appointment as Secretary of the Department of Public Works and Highways. We are confident that your leadership will usher in innovative and transformative approaches to infrastructure development, with a strong emphasis on sustainability and climate resilience.

We commend your bold leadership and your declared mission to address the deeply rooted corruption within the DPWH, particularly your initiative to request the courtesy resignations of all undersecretaries, assistant secretaries, directors, and district engineers. We fully support your vision for a transparent, accountable, and reform-driven DPWH that delivers quality infrastructure while upholding environmental stewardship and public trust.

We understand that cleansing the Department of corruption is your most pressing priority at this time. However, we also trust that you will find time to consider this urgent concern, which is likewise of national significance and closely tied to your vision of a stronger, more accountable DPWH.

We write to follow up on our letter to former Secretary Manuel Bonoan dated 26 August 2025, which included a PH Haiyan Position Paper, and respectfully request your review and issuance of a new Department Order repealing DPWH Department Order (DO) No. 73, Series of 2014. This issuance superseded earlier orders (DO Nos. 29 s. 2012, 15 s. 2000, 38 s. 2006, and 52 s. 2003) that allowed tree planting in Road Right-of-Way (RROW) areas. DO No. 73, s. 2014 effectively restricted tree planting along

national roads—a policy that we respectfully view as contrary to the principles of environmental stewardship, climate change adaptation, and disaster resilience.

At a time when communities face intensifying climate impacts—such as urban heat islands, **flooding**, soil erosion, and air pollution—roadside trees play a critical role in reducing surface runoff, stabilizing soil, improving air quality, mitigating heat, and enhancing road safety and aesthetics. Globally, green infrastructure, including roadside tree corridors, is recognized as a vital component of sustainable transportation systems.

We therefore strongly advocate for the reinstatement of tree planting in RROW areas as part of DPWH's infrastructure programs. Doing so will:

1. **Strengthen Climate Resilience:** Roadside vegetation acts as natural flood mitigation and windbreak systems, helping protect communities and infrastructure.
2. **Promote Environmental Sustainability:** Trees absorb carbon dioxide, reduce roadside noise, and provide habitats for biodiversity.
3. **Enhance Public Health and Livability:** Greener roads contribute to cooler temperatures, cleaner air, and safer environments for pedestrians and motorists.
4. **Support National Greening and Reforestation Initiatives:** This aligns DPWH's road-building agenda with the government's broader environmental and climate commitments.

We respectfully urge the DPWH to issue a new Department Order repealing DO No. 73, s. 2014 and restoring a policy framework that promotes strategic, science-based tree planting along roads. Our organization is ready to collaborate with your Department to develop guidelines that harmonize engineering standards with environmental safeguards, ensuring roadside tree planting enhances both safety and resilience.

We remain confident that under your stewardship, the DPWH can lead the way in demonstrating that infrastructure development and environmental protection go hand in hand.

Thank you very much for your attention and leadership. We look forward to your favorable consideration and the opportunity to support this important initiative.

Very truly yours,



PETRONILO "PETE" L. ILAGAN
Chairman and CEO

Enclosures:

1. Letter to former Secretary Manuel Bonoan
2. PH Haiyan Advocacy Position Paper

No. 1 Beta Bayview Homes Subd. Barangay 88, San Jose Tacloban City
Email: nonnenadecap@9500.com Website: www.9500.com
Mobile no: +639 05-497-9574 / +639 62-105-9169

4 September 2025

His Excellency
President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos, Jr.
Malacañang Palace
Manila

Office of the President
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

OP Copy



090425-MRO-190519

Thru: **HON. LUCAS P. BERSAMIN**
Executive Secretary

Subject: **Request for Presidential Intervention to Repeal DPWH Department Order No. 73, s. 2014, and Reinstate Tree Planting in Road Right-of-Way Areas**

Your Excellency:

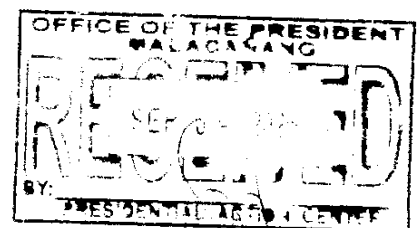
Warm greetings!

We write to earnestly seek your intervention in addressing a policy matter of urgent environmental and national significance. DPWH Department Order (DO) No. 73, Series of 2014, which prohibits tree planting within road right-of-way (RROW) areas, has unintentionally hindered efforts to build climate resilience, enhance roadside safety, and promote environmental stewardship.

While DO No. 73, s. 2014 was issued in response to the devastation caused by Super Typhoon Yolanda, its continued enforcement more than a decade later prevents the integration of green infrastructure strategies that could help mitigate worsening climate risks. Restoring tree planting in RROW areas would:

- Reduce urban heat, flooding, and soil erosion;
- Improve air quality and biodiversity; and
- Support national greening and climate resilience initiatives.

We have formally appealed to DPWH Secretary Vince Dizon and DENR Secretary Raphael Lotilla to revisit and repeal this policy. However, given the urgency of climate action and your administration's strong environmental leadership, we respectfully request your guidance and endorsement to direct the DPWH and DENR to jointly formulate updated, science-based guidelines for safe and sustainable roadside tree planting.



We thank you for your leadership in protecting and restoring our environment, and we look forward to your positive action on this urgent appeal.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'PL' with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

PETRONILO "PETE" L. LAGAN
Chairman and CEO

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding." (Proverbs 9:10)