



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU
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14 March 2022

HON. JOSE RAMIL G. GOLO, JR.
Acting Municipal Mayor
Municipality of Sogod
Province of Southern Leyte

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU
RELEASED BY:
DATE: 3/16/2022
TIME: 4:51 PM

Dear **Hon. Golo, Jr.**:

Environmental Greetings!

This refers to the Sangguniang Bayan Resolution issued by the Sangguniang Bayan of the Municipality of Sogod, Southern, Leyte, bearing **Resolution No. 146 Series of 2022**, seeking for this Office to conduct another "Consultative Meeting" for the Subang Daku River Restoration Project on **17 March 2022**.

Upon thorough consideration, however, this Office no longer finds the necessity to conduct another consultation meeting due to multiple reasons. **Firstly, and foremost**, this Office finds that the end goal of eliciting environmental issues and concerns thru a series of consultation meetings with key stakeholders has already been met. The consultation meetings held and organized by this Office were an integral component of the Environmental Impact Assessment Process under the Philippine Environmental Impact Statement System. Its underlying purpose was to actually gather inputs from the stakeholders and not the other way around.

Secondly, the EIA Process is already behind projected timeline and there is a need to proceed with dispatch. As you may well be aware, the first consultation meeting was held in Maasin City, Southern Leyte last **19 October 2021** and the second was supposed to be conducted immediately thereafter. But the pandemic and a weather disturbance (*Typhoon Odette*) deprived this Office of the reasonable opportunity to conduct the second consultation meeting. After numerous attempts to conduct the same, it was only eventually held last **February 2022**. During this particular edition of the consultation, one of the concerns raised by the participants, particularly those belonging to the areas affected by the recent flooding, was for the immediate implementation of the project. While the Programmatic Environmental Impact Assessment (PEIA), or the conclusion thereof, does not operate as an authorization to proceed with the project implementation, it will certainly expedite the decision-making process of pertinent government agencies.

Thirdly, by this time, the PEIA has already been concluded and the report already finalized, rendering any other consultation meetings for the purpose futile. Notwithstanding, this Office would welcome the submission of position papers from key stakeholders that outlines additional environmental issues and concerns, and which shall form part of this Office references in relation to the project.

At this juncture, this Office believes that both consultation meetings already conducted were more than adequate for this Office to proceed with the next stages of the project. Hence, this Office respectfully would like to call for the understanding of the LGU and the Office of the Sangguniang Bayan, Sogod, Southern Leyte on the matter.

For your information and consideration. Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Respectfully,

"For and in the absence of the Regional Director:"

ENGR. MA. CORAZON G. DACUYAN
Chief, Finance and Administrative Division
Officer-in-Charge, Office of the Regional Director

