



COMMITTEE REPORT

JULY 8, 2026

TO : THE PRESIDING OFFICER

FROM : COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT and NATURAL RESOURCES

SUBJECT : ENDORSEMENT LETTER FROM HON. ROMMEL ANTHONY V. MAGBITANG FOR THE PASSAGE OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE LOCAL CHIEF EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS FOR THE PROTECTION, CONSERVATION AND CONTINUOUS SUPPORT TO THE PAWIKAN SANCTUARY

A meeting of the **Committee on Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources** was conducted under the chairmanship of **Hon. Glennon I. Pegollo** to discuss the **Proposed Resolution** entitled: **“A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE LOCAL CHIEF EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS FOR THE PROTECTION, CONSERVATION AND CONTINUOUS SUPPORT TO THE PAWIKAN SANCTUARY.”**

The meeting was attended by **SB Member Raymond B. Senia**, **SB Member Cesar Ryan Nazareno**, **SB Member Arnel Milay**, and **SK Federation President Darlaine M. Benesen**, together with **Mr. Rogelio Bilugan**, President of the Samahan ng Labac Pawikan Patrollers (SLPP); **Ms. Melinda M. Modesto** and **Ms. Hedwig Precious S. Gofredo** of Edilberto S. Legaspi Integrated High School; **Mr. Manuel J. Logatoc**, Community Extension/NSTP Director of NU Dasmariñas; **Ms. Maria Kristiana V. Daz** of the Municipal Tourism Office; **Ms. Kjellen H. Evangelista**, OIC-MENRO; and **Ms. Jesusa Vilburn**, representative of the MENRO.

The Committee was informed that the proposed **Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)** is an initiative of **NU Dasmariñas** in partnership with the **Municipal Government of Naic**, the **Samahan ng Labac Pawikan Patrollers (SLPP)**, and **Edilberto S. Legaspi Integrated High School**, under the supervision of the Municipal Mayor through the **Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO)** and the **Municipal Tourism Office**.

It was explained that the main purpose of the MOA is to formally establish cooperation among the parties in implementing programs for the protection and conservation of marine biodiversity, research initiatives, capacity building, coastal clean-up activities, environmental education, eco-tourism development, and the continuous support of the Pawikan Sanctuary in Barangay Labac, Naic, Cavite.

The Committee was also informed that the MOA clearly defines the roles and responsibilities of each party, including provisions on Data Privacy, use of names and logos, limitation of liability, budgetary requirements, deliverables, amendments, warranties, and the effectivity of the agreement, which shall remain valid until March 2029.

At the start of the discussion, the Committee asked if there were any further questions regarding the MOA. The representative of the Municipal Tourism Office stated that they had no further comments since the document had already been reviewed and approved by the Office of the Mayor.

The representative of NU Dasmariñas shared that this is the university's first formal partnership with the Municipality of Naic and the Samahan ng Labac Pawikan Patrollers. However, NU Dasmariñas already has an existing partnership with Edilberto S. Legaspi Integrated High School, which served as the link in establishing this collaboration with the Pawikan Sanctuary and the Local Government of Naic.



NU Dasmariñas further explained that its research programs will focus on pawikan conservation, including proper handling, hatching, and long-term conservation efforts. One of its priority research areas is microplastic awareness, in response to the growing problem of plastic pollution affecting marine biodiversity and sea turtle conservation.

Aside from environmental research, the partnership also includes capacity-building programs for volunteers and pawikan patrollers to improve their skills in proper turtle conservation, data management, and digitalization. NU Dasmariñas stated that its Information Technology, Computer Science, and Computer Engineering programs can help develop an improved digital records and monitoring system for the Pawikan Sanctuary. These programs may also be extended to the community of Barangay Labac to promote awareness on microplastics and improve digital literacy.

NU Dasmariñas also informed the Committee that it has an existing partnership with DOST CALABARZON and DOST-Cavite, which may provide laboratory support and technical assistance for future microplastic research. However, it clarified that the initial phase of the project will focus on community assessment and awareness, while laboratory-based research will only be conducted with proper coordination with the LGU and DOST.

The Committee was also informed that even before the formal signing of the MOA, NU Dasmariñas had already conducted initial community engagement activities in March 2026, including the celebration of its fifth anniversary at the Pawikan Sanctuary. During the activity, the university donated a fiberglass display for the preserved sea turtle and provided supplies for initial digital training. It was emphasized that these activities were properly coordinated with the Office of the Mayor, MENRO, and the Municipal Tourism Office.

