

## PRESS RELEASE

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#### **Building Green 2023 Conference: Hon. Noel Hormachuelos of Panglao Municipality Highlights Local Innovations in Green Building**

Panglao, Bohol, Philippines - September 30, 2023 - The Building Green 2023 Conference, held at the Modala Resort in Panglao, Bohol, featured Hon. Noel Hormachuelos, Vice Mayor of the Municipality of Panglao, in Session 1 on Local Actions on Green Building. Vice Mayor Hormachuelos shared the municipality's innovative initiatives and actions aimed at improving the quality of life of its people while safeguarding the environment.

Panglao, known for its beautiful beaches and rich marine biodiversity, is a vibrant and progressive tourism-driven economy. Panglao Municipality is proud that on May 24, 2023, Bohol was declared the Philippines' first Global Geopark by UNESCO. Vice Mayor Hormachuelos emphasized the municipality's commitment to strike a balance between development and the environment, opportunity and sustainability.

One of the innovative programs implemented in Panglao is the Centralized Sewage Treatment and Septage Management System. The local government entered into a Public-Private Cooperation and Initiative Agreement, enabling the establishment of a centralized system for efficient wastewater management. While finalizing negotiations with the service provider through a public-private partnership (PPP), Panglao's local government requires hotels, resorts, and other establishments to have their own wastewater treatment facilities. Additionally, establishments are required to train pollution control officers to effectively manage these facilities.

In line with coastal development, Panglao Municipality strictly adheres to the mandates under the Water Code of the Philippines. All construction projects along the coastline must observe a 20-meter setback from the highest sea tide. Furthermore, the Comprehensive Land Use Plan of the municipality adds another 10 meters to provide ample pathways and convenience for beachgoers and strollers.

To maintain clear and accessible public spaces, the Municipal Council of Panglao passed an ordinance in 2019 to clear sidewalks, streets, parks, and other public areas of all illegal structures and obstructions. Panglao also implemented an ordinance in 2013, prohibiting the use and sale of plastic bags and containers as packaging materials. The municipality emphasizes the principles of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Recover in managing materials through regulations on businesses dealing with scrap iron, junk materials, and second-hand items.

Panglao's commitment to environmental sustainability is reflected in the 2016 Municipal Environment Code, which establishes regulations and policies for protecting the environment. Furthermore, the municipality is currently conducting public hearings for the crafting of the Bohol Panglao International Airport Safety Ordinance.

Hon. Noel Hormachuelos expressed his gratitude to the organizers for selecting Panglao as the venue for Building Green Conference 2023. He concluded by inviting attendees and stakeholders to recognize the importance of education in sustainability, offering an opportunity for further convergence.

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About PHILGBC:

The Philippine Green Building Council (PHILGBC) is a non-stock, non-profit organization that promotes the transformation of the built environment through sustainable practices. Established in 2007, PHILGBC seeks to be a united and influential national movement promoting green building practices towards mitigating climate change. As a member of the World Green Building Council, PHILGBC actively contributes to global efforts to create a sustainable built environment.

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Note to editors:

High-resolution photos and additional information are available upon request.