

Tagbilaran gets USAID water help

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NEARLY 190,000 residents of Tagbilaran City in Bohol can look forward to improved water supply and sanitation services with a collaborative partnership between the city government and Maynilad Water Academy.

With the arrangement, facilitated by the United States Embassy in the Philippines' US Agency for International Development, the city government and Maynilad Water Services, through its Maynilad Water Academy, will develop and implement a one-year joint work plan that will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Tagbilaran City Waterworks System.

Participants will exchange best practices, expertise, and technology in water supply operation and non-revenue water management through joint data gathering and consultation, coaching and mentoring, study visits, and on-the-job training.

USAID has been working with the TCWS since 2016, helping the government-managed utility provide water services for longer hours and expand household connections to water services. These measures support the city government's vision of providing clean, potable, adequate, sustainable, and resilient services by 2030.

The arrangement was formalized on Thursday as Tagbilaran City Mayor John Geesnell Yap and Maynilad Water Academy Executive Director Rodora Gamboa signed a Memorandum of Understanding.

USAID Philippines' representative John Avila witnessed the signing ceremony.

"USAID promotes sustainable water and sanitation services that are essential to achieve resilient and livable urban areas, Avila said.

This support is part of USAID's Cities Development Initiative or CDI, which aims to transform secondary cities into engines of growth. Tagbilaran is one of the CDI partner cities, together with Batangas, Cagayan de Oro, Iloilo, Puerto Princesa, and Zamboanga.