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Item No.: 28

Date: 09 2026 MAR



Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF LEYTE
Provincial Capitol
Tacloban City

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PROVINCIAL LEGAL OFFICE

PROVINCE OF LEYTE
LEGAL OFFICE
RELEASED

By: [Signature]
Date: 2. Sangguniang Panlalawigan
Province of Leyte

RECEIVED
Date: FEB 19 2026
By: [Signature]

2nd INDORSEMENT
February 9, 2026

Respectfully returned to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Leyte, through SP Secretary, the attached Ordinance No. 17 of the Sangguniang Bayan of Jaro, Leyte.

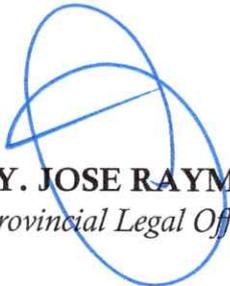
Issues/concerns for review/recommendation/legal opinion is/are as follows:

- Ordinance No. 17 entitled: **“Comprehensive Youth Welfare and Development Code of the Municipality of Jaro, Leyte.”**

REVIEW/RECOMMENDATION/LEGAL OPINION:

This office is of the opinion that the subject Ordinance is generally in accordance to its power under Section 3 Paragraph 2, Article XV¹ of the 1987 Constitution in consonance with PD 603². 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 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 (2) *The right of children to assistance, including proper care and nutrition, and special protection from all forms of neglect, abuse, cruelty, exploitation and other conditions prejudicial to their development;*

² *“The Child and Welfare Code”*

PROVINCE OF LEYTE
LEGAL OFFICE

RECEIVED

By: LET EMMAN 
Date: 02-10-26 Time: 1:43pm

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF LEYTE
Tacloban City

OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN

1ST INDORSEMENT
09 February 2026

The Provincial Legal Office is respectfully requested to review and submit recommendations on the herein **Ordinance No. 17, series of 2025 of the Municipality of Jaro, Leyte**, entitled: **An Ordinance for a Comprehensive Youth Welfare and Development Code of the Local Government of Jaro, Leyte, other purposes, and providing funds thereof.**



FLORINDA JILL S. UYVICO
Secretary to the Sanggunian



Republic of the Philippines
Province of Leyte
MUNICIPALITY OF JARO
Office of the Sangguniang Bayan Secretary
Legislative Building
Corner Del Carmen and Real Streets



February 2, 2026

THE HONORABLE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN
Provincial Capitol Complex
Tacloban City

Thru: **Florinda Jill S. Uyvico**
Secretary to the Sanggunian

Madam;

Respectfully forwarding **ORDINANCE NO. 17**, series of 2025, otherwise known as, "**AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE YOUTH WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT CODE OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF JARO, LEYTE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREOF.**" for review and favorable action by the Honorable Sangguniang Panlalawigan.

Thank you in advance for your kind consideration on the matter.

Very truly yours,

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

RENATO B. OBIÑA
Acting Secretary to the Sanggunian
DEMO IV

APPROVED:

HON. PEDRO B. TAÑALA, JR.
Municipal Vice-Mayor
SB Presiding Officer

nick:

MA. VILMA T. E. SORIANO
Administrative Officer V
SP



MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 17

Series of 2025

INTRODUCED BY: HONORABLE VIANCA MAE N. FAMILAR
Chairman Committee on Youth, Sports and Development

**“AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR A
COMPREHENSIVE YOUTH WELFARE AND
DEVELOPMENT CODE OF THE LOCAL
GOVERNMENT OF JARO, LEYTE, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES, AND PROVIDING
FUNDS THEREOF”**



Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF LEYTE
MUNICIPALITY OF JARO

SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN
RECEIVED
04 FEB 2026
PROVINCE OF LEYTE

TANGGAPAN NG SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 20th REGULAR SESSION OF THE
SANGGUNIANG BAYAN OF JARO, LEYTE HELD AT THE SB SESSION HALL,
LEGISLATIVE BUILDING ON DECEMBER 9, 2025.

PRESENT:

HON. PEDRO B. TAÑALA, JR.	-Municipal Vice Mayor/SB Presiding Officer
HON. LANULFO M. BORJA	-SB Member
HON. FRANCISCO R. ALTRES	-SB Member/Majority Floor Leader
HON. RAUL A. MACANDA	-SB Member
HON. BENJAMIN H. GARIANDO, JR.	-SB Member
HON. TEOFILO C. CABELLO	-SB Member
HON. CARMENCITA G. TAÑALA	-SB Member
HON. ALMA A. TAMAYO	-SB Member
HON. ZANDRO T. MORABE	-SB Member/LIGA Fed.-President
HON. VIANCA MAE N. FAMILAR	-SB Member/SK Fed.-President

ABSENT:

HON. REY P. AURE	-SB Member/Presiding Officer Pro-Tempore
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EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Philippine Constitution, under Section 13, Article II, provides that *“the State shall recognize the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being and shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs”*.

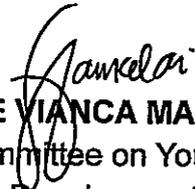
Republic Act 8044, also known as *“The Youth in Nation-Building Act,”* was enacted to recognize and fulfill the responsibilities of the youth to actively contribute to the process of nation-building.

Chapter III, Section 23 of the Republic Act 10742 otherwise known as the *“Sangguniang Kabataan Reform Act of 2015”* has introduced reforms that includes the creation of Local Youth Development Council to ensure the wide and multi-sectoral youth participation in local governance.

There is a recognition of the necessity for the Lokal na Sanggunian to enact an ordinance that shall uphold the rights and ensure the promotion of general welfare of the youth and their protection from acts, conditions, or influences that are prejudicial to their development, and which shall set the guidelines for ordinances pertaining to the youth sector of the Municipality.

Republic Act No. 7160, also known as the Local Government Code of 1991, states that every Local Government Unit shall exercise powers expressly granted, those necessarily implied therefrom, as well as powers necessary, appropriate, or incidental for its efficient and effective governance, and those which are essential to the promotion of the general welfare.

To realize the municipality's vision of providing an enabling, safe, and youth-friendly environment for improving the well-being of its youth sector, there is a need to establish a Comprehensive Youth Code of Jaro, Leyte that will uphold the rights of youth, ensure the promotion of their general welfare, and shield them from detrimental influences or circumstances hindering their development, and which shall set the framework for ordinances pertaining to the youth sector of the Municipality of Jaro.


HONORABLE VIANCA MAE N. FAMILAR
Chairman Committee on Youth, Sports and
Development



**ORDINANCE NO. 17
SERIES OF 2025**

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE YOUTH WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT CODE OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF JARO, LEYTE, OTHER PURPOSES, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREOF.

INTRODUCED BY: HONORABLE VIANCA MAE N. FAMILAR
Chairman Committee on Youth, Sports and Development

BE IT ORDAINED by the Sangguniang Bayan of Jaro, Leyte, in session assembled, that:

**ARTICLE I
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

SECTION 1. TITLE - This Ordinance shall be known as the "Comprehensive Youth Welfare and Development Code of Jaro, Leyte."

SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY - The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs.

