

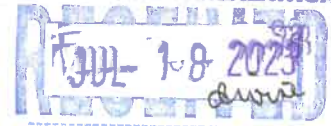


Republic of the Philippines  
**OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL AGRICULTURIST**  
**PROVINCIAL AGRICULTURAL AND FISHERY COUNCIL - LEYTE**  
Leyte Provincial Capitol, Guindapunan, Palo, Leyte

May 23, 2023

**HON. LEONARDO M. JAVIER JR.**  
Vice Governor  
Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP) of Leyte  
Leyte Provincial Capitol, Palo, Leyte

Item No.: 14  
Date: JUL 25 2023



Office of the Vice Governor  
PROVINCE OF LEYTE

Received

By: REBECCA  
Date: 7/18/2023  
Time: 9:47 AM

Dear **Vice Governor Javier**:

Greetings from PAFC Leyte!

May we refer to the attached Resolution No. 3, Series of 2023 of the Provincial Agricultural and Fishery Council (PAFC) Leyte, *recommending to the Sangguniang Panglalawigan (SP) of Leyte the issuance of an ordinance to regulate and/or prohibit abaca pojada system to benefits and increasing the productivity of the farmers.*

May we request that a reply be sent directly to PAFC Leyte Office c/o the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist (OPA), Leyte Provincial Capitol, Palo, Leyte, on action taken on this request.

Your usual favorable action is highly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

  
**JORGE R. ALVERO JR.**  
PAFC Executive Committee Chairperson



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*Leyte Provincial Capitol, Guindapunan, Palo, Leyte*

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**Resolution No. 03**  
Series of 2023

**RECOMMENDING TO THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN (SP) OF LEYTE IN THE ISSUANCE OF AN ORDINANCE TO REGULATE AND/OR PROHIBIT ABACA POJADA SYSTEM**

**WHEREAS**, abaca fiber commonly known as Manila hemp is considered as the strongest among the natural fibers and is obtained from the leaf sheath of the abaca (*Musa textilis*), a plant indigenous to the Philippines;

**WHEREAS**, the Philippines is the largest producer of abaca fibers supplying about 87% of the world's requirement for the production of cordage, specialty papers (for currency note, stencil paper, teabag, coffee filter/cup, etc.), textiles, furniture and fixtures, handicrafts, cosmetics, grocery bag, composites for automotive and construction and other industrial applications;

**WHEREAS**, farming is one of the major livelihoods in the Philippines and abaca farming is the source of livelihood of about 200,000 farming families in fifty-six (56) provinces in the Philippines;

**WHEREAS**, Eastern Visayas is one of the abaca-producing areas in the country with about 20,000 hectares of land devoted to abaca production;

**WHEREAS**, abaca plays a vital role in the growing global advocacy for environmental protection and forest conservation;

**WHEREAS**, abaca plant is also good to the environment as it helps improve the water holding capacity of the soil, preventing soil erosion, floods and landslides, and addresses sedimentation problems in coastal areas where sea fishes breed and the waste materials are used as organic fertilizer by farmers;

**WHEREAS**, the pojada system is unsustainable practice of forcibly and indiscriminately cutting of immature abaca stalks in the process of harvesting and stripping by farm contractors for a contracted price agreed with the plantation owner;

**RECOGNIZING**, the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) issued a Memorandum Circular No. 2019-66 dated May 7, 2019, banning the illegal harvesting, buying, selling, and mutilating of young leaf sheath of abaca plants;

**WHEREAS**, during the Provincial Agricultural and Fishery Council (PAFC) Executive Committee Meeting, one of the issues raised is the continuous practice of pojada system of abaca farmers resulted to an increase of spread of abaca viral diseases, farm yield production and farmers income may decrease, and poor fiber quality;

**WHEREAS**, in view of the current malpractices, the effective implementation of ordinance and issuance will protect the abaca industry in the region;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, recommending to the Sangguniang Panglalawigan (SP) of Leyte the issuance of an ordinance to regulate



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and/or prohibit abaca pojada system to benefits and increasing the productivity of the farmers;

**PASSED and UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED** during the PAFC Leyte Executive Committee Meeting held on May 5, 2023 at SB Hall, Dagami, Leyte.

Noted by:

**ENGR. MARIA LOURDES B. NADERA**  
PAFC Secretariat-Coordinator

Approved by:

**JORGE R. ALVERO JR.**  
PAFC Execom Chairperson