



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
PROVINCE OF LEYTE  
**MUNICIPALITY OF PALOMPON**  
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Item No.: 04

Date: 28 2025 OCT

## Office of the Municipal Mayor

**October 9, 2025**

**HON. LEONARDO M. JAVIER JR.**

Provincial Vice Governor  
Province of Leyte  
Leyte Provincial Capitol  
Palo, Leyte

Dear **Vice Governor Javier Jr.**,

Good day!

Just recently, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Region VIII (DENR R8), conducted a second Protected Area Suitability Assessment (PASA) for the Palompon Watershed Forest Reserve (PWFR), which covers the municipalities of Palompon, Matag-ob, and Villaba. The PASA serves as one of the prerequisite requirements for declaring a watershed as a protected area under the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (E-NIPAS).

It is noteworthy that this second assessment was carried out upon the insistent request of the Office of the 4th Congressional District of Leyte, following the PWFR's initial non-qualification during the first PASA conducted in 2021. On October 3, 2025, the technical team from DENR R8 presented the results of the re-conducted PASA during a stakeholders' conference held in Palompon, Leyte. The findings, however, remained largely similar to those of the initial assessment.

In view of the foregoing and in aid of legislation, the Local Government Unit of Palompon respectfully seeks the kind assistance of your esteemed Office to invite the DENR Region VIII Technical Team in charge of the Re-PASA to formally present the results before the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Leyte.

Having the results formally presented to the provincial council will help ensure that all concerned stakeholders from the local to the provincial level are properly informed and guided on the implications of the assessment, especially on land use, livelihood, and environmental management of a watershed and a declared protected area. This matter is very significant to the LGUs of Palompon, Matag-ob and Villaba particularly to the barangays directly affected within the coverage of the Palompon Watershed and Forest Reserve (PWFR).

Thank you very much for your continued support.

Respectfully,

**MARY DOMINIQUE A. OÑATE**  
Municipal Mayor

**Copy Furnished:**

Office of the Sanggunian Panlalawigan of the 4<sup>th</sup> District of Leyte  
Board Member Elmer Frederico N. Codilla  
Board Member Flaviano C. Centino Jr.