SECTION 3. DEFINITION OF TERMS - For the purposes of this Code, the term:

A. **Civil Rights** - shall refer to the rights that protect individuals' freedoms, liberties, and equality under the law. These rights ensure that people are treated fairly and are free from discrimination based on characteristics such as age, religion, ethnicity, health status, disability, social class, political affiliations, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Civil rights include freedoms such as the right to freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of assembly, freedom of movement, and the right to privacy. They guarantee individuals' autonomy and protection from arbitrary interference by the state or other entities;

B. **Commission** - shall refer to the National Youth Commission;

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- C. **Community-based Youth** - shall refer to organizations whose majority of the membership are youth residing in the particular barangay or contiguous area and whose advocacy centers on serving the youth in that particular area;
- D. **Cultural Rights** - shall pertain to the right to participate in cultural life, the right to freely participate in cultural activities, and the right to access and enjoy cultural heritage. These rights recognize the importance of cultural identity, expression, and diversity in fostering individual and collective well-being;
- E. **Economic Rights** - shall include the right to work, the right to fair wages, the right to social security, and the right to an adequate standard of living. Economic rights ensure that individuals can access resources and opportunities necessary for their economic well-being and stability;
- F. **Environmental Rights** - shall relate to the right to a healthy environment, the right to access clean air and water, and the right to participate in environmental decision-making. These rights acknowledge the interconnectedness between human well-being and environmental sustainability, emphasizing the need to protect and preserve natural resources for present and future generations;
- G. **Faith-based Youth** - shall refer to all youth organizations that were organized under the rules and regulations of a religious institution and recognize as such;
- H. **In-School Youth** - shall refer to all youth of school age, whether organized or not, presently enrolled with any educational or vocational institution, which includes, but not limited to the following: school organizations (academic or non-academic), student government, fraternities, and sororities;
- I. **Local Chief Executive (LCE)** - shall refer to the provincial governor and city/municipal mayor.

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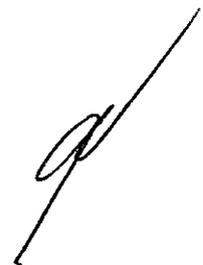
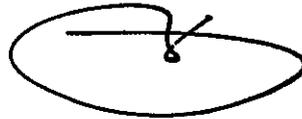
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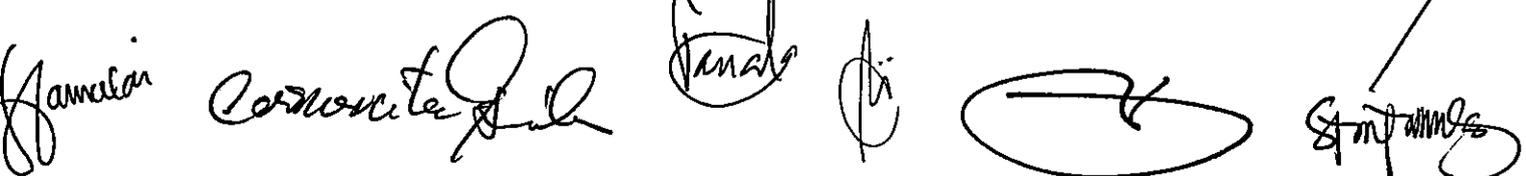
- J. **Out-of-School-Youth** - shall refer to all youth of school age, whether organized or not, who are unable to avail of the formal school system or who have dropped out from formal elementary, secondary, tertiary, or vocational education;
- K. **Philippine Youth Development Plan (PYDP)** - shall refer to the comprehensive national plan expressing the convergence efforts of the different youth-serving national agencies, civil society organizations (CSOs), and youth organizations designed to promote the general welfare, development, and empowerment of the youth, in preparation for their vital role in nation-building. The formulation of the plan shall be spearheaded by the Commission and shall be based on the findings of the National Youth Assessment Study, Youth Development Index, and the directions set by the Philippine Development Plan. It may also take into consideration the findings of the different international organizations;
- L. **Political Rights** - shall refer to the rights that pertain to participation in the political process and governance. These rights enable individuals to engage in political activities, express their political beliefs, and participate in decision-making processes that affect their lives. Political rights include the right to vote, the right to run for public office, the right to join political parties or associations, and the right to engage in peaceful protest or advocacy;
- M. **Social Rights** - shall include the right to education, the right to healthcare, the right to housing, and the right to social protection. These rights aim to ensure that individuals have access to essential services and support systems that contribute to their social welfare and inclusion;
- N. **Special Advocacy-Based Youth** - shall refer to any youth organization whose primary purpose is to serve youth with particular needs namely: youth with disabilities, youth in situations of armed conflict, victims of natural disaster and calamities, youth offenders, delinquent youth, LGBTQ+ youth, drug-dependent youth, street youth, abused/exploited youth, and abandoned/neglected youth, among others;



- O. **The Cultural Identity-based Youth** - shall refer to youth organizations whose primary purpose is to advance the cultural identity of the indigenous people of the Municipality of Jaro;
- P. **Working youth** - shall refer to all youth whose ages range from 18-30 years who are employed either on a regular or temporary basis;
- Q. **Youth** - shall refer to persons with age ranging from fifteen (15) to thirty (30) years old as defined in the Republic Act No. 8044 or the "Youth in Nation Building Act of 1994". For the purpose of targeted programming for the youth sector, the age shall be disaggregated to the following:
1. Child youth- Fifteen (15) years old to seventeen (17) years old;
 2. Core youth- Eighteen (18) years old to twenty-four (24) years old; and
 3. Adult youth- Twenty-five (25) years old to thirty (30) years old.
- R. **Youth Organizations** - shall refer to those organizations whose membership or composition are youth;
- S. **Youth-Serving Organizations** - shall refer to those registered organizations whose principal programs, projects, and activities are youth-oriented and youth-related, and whose composition is not limited to the youth. The organization shall be duly-recognized or accredited either by proper national or Local Government registering entities.

SECTION 4. LOCAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PLAN

- A. There shall be a three (3)-year Local Youth Development Plan (LYDP) aligned with the Philippine Youth Development Plan. The LYDP shall be based on data analysis and interpretation of information obtained from the Philippine Statistics Authority, Barangay Youth Profiling, or other official government records. It shall also be formulated through consultations with the Sangguniang Kabataan, local youth organizations, relevant Local Government agencies, the private sector, and non-governmental organizations.



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- B. The LYDP shall be initially drafted by the respective SK Pederasyon and shall be finalized by the Local Youth Development Council (LYDC). This shall be submitted to the Local Chief Executive (LCE) for inclusion in the Local Development Plan and subsequently endorsed to the Local Sanggunian concerned for approval.

SECTION 5. LOCAL YOUTH ASSESSMENT STUDY

- A. There shall be a local study on the "Progressive Monitoring and Situation of the Youth" to gather information and insights about priority needs, prevailing attitudes and values of youth, existing services, and gaps in the delivery of services for basic youth needs, and challenges and opportunities facing young people.
- B. The Local Government shall conduct a local youth assessment study every three (3) years to understand the specific needs, challenges, and strengths of the local youth population. This understanding helps in designing targeted interventions and programs that directly address the identified needs of local youth, as well as allocating resources effectively to maximize their impact. Moreover, the Local Government shall utilize the empirical data to make evidence-based policies and track progress over time, ensuring that interventions remain effective and adjustments can be made as needed.

ARTICLE II LOCAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

SECTION 6. LOCAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

- A. **CREATION** - To ensure wide and multi-sectoral youth participation in local governance, there shall be in every province, city, and municipality an LYDC which shall be called PYDC, CYDC, and MYDC, respectively. The LYDC shall be chaired by the duly elected SK Pederasyon President and co-chaired by the SK Pederasyon Vice President and the Sectoral Chairperson.

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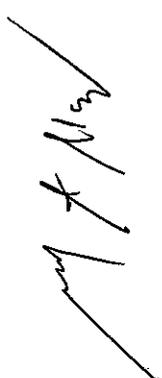
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Its membership shall be composed of duly recognized representatives from youth organizations and youth-serving organizations operating at the provincial, city, and municipal levels. The LYDC shall serve as an advisory and coordinating body, assisting in the formulation, implementation, and monitoring of programs and projects initiated by its member organizations, the Sangguniang Kabataan, and the SK Pederasyon.

