

## SDG 9: Innovation as the Key to Sustain Bablibago Waterwork's Sustainability in the Long Run

### **Balibago Waterworks System, Inc.**

Sustainable private waterworks companies are a key element to sustainable economic development of the countryside regions where their dependable, safe potable water ensures a healthy population and clean environment that is conducive to inclusive progress.

Balibago Waterworks is a 59-year old company and is considered the biggest provincial waterworks company in the Philippines with its 58 municipal waterworks branches connecting a million population to treated water supply. Balibago is able to sustain its infrastructure growth and success in the last 19 years because of its innovative mind set.

- We pioneered the private sector's entry into level 3 municipal waterworks when there was none.
- We pioneered joint ventures to rehabilitate distressed, government-owned water districts.
- We pioneered bulk water supply projects by tapping surface river water and springs and designing modern filtration systems thereof.
- 4. Balibago has been proactive developing "out of the box" solutions to potable water shortage. Perfect example is when we laid out a 40-kilometer pipe line to source water from the main land to a nearby island that is a famous beach resort area.
- Presently, we are envisioning harvesting rain water from perennially flooded land basins and filtering this water to be potable.

This is the secret to our continuing contribution to economic development. By pioneering strategic infrastructures on potable water, the private sector is effectively and efficiently delivering on SDG's Infrastructure Goal, serving over a million Filipinos in Balibago's case. As Balibago thrives, the municipalities it serves likewise marches on toward economic prosperity.