



Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF LEYTE
 Provincial Capitol
 Tacloban City

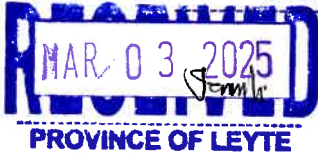
-oOo-

Item No.: 15
 Date: 11 2025 MAR

Province of Leyte
 Legal Office
 Date: 7-3-25

SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN

PROVINCIAL LEGAL OFFICE



2nd INDORSEMENT
 February 25, 2025

Respectfully returned to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Leyte, through SP Secretary, the attached Ordinance No. 10 series of 2024 of the Sangguniang Bayan of La Paz, Leyte.

Issues/concerns for review/recommendation/legal opinion is/are as follows:

- Ordinance No. 10 series of 2024 entitled: **“An Ordinance mandating the provision of Emergency Relief and Protection for Children, before, during and after disasters, etc.”**

REVIEW/RECOMMENDATION/LEGAL OPINION:

This office is of the opinion that the subject Ordinance is generally in accordance to its power under Section 447(a)(1)(iv)¹ of the Local Government Code of 1991 (R.A 7160). Hence, recommending for the declaration of its validity.

We hope to have assisted you with this request. Please note that the opinion rendered by this Office are based on facts available and may vary or change when additional facts and documents are presented or changed. This opinion is likewise without prejudice to the opinions rendered by higher and competent authorities and/or the courts.

ATTY. JOSE RAYMUND A. ACOL
 Provincial Legal Officer *J. Acol*

¹(iv) Adopt measures to protect the inhabitants of the municipality from the harmful effects of man-made or natural disasters and calamities and to provide relief services and assistance for victims during and in the aftermath of said disasters or calamities and their return to productive livelihood following said events;

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF LEYTE
Palo, Leyte
-o0o-

OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN

1ST INDORSEMENT
24 February 2025

Province of Leyte
Legal Office
Received *[Signature]*
Date *2-24-25*

The Provincial Legal Office is respectfully requested to review and submit recommendations on the herein enclosed **Municipal Ordinance No. 10**, series of 2024 of the Municipality of **La Paz, Leyte**, entitled: An Ordinance mandating the provision of Emergency Relief and Protection for Children before, during, and after disasters and other emergency situations.


FLORINDA JILL SUYVICO
Secretary to the Sanggunian



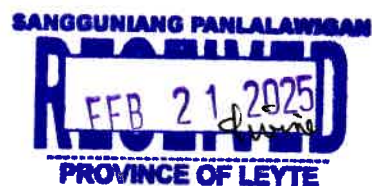
Republic of the Philippines
Province of Leyte
MUNICIPALITY OF LA PAZ
-oOo-



OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

21 February 2025

FLORINDA JILL S. UYVICO
Secretary to the Sanggunian
Sangguniang Panlalawigan
Province of Leyte
Legislative Bldg., Capitol Complex
Palo, Leyte



Madam:

Respectfully submitting herewith copies of the **MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 10, SERIES OF 2024 – AN ORDINANCE MANDATING THE PROVISION OF EMERGENCY RELIEF AND PROTECTION FOR CHILDREN BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER DISASTERS AND OTHER EMERGENCY SITUATIONS** for review and perusal of that office.

Please acknowledge receipt hereof and requesting the same be given due course and appropriate action.

Early action hereon will be highly appreciated.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

ERWIN M. CERNAL
Secretary of the Sangguniang Bayan



Republic of the Philippines
Province of Leyte
MUNICIPALITY OF LA PAZ
-oOo-



OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

21 February 2025

HON. LEONARDO "SANDY" JAVIER, JR.

Vice Governor and Presiding Officer

The Honorable Members

Sangguniang Panlalawigan

Province of Leyte

Legislative Bldg., Capitol Complex

Palo, Leyte

Dear Honorable Ladies and Gentlemen:

Respectfully submitting herewith copies of the **MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 10, SERIES OF 2024 – AN ORDINANCE MANDATING THE PROVISION OF EMERGENCY RELIEF AND PROTECTION FOR CHILDREN BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER DISASTERS AND OTHER EMERGENCY SITUATIONS** review and perusal of that office.

