



Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL SUR

Office of the Provincial Vice Governor

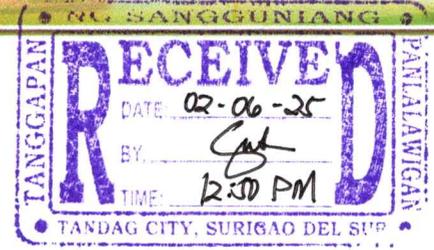


Refer To: *Committee on Health, Sanitation and Nutrition*

1st Endorsement

February 5, 2025

noted



Respectfully forwarded to Mr. Edgar G. Perez II, J.D., Secretary to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, the herein attached basic communication dated February 4, 2025 from **DR. OSCAR DE JESUS, JR., MD**, Provincial Health Officer II, Provincial Health Office (PHO), this Province, forwarding a proposal for the enactment of an ordinance on Province-wide strict implementation of the Philippine National Standards for Drinking Water (PNSDW).

For the August Body's information and appropriate Committee's action.

[Signature]
MANUEL O. ALAMEDA, SR.
Vice Governor

SURIGAO DEL SUR | Office of the Secretary to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan



OSSP-SDS-2025-4457

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Date: _____
Time: _____
Received by: _____

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Republic of the Philippines
Province of Surigao del Sur
Tandag City

PROVINCIAL HEALTH OFFICE

Date : January 9, 2025
To : HON. MANUEL O. ALAMEDA, *VR.*
Vice Governor and Presiding Officer
Sangguniang Panlalawigan
Provincial Capitol, Telaje, Tandag City, Surigao del Sur

VICE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
(RECEIVED)
DATE: *2/04/25* TIME: *2:40pm*

Subject: PROPOSAL FOR THE ENACTMENT OF AN ORDINANCE ON PROVINCE-WIDE STRICT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR DRINKING WATER (PNSDW)

Dear Vice Governor Alameda and Members of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan,

I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits. I am writing to bring to your attention a pressing public health concern regarding the quality of drinking water in our province, following recent findings of elevated concentrations of heavy metals in the drinking water supply of Tandag City.

The Provincial Health Office has expressed fears that this issue may also be present in other municipalities and cities within Surigao del Sur. The potential widespread presence of heavy metals in drinking water poses serious health risks to our residents, as these contaminants are linked to long-term health complications.

In light of these concerns, I respectfully propose the enactment of a provincial ordinance to ensure the strict implementation of the PHILIPPINE NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR DRINKING WATER (PNSDW) across Surigao del Sur. Additionally, given that the province operates its own DOH-accredited laboratory under the Provincial Health Office, the ordinance could mandate that all water samples for compliance testing be submitted to this facility to ensure consistency, reliability, and compliance with national standards.

This ordinance should include the following provisions:

- 1. Mandatory Regular Testing.** Require water service providers, including local government-operated water districts and private entities, to conduct routine testing of water sources for heavy metals and other contaminants as outlined in the PNSDW.
- 2. Centralized Testing at the Provincial Laboratory.** Mandate that all compliance water quality tests be performed at the DOH-accredited Laboratory of the Provincial Health Office to ensure consistency, uniformity, and adherence to national standards.
- 3. Public Disclosure.** Mandate the timely public disclosure of water quality test results to inform and protect consumers, fostering transparency and accountability.
- 4. Corrective Actions and Penalties.** Establish guidelines for immediate corrective actions in cases of non-compliance, including the provision of safe alternative drinking water sources, and impose penalties on entities failing to meet the standards.

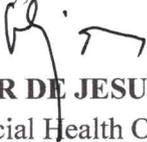
5. **Capacity Building.** Implement training programs for local government units and water service providers to strengthen their ability to monitor and manage water quality effectively.

Centralizing water testing at the provincial laboratory would streamline the monitoring process, enhance public trust through uniform testing methods, and ensure compliance with the PNSDW. This approach would also optimize the province's existing resources, mitigate public health risks, and facilitate more effective responses to emerging water quality issues.

I am confident that the Sangguniang Panlalawigan shares the commitment to protecting public health and will give this proposal the urgent attention it deserves. I am available to provide any necessary assistance in drafting and facilitating the ordinance's implementation.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your favorable response.

Sincerely,



OSCAR DE JESUS JR., MD
Provincial Health Office II
Provincial Health Office