- B. **FORMAL ORGANIZATION OF NON-ORGANIZED YOUTH** - To give equal opportunity for the youth, from the time of the enactment of this Code and up to the deadline for registration set by the National Youth Commission and the Local Government, non-organized youth groups may formally organize themselves and register in accordance with paragraph (d) of this section.
- C. **COMPOSITION OF YOUTH ORGANIZATION AND YOUTH-SERVING ORGANIZATION** - Youth Organization is an organization with members entirely composed of the youth, whose ages range from fifteen (15) to thirty (30) years old with a core advocacy that serves the youth. On the other hand, Youth-Serving Organization is an organization with the same core advocacy, but whose members are not entirely composed of the youth, which may include civil society organizations. The Youth-Serving Organization shall determine which youth sector it mainly serves.
- D. **LOCAL REGISTRATION OF YOUTH ORGANIZATION AND YOUTH-SERVING ORGANIZATION** - All youth organizations and youth-serving organizations, with a minimum of ten (10) members in good standing and which are operating within the Local, shall be registered to the Local Youth Development Office. Youth and youth-serving organizations registered in other national and regional government agencies shall also be recognized as registered organizations by the LYDO, provided that the organization is based and/or operates in the province, city, or municipality.
- E. **LOCAL VERIFICATION OF YOUTH ORGANIZATION AND YOUTH-SERVING ORGANIZATION** - The Local Youth Development Office shall verify the registration information provided by these organizations. The Office shall then send a list of registered and verified youth organizations and youth-serving organizations to the National Youth Commission.

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- F. **RENEWAL, VERIFICATION, AND CONTINUING LOCAL REGISTRATION** - Registered youth and youth-serving organizations shall renew their local registration and verification every three (3) years. The Local Youth Development Office shall conduct a continuing registration procedure taking into consideration the budgetary and manpower requirements and the presence of youth and youth-serving organizations.
- G. **CONDITION PRECEDENT** - Local registration and verification of youth organization and youth-serving organization is a condition precedent for participation in the Council elections. However, if a youth organization or youth-serving organization is denied local registration and verification, such organization can apply for special registration and verification to the National Youth Commission as provided for by law. Such special registration and verification entitle the organization to participate in the LYDC elections.
- H. **QUALIFICATION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE LYDC** - A member of the LYDC must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of Jaro, Leyte for not less than one (1) year immediately preceding the day of their election to the Council. They must be at least fifteen (15) years, but not more than thirty (30) years of age on the day of their election to the Council, able to read and write, Filipino, English, and must not have been convicted by final judgment of any crime involving moral turpitude.
- I. **COMPOSITION OF THE LYDC** - The LYDC shall be composed of at least seven (7) members and at most twenty-one (21) members including the two (2) core members from the SK. The two (2) core members shall be composed of the president and the vice-president of the concerned Pederasyon and shall be supported by at least five (5) but not more than nineteen (19) other representatives from registered youth organizations or youth-serving organizations, provided that all other incumbent SK officials shall not be eligible as a member of the LYDC. There shall be an equitable allocation of representatives from the following youth sectors:

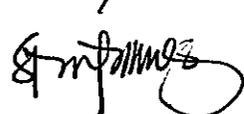


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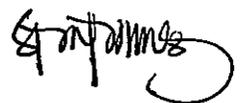
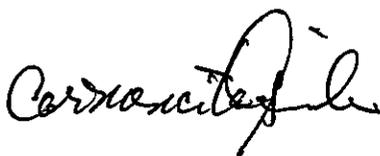
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1. In-school youth sector;
2. Community-based youth sector;
3. Out-of-school youth sector;
4. Working youth sector;
5. Women youth sector;
6. LGBTQIA+ youth sector;
7. Persons with Disabilities (PWD) youth sector;
8. Cultural identity-based youth sector; and
9. Faith-based youth sector.

J. **MANNER OF THE ELECTIONS** - Within forty-five (45) days after the Sangguniang Kabataan elections, the Local Youth Development Office shall notify all the presidents or authorized representatives of the registered youth organizations and youth-serving organizations in the locality, assemble them in a public venue or through electronic means, and by consensus per or secret balloting per youth sector. These representatives shall serve for a term of three (3) years as members of the Council.

K. **ELECTION OF LYDC SECTORAL CHAIRPERSON AS CO-CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL** - The representatives from the youth organizations and youth-serving organizations shall vote among themselves a Sectoral Chairperson who shall act as Co-Chair with the President of the concerned Pederasyon and who shall serve a term of three (3) years. No Sectoral Chairperson shall serve for more than two (2) consecutive terms. The Sectoral Co-Chairperson shall coordinate with the President of the concerned Pederasyon in all matters relating to sectoral concerns. The President of the concerned Pederasyon shall be the official representative of the Council to the Local Sanggunian as provided for by the law.

L. **CONVENING OF THE COUNCIL** - Any of the Chairpersons (President or Vice President of the Pederasyon, and the Sectoral Chairperson) with the concurrence of one another may call a meeting. The President of the concerned Pederasyon, or in their absence, the Vice-President or the Sectoral Chairperson, shall initially convene the Council and shall be given preference to preside over the meeting.



M. MEETINGS AND QUORUMS

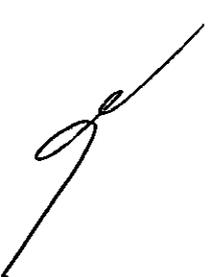
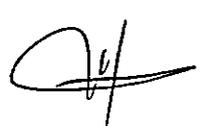
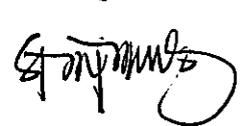
1. The Council shall schedule a meeting every month and as often as needed. However, if the President, the Vice President of the concerned Pederasyon, or the Sectoral Chairperson fails to convene the Council as scheduled, at least one-third ($\frac{1}{3}$) of the total membership of the LYDC may call for a meeting. In both instances, a written notice shall be sent either through traditional or non-traditional means, to all members setting the date, time, place, and agenda of the meeting which must be received at least two (2) days in advance.
2. The presence of the majority (50% + 1) of all members of the LYDC shall constitute a quorum.

N. DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE LYDC - The LYDC shall discharge the following duties and functions:

1. Serve as the core of the advocacy on youth participation in nation-building and youth empowerment;
2. Finalize the three (3) year Local Youth Development Plan that is anchored in the Philippine Youth Development Plan (PYDP).

The Local of Jaro Youth Development Plan shall be initially drafted by the concerned Pederasyon and shall be finalized by the Local Youth Development Council. This shall be submitted to the LCE for inclusion in the Local Development Plan and subsequently endorsed to the Local Sanggunian. These plans shall give priority to programs projects and activities that will promote and ensure the meaningful youth participation in nation-building, sustainable youth development and empowerment, equitable access to quality education, environmental protection, climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and resiliency, youth employment and livelihood, health and anti-drug abuse, gender sensitivity, social protection, capability building and sports development;

3. Monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Local Youth Development Plan;



4. Formulate, adopt, and prescribe policies, guidelines, and rules and regulations for the smooth operation of the Local Youth Development Office;
5. Receive, evaluate, modify, and approve youth-related project proposals and accordance with the approved plans and programs of the Local Youth Development Office;
6. Approve the annual and/or supplemental budget of the Local Youth Development Office;
7. Formulate and approve the internal rules and regulations of the Council including policies addressing representation, substitution, absence, and delinquency of council members; and
8. Perform such other functions as may be provided by law or ordinances.

O. SPECIAL BODIES AND COMMITTEES - The members of the LYDC shall designate among themselves the alternate representatives of the President of the concerned Pederasyon in all committees or special bodies in which the SK President is an official sitting member subject to the internal rules of the Council. If the SK President is not available during a meeting of a committee or special body, the alternative representative shall represent the SK President and report to the latter and to Council all matters that have transpired during the meeting.

