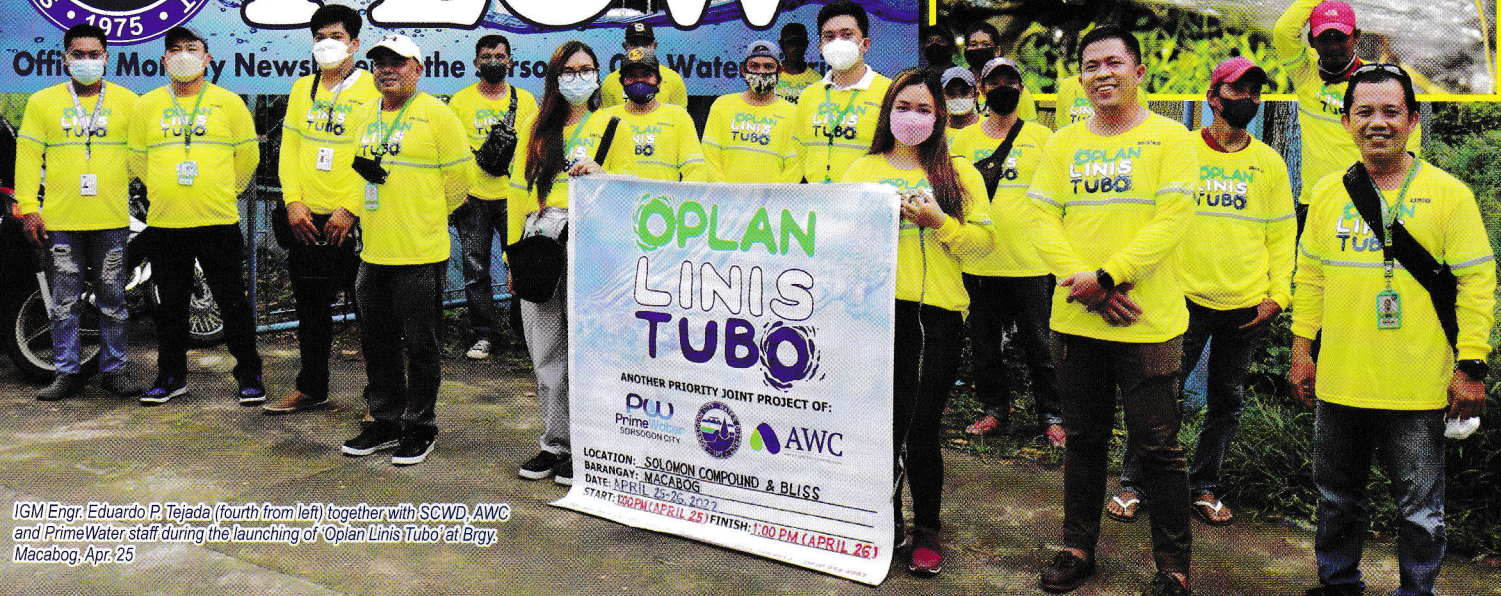


THE FLOW

Office Monthly News for the Sorsogon City Water District



IGM Engr. Eduardo P. Tejada (fourth from left) together with SCWD, AWC and PrimeWater staff during the launching of 'Oplan Linis Tubo' at Brgy. Macabog, Apr. 25

BOD approves 'Oplan Linis Tubo' by: Engr. Alejandro L. Alama

SCWD's Governing Board gave SCWD, PrimeWater-Sorsogon City and Abejo Waters Corp. the green light to implement periodic massive chlorination and air-scouring activities as proposed and recommended by SCWD IGM Engr. Eduardo P. Tejada during the regular Board meeting on Apr. 21.

The SCWD Board of Directors passed Resolution No. 08-2022 or the "Resolution approving and establishing OPLAN LINIS TUBO as a periodic, year-round activity of Sorsogon City Water District, thru its Joint Venture Partners PrimeWater-Sorsogon City and Abejo Waters Corp.-Sorsogon Bulk Water Supply, for implementation in the entire SCWD water system, in order to comply to drinking standards."

