

Item No.: 22
Date: 21 2025 OCT



Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF LEYTE
Provincial Capitol
Tacloban City

-oOo-

Province of Leyte
Legal Office
Date: 10-13-25

Sangguniang Panlalawigan
Province of Leyte

PROVINCIAL LEGAL OFFICE

RECEIVED

Date: OCT 13 2025
By: J. Acil

2nd INDORSEMENT
October 3, 2025

Respectfully returned to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Leyte, through the SP Secretary, the attached Ordinance No. 249 217, series of 2025 of the Sangguniang Bayan of Matag-ob, Leyte.

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

- Ordinance No. 249 217, series of 2025 entitled: “**Anti-Gender Based Sexual Harassment Ordinance of the Matag-ob, Leyte.**”

REVIEW/RECOMMENDATION/LEGAL OPINION:

This office is of the opinion that the subject Ordinance is generally in accordance with its power under Sections 447(a)(1)¹ the Local Government Code of 1991 (R.A 7160) pursuant to Ra 11313². Hence, we recommend 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 the 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

¹ a) The sangguniang bayan, as the legislative body of the municipality, shall enact ordinances, approve resolutions and appropriate funds for the general welfare of the municipality and its inhabitants pursuant to Section 16 of this Code and in the proper exercise of the corporate powers of the municipality as provided for under Section 22 of this Code.

² The Safe Spaces Act, also known as the "Bawal Bastos" Law.

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF LEYTE
Palo, Leyte
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OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN

PROVINCIAL LEGAL OFFICE
24/24/25
24964

1ST INDORSEMENT
24 September 2025

The Provincial Legal Office is respectfully requested to review and submit recommendations on the herein enclosed **Municipal Ordinance No. (249) 217** of the **Municipality of Matag-ob, Leyte**, entitled: **An Ordinance localizing the implementation of Republic Act No. 11313, otherwise known as the "Safe Spaces Act", to address gender-based sexual harassment in streets, public spaces, workplaces, educational and training institutions, and online platforms in the Municipality of Matag-ob, Leyte.**


FLORINDA JILL S. UYVICO
Secretary to the Sanggunian



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PROVINCE OF LEYTE
MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT OF MATAG-OB



SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

ENDORSEMENT

September 19, 2025

SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN



PROVINCE OF LEYTE

HONORABLE LEONARDO "SANDY" JAVIER
Vice-Governor
Presiding Officer
Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Leyte

Sir:

Respectfully forwarding to your good office the herein attached **Municipal Ordinance No. (249) 217**, entitled: "AN ORDINANCE LOCALIZING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11313, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "SAFE SPACES ACT," TO ADDRESS GENDER-BASED SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN STREETS, PUBLIC SPACES, WORKPLACES, EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING INSTITUTIONS, AND ONLINE PLATFORMS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MATAG-OB, LEYTE.", subject for review by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Leyte.

Respectfully yours,

ANA MARIA SANORIA-ECIJA
Secretary to the Sanggunian



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PROVINCE OF LEYTE
MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT OF MATAG-OB



SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

CERTIFICATION OF POSTING

September 19, 2025

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that copies of **Municipal Ordinance No. (249) 217**, entitled: "AN ORDINANCE LOCALIZING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11313, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "SAFE SPACES ACT," TO ADDRESS GENDER-BASED SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN STREETS, PUBLIC SPACES, WORKPLACES, EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING INSTITUTIONS, AND ONLINE PLATFORMS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MATAG-OB, LEYTE.", of the Sangguniang Bayan of Matag-ob, Leyte are posted in Three (3) conspicuous places within the municipality of Matag-ob, Leyte for three consecutive weeks from September 18, 2025.

This certification is issued in compliance with Section 59 of R.A. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991.

Issued this 19th day of September, 2025.


ANA MARIA SANORIA-ECIJA
Secretary to the Sanggunian



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PROVINCE OF LEYTE
MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT OF MATAG-OB

SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN



SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

I HEREBY CERTIFY that this is a true and accurate copy of the resolution duly adopted by the Sangguniang Bayan of Matag-ob, Leyte on August 11, 2025.