P. ADVISORY GROUP - The following shall be resource persons whom the LYDC may invite to shed light and advise the body on pertinent issues affecting the youth:

1. Local Planning and Development Officer.
2. Local Social Welfare and Development Officer.
3. Local Health Officer.
4. Local Schools Division Superintendent.
5. Chairperson of the Committee on Barangay Affairs in the Sangguniang Pambayan.

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6. Chairperson of the Committee on Education in the Sangguniang Pambayan.
 7. Chairperson of the Committee on Health and Social Services in the Sangguniang Pambayan.
 8. Regional Director or Representative from the Commission on Population Development.
 9. Department Head or Representative from the Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office.
- Q. **LOCAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL FUNDS** - The LYDC shall be funded by their respective Sangguniang Panlalawigan, Sangguniang Panlungsod, and Sangguniang Bayan. All expenditures of these funds shall be subject to COA rules and regulations.

**ARTICLE III
LOCAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT OFFICE**

SECTION 7. LOCAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

-  A. **CREATION OF THE LOCAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT OFFICE.**
Through an Executive Order to be issued by the LCE, a Local Youth Development Office shall be created as a separate unit under the Office of the LCE. This shall be housed within the operating structure/s of the Local Government. The Local Youth Development Office shall be managed by LGU personnel who shall be designated by the LCE and who shall be referred to as Local Youth Development Officer. Other LGU personnel may be assigned to the Local Youth Development Office through lateral movement whenever necessary. The designated Local Youth Development Officer and other designated staff shall continue to act as such unless sooner substituted or succeeded by another LGU personnel upon the directive of the LCE.
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- B. **QUALIFICATIONS OF THE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT OFFICER.** In addition to the requirements prescribed by the Civil Service Commission (CSC), the youth development officer shall:
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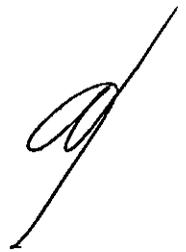












1. be preferably not more than thirty years of age at the time of their appointment;
2. be of good moral character;
3. must have acquired experience in youth development affairs or involvement in youth or youth-serving organizations for at least three (3) years; and
4. They shall be appointed by the concerned LCE, but in no case, if they are within the fourth (4th) civil degree of consanguinity or affinity of the appointing authority.

C. FUNCTIONS OF THE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT OFFICE. The Office shall have the following functions:

1. In accordance with Section 6 (d) of this Code, register, and verify youth and youth-serving organizations;
2. Provide technical assistance to the LYDC in the formulation of the LYDP;
3. Facilitate the election of the LYDC Representatives;
4. Serve as the secretariat to the LYDC;
5. Conduct the mandatory and continuing training of the SK Officials and LYDC members, in accordance with the programs jointly designed and implemented by the Commission and the DILG. The local youth development officer and/or his or her staff shall apply for accreditation from the Commission in order for them to conduct the mandatory and continuing training programs of the SK officials and LYDC members;
6. Provide technical, logistical, and other support in the conduct of the mandatory and continuing training programs, and to such other programs of the Commission and DILG;
7. Lead the Local Youth Assessment Study and consolidate all data and reports related to youth;
8. Coordinate with the Commission with regard to the youth programs within their jurisdiction;

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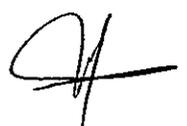
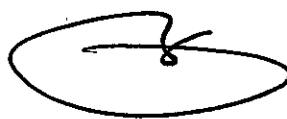
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9. To assist the Local Social Welfare and Development and the Local Health Office in its duty related to the general welfare and health of the youth sector;
 10. To organize and implement programs and activities that will promote a broad understanding of the problems affecting the youth in the vulnerable communities of Jaro, Leyte;
 11. To undertake such action projects as may be necessary to promote the attainment of the objectives and purposes of this ordinance;
 12. To promote and publish information and studies on the youth, especially in the Local in all its aspects;
 13. To coordinate with any department, division, office, or any instrumentality of the Local Government or of the national government for such assistance as it may require in the performance of its functions; and
 14. Perform such other functions as may be prescribed by law, ordinance or as the Local Mayor, the DILG or the Commission may require.
- D. OTHER PERSONNEL OF THE LOCAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT OFFICE** – The Local Government, upon the recommendation of the Local Youth Development Officer and the Sangguniang Pambayan, may provide additional staffing requirements in the Office and shall be appointed by the LCE in whatever status deemed appropriate, and in accordance with the civil service rules and regulations.
- E. LOCAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT OFFICE FUNDS** – The Local Government Unit shall incorporate in its annual budget such amount as may be necessary for the operation and effective functioning of the Local Youth Development Office and in accordance with the Commission on Audit (COA) accounting and auditing rules and regulations.
- F.** The LGU shall provide office space and/or desks within the province, preferably within the Youth Development Office, to effectively perform their duties.



**ARTICLE IV
BARANGAY YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

SECTION 8. BARANGAY YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

A. **CREATION** - To ensure wide and multi-sectoral youth participation in local governance, there shall be created the Barangay Youth Development Council which shall be called the "BYDC" for brevity. The BYDC shall be headed by the concerned SK Chairperson, co-chaired by the Sectoral Chairperson, and composed of representatives of youth and youth-serving organizations in the barangay. The BYDC shall assist in the planning and execution of projects and programs of its member organizations and the SK at all levels.

B. **COMPOSITION OF YOUTH ORGANIZATION AND YOUTH-SERVING ORGANIZATION** - Youth Organization is an organization with members entirely composed of the youth, whose ages range from fifteen (15) to thirty (30) years old with a core advocacy that serves the youth. On the other hand, Youth-Serving Organization is an organization with the same core advocacy, but whose members are not entirely composed of the youth, which may include civil society organizations. The Youth-Serving Organization shall determine which youth sector it mainly serves.

C. **REGISTRATION OF YOUTH ORGANIZATION AND YOUTH-SERVING ORGANIZATION** - All youth organizations and youth-serving organizations, with a minimum of ten (10) members in good standing and which are operating within the barangay, shall be registered to the Sangguniang Kabataan Office.

Youth and youth-serving organizations registered in other national and Local Government agencies shall also be recognized as registered organizations by the Sangguniang Kabataan, provided that the organization is based and/or operates in the barangay.

D. **RENEWAL, VERIFICATION, AND CONTINUING LOCAL REGISTRATION** - Registered youth and youth-serving organizations shall renew their registration and verification every three (3) years. The Sangguniang Kabataan shall conduct a continuing registration procedure taking into consideration the budgetary and manpower requirements and the presence of youth and youth-serving organizations.

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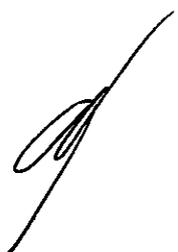
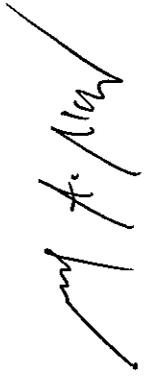
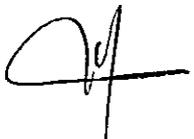
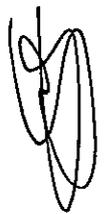
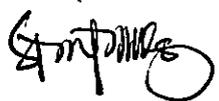
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- E. **CONDITION PRECEDENT** - Registration and verification of youth organization and youth-serving organization is a condition precedent for participation in the Barangay Youth Development Council elections.
- F. **QUALIFICATION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE BYDC** - A member of the BYDC must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of (Insert Barangay) for not less than one (1) year immediately preceding the day of their election to the BYDC. They must be at least fifteen (15) years, but not more than thirty (30) years of age on the day of their election to the Council, able to read and write, Filipino, English, and must not have been convicted by final judgment of any crime involving moral turpitude.
- G. **COMPOSITION OF THE BYDC** - The BYDC shall be at least nine (9) members and at most twenty-one (21) members, and composed of the following:
1. SK Chairperson as the Chairperson of the BYDC
 2. Sectoral Chairperson as Co-Chairperson
 3. SK Secretary and SK Treasurer as the Secretary and Treasurer of the BYDC
 4. SK Councilor or the Chairperson of Committee on Active Citizenship
 5. Representative/s from in-school youth sector;
 6. Representative/s from out-of-school youth sector;
 7. Representative/s from working youth sector;
 8. Representative/s from women youth sector;
 9. Representative/s from LGBTQIA+ youth sector;
 10. Representative/s from Persons-with-Disability youth sector;
 11. Representative/s from cultural identity-based youth sector; and
 12. Representative/s from faith-based youth sector.