Dubbed as 'Oplan Linis Tubo,' this regular pipeline disinfection and cleaning targets to remove deposits along pipe linings which have accumulated over the years and which the usual weekly flushing activities done by PrimeWater cannot remove.

Launching at BLISS, Solomon Compound

With the Board's approval, IGM Tejada launched the activity at BLISS and Solomon Compound, Brgy. Macabog together with PrimeWater-Sorsogon City Branch Manager Engr. Hendrickson E. Latonio and AWC Sorsogon Bulk Water Supply Plant In-Charge Biff D. Bulanon on Apr. 25 (see background photo above).



IGM Tejada personally supervised the injection of liquid chlorine (sodium hypochlorite) at the distribution line supplied by Macabog Pumping

Station and the initial air-scouring activities at Solomon Compound. PrimeWater and SCWD staff, on the other hand, monitored the activity from Apr. 25 to 26, ensuring that all processes were followed and all control measures were in place.

Originally scheduled for Apr. 11-12, the 'Oplan Linis Tubo' at Brgy. Macabog was reset to due to inclement weather and work suspension in Sorsogon City last Apr. 11.

Shock chlorination

Prior to the Board's approval, two massive chlorination and air-scouring activities were completed by PrimeWater at St. Raphael Subd., Brgy. Pangpang with the assistance of AWC last Mar. 14-15 and at Villa Alegre Subd., Brgy. San Juan (East) last Mar. 28-29, which provided baseline data used in the SCWD Management's recommendation to the Board.

Water supply for concessionaires was interrupted for 24 hours by temporarily closing all individual service connections and all valves supplying the two subdivisions. PrimeWater then injected liquid chlorine and soaked all distribution lines for six hours, which dislodged deposits along pipe linings and which were eventually removed by a series of air-scouring and pipe rinsing (see top and bottom inset photos).

Concessionaires were cautioned not to open faucets during shock dosing as PrimeWater provided public faucets, water jugs and temporary water supply from the Sorsogon City Fire Station for their water needs.

Residual chlorine of at least 1.5 ppm was maintained during the soaking and air-scouring activities which ensured sufficient water treatment. This value was later reduced to the allowable range between 0.3 and 1.5 ppm before the resumption of water supply to affected subdivisions and households.

Best effort

In approving the proposal, the Board of Directors commended IGM Tejada for devising programs and projects such as 'Oplan Linis Tubo' as one of SCWD's assistance to PrimeWater to meet the latter's service obligation on drinking water standards as required under Section 5.1.3 of

the SCWD-PrimeWater Joint Venture Agreement.

IGM Tejada's support to PrimeWater was based on Section 7.1 of the JVA which provides that "subject to the provisions of the JVA, SCWD undertakes to use its best efforts to ensure that PrimeWater shall be able to perform its obligations under the Agreement."

SCWD also provided shirts for all personnel involved in the activity at BLISS and Solomon Compound for easier identification as well tarpaulins and tents during the activity.

Massive IEC campaign

The SCWD BOD also cited IGM Tejada for using different platforms in informing the public of the scheduled activity in the three barangays as he personally informed the barangay officials of Brgy. Pangpang last Mar. 7; Brgy. San Juan last Mar. 23; and Brgy. Macabog last Apr. 5.

Affected concessionaires, meanwhile, were informed through the house-to-house distribution of advisories and letters to homeowners' association president prior to the activity.

Other platforms used by SCWD to announce 'Oplan Linis Tubo' were the SCWD AMBER text blast, SCWD hotline, SCWD Facebook page, all Sorsogon City radio stations and the Sorsogon City Public Safety Office.

Announcement or bayabay using megaphone was done at Brgy. Macabog on Apr. 11, Apr. 22 and Apr. 25 which further reminded affected households of the scheduled activity.

