



PH HAIYAN ADVOCACY INC.

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12 March 2026

HON. RAYMUND A ROMUALDEZ
Vice Mayor and Presiding Officer
Sangguniang Panglungsod ng Tacloban



Thru: **The Honorable City Councilors:**
Hon. Jerry Uy
Hon. Eric T. De Veyra
Hon. Edson R. Malaki
Hon. Jose Mario S. Bagulaya
Hon. Brian Steve G. Granados
Hon. Christopher Randy L. Esperas
Hon. Dandee M. Grafil
Hon. Ferdinand Martin K. Romualdez Jr.
Hon. Edmund Edward I. Chua
Hon. Edward Frederick I. Chua

Subject: Information on the LMWD Reply Dated 3 March 2026 Concerning the Notice of Intention to Pre-Terminate the LMWD-PrimeWater Joint Venture Agreement, in Relation to Our Letter Dated 24 February 2026 Requesting a Public Hearing in Aid of Legislation

Dear Vice Mayor Romualdez and the Honorable Members of the City Council:

Good day.

We respectfully write to inform the Honorable Council of a recent development relating to our letter **dated 24 February 2026**, wherein we requested that the Sangguniang Panlungsod ng Tacloban consider conducting a Public Hearing in Aid of Legislation concerning water supply reliability and compliance with contractual obligations under the Joint Venture Agreement (JVA) between the Leyte Metropolitan Water District (LMWD) and PrimeWater Infrastructure Corporation.

As discussed in our earlier communication, the matter involves issues of public interest relating to the reliability of water supply services within Tacloban City and the fulfillment

of contractual service commitments under the concession arrangement governing the delivery of water services to the LMWD service area.

Since the submission of our 24 February 2026 letter, an important development has occurred.

In its official **reply dated 3 March 2026**, the Leyte Metropolitan Water District confirmed that it had issued a **Notice of Material Breach to PrimeWater Infrastructure Corporation on 5 May 2025**, followed by a **Notice of Intention to Pre-Terminate the Joint Venture Agreement on 17 July 2025**.

From the standpoint of consumers and stakeholders, the issuance of the Notice of Intention to Pre-Terminate represents a significant regulatory action, reflecting the determination of the contracting authority that the concessionaire had failed to comply with certain service commitments under the Joint Venture Agreement, including obligations relating to the reliability and continuity of water supply services within the LMWD service area.

However, based on the information presently available, it appears that **approximately eight (8) months have already elapsed since the issuance of the Notice of Intention to Pre-Terminate**, and the matter has yet to reach a clear resolution.

The same communication from LMWD further indicated that the water district had been **formally notified on 26 January 2026 of a reported acquisition or transfer of ownership involving the concessionaire**.

These developments understandably raise questions among consumers and stakeholders regarding the present status of the concession arrangement and the future direction of water service delivery within the LMWD service area, particularly in light of continuing reports of intermittent water supply conditions in several areas of Tacloban City.

The communication from LMWD also indicated that certain service obligations under the Joint Venture Agreement, including the **implementation of septage management services**, remain unfulfilled and have been cited as part of the violations attributed to the concessionaire. Considering the importance of wastewater management to environmental protection and public health, this aspect of the matter likewise underscores the broader public interest involved.

We likewise respectfully note the **public statement issued by the Eastern Visayas Medical Center (EVMC) dated 24 February 2026**, which highlights the operational importance of reliable and continuous water supply for healthcare services. While we do not draw conclusions from the said statement, it underscores the broader **public health implications of ensuring stable water supply conditions**, particularly for hospitals, sanitation systems, and emergency response facilities within Tacloban City.

Water supply reliability is not merely an operational or commercial matter. It has direct implications for:

- a. hospital operations and patient safety
- b. household sanitation and disease prevention
- c. environmental protection and wastewater management
- d. fire protection and emergency response capability
- e. the daily welfare and dignity of Tacloban residents

Given the essential nature of water services and the public health implications involved, we respectfully submit that the circumstances may now provide the **Honorable Council with a timely opportunity to examine the matter through its legislative oversight functions**, and to allow the relevant institutions to clarify the present status of the concession arrangement and the issues affecting the delivery of water services to the public.

Such legislative examination may provide an appropriate venue for transparency, constructive dialogue, and informed public discussion regarding matters that directly affect the welfare of the residents of Tacloban.

We thank the Honorable Council for its attention and look forward to your favorable consideration.

Very truly yours,



PETRONILO "PETE" L. ILAGAN
Chairman and CEO

Attachments

1. Copy of LMWD Letter Reply dated 3 March 2026
2. Copy of EVMC Public Statement dated 24 February 2026

Copy furnished:

Hon. Alfred S. Romualdez – City Mayor, Tacloban City
Hon. Bobby Muñoz – Chairman, Leyte Metropolitan Water District
Mr. Ronnie Cornico – General Manager, LMWD
Hon. Joy Salonga – Administrator, Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA)
Hon. Arnel M. Agabe – Regional Director, DILG Region VIII
Hon. Visitacion V. Giva – City Director, DILG Tacloban
Hon. Arturo N. Salazar – Regional Executive Director, DENR Region VIII
Hon. Joel S. Erestain, CSEE – Regional Director Office of Civil Defense Region VIII
Dr. Dennis De Paz – President, Eastern Visayas State University
Dr. Gil Nictetas B. Vilarino – President, Leyte Normal University
Dr. Patricia B. Arinto – Dean, UP Tacloban College
Hon. Martin G. Romualdez – Representative, 1st District of Leyte
Hon. Carlos Jericho Petilla – Governor, Province of Leyte