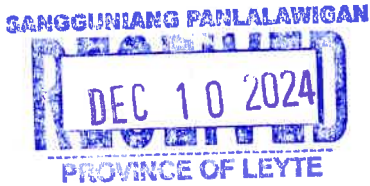




OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

RESOLUTION NO. 24-11-274
(126th Regular Session; 2 December 2024)



A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE STRONG OPPOSITION OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN OF BURAUEN TO HOUSE BILL NO. 11077 PROPOSING THE DIVISION OF LEYTE INTO TWO PROVINCES—WESTERN LEYTE AND EASTERN LEYTE, AND URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO RECONSIDER THE BILL DUE TO ITS FAR-REACHING IMPACTS ON UNITY, GOVERNANCE, AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE PROVINCE.

WHEREAS, House Bill No. 11077, authored by Hon. Richard Frank I. Gomez, Representative of the 3rd District of Leyte, seeks to divide the Province of Leyte into two separate provinces—Western Leyte and Eastern Leyte—based primarily on linguistic and geographical distinctions with the western part of the province, primarily Cebuano-speaking localities, to form Western Leyte, and the eastern part, predominantly Waray-speaking, to form Eastern Leyte;

WHEREAS, while the intention behind the proposed division may be well-meaning, the Sangguniang Bayan of Burauen raises deep concerns about its implications, noting that such a division is not only premature but also detrimental to the province as a whole;

WHEREAS, the geographical area of Leyte is not sufficiently large to justify its division into two provinces. The existing administrative structure has proven adequate in managing the province's governance, development programs, and public services, making such a division unnecessary and counterproductive;

WHEREAS, the division threatens to disrupt the social and cultural unity of the province, potentially fostering division and polarization among its residents. Instead of promoting inclusivity, this move risks creating boundaries that emphasize differences rather than shared goals and values;

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Burauen, which is strategically located near the proposed boundary line of the division, is particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of this measure. The establishment of two separate seats of power would complicate governance, particularly in boundary municipalities like Burauen, leading to confusion, inefficiency, and possible conflicts over resources and jurisdiction;

WHEREAS, the financial implications of this division are equally alarming. Splitting the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) between two provinces would reduce the budget for each, especially for Eastern Leyte, potentially compromising essential public services, development programs, and economic opportunities for its constituents;

WHEREAS, the Province of Leyte has a long-standing history of interdependence among its municipalities. Dividing it would disrupt this harmony and could result in a weakened province with diminished capacity to achieve its developmental goals;

WHEREAS, the proposed division raises further concerns because its proponent, while representing one of Leyte's districts, is not originally from the province, potentially leading to questions about the true understanding of the province's history, culture, and long-term needs;

NOW, THEREFORE, on motion of Hon. Vincent G. Enerlan, duly seconded by all Sangguniang Bayan members present, **BE IT:**

RESOLVED, as it is hereby **RESOLVED**, that the Sangguniang Bayan of Burauen strongly opposes House Bill No. 11077, which proposes the division of Leyte into two provinces—Western Leyte and Eastern Leyte. This opposition is rooted in the potential adverse effects on unity, governance, and financial resources of the province and its municipalities, particularly those near the proposed boundary line, such as Burauen;

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Sangguniang Bayan of Burauen urges the House of Representatives, under the leadership of Speaker Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, to reconsider the bill, taking into account the far-reaching implications of dividing Leyte, and to prioritize initiatives that foster unity, economic development, and efficient governance rather than fragmentation;

RESOLVED FINALLY, that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to Speaker Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, the members of the House of Representatives, and the Office of the Proponent, Hon. Richard Frank I. Gomez, for their information and appropriate action.

CARRIED AND APPROVED, this 2nd day of December 2024, in regular session assembled.

I HEREBY CERTIFY to the correctness of the foregoing resolution.


ATTY. RUDEJANE S. TAN
Secretary to the Sanggunian

ATTESTED:


HON. NOEL P. ALPINO
Vice-Mayor
Presiding Officer

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PROVINCE OF LEYTE