Please acknowledge receipt hereof and requesting the same be given due course and appropriate action.

Early action hereon will be highly appreciated.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Erwin M. Cernal'.

ERWIN M. CERNAL

Secretary of the Sangguniang Bayan



Republic of the Philippines
Province of Leyte
MUNICIPALITY OF LA PAZ
-oOo-

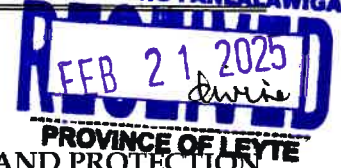


OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN

MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 10

Series of 2024



AN

ORDINANCE MANDATING THE PROVISION OF EMERGENCY RELIEF AND PROTECTION FOR CHILDREN BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER DISASTERS AND OTHER EMERGENCY SITUATIONS.

Sponsored by: *Hon. Araceli P. Go - Chair, Committee on Women and Children*

WHEREAS, the Philippines is prone to disasters and calamities, and other emergency situations that cause massive destruction to and/or loss of lives, properties, infrastructure, and crops, among others, leaving millions of Filipinos critically affected;

WHEREAS, during these emergency situations, children are the most vulnerable and at higher risk to diseases and deaths, and worst affected by food insecurity, disrupted schooling, homelessness and separation from families;

WHEREAS, the State and the Local Government Units have the obligation, under the 1987 Constitution and the Local Government Code to promote the general welfare of the people and defend the rights of children to assistance, including proper care and nutrition, special protection from all forms of neglect, abuse, cruelty and exploitation, and other conditions prejudicial to their development;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, as the Sangguniang Bayan of La Paz, Leyte hereby resolves, to approve, as it hereby approves, the enactment of Municipal Ordinance No: 2024 - 04 series of 2024 in a regular session assembled that:

SECTION I. - This Ordinance shall be known as the "THE CHILDREN'S EMERGENCY RELIEF AND PROTECTION ORDINANCE OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF LA PAZ, LEYTE".

SECTION II. - **Definition of Terms.** For purposes of this Ordinance, the following shall refer to:

(a) Child-refers to a person below eighteen (18) years of age or those over but are unable to fully take care of themselves or protect themselves from abuse, neglect, cruelty, exploitation or discrimination because of a physical or mental disability or condition as defined in Republic Act No. 7610 or the Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act;

(b) Child with Special Needs refers to a child with a developmental or physical disability as defined in Republic Act No. 10165 or the Foster Care Act of 2012;

(c) Child-Friendly Spaces refer to spaces where communities create nurturing environments for children to engage in free and structured play, recreation, leisure and learning activities. The child-friendly space may provide health, nutrition, and psychosocial support, and other services or activities which will restore their normal functioning;

(d) Civil Registry Documents - refer to all certificates, application forms, and certified true copies of legal instruments and court decrees concerning the acts and events affecting the civil status of persons which are presented before the Civil Registrar and are recorded in the Civil Registry;

(e) Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) - as defined in Republic Act No.10121 or the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010, refer to non- state actors whose aims are neither to generate profits nor to seek governing power such as nongovernment organizations (NGOs), professional associations, foundations, independent research institutes, community-based

organizations (CBOs), faith-based organizations, people's organizations, social movements, and labor unions which are organized based on ethical, cultural, scientific, religious or philanthropic considerations;

(f) Disasters as defined in Republic Act No. 10121, refer to a serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society involving widespread human, material, economic, or environmental losses and impacts, which exceeds the ability of the affected community or society to cope using its own resources. Disasters are often described as a result of the combination of the exposure to a hazard; the conditions of vulnerability that are present; and insufficient capacity or measures to reduce or cope with the potential negative consequences. Disaster impacts may include loss of life, injury, disease and other negative effects on human, physical, mental and social well-being, together with damage to property, destruction of assets, loss of services, social and economic disruption, and environmental degradation;

(g) Emergency refers to unforeseen or sudden occurrence, especially danger, demanding immediate action as defined in Republic Act No. 10121,

(h) Family Tracing and Reunification refers to the process where disaster response teams reunite families separated by natural and human catastrophes by bringing together the child and family or previous care-provider for the purpose of establishing or re-establishing long-term care;

