



UNION OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES OF THE PHILIPPINES INC.

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PRESS RELEASE
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ULAP Urges LGUs to Embrace Sustainable Water Management as El Niño Continues

The Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP) calls on all local government units (LGUs) to prioritize sustainable water management strategies in the face of the El Niño phenomenon. This urgent appeal comes in response to the briefing made by Undersecretary Carlos Primo David of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Water Resources Management Office (DENR-WRMO), who presented a sobering overview of the country's water situation during the 103rd National Executive Board Meeting of ULAP yesterday.

Undersecretary David's presentation highlighted the stark reality of uneven water access in the Philippines. While 67% of the population (74 million) have access to piped, potable water, the remaining 43% face critical water shortages. This disparity, coupled with the El Niño, raises serious concerns about potential water crises across the country. Undersecretary David also highlighted the need to ensure water quality.

"When we have the scarcity of water is not just the volume but the water quality. The moment that water is contaminated we have a ready supply of test kits to be able to identify the source of contamination so that we can take action to reprocess it to be safe" Undersecretary David said.

Earlier this month, ULAP President Gov. Dax Cua told the Bagong Pilipinas Ngayon briefing that the focus should be on sustainable water resource management to mitigate the ill effects of the weather phenomenon. He said that water management system should be integrated in terms of agricultural production, industrial use and domestic use, as well as in water recycling and ecosystem restoration.

"El Niño is not just a weather phenomenon; it's a call to action. We, as LGUs, have the responsibility to safeguard our communities' future by proactively managing our water resources. While emergency measures are necessary in the immediate term, the true solution lies in embracing sustainable water management practices. Let us work together, learn from each



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other's successes like those outlined by Undersecretary David, and build resilient communities that weather any storm," Gov. Cua stated.

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ULAP is the umbrella organization of all leagues of local government units and local government officials in country, serving as the focal representative and mouthpiece of the subnational government in all policy and program platforms to amplify our unified advocacy towards the strengthening of LGUs into able partners in nation-building.

Learn more at www.ulap.net.ph.