

(17)

Item No.: 17

Date: 01 - 2026 JAN



Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF LEYTE
Provincial Capitol
Tacloban City

Province of Leyte
Legal Office
Release Time: 1:07.26
Date: 01-07-26

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Sangguniang Panlalawigan
Province of Leyte
RECEIVED

PROVINCIAL LEGAL OFFICE

Date: JAN 08 2026
By: [Signature]

2nd INDORSEMENT
December 23, 2025

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

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

- Ordinance No. 217 entitled: "Anti Gender-Based Sexual Harassment Ordinance of the Municipality of Maag-ob, Leyte."

REVIEW/RECOMMENDATION/LEGAL OPINION:

This office is of the opinion that the subject Ordinance is generally in accordance with its power under Section 447(a)¹ of 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 *[Signature]*

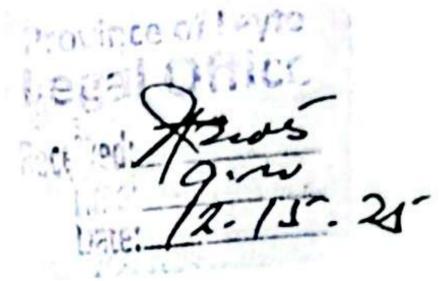
¹(a) *The sangguniang bayan, as the legislative body of the municipality, shall enact ordinances, approve resolutions and appropriate funds for the general welfare of the municipality and its inhabitants pursuant to Section 16 of this Code and in the proper exercise of the corporate powers of the municipality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

² "Safe Spaces Act"

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

OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN

1st Indorsement
12 December 2025



The Provincial Legal Office is respectfully requested to review and submit recommendations on the herein enclosed **Municipal Ordinance No. 217, s. 2025** 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. JYVICO
Secretary to the Sanggunian



RECEIVED

Date: DEC 11 2025
By: [Signature]

SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

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.

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. SUÑIR
SB Member

HON. LUZ M. BOLDERO
SB Member

HON. JOSE B. YAP
SB Member

HON. EDUARDO L. 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

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





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.

OK
 ANA MARIA SANORIA-ECIJA
 Secretary to the Sanggunian

ATTESTED:

[Signature]
 HON. ARTEMIO T. ALMOROTO
 Senior SB Member

[Signature]
 HON. JOEL N. DENOY
 SB Member

[Signature]
 HON. EVANGELINE C. CARNO
 SB Member

[Signature]
 HON. RICARDO L. GIVA
 SB Member

[Signature]
 HON. RODOLFO N. SUNIR
 SB Member

[Signature]
 HON. LUZ M. BOLDERO
 SB Member

[Signature]
 HON. JOSE B. YAP
 SB Member

[Signature]
 HON. EDUARDO I. TOLEDO
 SB Member

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

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

[Signature]
 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;





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

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

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



SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

IMPLEMENTING MECHANISMS

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

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 Ex-Officio Member, LNB
 President

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

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.



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

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HON. ROMEO N. ALBARIDA
 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 (P1,000.00);

Second Offense: Fine of One Thousand, Five Hundred Pesos (P1,500);

Third Offense : Fine of Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00), 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**



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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 Senior SB Member

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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:**



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



SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

[Signature]
HONORABLE ARTEMIO T. ALMOROTO
 Senior SB Member

[Signature]
HONORABLE JOEL N. DENOY
 SB Member

[Signature]
HONORABLE EVANGELINE C. CARNO
 SB Member

[Signature]
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HONORABLE RODOLFO N. SUÑIR
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HONORABLE JOSE B. YAP
 SB Member

[Signature]
HONORABLE EDUARDO I. TOLEDO
 SB Member

[Signature]
HONORABLE ANA LOVE D. BORDEN
 Ex-Officio Member, Mun. SK Federation President

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

HONORABLE ROMEO N. ALBARIDA
 Municipal Vice-Mayor
 Presiding Officer

APPROVED:

[Signature]
HONORABLE BERNANDINO G. TACOY
 Municipal Mayor

09 DEC 2025

Date Signed





OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY TO THE SANGGUNIAN

CERTIFICATION OF POSTING

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that copies of **Municipal Ordinance No. 217** series 2025, 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 December 09, 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 9th Day of December 2025.

Very truly yours,

ANA MARIA SANORIA-ECIJA
Secretary to the Sanggunian

"The Town of United and Happy People"