ANA MARIA SANORIA-ECIJA
Secretary to the Sanggunian

ATTESTED:

HON. ARTEMIO T. ALMOROTO
Senior SB Member

HON. JOEL N. DENOY
SB Member

HON. EVANGELINE C. CARNO
SB Member

HON. RICARDO L. GIVA
SB Member

HON. RODOLFO N. SUNIR
SB Member

HON. LUZ M. BOLDERO
SB Member

HON. JOSE B. YAP
SB Member

HON. EDUARDO I. TOLEDO
SB Member

HON. ANA LOVE D. BORDEN
Ex-Officio Member, SK Fed. Pres.

HON. JOEL G. TACOY
Ex-Officio Member, LNB
President

HON. ROMEO N. ALBARIDA
Municipal Vice-Mayor
Presiding Officer

EXCERPTS FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 7TH REGULAR SESSION OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN OF MATAG-OB, LEYTE FOR THE TERM PERIOD COVERED JUNE 30, 2025 TO JUNE 30, 2028 HELD AT THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION HALL ON AUGUST 11, 2025.

MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. (249) 217

AN ORDINANCE LOCALIZING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11313, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "SAFE SPACES ACT," TO ADDRESS GENDER-BASED SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN STREETS, PUBLIC SPACES, WORKPLACES, EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING INSTITUTIONS, AND ONLINE PLATFORMS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MATAG-OB, LEYTE.

Author : Hon. Evangeline C. Carno
Co-authors : Hon. Joel G. Tacoy
: Hon. Artemio T. Almoroto
Hon. Ana Love D. Borden
Hon. Luz M. Boldero

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 11313 or the "Safe Spaces Act" was enacted to ensure the dignity, respect, and equality of all individuals by penalizing all forms of gender-based sexual harassment;

WHEREAS, the law mandates all Local Government Units (LGUs) to pass ordinances and establish mechanisms to prevent and respond to gender-based sexual harassment in public places;

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Matag-ob, Leyte, recognizes its duty to create a culture of respect, safety, and inclusivity for all citizens, particularly women, children, and persons of diverse SOGIE;

NOW THEREFORE, be it ordained by the Sangguniang Bayan of Matag-ob, Leyte in session duly assembled:

**ARTICLE I
TITLE, POLICY, AND PURPOSE**

"The Town of United and Happy People" Mun. Ord. # (249) 217
August 11, 2025



Second Floor, Legislative Building, Municipal Government Complex, Diversion Rd.,
Barangay San Guillermo, Matag-ob, Leyte 6532 The Philippines

www.matag-ob.gov.ph • osb@matag-ob.gov.ph • +63 906-221-4617



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PROVINCE OF LEYTE
MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT OF MATAG-OB



SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

I HEREBY CERTIFY that this is a true and accurate copy of the resolution duly adopted by the Sangguniang Bayan of Matag-ob, Leyte on August 11, 2025.

ANA MARIA SANORIA-ECIJA
Secretary to the Sanggunian

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Ex-Officio Member, LNB
President

HON. ROMEO N. ALBARIDA
Municipal Vice-Mayor
Presiding Officer

Section 1. Title: This Ordinance shall be known as the “*Anti-Gender-Based Sexual Harassment*” Ordinance of Matag-ob, Leyte.”

Section 2. Declaration of Policy- It is hereby declared the policy of the Municipality to eliminate all forms of gender-based sexual harassment in streets, public spaces, workplaces, educational institutions, and online spaces. The LGU commits to a safe environment where everyone can move freely without fear of abuse, harassment, or intimidation.

Section 3. Objectives-To institutionalize mechanisms for prevention, reporting, and response to sexual harassment. To define acts punishable under this Ordinance. To localize and operationalize the Safe Spaces Act within the jurisdiction of Matag-ob. To empower barangays, schools, business establishments, and government offices in enforcing gender sensitivity.