H. **MANNER OF ELECTIONS** - Within forty-five (45) days after the SK elections, the SK shall notify all the presidents or authorized representatives of the registered youth organizations and youth-serving organizations in the barangay, assemble them in a public venue, and by consensus per or secret balloting per youth sector. These representatives shall serve for a term of three (3) years as members of the BYDC.

I. **ELECTION OF BYDC SECTORAL CHAIRPERSON AS CO-CHAIRPERSON.** The representatives from the youth organizations or youth-serving organizations shall vote among themselves a Sectoral Chairperson who shall serve a term of two (3) years. No Sectoral Chairperson shall serve for more than three (3) consecutive terms.

The Sectoral Chairperson shall act as Co-Chairperson of the BYDC with the SK Chairperson. The Sectoral Co-Chairperson shall coordinate with the SK Chairperson in all matters relating to sectoral concerns.

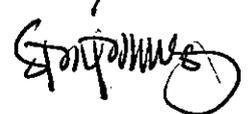
The SK Chairperson shall be the official representative of the BYDC to the Barangay Council as provided for by law.

J. **CONVENING OF THE BYDC.** Any of the chairpersons (SK Chairperson and the Sectoral Chairperson) with the concurrence of one another may call a meeting. The SK Chairperson, or in their absence, the Sectoral Co-Chairperson shall initially convene the Council and shall be given preference to preside over the meeting.

K. **MEETINGS AND QUORUM.**

1. The BYDC shall schedule a meeting every month, and as often as needed. However, if the Chairperson or the Sectoral Chairperson fails to convene the BYDC as scheduled, at least one-third of the total membership of the BYDC may call for a meeting. In both instances, a written notice shall be sent either through traditional or non-traditional means, to all members setting the date, time, place, and agenda of the meeting which must be received at least two (2) days in advance.

2. The presence of the majority (50% + 1) of all members of the BYDC shall constitute a quorum.



L. DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE BYDC. The BYDC shall discharge the following duties and functions:

1. Serve as the core of the advocacy on youth participation in nation-building and youth empowerment at the barangay level;
2. Finalize the three (3) year CBYDP as approved by the Katipunan ng Kabataan that is anchored in the LYDP and the PYDP and the Local Development Plans.
3. Monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Comprehensive Barangay Youth Development Plan;
4. To formulate and approve the internal rules and regulations of the Council including policies addressing representation, substitution, absence, and delinquency of council members; and
5. Perform such other functions as may be provided by law or ordinances.

M. SPECIAL BODIES AND COMMITTEES. The members of the BYDC shall create regular or special committees based on the existing committee of the Sangguniang Kabataan, where the Chairperson of the formed committees will become members of the corresponding committees of the Sangguniang Kabataan.

N. ADVISORY GROUP - The following shall be resource persons whom the Barangay Youth Development Council may invite to shed light and advise the body on pertinent issues affecting the:

1. Representative from the Barangay Council
2. Representative from SK Federation
3. Representative from Local Youth Development Office
4. National Anti-Poverty Commission- Youth and Students Sector Council Member
5. Representative from non-governmental organizations/civil society organizations

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- O. **BARANGAY YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL FUNDS** - The BYDC shall be funded by their respective Sangguniang Kabataan. The province, city, municipality, and barangay may provide additional funding. All expenditures of these funds shall be subject to COA rules and regulations.

**ARTICLE V
GENERAL DECLARATION OF YOUTH RIGHTS**

SECTION 9. FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF THE YOUTH - All youth within the Municipality of Jaro are entitled to the following fundamental rights:

- A. Right to Governance and Active Citizenship
- B. Right to Culture and Patriotism
- C. Right to Health and Well-being
- D. Right to Quality and Inclusive Education
- E. Right to Economic Empowerment
- F. Right to Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI)
- G. Right to Peacebuilding and Security
- H. Right to Agricultural Development and Food Security
- I. Right to Environmental Protection and Climate Action
- J. Right to Global Citizenship and International Engagement

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SECTION 10. RECOGNITION, PROTECTION, AND PROMOTION OF YOUTH RIGHTS - The Local Government of the Municipality of Jaro shall recognize, uphold, and protect the fundamental rights of the youth as declared in this Ordinance. These rights are interrelated, interdependent, and indivisible, and no right shall be exercised in a manner that infringes upon or diminishes another.

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In pursuit of this mandate, the Local Government, in coordination with families, parents, non-government organizations, civil society organizations, communities, and other government agencies, shall adopt measures to safeguard and promote the rights of the youth. It shall develop and implement policies, programs, and initiatives designed to provide avenues, facilities, platforms, and interventions that facilitate the full enjoyment of these rights.

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To ensure the effective realization of youth rights, the Local Government shall institutionalize mechanisms for enforcement, monitoring, and evaluation, ensuring that all relevant stakeholders fulfill their respective roles in fostering an environment conducive to youth development, participation, and empowerment.

**ARTICLE VI
RIGHT TO GOVERNANCE AND ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP**

SECTION 11. RECOGNITION OF YOUTH GOVERNANCE RIGHTS - The Local Government of Jaro shall recognize and uphold the right of the youth to participate in governance and active citizenship. The youth shall have the right to engage in decision-making processes, influence public policies, and access mechanisms for meaningful participation in democratic governance.

The Local Government shall implement policies, programs, and institutional mechanisms to ensure youth empowerment, representation, and engagement in political and civic affairs. These efforts shall include, but are not limited to, participation in local councils, advisory bodies, policy advocacy, and electoral processes.

SECTION 12. YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING - The youth shall have the right to actively participate in shaping policies, programs, and services that directly or indirectly affect their welfare. The Local Government shall:

- A. Recognize and institutionalize the **Local Youth Development Council (LYDC)** as a consultative body to ensure youth representation in decision-making processes. The LYDC shall have representation in advisory boards, councils, and committees to provide insights and recommendations on youth-related policies and programs.
- B. Appoint youth representatives to **Local Government committees and task forces** focusing on key areas such as education, health, environment, and youth affairs, ensuring their active involvement in policy development and implementation.
- C. Institutionalize the **Katipunan ng Kabataan (KK)** as the highest policymaking body representing the youth at the barangay level.

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The **Sangguniang Kabataan (SK)** shall consult and secure the concurrence of the majority of KK members, subject to a quorum, in the formulation and approval of policies, programs, and activities such as the Comprehensive Barangay Youth Development Plan (CBYDP) and Annual Barangay Youth Investment Program (ABYIP).

SECTION 13. YOUTH ACCESS TO INFORMATION - To uphold transparency, accountability, and informed decision-making, the youth shall have the right to access accurate and relevant information regarding governance, political processes, policies, and public affairs. The Local Government shall ensure this right through the following mechanisms:

- A. **Local Youth Assembly** - The Local Government, through the SK Federation officers and the Local Chief Executive, shall conduct reporting and consultations specifically targeting young people through a Local Youth Assembly to provide updates on programs and projects, financial reports, performance evaluations, and other relevant data. The youth shall have the opportunity to review and scrutinize reports, ask questions, and hold leaders accountable for their actions and decisions.
- B. **Katipunan ng Kabataan (KK) Assembly** - Regular assemblies of the KK shall be held at least once every six (6) months, convened by the SK. The SK Council, headed by the SK Chairperson, shall present the annual and end-of-term program accomplishments and financial reports. The KK shall have the opportunity to review and scrutinize reports, ask questions, and hold the SK accountable for their actions and decisions.
- C. **State of the Youth Address** - An annual State of the Youth address, which may be held separately or simultaneously with the local youth assembly, shall take place in each Municipality. This event will be led by the SK Federation President at the provincial, municipal, or city level, and in every Barangay, it will be led by the SK Chairperson.

