



Republic of the Philippines  
PROVINCE OF LEYTE  
Palo, Leyte

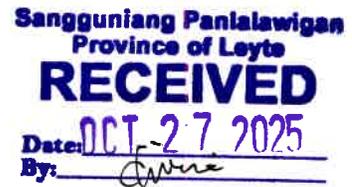


**OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN**

From the desk of:

Alan Pereña Ang  
Provincial Board Member  
Third District, Province of Leyte

October 27, 2025



**Hon. Leonard M. Javier**  
Vice Governor  
Chairman- Committee on Environment  
Province of Leyte

Dear Vice Governor Javier:

Greetings!

I am writing to sincerely bring to your utmost attention and care the current environmental situation of the Municipality of San Isidro, Leyte based on available information but not limited to and of the Third District of Leyte as a whole.

San Isidro is my hometown thus my earnest concern for the municipality is undeniable. That I am also hoping for your kindest support on possible steps that may in a way address these pressing environmental issues confronting our municipality.

A separate document 'titled: Environmental Situationer for the Third District of Leyte with highlights on San Isidro, Leyte but not limited to' is hereby attached for further reference. I am very positive that we share the same thoughts on caring for the environment as much as caring for our people of the 3<sup>rd</sup> District of Leyte and of the entire province. Sooner or later, the pressing issues of the municipality of San Isidro can become an issue affecting the province if not given proper attention.

Further, I am hoping for your guidance and I will definitely welcome your views on how we shall address these matters with care and how we shall go about these important steps concerning the environment of the 3<sup>rd</sup> District of Leyte.

Thanking you in advance for your kind attention on this matter.

Looking forward to a positive response and hope to hearing from you the soonest.

Regards,

Sincerely,

  
ALAN P. ANG  
Board Member – 3<sup>rd</sup> District of Leyte

Cc: Hon. Marie Kathryn V. Kabigting/ Board Member 3<sup>rd</sup> District

**ENVIRONMENTAL SITUATIONER for 3<sup>RD</sup> DISTRICT OF LEYTE:**

*From the desk of Board Member Alan P. Ang*

The rapid climate change affecting the globe exempts no one and is evident in the recent flooding occurring all over the country. San Isidro, Leyte finds no escape and no exemption, when August 31, 2025 flood was almost in every corner of the town. Just as we thought it could be just in San Isidro, but Villaba as well experienced the same where Barangays Hibulangan and Sto Rosario were heavily flooded. Motorists were stranded as flood waters made those roads not passable not counting other areas like that of Calubian and Tabango, Leyte. These are just few of the known effects of climate change and that we hope to do something to mitigate or atleast counter and lessen its dangerous effect to humanity.

As we face the reality of climate change, we should be able to work together to address and mitigate possible dangers and risks it poses the community. A wake up call is knocking hard at every doorstep that while we are facing and trying to mitigate these effects of climate change, at some point we have deliberately allowed certain developments without even considering the risks that maybe bigger than the actual benefits. This points us to a summary review of some environmental concerns arising in the 3<sup>rd</sup> District of Leyte specifically San Isidro, Leyte.

And while we act on this together, San Isidro, Leyte has some quite direct issues to address affronting its environment. It may or may not be directly but these are pressing issues known but are left unattended or efforts to mitigate are not yet define and acted. These are known issues connected in the rise of one of the biggest Solar Plant in the country now known as San Isidro Solar Power Plant.

While we foresee the establishment of the Solar Power Plant can bring in economic advantage to our community but is not exempted of the known disadvantages. Firstly, the selection of the site is already a concern, while we want development to give way to economic growth, we should also consider that the selection of the site for a power plant must be cognizant to a more balanced equation, development vis a vis environment. The current location of the project used to be the home of thousands of century old trees and habitat of thousands of wild animals that are now displaced and worst were slaughtered by locals and workers during the clearing stage. From the very beginning there were so much violations and environment concerns that were not addressed properly and were not taken cared religiously. Clear as day that the local government has not made any effort or concern on how to properly undertake a project that concerns so much of its people, its heritage and above all its environment.

Foremost, the environmental risk and hazard – there were estimated ten thousand century old trees cut down during the process of clearing according to the environmentalist officer of San Isidro Solar Power Plant. And that has since its kick off early last year of 2024 cleared thousands of trees including hundreds of hundreds of century old trees of which weren't replaced technically. Add to it, the thousands of wildlife displaced and slaughtered. We've learned, that a rehab – reforestation were implemented as compliance, about ten thousand trees were planted in DENR Ormoc

City facility based on the information given by the company's environmentalist officer ( needs formal inquiry ). A point that needs clarification and more attention, rehab should be done where the damage occurred hence; the actions taken were not sufficient. Given this information, the San Isidro Solar Power Plant technically failed to restore the affected areas. This issue should be addressed such that the areas where trees have been cut must be replanted and in the case of this project, the company should have allocated and identified an area for its replanting activities during the course of its implementation.

