

COMPLAINT CLOSING REPORT

PROJECT NAME	PHI: Infrastructure Preparation and Innovation Facility
ADB DEPARTMENT/DIVISION	SERD/SETC
AM FUNCTION	Problem-Solving
ELIGIBILITY RESULT	Ineligible
ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION DATE	20 November 2020
I. Complaint and issues	<p>The complaint relates to the feasibility study for the Samal Island Davao Connector Bridge, conducted under the PHI: Infrastructure Preparation and Innovation Facility project.</p> <p>The complaint claims that there was lack of consultation in deciding the alignment of the bridge, and an incomplete and misleading baseline environmental study and impact assessment.</p>
II. Actions taken to address the problems or issues	<p>The Country Director, the Philippines Country Office, and the Director, Transport and Communications Division met with the complainants and their representatives on 23 November 2020. After hearing the complaints, ADB explained that the feasibility study will be followed by a detailed design, where more comprehensive surveys and consultations will be carried out. ADB is not financing the detailed design nor the civil works projects and, as such, ADB does not have a leverage in the process.</p> <p>The project team consulted with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) from November to December 2020. The DPWH had already received the same complaints and had discussed them with the complainants. DPWH agreed with ADB to continue communication with the complainants.</p>
III. Decisions or agreements by parties concerned	The DPWH agreed to continue communication with the complainants.
IV. Results and lessons learned	<p>Results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The complainants have not withdrawn their complaints. - DPWH will continue to consult with the complainants. - The complaints will be addressed during detailed design and construction. (The Government of the Philippines signed the loan agreement for the Samal Island Davao Connector Bridge project with the Government of the People’s Republic of China in June 2022.) <p>Lessons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Careful consultation should be conducted at early stages of project preparation.

ADB = Asian Development Bank; AM = Accountability Mechanism; DPWH = Department of Public Works and Highways