Substantial improvement

Exactly one month after the activity on Apr. 28-29, water quality at Villa Alegre Subd. improved substantially based on SCWD's random monitoring and interview of residents, although some processes will be modified as a result of SCWD, PrimeWater and AWC's post-assessment of the three completed activities.

SCWD also incorporated 'Oplan Linis Tubo' as an additional SCWD core process in the revised SCWD Water Safety Plan submitted to the Local Water Utilities Administration for review and approval last Apr. 28.

Chairperson Clemente presents catch-up plan in SP committee hearing

by: Renee Rose T. Anagon

Board Chairperson Charles P. Clemente III presented the one-year PrimeWater catch-up plan as approved by the SCWD Board of Directors, during his appearance before the Committee on Public Utilities of the Sorsogon City Sangguniang Panlungsod.

Chairperson Clemente, Vice Chairperson Rachel Bella G. Jao, Board Sec. Nancy L. Valdez and BOD Members Rev. Fr. Philippe Andrew B. Gallanosa and Engr. Jonathan G. Fortades, together with IGM Engr. Eduardo P. Tejada and local Legal Counsel Atty. Ian Li Macasinag discussed before city councilors Franco Eric O. Ravanilla and Joven Francis J. Laura the PrimeWater catch-up plan and other concerns last Apr. 26 at the SP Session Hall, Bryg. Cabid-an.



Chairperson Charles P. Clemente III (left) and Dir. Engr. Jonathan G. Fortades during the hearing of the Sangguniang Panlungsod Committee on Public Utilities, Apr. 26 at the SP session hall.

In his opening statement, Chairperson Clemente said that when they were appointed in late 2019, the SCWD-PrimeWater joint venture agreement already exists and that in 2021, the SCWD Contract Monitoring Unit reported to the SCWD BOD their findings on the five-year detailed review on the performance of PrimeWater Sorsogon City since October 2016.

specified by the SCWD. The catch-up plan shall be subject to the approval of the SCWD, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld. As soon as the catch-up plan is approved by the SCWD, the new service obligations shall be made applicable."

On Mar. 10, PrimeWater Sorsogon City Branch Manager Engr. Hendrickson E. Latonio presented PrimeWater Sorsogon City's catch-up including 2022 priority projects on water quality, water supply/quantity and non-revenue water with total capital expenditure infusion of PHP 209,500,000.

"The catch-up plan is acceptable, in as much as there is obvious non-compliance to the JVA, which can be verified with the SCWD CMU's thorough monitoring and five-year detailed performance review conducted. Per the JVA, it is within the right of PrimeWater to be given by the SCWD enough time, as their catch-up period. The JV partner already presented and discussed their catch-up plan, however the BOD requested for Program of Works to ascertain the delivery of the aforementioned projects."

The Board Chairperson admitted that as of the regular meeting last Apr. 18, PrimeWater has not submitted any POWs for the priority projects, but since the 60-day curative period has expired, the catch-up plan was approved by virtue of Resolution

"With the number of non-compliant service obligations of our JV partner, a sixty-day curative period was provided to PrimeWater-Sorsogon City to cure the undelivered, non-compliant service obligations per results of the detailed performance review conducted by the SCWD by virtue of Board Resolution No. 25-2021 dated Dec. 22, 2021. This 60-day curative period lapsed on February 2022," he said.

He added that the Board imposed a penalty on PrimeWater through the forfeiture of their performance bond for failing to cure their deficiencies within the 60-day period given to them and for failing to provide any justifications.