ARTICLE II
DEFINITION OF TERMS

When used in this ordinance, the following terms shall be construed as follows:

A. Catcalling refers to unwanted remarks directed towards a person, commonly done in the form of wolf-whistling and misogynistic (dislike), transphobic (dislike transgender people), homophobic (dislike gay people), and sexist slurs (expression of discrimination against women);

B. Gender refers to a set of socially ascribed characteristics, norms, roles, attitudes, values and expectations identifying the social behavior of men and women, and the relations between them;

C. Gender-based online sexual harassment refers to an online conduct targeted at a particular person that causes or likely to cause another mental, emotional or psychological distress, and fear of personal safety, sexual harassment acts including unwanted sexual remarks and comments, threats, uploading or sharing of one’s photos without consent, video and audio recordings, cyberstalking and online identity theft;





REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
 PROVINCE OF LEYTE
MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT OF MATAG-OB



SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

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ANA MARIA SANORIA-ECIJA
 Secretary to the Sanggunian

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 Municipal Vice-Mayor
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D. Gender identity and/or expression refers to the personal sense of identity as characterized, among others, by manner of clothing, inclinations, and behavior in relation to masculine or feminine conventions. A person may have a male or female identity with physiological characteristics of the opposite sex in which case this person is considered transgender;

E. Public spaces refer to streets and alleys, public parks, schools, buildings, malls, bars, restaurants, transportation terminals, public markets, spaces used as evacuation centers, government offices, public utility vehicles as well as private vehicles covered by app-based transport network services and other recreational spaces such as, but not limited to, cinema halls, theaters and spas; and

F. Stalking refers to conduct directed at a person involving the repeated visual or physical proximity, non-consensual communication, or a combination thereof that cause or will likely cause a person to fear for one's own safety or the safety of others, or to suffer emotional distress.

**ARTICLE III
 PROHIBITED ACTS**

It shall be unlawful for any person to commit acts of gender-based sexual harassment in:

1. Streets and public spaces: catcalling, unwanted advances, stalking, flashing, groping, and similar acts.
2. Government offices: including sexual advances, jokes, comments of a sexual nature, or any form of misconduct.
3. Workplaces: harassment committed by supervisors, co-workers, or clients.
4. Schools and training institutions: committed by teachers, students, or school personnel.
5. Online platforms: sending unsolicited sexual messages, threats, photos, or comments that cause mental, emotional, or psychological harm.

ARTICLE IV

3
 Mun. Ord. # (249) 217
 August 11, 2025

"The Town of United and Happy People"





REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PROVINCE OF LEYTE
MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT OF MATAG-OB



SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

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ANA MARIA SANORIA-ECIJA
Secretary to the Sanggunian

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HON. ROMEO N. ALBARIDA
Municipal Vice-Mayor
Presiding Officer

IMPLEMENTING MECHANISMS

Section 1. Creation of the Municipal Gender-Based Sexual Harassment Response Team (GBSH-RT) Headed by the MSWDO, and composed of the GAD Focal Person, HRMO, PNP-WCPD, Liga ng mga Barangay, DepEd, youth representative, and CSO partners.

There shall be created a Municipal Gender-Based Sexual Harassment Response Team (GBSH-RT) to be composed of the foregoing:

| DESIGNATION | NAME |
|-------------|--|
| Chairperson | MSWDO |
| Vice-Chair | SB Member Chairperson of the Committee on WOMEN, CHILDREN, FAMILY WELFARE, SENIOR CITIZENS AND SOCIAL SERVICES |
| Members | GAD Focal Person |
| | HRMO |
| | PNP-WCPD |
| | Liga ng mga Barangay President |
| | DepEd |
| | SK Fed President/youth representative |
| | MAPA (Matag-ob Alliance Pride Association) CSO partner |

Section 2. Roles and Responsibilities of Stakeholders.

A. Local Government Unit (LGU) Enact and fund IEC programs. Train frontline workers, traffic enforcers, and LGU staff on gender sensitivity. Designate GAD focal persons in offices.

B. MSWDO / GAD Office Lead case management, counseling, and referral. Maintain records of reported cases. Ensure survivor-centered and confidential handling.

C. Barangays Adopt barangay-level resolutions supporting this ordinance. Conduct barangay assemblies and awareness campaigns. Monitor streets, terminals, and hotspots with Tanod or peace officers.



