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Date: NOV 25 2026
Sangguniang Panlalawigan
Province of Leyte
RECEIVED
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By:

Nov. 8, 2026

HON. SANDY JAVIER
The Vice Governor
Province of Leyte

Subject: Urgent Environmental Concern and Request with prayers for Investigation on Biodiversity Loss, Tree Replacement, and Reforestation in Barangay Daja Daku, San Isidro, Leyte

Dear Vice Governor Javier:

Warm greetings!

First, please allow me to apologize for writing this letter anonymously. I have chosen not to disclose my identity out of concern for my personal safety and the welfare of my family. I sincerely hope your good office will understand and respect this request for confidentiality.

I am writing to bring to your attention a matter of serious environmental concern involving our beloved Barangay Daja Daku, San Isidro, Leyte, which is now home to one of the country's major solar power facilities.

Allow me to provide some background.

For many years, Barangay Daja Daku was blessed with a healthy and thriving ecosystem. It was once home to hundreds of mature and century-old trees, including Tugas, Acacia, giant Ipil-ipil, Mahogany, and other indigenous and established tree species. Our community also enjoyed a natural habitat for various wildlife, including birds, reptiles, and other animals that once thrived in the forested areas of our barangay.

However, following the establishment and development of the massive solar power facility now operating in the area under the name San Isidro Solar Power Corporation, much of this natural environment has disappeared.

The once-green landscape has been cleared, its mature trees removed, and the natural habitats of various wildlife seemingly displaced. What used to be a thriving ecological environment has undergone a significant transformation.

It has been approximately four years since the area was cleared and occupied for the solar power project. Yet, to the best of our knowledge, we have not seen sufficient reforestation or meaningful ecological restoration within the affected area or its immediate surroundings.

Consequently, residents have become increasingly concerned about the rising temperatures and changing environmental conditions in our community.

This is no longer merely a Barangay concern. We believe this deserves the attention and intervention of the Provincial Government of Leyte.

Our concern becomes even more pressing given the environmental challenges posed by the anticipated Super El Niño phenomenon.

San Isidro has long been known to experience water scarcity. The loss of vegetation and natural forest cover raises additional concerns about the community's vulnerability to prolonged heat, reduced soil moisture, and further environmental degradation.

The relationship between forest cover, biodiversity, water conservation, and climate resilience

We are particularly concerned about tree replacement and compensatory planting activities which are totally unattended till this date.
Following this concern, is that we have learned that, in connection with the hundreds of trees reportedly removed during the development of the solar power facility, replacement planting was conducted at a an alleged planting site in Ormoc City.

While we recognize the importance of tree replacement and appreciate efforts toward environmental rehabilitation, we respectfully question whether planting replacement trees in a different locality adequately addresses the ecological loss experienced by the community where the original trees were removed.

Why should the replacement trees be planted elsewhere when the affected ecosystem is in Barangay Daja Daku?

Would it not be more environmentally meaningful to prioritize reforestation within the project site, where feasible, or at least in nearby areas that can help restore the affected ecological balance?

We respectfully ask your office to look into the compliance requirements and actual implementation of the tree replacement commitments, including the location, number, species, survival rate, and monitoring of the planted trees.

Furthermore, we are equally concerned about the apparent absence of a visible and sustained environmental rehabilitation program from our Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO).

To our knowledge, no substantial community-based reforestation or biodiversity restoration initiative has been implemented to adequately address the environmental changes experienced by Barangay Daja Daku.

We understand that renewable energy is an important component of our country's transition toward sustainable development. We recognize the value of solar energy in providing cleaner and more sustainable sources of electricity.

However, the pursuit of renewable energy should not come at the expense of environmental responsibility, biodiversity protection, and the welfare of the communities where these projects are established.

Sustainability should mean more than generating clean electricity. It should also mean protecting the natural environment, restoring ecological balance, and ensuring that host communities do not bear the long-term environmental consequences of development.

OUR HUMBLE REQUEST WITH PRAYERS FOR PROVINCIAL INTERVENTION

In light of these concerns, we respectfully appeal to your good office, as the second-highest elected official of the Province of Leyte and a leader entrusted with the welfare of our communities, to consider the following actions:

1. Conduct an Environmental Assessment– Request the appropriate environmental agencies to assess the current ecological condition of the affected areas in Barangay Daja Daku, including the extent of tree removal and the resulting impact on local biodiversity.

2. Review Tree Replacement and Compensatory Planting Compliance – Determine whether the reported replacement planting activities in Ormoc City satisfy the applicable environmental compliance and commitments of the project proponent.

3. Evaluate the Need for Onsite or Nearby Reforestation- Explore the possibility of requiring and or as much as encouraging additional tree planting and ecological rehabilitation within the affected area or nearby suitable locations.

4. Engage the DENR and Other Environmental Agencies – Facilitate coordination with the DENR, Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), and concerned provincial and municipal environmental offices to establish the actual status of the project's environmental compliance and rehabilitation commitments.

Lastly, it is our utmost prayers, and plea, that this be given attention the soonest time possible and our identity be kept protected because our fears emanates from the very fact that NO KILLINGS IN OUR TOWN HAS BEEN SUCCESSFULLY SOLVED EVER, hence I am keeping my anonymity very strongly and I hope this will be respected as well.

Thanking you in advance! Gikan sa mga lumulopyo sa Daja Daku, maglaom kami sa inyong mga tabang ug pag giya namo bahin niini.

Sincerely,

ANOYNYMOUS

Copy furnish:

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