Chairperson Clemente cited Section 5.3.6. of the JVA which provides that "in the event that the deficiency is clearly not rectifiable within a period of one year, PrimeWater will be allowed, after penalties are imposed, to submit its best scenario case on a catch-up plan on service obligations within a reasonable period to be



Chairperson Charles P. Clemente III (second from right) is joined by (from right) SCWD legal counsel Atty. Ian Li Macasinag, Dir. Rev. Fr. Philippe Andrew B. Gallanosa, Vice Chairperson Rachel Bella G. Jao, Board Secretary Nancy L. Valdez, PrimeWater Branch Manager Engr. Hendrickson E. Latonio, Dir. Engr. Jonathan G. Fortades and SCWD IGM Engr. Eduardo P. Tejada before the hearing of the Sangguniang Panlungsod Committee on Public Utilities, Apr. 26 at the SP session hall.

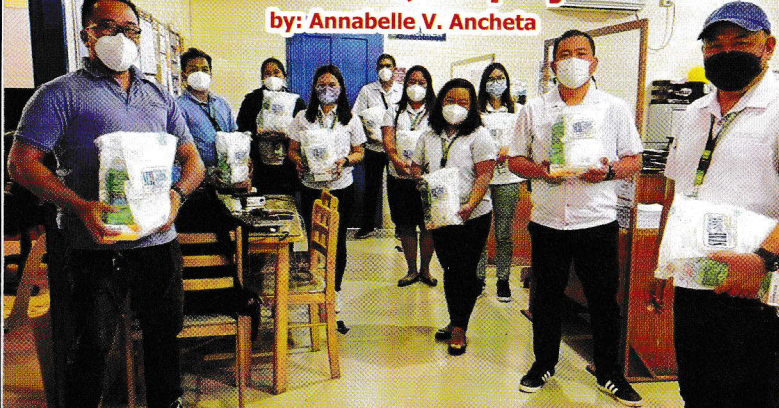
No. 07-2022, granting PrimeWater a period of one year to satisfy the undelivered and non-compliant service obligations under the first five years of the SCWD-PrimeWater JVA.

"The BOD is giving extra time in consideration for PrimeWater to comply its service obligations within the first five years of the JVA. We are duty bound to issue notice of intention to pre-terminate in case of their failure to comply with the one-year catch up plan," he concluded.

Also present during the hearing was PrimeWater-Sorsogon City Branch Manager Engr. Hendrickson E. Latonio of who provided updates on the prevailing water supply and water quality status in the City of Sorsogon. He admitted in terms of water supply, they intend to complete and operate San Lorenzo Pumping Station to address water shortage in the East District, while in terms of water quality, PrimeWater and SCWD have an on-going 'Oplan Linis Tubo' pipe cleaning activity.

SCWD continues COVID-19 support for officers, employees

by: Annabelle V. Ancheta



IGM Engr. Eduardo P. Tejada (right) together with SCWD staff during the COVID-19 support kit distribution, Apr. 21

Two years into the pandemic, SCWD continued to provide COVID-19 support kits for all officers and employees.

The support kits, which contained facemasks, alcohol and ascorbic acid sufficient for three months, were issued quarterly. For the second quarter of 2022, the COVID kits were distributed on Apr. 21 and Apr. 26.

"The provision of support kits to all officers and employees is just one of the COVID-19 support mechanisms we have implemented in the workplace and will continuously do so as we transition and adopt into the new work landscape," said SCWD IGM Engr. Eduardo P. Tejada.

As additional COVID-19 support mechanism, SCWD continued to make available shuttle service for all employees

and sustained daily employees' health monitoring and daily disinfection and decontamination of office premises and all service vehicles.

"We have evolving COVID-19 protocols in the workplace and we adjust accordingly based on the guidelines issued by the IATF and our local government units. This is all a part of our transition as a local water service provider in Sorsogon City as we pursue with our mandate of providing sustained and sufficient water supply. We will pursue it with a healthy workforce and a safe workplace for all our clients, as well," ended IGM Tejada.

For 2022, a budget of PHP 420,200.00 was allocated under the SCWD Corporate Operating Budget for COVID-19 Support Mechanisms in the Workplace.