(i) Hazard refers to a dangerous phenomenon, substance, human activity or condition that may cause loss of life, injury or other health impacts, property damage, loss of livelihood and services, social and economic disruption, or environmental damage as defined in Republic Act No. 10121;

(j) LCEPC shall refer to the Local Comprehensive Emergency Program for Children, herein referred to as the Program;

(k) Orphans or Orphaned Children - refer to children who do not have a family and relatives who can assume responsibility for their care;

(l) Separated Children - refer to children separated from both parents, or from their previous legal or usual primary caregiver, but not necessarily from other relatives. As a result, this may include children accompanied by other family members;

(m) State of Calamity refers to a condition involving mass casualty and/or major damages to property, disruption of means of livelihoods, roads, and normal way of life of people in the affected areas as a result of occurrence of natural or human-induced hazard as defined in Republic Act No. 10121;

(n) Transitional Shelter refers to structures temporarily constructed by the government intended for families affected by a disaster while awaiting transfer to permanent shelters; and

(o) Unaccompanied Children - refer to children who have been separated from both parents and other relatives, and who are not being cared for by an adult who, by law or custom, is responsible to doing so.

SECTION III. - LOCAL COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN. - The Municipal Government of La Paz, Leyte shall formulate the Local Comprehensive Emergency Program for Children (LCEPC), hereinafter referred to as the Program, to ensure that children and those among them with special needs, pregnant women and lactating mothers are safe, protected and have access to services before, during and after disasters and emergency situations.

The Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (LDRRMC), Local Council for the Protection of Children (LCPC) and child focused CSOs shall jointly develop the Program and integrate the same in the LGU's comprehensive development plan, contingency plan, and LDRRM Plan (LDRRMP) and LDRRM Fund (LDRRMF) as provided for under Section 2 (b), Rule VI of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA 10821 otherwise known as the Children's Emergency Relief and Protection Act of 2016.

The LDRRM Office shall lead the implementation, monitoring and reporting of the Local CEPC, in coordination with the Municipal Planning and Development Office (MPDO) and the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office (MSWDO). The Program shall be Implemented immediately after the declaration of a national or local state of calamity or occurrence of any other emergency situation. It shall be gender-sensitive and have the following components:

(a) Establishment of Evacuation Centers. - The LGU shall establish and identify safe locations as evacuation centers for children and families subject to the limitations found in Section 4 of this Ordinance.

(b) Establishment of Transitional Shelters for Orphaned, Separated, and Unaccompanied Children. - The Local Government Unit of La Paz, Leyte in times of calamity shall immediately establish an option for transitional shelters, prioritizing vulnerable and marginalized groups including orphaned, separated, and unaccompanied children, and pregnant and lactating mothers. New transitional shelters, established pursuant to this Ordinance, shall be designed with the following considerations: gender-specific emergency latrines, bathing cubicles, and hand washing facilities specifically designed for children. It shall provide mother and child-friendly spaces where children can take part in child activities. It shall also have provisions for maternal and newborn and infant care and rooms to protect, feed, provide personal care, and ensure the right to privacy. Existing transitional shelters shall be modified to the extent possible to comply with the abovementioned considerations.

(c) Assurance for Immediate Delivery of Basic Necessities and Services. - The Program shall facilitate and ensure the immediate delivery of basic necessities and services specifically required by the affected children in different stages of development such as access to basic health services, food, water, nutrition, medicines, clothing, sanitary and hygiene kits, and other emergency needs such as blankets, mosquito nets, cooking ware and flashlights. The Program shall give priority to the specific health and nutrition needs of pregnant women, lactating mothers, newborn babies, children under five (5) years old and children with special needs.

(d) Stronger Measures to Ensure the Safety and Security of Affected Children. - Under the Program, the LGU shall, in coordination with the Philippine National Police (PNP), Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), DSWD, DILG, Department of Education (DepEd) and CSOs in the community, monitor and ensure the safety and the security of the affected children in the areas declared under a state of calamity and shall protect them against all forms of abuse and exploitation.

Upon the declaration of a national and local state of calamity, the LGU, in coordination with the PNP and the DSWD, with the assistance of the AFP operating units in the area and local councils against trafficking and violence against women and their children, in accordance with existing laws, shall immediately heighten comprehensive measures and monitoring to prevent child trafficking, labor, and prostitution, including domestic and sexual violence during a state of calamity.

