

Abstract

SESSION 3:

From Vision to Reality: Aligning the Global Agenda with Local Benefits

WORKSHOP 3.1:

Matching the Societal Aspiration for a Blue Ocean through Public-Private Partnerships

Baliwag Water District's Venture in Implementing the Septage Management Program (SMP) through Public-Private Partnership (PPP)

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The fight in providing sanitation service has been the trending battle cry for most countries today as more and more lives are in peril due to its ill effects. But to carry out a program that shall address the aforesaid is the huge challenge for any interested group since it would take a genius mind to carry out such noble undertaking. This paper hopes to impart Baliwag Water District's experiences and best practices in implementing sanitation project through public private partnership.

BWD, like other water districts in the Philippines, is a government instrumentality focused on providing water and sanitation services to its franchise area on a cost-recovery basis. In the Philippines, less than 10% had access to sewerage system, with most residents relying in septic tanks, most of which are often poorly designed and rarely desludged. BWD took the initiative to be in the forefront of the battlefield as it ventured with the construction of the first septage treatment facility owned and managed solely by the company as anchored in its Septage Management Program. In the course of the program, BWD constructed the facility while the plant operation and maintenance, from collection, treatment and disposal of the septage from the households' septic tanks is being contracted with the private partner – the Chemical Research Products Industrial Sales Inc, (Chemres). The private partner, Chemres, at the agreed cost, provides the manpower, chemicals, necessary test, maintenance of equipment and the facility, technical improvement and power cost. They also have to meet the performance standards set forth by BWD as agreed upon in the contract awarded to the private partner, which by the way is subject to annual review. BWD used Republic Act (RA) 9184 competitive bidding procedure in awarding the contract.

With more than two years of operation, PPP had been an essential tool to withstand the challenges that continue to rise in carrying out the Septage Management Program. BWD remained the primary in-charge of the management of the program while its private partner performs the operation and maintenance services based on the agreed cost and with strict compliance to the set standards by BWD. It has been proven that the service contracts provide quick and substantial impact on system operation and efficiency, and provide a vehicle for technology transfer and development of managerial capacity.



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