SOLUTION TO LOW WATER PRESSURE

By: **ENGR. EDUARDO P. TEJADA**
Interim General Manager

The Sorsogon City Water District (SCWD) with its partners – PrimeWater Infrastructure Corp. (PIC) and Abejo Water Corporation (AWC) – for the last two years have been moving heaven and earth to improve water supply in the City of Sorsogon. Various infrastructures have been added to increase the volume of water in our pipes and aggressive, relentless, science-based efforts have been to implemented improve quality of water compliant with the Philippine National Standard for Drinking Water (PNSDW). Water system is also continuously being rehabilitated, repaired, improved and even expanded.

Despite all the concerted efforts that resulted in a dramatic increase of the satisfaction rating given to SCWD by its concessionaires, still there

are areas experiencing low water pressure and intermittent supply. While it is true that plans, programs, activities and policies are crafted to address the problem, the concessionaires themselves and other government agencies can do something to make the solution permanent or long lasting.

Concessionaires may wish to help and support their water district by constructing their own cistern and elevated tank. The water from mainlines will be directed to the cistern in times when water supply is available. It will then be channeled to an elevated tank by means of a booster pump. Solar energy is now being harnessed to power booster pumps, hence, no added cost in electric bills to raise water from lower to higher elevation. Continuous, uninterrupted and substantial water supply will then be made available in a household.


Cistern-elevated tank facility is of course an option for those who may have more in life. Considering, however, the importance of water in daily existence, the investment is certainly worthwhile. It will also be of great help to other concessionaires who may not have available finances to provide such a facility, since during peak hours or low-pressure episodes, elevated-tank-equipped households will not anymore source-out water from water mains. This will mean: available water for everyone.

SCWD has also been advocating the use of cistern-elevated tank concept for the construction of school buildings, tenements, hospitals and other government facilities. It is being prayed that the construction of the said facility be incorporated



in the Plans and Program of Works. SCWD and its partners will soon attain a substantial volume of water, but then again, its equitable distribution will require the help of many.

The responsibility of supplying safe and sufficient water to our people will always be a primordial obligation of your water utility. It is however imperative that concessionaires, regardless of economic status, support their water district. A simple reporting of leakages and the vigilance of reporting illegal connection will be of great lift.



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SCWD Board approves PrimeWater's one-year, PHP 209.5 M catch-up plan

by: **Ma. Katherine V. Deblois**

The SCWD Board of Directors approved PrimeWater-Sorsogon City's one-year catch-up plan with a total capital expenditure of PHP 209,500,000.00 during the Regular Board Meeting on Apr. 18 through Board Resolution No. 07-2022.

On Dec. 22, 2021 PrimeWater was given a 60-day period to cure its deficiencies and non-compliant service obligations based on the five-year detailed review conducted by the SCWD Contract Monitoring Unit. However, this 60-day period lapsed last Feb. 20 and PrimeWater failed to cure their deficiencies.

Section 5.3.6 of the of the SCWD-PrimeWater Joint Venture Agreement provided that "In the event that the deficiency is clearly not rectifiable within a period of one year, PrimeWater will be allowed, after penalties are imposed, to submit its best scenario case on a catch-up plan on service obligations

within a reasonable period to be specified by the SCWD. The catch-up plan shall be subject to the approval of the SCWD, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld. As

soon as the catchup plan is approved by the SCWD, the new service obligations shall be made applicable.



Filter system installed by PrimeWater at the Cabid-an Pumping in 2018 to address water quality issues.

Based on the JVA provisions, PrimeWater Sorsogon City on Mar. 10 submitted a catch-up plan with period of one year to

18 and which took effect upon expiration of the 60-day curative period.

The catch-up plan activities and corresponding capital expenditures were: (1) source development at Sitio San Lorenzo, Brgy. Bibinchan (PHP 15,000,000.00); (2) service expansion to barangays Ticol, Capuy, San Ramon, Rawis and Salvacion (PHP 25,000,000.00); (3) filter tank repair (PHP 2,000,000.00); (4) water treatment using the iron removal filter (IRF) system for Cabid-an Pumping Station, Villa Alegre Pumping Station and Bibinchan Pumping Station (PHP 17,500,000.00); and (5) septage management (PHP 150,000,000.00).

satisfy the undelivered, non-complaint service obligations under the first five years of the JVA which was approved by the SCWD BOD on Apr.