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D. **Full Disclosure Policy Bulletin.** There shall be a local youth full disclosure policy bulletin, a centralized platform for disseminating information related to youth development initiatives, programs, and services in the community.

1. The bulletin contains a wide range of information pertaining to youth-related policies, programs, projects, and expenditures. This may include details on budget allocations, expenditure reports, project proposals, progress updates, evaluation findings, and success stories related to youth development initiatives.
2. The bulletin shall be accessible to all stakeholders, including youth, parents, educators, policymakers, and members of the public. It shall be distributed through various channels to ensure widespread access and visibility. This may include electronic distribution via email, social media platforms, and the official website of the Local Government or youth organization.
3. Every Sangguniang Kabataan shall create and update a Full Disclosure Policy Bulletin in every Barangay.

SECTION 14. YOUTH FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION AND EXPRESSION

- A. **Freedom of Association.** Youth shall have the right to form and join associations, organizations, and movements to advance their interests, advocate for policies, and contribute to social and political change. No restrictions shall be imposed on lawful youth organizing, except as provided by law to protect public safety and order.
- B. **Freedom of Expression.** The youth shall have the right to express their opinions, ideas, and beliefs freely through speech, writing, art, social media, and other lawful forms of expression. Any form of suppression or censorship shall be prohibited, except in cases involving threats to public safety, incitement of violence, or defamation as defined by law.

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SECTION 15. YOUTH SUFFRAGE AND ELECTORAL PARTICIPATION - The youth shall have the right to participate in the electoral process by exercising their right to vote and seek public office.

- A. The Local Government shall implement voter education initiatives to promote youth engagement in elections at both local and national levels. It shall undertake campaigns, workshops, and outreach programs to encourage voter registration, electoral participation, and informed decision-making.
- B. The Local Government shall collaborate with national electoral bodies to ensure accessible and widely promoted voter registration among young constituents, including the establishment of convenient registration centers and awareness campaigns.

SECTION 16. YOUTH RIGHT TO RUN FOR PUBLIC OFFICE - The youth shall have the right to seek elective and appointive positions in government, including but not limited to Sangguniang Kabataan elections.

- A. The Local Government shall establish youth-friendly political environments that encourage young candidates to run for office without intimidation, discrimination, or unnecessary barriers.
- B. Policies shall be enacted to promote fair, inclusive, and transparent elections, ensuring that young individuals have an equal opportunity to participate in governance.

**ARTICLE VII
RIGHT TO CULTURE AND PATRIOTISM**

SECTION 17. RECOGNITION OF CULTURE AND PATRIOTISM RIGHTS - The Local Government of Jaro, Leyte shall recognize, uphold, and promote the right of the youth to culture and patriotism as an essential component of identity formation, national pride, and active citizenship. The Local Government shall formulate and implement inclusive, engaging, and empowering policies and programs that foster a deep appreciation for cultural heritage, strengthen national consciousness, and inspire civic responsibility among the youth.

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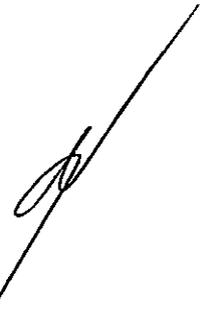
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To achieve these objectives, the Local Government shall undertake, but shall not be limited to, the following programs and services:

- A. **Cultural Education and Heritage Preservation** - The Local Government shall prioritize educational initiatives that celebrate and preserve cultural heritage. These initiatives may include integrating cultural studies into school curricula, organizing cultural festivals and events, and supporting local arts, crafts, music, and dance traditions.
- B. **Patriotic Education and Civic Values** - The Local Government shall support initiatives such as civics education programs, youth forums, and leadership training opportunities that educate young people about national history, symbols, values, and democratic principles.
- C. **Celebration of National Holidays and Commemorative Events** - The Local Government shall organize and support commemorative events to mark significant national holidays, anniversaries, and historical milestones to reinforce national identity and collective memory.
- D. **Access to Recreational and Cultural Facilities** - The Local Government shall ensure access to recreational and cultural facilities, such as parks, museums, libraries, and community centers, to provide youth with opportunities to explore their interests, connect with peers, and engage in cultural activities such as "Laro ng Lahi" and "Buwan ng Wika."
- E. **Cultural Festivals and Markets** - The Local Government shall organize cultural festivals, bazaars, and markets to provide platforms for showcasing locally made products, traditional crafts, indigenous artistry, and culinary delights from various cultural, ethnic, and religious communities.
- F. **Promotion of Artisanal and Handicraft Industries** - The Local Government shall support local artisans, craftsmen, and indigenous communities in producing and marketing traditional handicrafts, textiles, pottery, and artwork.



G. **Protection of Cultural Freedom** - The Local Government shall safeguard the rights of youth to practice cultural activities, such as performances, rituals, and ceremonies, free from discrimination, harassment, or abuse. Any person or group found guilty of violating these rights shall be subject to penalties in accordance with existing laws and local ordinances.

**ARTICLE VIII
RIGHT TO HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**

SECTION 18. RECOGNITION OF HEALTH AND WELL-BEING RIGHTS - The Local Government of the Municipality of Jaro recognizes the right of the youth to health and well-being, ensuring their access to comprehensive healthcare, adequate nutrition, reproductive health services, mental health support, and sports and recreation. The LGU shall implement policies and programs aimed at protecting young people from health risks and ensuring financial risk protection in healthcare services, regardless of socio-economic status.

To achieve these objectives, the Local Government shall undertake, but shall not be limited to, the following programs and services:

- A. **Access to Comprehensive Healthcare:** Youth have the right to access comprehensive healthcare services that address their physical, mental, and emotional well-being, without discrimination based on factors such as age, gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, religion, disability, or socio-economic status. This includes preventive care, primary healthcare, reproductive health services, mental health support, and treatment for substance abuse;
- B. **Adequate Nutrition.** Youth have the right to access sufficient and nutritious food to address specific nutritional needs during crucial stages of growth and development. This ensures prevention of undernutrition, stunted growth, and micronutrient deficiencies.
- C. **Confidentiality and Privacy:** Youth have the right to confidentiality and privacy in healthcare settings. This means that their medical information, including reproductive health and mental health issues, should be kept confidential, and their privacy respected during examinations and consultations;

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- D. **Reproductive Health:** Youth have the right to access accurate information and services related to reproductive health, including contraception, family planning, sexual education, and pregnancy-related care. They also have the right to make informed decisions about their reproductive health without coercion or discrimination;
- E. **Sexual and Gender Health:** Youth have the right to sexual and gender health services that are inclusive, non-discriminatory, and respectful of their identities and orientations. This includes access to HIV/AIDS prevention, testing, and treatment, as well as support for LGBTQ+ youth;
- F. **Preventive Health Services:** Youth have the right to access preventive healthcare services, including vaccinations, screenings, and health education programs aimed at promoting healthy lifestyles, preventing diseases, and reducing risk factors such as smoking, substance abuse, and unsafe sexual practices;
- G. **Mental Health Support:** Youth have the right to access mental health services and support to address issues such as depression, anxiety, stress, trauma, and suicidal thoughts. This includes counseling, therapy, crisis intervention, and access to psychiatric care when needed;
- H. **Sports and Recreations:** Youth have the right to access facilities, equipment, coaching, mentorship programs, and support in competitions for sports and recreational activities. This encompasses providing funding for programs, scholarships, and subsidies, as well as investing in infrastructure, resources, and initiatives that promote youth participation in sports and recreation.
- I. **Substance Abuse Treatment:** Youth struggling with substance abuse have the right to access treatment and rehabilitation services to overcome addiction and regain control of their lives. This includes detoxification, counseling, peer support programs, and rehabilitation programs tailored to the needs of youth;

- J. **Informed Consent and Participation:** Youth have the right to be informed about their healthcare options, participate in decisions about their treatment, and give informed consent for medical procedures. Healthcare providers should involve youth in their care and respect their autonomy and preferences.
- K. **Comprehensive Health Education:** Youth have the right to access comprehensive health education that covers physical, mental, emotional, and social aspects of well-being. It includes teaching about nutrition, exercise, hygiene, mental health, relationships, sexuality, disease prevention, life skills, risk reduction, and community health to empower young people to make informed decisions, adopt healthy behaviors, and lead fulfilling lives while contributing to a healthier community.

