



Republic of the Philippines  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS  
**CENTRAL OFFICE**  
Manila

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**DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM** )

**CIRCULAR NO.** )  
**Series of 2023** )

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**FOR / TO :** **UNDERSECRETARIES**  
**ASSISTANT SECRETARIES**  
**REGIONAL DIRECTORS**  
**BUREAU DIRECTORS**  
**SERVICE DIRECTORS**  
**HEADS OF UPMOs**  
**DISTRICT ENGINEERS**  
**HEADS OF ATTACHED AGENCIES**  
**OTHERS CONCERNED**  
This Department

For information and guidance, attached is a copy of letter dated February 22, 2023 from Atty. Angela Consuelo S. Ibay, National Director of Earth Hour Pilipinas and Head of Climate Change & Energy Programme, WWF-Philippines, inviting the Department of Public Works and Highways to be part of WWF's Earth Hour 2023 Campaign.

A copy of the said letter may also be downloaded from the DPWH website: <http://dpwhweb>. If an office cannot access the DPWH website, a hard copy may be obtained from the Records Management Division, HRAS, upon request.

For dissemination to all concerned.

**MARICHU A. PALAFOX, CESO II**  
Assistant Secretary for Support Services

cc: Office of the Secretary

10.1.4 JVL/CDP/VGV



# Join the **Biggest Hour for Earth**

**8.30pm 25<sup>th</sup> March**

Switch off. Give an hour for Earth. | [earthhour.org](http://earthhour.org)



February 22, 2023

**SEC. MANUEL M. BONOAN**

*Department Secretary*

Department of Public Works & Highways

City of Manila

Dear Secretary Bonoan,

Warm greetings from the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Philippines!

Three years have passed since the COVID-19 pandemic first started, and its lasting impacts are evident in how it has transformed our way of life globally. The pandemic has brought a "new normal" and highlighted the need to change how we used to do things in order to create a more sustainable future for everyone.

As we slowly ease back into our routines and move forward, we still face the two biggest challenges of our time: nature loss and climate change. The Philippines is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change – attributed to its geography and social factors such as high poverty incidence, demography, inequality, and problems in food security. Some of these impacts are already keenly felt in the country, with super typhoons devastating the Philippines in recent years, resulting in the destruction of property and livelihood and loss of lives. In addition, rising sea levels also threaten our archipelagic country, made up of several islands and many people living along the coastlines. Finally, the threat to marine biodiversity would also heavily impact one of the country's most significant sources of food and livelihood.

It is evident that the effects of Climate Change directly affect us and make us the most vulnerable. If we do not act urgently to address and mitigate these impacts, the results will be catastrophic and irreversible. But there is still hope. There are solutions in place, but we must act and roll out these solutions with a sense of urgency.

The next seven years are crucial in determining whether we stay within our planetary boundaries and under the 1.5°C temperature threshold or whether we will move into a state of irreversible environmental degradation and runaway climate change, with all its socio-economic implications. 2023 is a pivotal year to make an impact, and now more than ever, we need to come together to spark conversation and influence change.

Since its beginnings in 2007, **Earth Hour** has been known for "lights off" – the symbolic event and visual signifier of collective support for action against climate change. Earth Hour has rippled into more than 17,900 landmarks in 192 countries and territories, sparking an online conversation globally, bringing about more than 9.6 billion impressions, with related hashtags trending in 42 countries. The success of Earth Hour has always been its ability to inspire and support individuals to act and advocate for change. Earth Hour shows that with cumulative efforts by governments, businesses and people, we can work together to counteract habitat loss, global biodiversity loss and climate change - we can all make a difference as long as we come together to take action. And we need urgent action now more than ever.

Happening on **March 25, Earth Hour 2023** will be celebrated through an on-the-ground event, providing a platform to urgently promote the advocacy of addressing the planet's biggest environmental challenges and call on world leaders to decide on a new global action plan for nature for the coming decade. From 8:30 to 9:30 PM, landmarks and homes across the planet will switch off, and everyone is



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encouraged to take a break from their routine and everyday distractions to spend 60 minutes doing something positive for our planet.

In this light, we respectfully invite you and the Department to be our partner again for **Earth Hour 2023** and broaden public participation in its holding. May we seek a meeting with your representatives within the next two weeks, at a date and time of your convenience, to discuss possibilities for collaboration and partnership and how the agency can help spark meaningful change and inspire a global movement to address the climate crisis, including, but not limited to:

- Releasing a Memorandum that invites officers, staff, employees, and constituents to join and be part of Earth Hour 2023 in their homes;
- Encouraging the telecommunication networks within its jurisdiction to support Earth Hour and allow for push notifications to be conducted in order to promote Earth Hour and its messages;
- Posting and/or sharing of Earth Hour communication materials (including, but not limited to: event poster, virtual roundtable livestream, virtual marathon publicity materials, press release, etc.) in the agency's external communication assets.

Celebrating Earth Hour in the comfort and safety of your own home is highly encouraged, but should you be planning to hold your switch-off event, we hope that you will conduct it in compliance with current COVID-19 safety guidelines to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of the participants, which is most important to all of us, and with proper waste management in place and if possible, making it a plastic-free and energy-efficient affair. A copy of the [#EarthHour2023 campaign narrative](#) is attached for further reference.

We will follow up with your office on this matter. Should you have any questions, please feel free to reach Ms. Marielle Bordado, Head of Communications, at 09178521525 or [mbordado@wwf.org.ph](mailto:mbordado@wwf.org.ph).

Your support for this monumental event is highly appreciated. This Earth Hour 2023, **let us together create the biggest Hour for Earth.**

**#EarthHour #BiggestHourForEarth**

Together Possible,

**ATTY. ANGELA CONSUELO S. IBAY**

*National Director, Earth Hour Pilipinas  
Head, Climate Change & Energy Programme  
WWF-PHILIPPINES*