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PROVINCE OF LEYTE
MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT OF MATAG-OB



SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

I HEREBY CERTIFY that this is a true and accurate copy of the resolution duly adopted by the Sangguniang Bayan of Matag-ob, Leyte on August 11, 2025.

ANA MARIA SANORIA-ECIJA
Secretary to the Sanggunian

ATTESTED:

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Municipal Vice-Mayor
Presiding Officer

D. PNP-WCPD Investigate and apprehend violators. File proper cases under national and local laws.

E. Business Establishments Display posters on Safe Spaces Law. Train employees on how to handle harassment complaints. Cooperate in investigations involving their premises.

F. Schools (DepEd and private institutions) Activate Child Protection Committees. Integrate Safe Spaces Law in gender and sexuality education. Conduct peer education and campaigns.

**ARTICLE V
PENALTIES**

First Offense : Fine of One Thousand Pesos (₱1,000.00);

Second Offense: Fine of One Thousand, Five Hundred Pesos (₱1,500);

Third Offense : Fine of Two Thousand Pesos (₱2,000.00), or imprisonment of 5 days or both such fine and imprisonment at the discretion of the court

**ARTICLE VI
FUNDING**

The LGU shall allocate funds under the Gender and Development (GAD) Plan, AIP, or 5% Disaster Fund (if emergency response is needed) for:

- Trainings and orientations
- Poster and IEC production
- Hotline and reporting mechanisms

**ARTICLE VII
FINAL PROVISIONS**



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PROVINCE OF LEYTE
MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT OF MATAG-OB



SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

I HEREBY CERTIFY that this is a true and accurate copy of the resolution duly adopted by the Sangguniang Bayan of Matag-ob, Leyte on August 11, 2025.

ANA MARIA SANORIA-ECIJA
Secretary to the Sanggunian

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HON. ROMEO N. ALBARIDA
Municipal Vice-Mayor
Presiding Officer

Section 1. Separability Clause: If any section of this Ordinance is declared unconstitutional, the remainder shall remain valid and enforceable.

Section 2. Amendment Clause. This ordinance may be amended or modified as necessary through the appropriate legislative process.

Section 3. Repealing Clause: All prior ordinances or resolutions inconsistent herewith are deemed repealed or modified.

Section 4. Effectivity: This ordinance shall take effect Fifteen (15) days, and compliance with publication and posting requirements under the Local Government Code.

ENACTED this 11th day of August 2025 in the Municipality of Matag-ob, Leyte with the foregoing votes:

AYES - 10

1. Hon. Artemio T. Almoroto
2. Hon. Joel N. Denoy
3. Hon. Evangeline C. Carno
4. Hon. Ricardo L. Giva
5. Hon. Rodolfo N. Suñir
6. Hon. Luz M. Boldero
7. Hon. Jose B. Yap
8. Hon. Eduardo I. Toledo
9. Hon. Ana Love D. Borden
10. Hon. Joel G. Tacoy

NAYES – 0

ABSTAIN – 0

Carried Unanimously.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that this is a true and accurate copy of the ordinance duly enacted by the Sangguniang Bayan of Matag-ob, Leyte on August 11, 2025.

ANA MARIA SANORIA-ECIJA
Secretary to the Sanggunian

**ATTESTED AND CERTIFIED
TO BE DULY ADOPTED:**

"The Town of United and Happy People" Mun. Ord. # (249) 217
August 11, 2025





REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
 PROVINCE OF LEYTE
MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT OF MATAG-OB



SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

HONORABLE ARTEMIO T. ALMOROTO
 Senior SB Member

HONORABLE JOEL N. DENOY
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HONORABLE ANA LOVE D. BORDEN
 Ex-Officio Member, Mun. SK Federation President

HONORABLE JOEL G. TACOY
 Ex-Officio Member, LNB President

HONORABLE ROMEO N. ALBARIDA
 Municipal Vice-Mayor
 Presiding Officer

APPROVED:

HONORABLE BERNANDINO G. TACOY
 Municipal Mayor

17 SEP 2025
 Date Signed

"The Town of United and Happy People" Mun. Ord. # (249) 217
 August 11, 2025