**ARTICLE IX
RIGHT TO QUALITY AND INCLUSIVE EDUCATION**

SECTION 19. RECOGNITION OF RIGHT TO QUALITY AND INCLUSIVE EDUCATION - The Local Government of the Municipality of Jaro recognizes the fundamental right of every youth to accessible, quality, and inclusive education. The LGU shall formulate policies and programs to address the concerns of In-School Youth and Out-of-School Youth, particularly in reducing dropout rates, improving literacy, expanding access to educational opportunities, enhancing facilities and resources, and addressing academic performance challenges.

SECTION 20. IN-SCHOOL YOUTH - In-School Youth refer to individuals who are currently enrolled in formal educational institutions, including primary, secondary, and tertiary schools. This section aims to uphold their welfare and ensure that they have access to quality education, holistic development, and a safe learning environment.

To safeguard their well-being and rights, the following shall be upheld:

- A. **Protection Against Discrimination in Educational Institutions** – No student shall be denied admission, expelled, subjected to disciplinary action, or deprived of scholarships and other privileges based on disability, socio-economic status, political and religious beliefs, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or organization membership.

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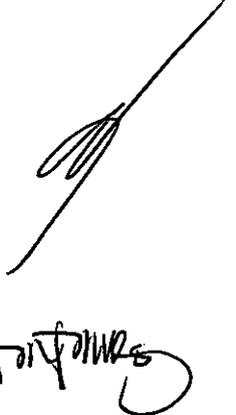
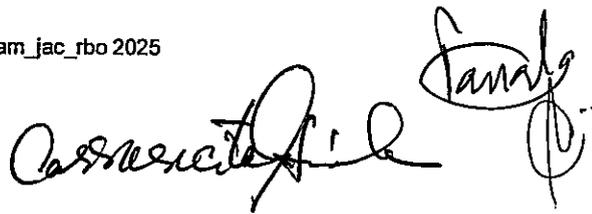
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- B. **Access to Quality and Relevant Education** – Schools shall provide an education that fosters critical thinking, creativity, and holistic personal development. Students shall also have the opportunity to evaluate teacher performance each term.
- C. **Freedom to Organize** – Students may establish or join organizations, alliances, or federations. Accredited groups may coordinate activities with the Office of Student Affairs. Schools must provide a designated space for student organizations.
- D. **Establishment of a Student Council or Government** – Every school shall recognize a student council or government as the primary representative body of students.
- E. **Protection Against Campus Militarization** – Schools shall ensure that students enjoy an academic environment free from military and police surveillance or interference.
- F. **Freedom to Publish Student Publications** – Schools shall uphold the **Campus Journalism Act of 1991 (RA 7079)** by ensuring that students can publish independent newspapers and other media.
- G. **Access to Adequate Welfare Services and Facilities** – Schools shall maintain functioning clinics, counseling services, libraries, laboratories, and recreational facilities.
- H. **Representation in the School's Policy-Making Body** – A student representative shall be part of the highest policy-making body of the school, chosen through a selection process established by the student government.
- I. **Access to Information** – Students shall have access to matters affecting their welfare, including school policies, tuition fee breakdowns, and student government decisions.
- J. **Freedom of Expression and Assembly** – Students may express their views freely and organize peaceful assemblies to raise concerns without fear of disciplinary action.



- K. **Academic Freedom** – Students shall have intellectual autonomy in their studies and be encouraged to engage in critical discourse.
- L. **Due Process in Disciplinary Cases** – No student shall be suspended, expelled, or otherwise penalized without due process.
- M. **Fair Academic Procedures** – Students shall have the right to make up for missed academic requirements due to excusable absences and access their class performance records.
- N. **Access to School Records** – Students shall have timely access to transcripts, diplomas, certificates, and other school documents within **30 days** of a request.
- O. **Privacy of Communication and Personal Data** – Student correspondence and records shall be protected from unauthorized access.

SECTION 21. OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH - Out-of-School Youth refers to individuals who are not enrolled in formal education due to economic, social, or personal circumstances. This section ensures that they have opportunities for learning, training, and reintegration into education and the workforce.

To address their needs and promote their development, the following shall be upheld:

- A. **Access to Education and Training** – Alternative education, vocational training, and non-formal learning programs shall be made available to help them acquire essential skills.
- B. **Provision of Learning Materials and Financial Assistance** – Support in the form of study materials, vocational tools, transportation allowances, and stipends shall be provided to encourage participation in educational programs.
- C. **Scholarships and Financial Support** – Out-of-School Youth shall have access to financial aid programs such as those under **RA 10931 (Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act)** and **RA 10687 (UniFAST Act)** to support their educational pursuits.

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- D. **Recognition of Prior Learning** – Skills and competencies acquired through informal or non-formal education shall be assessed and accredited to facilitate employment or further education.
- E. **Support for Educational Reintegration** – Counseling, mentorship, and tailored learning programs shall be provided to help them transition back into formal education or vocational training.
- F. **Participation in Educational Decision-Making** – Out-of-School Youth shall be given a platform to advocate for their needs and contribute to the development of education policies and programs.

**ARTICLE X
RIGHT TO ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT**

SECTION 22. RECOGNITION OF ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT RIGHTS - The Local Government of the Municipality of Jaro recognizes, upholds, and guarantees the right of the youth to economic empowerment through access to quality employment, entrepreneurship, and livelihood opportunities. These rights safeguard young individuals from work-related vulnerabilities, including discrimination, underemployment, precarious contractual arrangements, occupational hazards, forced labor, and child labor.

The Local Government shall empower the youth to achieve economic self-sufficiency, contribute to national development, and foster a sustainable and inclusive economy. To achieve these objectives, the Local Government shall undertake, but shall not be limited to, programs and services for employment, entrepreneurship, and livelihood.

SECTION 23. EMPOWERED YOUNG WORKERS - The Local Government shall ensure the protection and welfare of young workers by upholding their rights to decent work and labor protections. Youth in employment shall have the following rights:

- A. **Right to Decent Work** – Access to fair wages, safe working conditions, and career growth opportunities.
- B. **Right to Equal Treatment** – Protection against discrimination based on age, gender, ethnicity, religion, or disability.

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- C. **Right to Work-Life Balance** – Reasonable working hours, rest periods, and opportunities for personal development.
- D. **Right to Health and Safety** – Protection from occupational hazards and unsafe working conditions. Employers must ensure compliance with safety standards and regulations.
- E. **Right to Fair Compensation** – Entitlement to minimum wages, overtime pay, social security, and paid leave benefits.
- F. **Right to Freedom of Association** – Ability to join trade unions, labor organizations, or youth associations to protect their rights and interests.
- G. **Right to Education and Training** – Access to training programs and continuing education to enhance employability and career growth.
- H. **Right to Social Protection** – Inclusion in unemployment benefits, health insurance, and social assistance programs to mitigate economic vulnerabilities.