The LGU shall require other government agencies and CSOs tasked to provide any assistance or services to the affected children to adopt a child protection policy. The child protection policy shall include measures to deter and effectively respond to cases of violence, abuse, and exploitation of children.

The LGU shall prioritize the establishment and functionality of the barangay violence against women and children (VAWC) desks. The VAWC desk shall serve as one of the key reporting and referral mechanism for cases of violence, abuse, and exploitation of children in the barangay during all phases of emergency response and recovery.

Children shall be given priority during evacuation as a result of a disaster or other emergency situation. Existing CSOs in the community shall be tapped to look after the safety and well-being of children during evacuation operations. Measures shall be taken to ensure that children evacuated are accompanied by persons responsible for their safety and well-being.

(e) Delivery of Health, Medical, and Nutrition Services. - Under the Program, the LGU, in coordination with the DOH, DSWD and CSOs in the community, shall provide the health, medical, and nutritional needs of children in the areas declared under a state of calamity, including psychosocial interventions for children in different stages of development.

(f) Plan of Action for Prompt Resumption of Educational Services for Children. - The DepEd, in coordination with the LGU shall ensure the prompt resumption of educational services for all children, including early childhood care and development for children aged below five (5).

(g) Establishment of Child-friendly Spaces. - The LGU shall set up child-friendly spaces during a state of calamity, as needed, based on the guidelines promulgated by the DSWD. In addition, the LGU shall coordinate with lead agencies and CSOS to effectively respond to the needs of the children in the area. Child-friendly spaces shall be made available throughout a crisis, from emergencies to recovery.

In case the LGU of La Paz, Leyte cannot immediately respond due to the huge impact of disaster, the LGU shall coordinate with the DSWD, together with the concerned national government agencies in coordination with the CSOs and other stakeholders, as well as nearby LGUs, for possible assistance to provide the necessary child care services and social protection of affected children.

(h) Promotion of Children's Rights. - The Program shall include activities and processes that will promote and uphold the rights of children by:

- a) Providing child-centered training for all responders;
- b) Ensuring that children are provided with adequate access to age-appropriate information on their roles and responsibilities and those of government agencies before, during, and after disasters and other emergency situations;
- c) Providing an effective mechanism for training and meaningful participation of children in community disaster risk reduction program; and
- d) Consulting with the affected children on their needs and priorities for post-disaster relief and recovery.

SECTION IV. Evacuation Centers. - Only in cases where there is no other available place or structure which can be used as a general evacuation center may a school or child development center be used as an evacuation center.

When a school or child development center is used as an evacuation center, gymnasiums, learning and activity centers, auditoriums and other open spaces shall be utilized first. Classrooms shall only be used as a last resort. The use of the school premises shall be as brief as possible. If the use is predicted to exceed fifteen (15) days, the LGU shall provide written documentation to the DepED and the DILG on the following:

- (a) The name and location of the school;
- (b) All alternative sites and proposal for final site selection;
- (c) Measures being implemented to prevent interference or disruption to the school and educational activities of children; and
- (d) Other particulars to be provided in the implementing rules and regulations of this Ordinance.

The Municipal Engineer, in coordination with the DepEd and Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) shall continuously monitor and assess the condition of temporary learning spaces or other transitional and semi-permanent structures used as classrooms after a disaster, and if the use exceeds six (6) months after the declaration of a state of calamity, the LGU may request the regional DepEd office to conduct site inspections and to report to the Secretary of Education that such spaces are in good physical condition and sufficient to ensure the safety of the children and their environment.

SECTION V. Orphaned, Unaccompanied, or Separated Children. - The MSWDO, upon consultation with relevant agencies, shall adopt standards and guidelines for the Family Tracing Reunification

System of orphaned, unaccompanied and separated children based on guidelines promulgated by the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

Orphaned children, and unaccompanied or separated children whose families or relatives cannot be found or assessed to be incapable of providing proper care and protection shall be placed in a licensed or accredited residential care facility or with a foster family in accordance with Article 140 of the Child and Youth Welfare Code, or a community-based center. A registered social worker shall provide the needed case management and intervention.