The proposed activities of Prime Water-Sorsogon City in the duration of their one-year catch-up plan will be reviewed based on the programs of works submitted to SCWD to ascertain the actual works and delivery of the submitted catchup plan.

PrimeWater repairs Baribag PS

By: Carl Bruce M. Guantero

PrimeWater-Sorsogon City completed the replacement of the defective pump and motor at the Baribag Pumping Station on Apr. 25-26.

Pulled out riser pipes were also cleaned before connecting the new pump and motor and re-installing the deepwell.

The maintenance works for Baribag well was performed by PrimeWater-Sorsogon City personnel George R. Barlongay, Ferdinand R. Carag, Sergio F. Fortes and Erwin J. Labo together with personnel from PrimeWater's manpower service provider.

Prior to the activity on Apr. 25, PrimeWater-Sorsogon City Water Resource Engr. Florenz Marc G. Bermundo and SCWD engineering aide Carl Bruce M. Guantero and SCWD plumber/inventory aide Renato M. Lirio inspected the variable frequency drive and deepwell assembly at Baribag in anticipation of the arrival of the new 20-hp submersible pump and motor, boom truck and other supplies and equipment for the scheduled maintenance works.

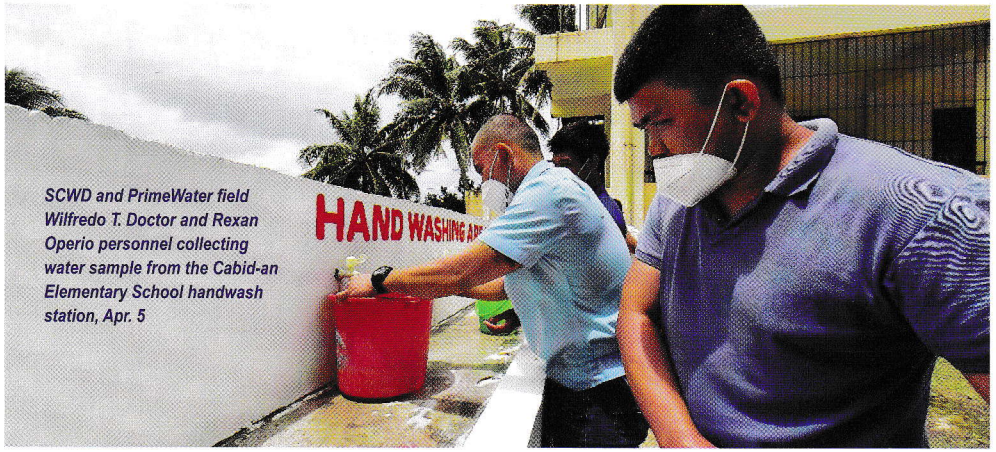


PrimeWater plumbers installing a new submersible pump and motor for Baribag Pumping Station, Apr. 26

Due to the unexpected breakdown of submersible pump and motor at the Baribag Pumping Station on Apr. 23, barangays Bibinchan, Almendras-Cogon, Sampaloc and Sirangan experienced declining pressure to no water.

This prompted PrimeWater-Sorsogon City to implement emergency repair and replacement of pump and motor to ensure the source was restored and working on full capacity.

Baribag PS (PS No. 1) was drilled and completed in the year 1982 and has since supplied several Sorsogon City barangays via the 12" diameter steel pipe distribution from Sitio Baribag, Brgy. Bibinchan down to corner the Rizal and Magsaysay Streets, Brgy. Sirangan.



