

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Leyte

Sangguniang Panlalawigan

ORDINANCE NO. ____-2025

An Ordinance Institutionalizing the Imposition of Community Service as An Alternative Sanction for Violations of City, Municipal and Barangay Ordinances throughout the Province of Leyte, Defining its Legal Basis, Applicability, and Implementation Mechanism

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

This Ordinance seeks to institutionalize community service as an alternative sanction for violations of city, municipal and barangay ordinances throughout the Province of Leyte. It responds to the growing need for humane, inclusive, and restorative approaches to local law enforcement, especially in cases involving indigent, first-time, or non-violent violators.

By providing a provincial framework, this measure ensures consistency, legal clarity, and operational efficiency across LGUs. It empowers local governments to implement community service programs that are culturally appropriate, socially beneficial, and aligned with national standards. It also promotes civic responsibility, reduces unnecessary detention, and fosters community healing.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this Ordinance is earnestly sought to advance restorative justice and inclusive governance across the Province of Leyte.

WHEREAS, the Province of Leyte upholds the principles of restorative justice, participatory governance, and equitable enforcement of local laws;

WHEREAS, the imposition of fines and detention for violations of city, municipal and barangay ordinances, while legally sanctioned, may disproportionately affect indigent constituents and first-time violators, particularly in rural and underserved communities;

WHEREAS, Section 468(a) of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, empowers the Sangguniang Panlalawigan to enact ordinances that promote the general welfare of the province and harmonize legislation across component LGUs;

WHEREAS, the Province of Leyte recognizes the need to institutionalize community service as a constructive, culturally sensitive, and legally sound alternative sanction, and to provide uniform guidelines for its implementation across municipalities and barangays;

NOW THEREFORE, be it ordained by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Leyte, in session duly assembled, that the following provincial-wide guidelines and mechanisms for the imposition of community service as an alternative sanction be adopted and enforced.

SECTION 1. TITLE - This Ordinance shall be known as the “Provincial Community Service Ordinance of Leyte.”

SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY - It is the policy of the Province of Leyte to promote restorative justice, community accountability, and humane enforcement of local laws by institutionalizing community service as an alternative sanction for violations of city, municipal and barangay ordinances.

SECTION 3. DEFINITION OF TERMS

- Community Service – Unpaid work rendered by a violator for the benefit of the community, in lieu of fines or detention. This includes but shall not be limited to environmental clean-up, public facility maintenance, LGU program support and/or other socially beneficial tasks as may be designed in the community service plan as mentioned in section 6 (B) in this ordinance.
- Violator – Any person who has committed a violation of a municipal or barangay ordinance.
- Implementing Officer – The designated LGU official responsible for supervising community service.
- Restorative Justice – A principle that emphasizes repairing harm through inclusive and rehabilitative processes.

SECTION 4. APPLICABILITY - Community service may be imposed under the following conditions:

- For violations punishable by fines not exceeding ₱2,000 or imprisonment not exceeding 30 days;
- For first-time or indigent violators who voluntarily opt for community service;
- For non-violent, non-drug-related, and non-sexual offenses;
- Upon recommendation of the adjudicating authority or local enforcement body

SECTION 6. IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISM

A. Designation of Implementing Officers

- Each Municipal Mayor shall designate a Community Service Coordinator under the MSWDO.
- Each Punong Barangay shall designate a Barangay Community Service Officer.
- The Provincial Government shall designate a Provincial Monitoring Team under the PSWDO.

B. Community Service Plan - A written plan shall be prepared indicating the nature of service which may include environmental clean-up, public facility maintenance, LGU program support and/or other socially beneficial tasks commensurate to the capability of the violator. It shall have a specific duration, schedule and location which shall be supervised by the LGU concerned.

C. Duration and Schedule - Duration shall be for a minimum period of 4 hours and a maximum of 8 hours a day. Total duration shall be equivalent to the monetary value of the fine or gravity of the offense which shall be based on the current labor rates.

D. Monitoring and Certification - LGUs shall monitor compliance and issue Certificates of Completion and shall maintain an attendance logs and progress notes. Non-compliance may result in reinstatement of the original penalty.

E. Documentation and Reporting - LGUs shall submit quarterly reports to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan through the Committee on Peace and Order and Public Safety indicating the following:

- Number of violators served
- Nature and impact of service
- Challenges and recommendations

SECTION 7. RIGHTS AND SAFEGUARDS

- No violator shall be compelled to perform community service against their will.
- Tasks must be safe, non-discriminatory, and appropriate to the violator's capacity.

- Public shaming and hazardous assignments are strictly prohibited.
- No tasks beyond the violator's physical or mental capacity.

In connection hereof, all violators shall undergo a brief orientation on:

- Purpose and value of community service.
- Safety protocols and rights.
- Assigned tasks and expectations.

SECTION 8. TRAINING AND SUPPORT - The Provincial Government through the office of the PSWDO shall partner with LGUs in the training of personnel/designated focal persons in the implementation of this ordinance, provision of logistic support, and in monitoring activities. Municipalities and barangays are encouraged to integrate community service into their annual investment plans.

SECTION 9. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE - If any provision is declared invalid, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 10. REPEALING CLAUSE - All ordinances inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 11. EFFECTIVITY - This Ordinance shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication and posting in accordance with law.