SECTION VI. System of Restoring Civil Registry Documents. - To ensure that vital information pertaining to the personal circumstances of a child are adequately protected and available at all times, the Municipal Civil Registrar (MCR), in coordination with the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), shall develop a system for the restoration and reconstruction of civil registry documents that have been destroyed or declared lost or missing during a disaster or calamity.

The MCR shall submit a report on the number of restored or reconstructed documents to appropriate government agencies for effective monitoring and reporting and to ensure the continued access of the affected children to social services and facilitate the reunification of separated children with their families.

The MCR shall likewise develop a system for the registration of children born during a state of calamity

SECTION VII. Training of Emergency Responders on Child Protection. - The Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office shall promote and conduct a child-responsive training program for all responders in the calamity area such as community and barangay leaders, community members, school personnel and other rescuers. The training program shall include the following:

- a) Proper procedures and measures to assess the situation, safeguard and protect the affected children during and after emergencies and disasters; and
- b) Appropriate training on psychosocial interventions for children in different stages of development who are victims of calamities.
- c) All concerned Local Offices shall include or mainstream child protection in their emergency response training to service providers.

SECTION VIII. Data Gathering, Monitoring, and Reporting. - The offices and agencies mandated by this Ordinance shall monitor and report on the implementation of services under the Program to be submitted jointly to the Sanggunian annually. The report shall include a specific section on pregnant women and children under five (5) years of age as a strategy to address the post-disaster nutrition needs of children under age five (5) and pregnant women.

In the aftermath of a national or local state of calamity, the collection and reporting of data for the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Information System, as provided for in Republic Act No. 10121, shall be disaggregated by age, gender, ethnicity, and special needs. Such collected data shall be utilized to understand and respond better to the needs of children affected by disasters and calamities.

Within five (5) days from the declaration of a state of calamity or as soon as practicable, the MDRRMO, MSWDO and MPDO shall jointly submit written documentation and report on their surveillance and monitoring activities to the Local Chief Executive, copy furnished the appropriate committees of the Sangguniang Bayan.

SECTION IX. Appropriations. - The amount necessary for the implementation of this Ordinance shall be charged against the Local Disaster Risk Reduction Management Fund (LDRRMF) of the LGU and from other sources.

SECTION X. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Ordinance, the MDRRMO, MSWDO, in consultation and coordination with the MHO and child-focused CSOs shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Ordinance.

SECTION XI. Interpretation Clause. - The provisions of this Ordinance and its implementing rules and regulations shall be liberally construed in favor of the best interest of the child.


SECTION XII. Separability Clause. - If any provision or part of this Ordinance is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION XIII. Repealing Clause. - All ordinances, executive orders, local issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with any provision of this Ordinance are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION XIV. Effectivity. - This Ordinance shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its posting in at least three (3) conspicuous places in the Municipality.


ENACTED this 18th day of November 2024.

I HEREBY CERTIFY to the correctness of the foregoing Ordinance which was duly enacted by the Sangguniang Bayan during its regular session held on November 18, 2024.



ERWIN M. CERNAL
Secretary to the Sanggunian

ATTESTED BY:



LYNDO A. QUINA
Municipal Vice Mayor

APPROVED BY:



ANGEL ARAS SIA, JR.
Municipal Mayor



Republic of the Philippines
Province of Leyte
MUNICIPALITY OF LA PAZ
-oOo-



OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

CERTIFICATION OF POSTING

TO WHOM THIS MAY CONCERN:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that **POSTING** in prominent places in the Municipal Hall and other conspicuous places in the locality was undertaken and copies of said ordinances was remain posted for three (3) consecutive weeks pursuant to Section 59 (b) of Republic Act 7190, in relation on the ordinance - **MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 10, SERIES OF 2024- AN ORDINANCE MANDATING THE PROVISION OF EMERGENCY RELIEF AND PROTECTION FOR CHILDREN BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER DISASTERS AND OTHER EMERGENCY SITUATONS**

Subject ordinance is being forwarded to that Body for review in compliance with Section 56 of Republic Act 7160.

ISSUED this 21st day of February 2025 at the office of Sangguniang Bayan, La Paz, Leyte.

Very truly yours,

ERWIN M. CERNAL
Secretary of the Sangguniang Bayan