SCWD and PrimeWater field Wilfredo T. Doctor and Rexan Operio personnel collecting water sample from the Cabid-an Elementary School handwash station, Apr. 5

SCWD, PrimeWater assist in water sampling for Cabid-an Elementary School

by: Engr. Alejandro L. Alama

As it opened for the limited face-to-face classes, along with other public schools, SCWD and PrimeWater assisted Cabid-an Elementary School headed by school principal Dr. Jade T. Legaspi in the collection and submission of water sample for microbiological analysis at the Dr. Fernando B. Duran Sr. Memorial Hospital water laboratory last Apr. 5

This activity was accomplished by SCWD together with the regular water quality and pressure monitoring activities of SCWD for the month of April 2022.

PrimeWater's compliance based on SCWD's monitoring activities are found in the table on the right.

NO	PARAMETERS	PRIMEWATER COMPLIANCE
1	Pressure (Less than 7 PSI)	25%
2	Pressure (Between 7 and 14 PSI)	25%
3	Pressure (Greater than 14 PSI)	50%
4	Residual Chlorine (Daily)	45%
5	Turbidity (Daily)	79%
6	Total Coliform (Monthly)	91%
7	Thermotolerant Coliform (Monthly)	100%
8	Heterotrophic Plate Count (Monthly)	100%

SCWD bats for in-line chlorinators at 7 locations

by: Alpha Mae C. Ditan

SCWD proposed the installation of seven in-line chlorinators all over its service area in Sorsogon City this month of April.

Through field monitoring, investigation and data collection led by SCWD IGM Engr. Eduardo P. Tejada and the SCWD Engineering and Operations Department headed by Division Manager Engr. Alejandro L. Alama, together with PrimeWater-Sorsogon City Operations and Maintenance Engr. Jerome J. Buen and Water Resource Engr. Florenz Marc G. Bermundo, the in-line chlorinators' locations were identified as follows:

Outlet pipe from the 200-cu.m. Bacon steel bolted tank, Brgy. Poblacion; outlet pipe from the 500-cu.m. Cabid-an concrete tank, Brgy. Cabid-an; 6"-dia. Pangpang Line from the Macabog Reservoir, Brgy. Macabog; new 4"-dia. pipeline at the corner of J. Reyes and Jimenez Sts., Brgy. Bitan-o/Dalipay (in front of the former barangay hall); new 6"-dia. pipeline along Rizal Street, Brgy. Piot (in front barangay hall); 6"-dia. pipeline at corner Burgos and Gerona Sts., Brgy. Burabod (Taas); and the outlet pipe from the 200-cu.m. Macabog steel bolted tank, Brgy. Macabog.

Citing variables such as the influence area of pumping stations, leakages, peak and off-peak water demand,

operating pressure and the iron and manganese content of groundwater, IGM Tejada directed PrimeWater-Sorsogon City to adhere to the proper chlorinator settings at all pumping stations and to install seven in-line chlorinators along distribution lines as identified by SCWD.

Data from the daily residual chlorine and turbidity testing became basis for the location for in-line chlorination, as conducted by SCWD Senior Laboratory Technician Charmaine B. Mandane RMT and SCWD laboratory aide/ driver Wilfredo T. Doctor Jr. at 22 designated water sampling points.

Twenty water sampling points were installed within the SCWD service area by SCWD plumber/inventory aide Renato M. Lirio while two other sampling points were installed by SCWD's bulk water supplier Abejo Waters Corp. at their Guinlajon Treatment Plant, Brgy. Guinlajon and St. Raphael Pumping Station, Brgy. Pangpang.

SCWD projected that the in-line chlorinators, once installed, would increase PrimeWater-Sorsogon City's compliance to the Philippine National Standards for Drinking Water of 2017, which required a residual chlorine of at least 0.3 ppm at endpoints and at most 1.5 ppm at sources.



PrimeWater quality personnel Edmund J. Llapitan installing the hypochlorinator during the 'Oplan Linis Tubo' at BLISS, Apr. 25