Moreover, this office would like to emphasize whether the company's responsibility to the community has been met and has complied necessary requisites by the regulating agencies accordingly and religiously prior and after the establishment of this project and ensure their commitment to environmental conservation and compliance with relevant forestry and environmental regulations.

Currently, Barangay Daju Daku, San Isidro, Leyte is affront with environmental concerns that are very critical such as **Habitat loss** and significantly the whole of San Isidro. That while clearing the area to give way to the solar plant, a huge parcel of land need to be cleared of everything including vegetation. This can directly lead to the destruction and fragmentation of wildlife habitats.

In addition to this, the construction activities during the installation of large-scale solar power plants can lead to higher levels of air and noise pollution affecting the flora and fauna of a bigger neighborhood. Diverting water for the manufacture and cooling systems of solar panels is also found to have a negative impact on the wildlife. There are problems with solar panels as well.

The toxic chemicals used in the manufacture of solar panels may lead to the **"degradation of water resources and land, which in turn have an adverse influence on the existing wildlife of the area."**

Below are few more disadvantages affronting our community in relation to Solar Power Plant but somehow can be addressed if we are to carefully observe environmental practices and continue to be vigilant and proactive in caring for our mother nature. Solar energy yes can partially answer our energy needs though it comes with a lot of benefits and advantages, but there is no denying that there are some drawbacks and limitations of solar power generation.

Hence, we must enforce for a more proactive MENRO to initiate and implement a more intensive environmental road map and planning and possible mitigation and controls on the effects of climate change in our environment most and above the current situation of San Isidro, Leyte.

### **Alteration of Land Use**

Larger utility-scale solar plants necessitate extensive parcels of land dedicated solely to the [installation of solar panels](#) for energy collection. Depending on the solar intensity, topography, and the technology used, a utility-scale solar power plant can take up to

3.5 – 16.5 acres per MW of power generated. This is one of the major negatives of solar energy.

Unlike wind power facilities, solar parks cannot share land space with agricultural fields or ranches. At the time of setting up the plant, a change in existing land use is inevitable, irrespective of whether it was used for residential purposes, agricultural needs, forest land, or recreational areas.

In addition to altering present land use, a solar farm may also lead to degradation of land due to exploration, extraction, manufacturing, and disposal of solar panels. The energy footprints on the land may go up so high that it would be too difficult or even impossible to return to its earlier state.

### **Pollution of soil, air, and water resources**

*Setting up large-scale solar farms necessitate clearing and grading of vast land areas, leading to compression of soil, excessive soil erosion, and alteration of drainage channels. Cost-cutting and time-saving efforts may result in incorrect disposal of the toxic chemicals used in the manufacturing of solar panels, raising the risk of land, water, and air pollution.*

The construction activities in the area at the time of installation of large-scale solar power plants increase the particulate matter in the air, leading to contamination of air and water resources. The release of pathogens present in the soil can increase the risk of air pollution.

Solar energy is considered to be free of greenhouse gas emissions. However, the lifecycle emissions of PV cells during the manufacturing, transportation, installation, maintenance, and dismantlement are too significant to ignore.

### **Exposure to hazardous materials**

*During the manufacturing process of the [photovoltaic cells](#), many hazardous materials are used for the cleaning and purification of the surface of the semiconductor. These chemicals include sulfuric acid, hydrochloric acid, nitric acid, methyl chloroform, hydrogen fluoride, and acetone. This is an important downside of solar panels.*

The amount of chemical required depends on the type of cell manufactured, the level of cleaning needed, and the size of the semiconductor sheet. The workers in the manufacturing units face the risk of inhalation of silicon dust, the most commonly used semiconductor material. This is in addition to the risks posed by hazardous chemicals.

The newer thin-film PV cells present a graver threat than the traditional silicon PV cells. It contains more toxic chemicals such as copper indium gallium diselenide, gallium arsenide, and cadmium telluride.

There are governmental guidelines in place for the proper handling and disposal of these chemicals. However, flouting of these guidelines can compromise the health of workers involved as well as pose a public health hazard and environmental damage.

These pressing concerns are now coming to our doors day by day, truly it is now affecting every homes across the globe. The extent and gravity cannot be measured immediately but it is very possible to affect humanity sooner or later just like a thunder. While almost all corners of the country are experiencing serious environmental issues we must not take for granted light and small issues because it always start with minimal until it will trap us all in a bigger picture of danger and catastrophe.

It is about timely to encourage our local environment officers of the Third District of Leyte ( MENRO ) to act swiftly on the impacts of climate change in our community and be more proactive, sincere and dedicated in fulfilling their mandate to the municipality, the people and above all the environment.

Lastly, this office is highlighting the immediate onsite review of the current environmental situation of Brgy. Daja Daku, San Isidro, Leyte due to the rise of San Isidro Solar Power Plant and the entire municipality as a whole. In this course, we will be able to mitigate and take bold steps to save the degradation of wildlife habitat of the municipality including its flora and fauna.