

Item No.: 05

Date: 28 2025 OCT

 **REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**
Province of Leyte
MUNICIPALITY OF VILLABA

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MAYOR 

October 10, 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 encompasses the municipalities of Palompon, Matag-ob, and Villaba. The PASA serves as a prerequisite for the possible declaration of a watershed as a protected area under the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (E-NIPAS).

It is noteworthy that this second assessment was undertaken upon the request of the Office of the Representative of the 4th Congressional District of Leyte, following the PWFR's initial non-qualification during the first PASA conducted in 2023. On October 3, 2025, the technical team from DENR Region VIII presented the results of the re-conducted PASA during a stakeholders' consultation held in Palompon, Leyte. The findings, however, were largely consistent with those of the initial assessment.

In view of the foregoing and in aid of local and provincial policy formulation, the Local Government Unit of Villaba, Leyte, respectfully seeks the kind assistance of your esteemed Office to encourage the DENR Region VIII Technical Team to formally present the results of the said assessment before the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Leyte.

Having the results formally presented to the provincial council will ensure that all concerned local government units and affected barangays are properly informed and guided on the implications of the assessment—particularly in matters concerning land use, livelihood, environmental management, and the possible declaration of the Palompon Watershed Forest Reserve as a protected area.

For your appropriate information and guidance, a copy of the results of the first PASA conducted in 2023 is hereby attached.

We thank your good office for your continued support and partnership in advancing our shared goals for sustainable development and environmental stewardship in the Province of Leyte.

Respectfully,


ENGR. CARLOS G. VELOSO
Municipal Mayor

Copy Furnished:
Office of Board Member Marie Kathryn V. Cabigting, Board Member 3rd District of Leyte
Office of Board Member Alan P. Ang, Board Member 3rd District of Leyte