The Committee discussed its observation that NU Dasmariñas had conducted activities before the proposed MOA had been approved through a resolution by the Sangguniang Bayan. In response, the university explained that all required documents had already been submitted to the Office of the Mayor and that all activities were conducted with proper coordination with the concerned LGU offices. The ceremonial signing of the MOA was not completed due to unforeseen scheduling concerns.

On the matter of budgetary requirements, the MENRO emphasized the provision of the MOA stating that each party shall provide the necessary counterpart support, subject to existing laws and the availability of funds. The Committee requested NU Dasmariñas to submit a detailed Annual Program of Activities and Budget Plan to serve as the basis for the LGU's possible allocation of funds for future activities.

NU Dasmariñas explained that its proposed counterpart support is not limited to financial assistance but may also include supplies, equipment, venues, manpower, transportation, technical expertise, and other logistical support, depending on the needs of each activity. It also emphasized that the partnership will remain effective for three (3) years, allowing proposed projects to be considered in future municipal budget cycles.

The university further stated that its main objective, as a private sector partner, is to share its expertise, technical resources, facilities, and network with other government agencies to strengthen programs for the Pawikan Sanctuary and the Municipality of Naic.

In response to the Committee's inquiry regarding the proposed activities, NU Dasmariñas stated that its project proposals had already been presented to the Office of the Mayor and that it is prepared to submit an updated Program of Activities and Budget Plan for review by the Sangguniang Bayan.

The Committee recommended that NU Dasmariñas submit an official Budget Plan and Program of Activities to support the review of the proposed partnership and to serve as a basis for the possible allocation of municipal funds.



Meanwhile, the Samahan ng Labac Pawikan Patrollers (SLPP) expressed its appreciation for the proposed partnership, stating that it would greatly contribute to improving knowledge and support for the Pawikan Sanctuary. However, the organization emphasized that its immediate needs include the improvement of the access road leading to the sanctuary and the installation of an electrical power line to improve its facilities and operations.

The representative of Edilberto S. Legaspi Integrated High School also expressed support for the proposed agreement, emphasizing that its primary objective is to strengthen public awareness, particularly among the youth, regarding the importance of environmental protection and the conservation of the Pawikan Sanctuary.

During the discussion, the Committee reiterated that each party must have clearly defined programs, projects, and a timetable of activities to support future budget appropriations and ensure the effective implementation of the MOA.

The Committee also raised concerns on whether the proposed research activities might have negative effects on the sea turtles. NU Dasmariñas and the SLPP assured the Committee that all activities would follow proper handling protocols and are intended to protect both the sea turtles and their natural habitat. The MENRO further emphasized that all research activities must be closely coordinated with the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to ensure compliance with existing wildlife conservation laws and regulations.

NU Dasmariñas likewise assured the Committee that all research, extension, and capacity-building activities will be conducted only with proper coordination with the MENRO, the Municipal Tourism Office, and other concerned LGU offices. The partnership aims to further develop the Pawikan Sanctuary and support the Municipality of Naic's vision of becoming the Pawikan Conservation Center of the Province of Cavite.

NU Dasmariñas also clarified that the institution officially uses "NU Dasmariñas" in all its communications and documents, as "NU" is its official brand name. Accordingly, NU Dasmariñas informed the Committee that, in the proposed Memorandum of Agreement, the institution should be referred to as "NU Dasmariñas" instead of "National University Dasmariñas."

Lastly, the Committee discussed the Data Privacy provision of the MOA. It was explained that all information and data related to the Pawikan Sanctuary may only be used for research and digitalization purposes upon the approval of both the Samahan ng Labac Pawikan Patrollers (SLPP) and the MENRO. All collected data shall remain confidential and shall be used only in accordance with the objectives of the agreement and applicable data privacy laws.

After thorough discussion, the Committee recommended that NU Dasmariñas submit a complete Program of Activities and Budget Plan to serve as supporting documents in the review of the proposed Memorandum of Agreement and as the basis for the possible allocation of municipal funds for the implementation of the proposed programs and project.

Committee on Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources:


Hon. Glenn I. Pegollo
Chairperson


Hon. Raymond P. Senia
Vice- Chairperson