

ADVISORY ON THE WATER SUPPLY SHORTAGE



The expectation of normal water services at the onset of the rainy season did not last long.

As of the middle of September 2019, the total volume lost in the system is already more than 20,000 cubic meters per day, affecting an estimated 20,000 households in the service area.

Consumers in the affected areas are experiencing fewer service hours. Most of them have received supply only after midnight due to the lower demand in these hours.

Areas earlier declared with insufficient water supply were hit worse. There are also more areas that no longer have 24/7 water supply and consumers are not used to this.

One of the biggest volume lost was due to saltwater intrusion that forced MCWD's private supplier to shut down its well so as not to damage the other wells in Consolacion since high saltwater content in water is not safe for humans.

MCWD estimates the groundwater extraction in Metro Cebu at more than 400,000 cu. m. per day, where 60% is done by private well owners while 40% is done by MCWD.

However, MCWD is closely monitoring its extraction to protect this 40% of the daily supply but the water district does not have ANY POWER to monitor or regulate the 60% withdrawal done by private companies and households.

Saltwater intrusion is a threat to our groundwater sources. Once seawater mixes with the fresh water underground, there is no way of it going back to being a freshwater source again.

This should be a cautious reminder to all of us.

We call on all sectors to help in the regulation of groundwater extraction. Aside from saltwater intrusion, water levels of our groundwater sources are lowering at a speed we have never seen before. Our groundwater sources should be reserved for the future generations of Cebuanos. We cannot over pump it now and be sorry later.

MCWD also calls on support for alternative water sources, like surface water (dams) and desalinated seawater (desalination plants). There are various solutions to the supply shortage and MCWD is working non-stop in addressing the current situation. In the meantime, all stakeholders—government, private sector, consumers—can be part of the solution.

We ALL have to act now.

Consumers in the affected areas are advised to store water during the off-peak hours or between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. daily and to adopt water recycling, conservation and rainwater storing habits.

For those with higher water needs, cisterns and storage tanks are necessary.

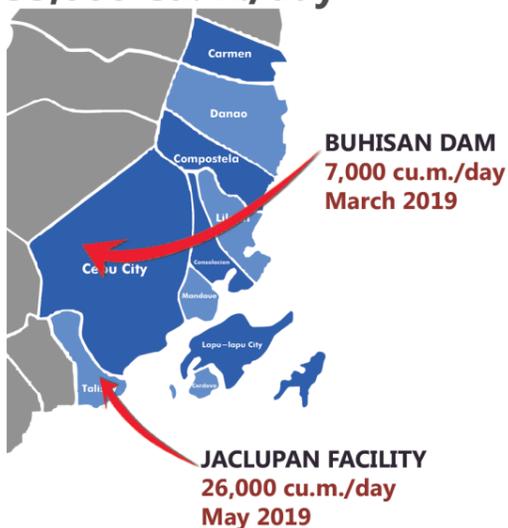
#BePartOfTheSolution

VOLUME LOST

March - May 2019

(Volume lost due to El Niño Phenomenon)

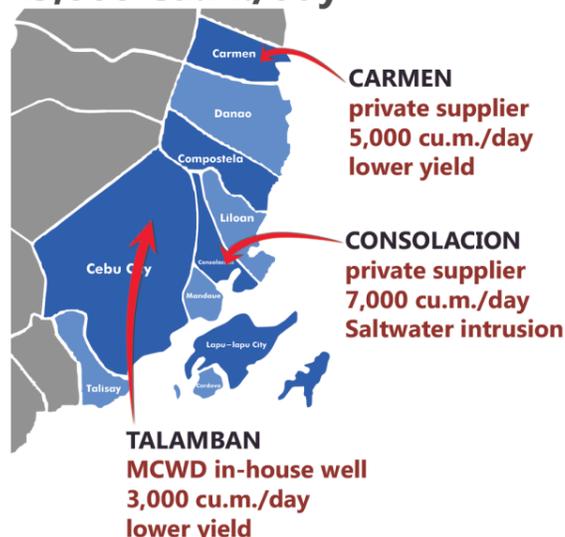
33,000 Cu.m./day



August 2019

(Volume lost due to natural causes)

15,000 Cu.m./day



September 2019

(Volume lost due to plant problem and natural causes)

8,500 Cu.m./day