SECTION 24. EMPOWERED YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS - The Local Government shall promote youth entrepreneurship by providing mechanisms that support young entrepreneurs in establishing and sustaining their businesses. Youth entrepreneurs shall have the following rights:

- A. **Right to Entrepreneurial Opportunities** – Access to entrepreneurial support services enabling youth to start, manage, and expand their enterprises.
- B. **Right to Economic Freedom** – Autonomy in business decision-making, market participation, and pursuit of innovation.
- C. **Right to Financial Resources** – Access to loans, grants, and investment capital to overcome financial barriers in starting and scaling businesses.
- D. **Right to Business Support Services** – Access to mentorship, coaching, training, and networking to enhance business knowledge and management skills.

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- E. **Right to Intellectual Property Protection** – Protection of trademarks, copyrights, and patents to safeguard innovations and creative works.
- F. **Right to Market Access** – Equal opportunities for youth entrepreneurs to participate in trade fairs, procurement programs, and e-commerce platforms.
- G. **Right to Business Development** – Support for expansion, partnerships, and collaborative ventures to ensure sustainability.
- H. **Right to Recognition and Support** – Government, industry, and community recognition for contributions to economic growth, job creation, and innovation.

ARTICLE XI
RIGHT TO GENDER EQUALITY, DISABILITY, AND SOCIAL INCLUSION (GEDSI)

SECTION 25. RECOGNITION OF GENDER EQUALITY, DISABILITY, AND SOCIAL INCLUSION (GEDSI) RIGHTS - The right to Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) ensures that all youth, regardless of gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, ethnicity, economic status, or personal circumstances, can fully participate in society free from discrimination, exclusion, or systemic barriers.

This right specifically upholds the dignity, protection, and empowerment of young LGBTQIA+ individuals, young women, indigenous young people, indigent young people, young persons with disabilities (PWDs), youth in conflict with the law, and young victim-survivors of abuse by ensuring their meaningful participation, representation, and inclusion in all aspects of governance and community life.

The Local Government of Jaro, in collaboration with families, non-government organizations, civil society, and other government agencies, shall enact measures to eliminate discrimination, promote inclusivity, and protect marginalized youth from violence, exploitation, and exclusion.

SECTION 26. PROTECTION FROM DISCRIMINATION AND MARGINALIZATION - To guarantee the full exercise of GEDSI rights, the Local Government shall prohibit and penalize all forms of discrimination, exclusion, and bias against vulnerable youth, including but not limited to:

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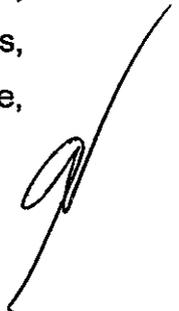
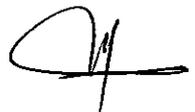
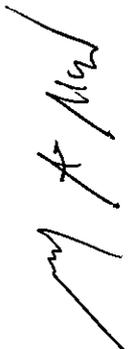
- A. Discrimination based on gender, sexual orientation, disability, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status in governance, leadership, and civic participation.
- B. Exclusion of marginalized youth from community programs, youth councils, and policymaking processes.
- C. Denial of services or opportunities to young LGBTQIA+ individuals, young women, young PWDs, indigenous youth, and other marginalized groups in public and private institutions.
- D. Cultural and institutional barriers that limit the rights of indigenous young people, indigent youth, and youth in conflict with the law from participating in social and political activities.

The Local Government shall adopt, strengthen, and enforce anti-discrimination ordinances and establish reporting and grievance mechanisms to address cases of marginalization.

SECTION 27. REPRESENTATION AND PARTICIPATION OF MARGINALIZED YOUTH - To ensure equitable representation, the Local Government shall:

- A. **Institutionalize the representation of marginalized youth** - including young LGBTQIA+ individuals, young women, young PWDs, indigenous youth, indigent youth, youth in conflict with the law, and young victim-survivors of abuse—in local youth councils, advisory bodies, and development committees.
- B. **Mandate youth-focused governance structures** - to adopt policies and programs that are inclusive and responsive to the needs of vulnerable youth.
- C. **Ensure accessibility in civic engagement** by removing physical, financial, and systemic barriers that prevent the participation of young PWDs, indigent youth, and other disadvantaged groups.

SECTION 28. PROTECTION FROM GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE, ABUSE, AND EXPLOITATION - The Local Government shall adopt and enforce policies, programs, and mechanisms to prevent and respond to cases of gender-based violence, harassment, and abuse. The Local Government shall:



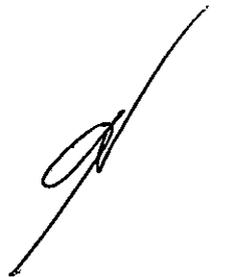
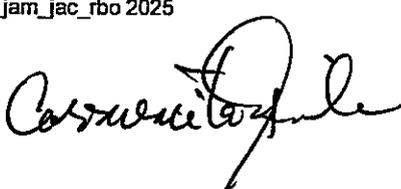
- A. Establish safe spaces and protection centers where marginalized youth can access legal assistance, counseling, and reintegration services.
- B. Implement community-based interventions to combat gender-based violence and abuse.
- C. Strengthen law enforcement and reporting mechanisms to ensure cases of violence and discrimination are addressed swiftly and fairly.

**ARTICLE XII
RIGHT TO PEACE-BUILDING AND SECURITY**

SECTION 29. RECOGNITION OF RIGHT TO PEACE-BUILDING AND SECURITY - The Local Government of Jaro recognizes the fundamental role of youth in fostering peace, security, and social cohesion. Youth shall be empowered to actively participate in peace-building efforts, conflict prevention, and the promotion of inclusive and just societies. The Local Government shall adopt policies and programs that enhance the capacity of youth to engage in dialogue, counter violent extremism, and contribute to the protection of communities, particularly in conflict-affected areas.

All youth in the Municipality of Jaro shall have the following rights:

- A. **Protection from Violence** - Youth have the right to live free from violence, conflict, and insecurity, including protection from armed conflict, political violence, gang violence, and other forms of physical or psychological harm.
- B. **Participation in Peace Processes**. Youth have the right to meaningful participation in peace-building efforts, conflict resolution, and reconciliation processes. Their perspectives and experiences must be considered in shaping sustainable and inclusive peace agreements.
- C. **Access to Justice**. Youth have the right to fair, impartial, and accountable justice systems that provide legal recourse for victims of violence, as well as opportunities for rehabilitation and reintegration for former combatants or individuals involved in conflict.
- D. **Freedom of Expression and Assembly**. Youth have the right to express their views, advocate for peace, and engage in civic activism without fear of repression or retaliation. Peaceful assembly and protest in furtherance of peace-building efforts shall be respected and protected.



- E. **Education for Peace.** Youth have the right to education that promotes peace, tolerance, diversity, and conflict resolution. The Local Government shall integrate peace education into curricula and provide training programs for educators and community leaders.
- F. **Protection from Recruitment.** Youth shall be protected from forced recruitment into armed groups or militias. The Local Government, in coordination with relevant agencies, shall implement preventive measures, rehabilitation programs, and reintegration efforts for youth affected by recruitment into conflict.
- G. **Protection from Abuse by State Actors.** Youth shall be protected from any form of mistreatment, violence, or exploitation perpetrated by government officials or institutions. Mechanisms for accountability and redress shall be established to ensure protection from state-perpetrated abuses.

SECTION 30. RIGHTS AND PROTECTIONS FOR YOUTH HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS (YHRDs) - Youth Human Rights Defenders (YHRDs) play a crucial role in promoting and protecting human rights within their communities. The Local Government shall ensure the protection and recognition of YHRDs, guaranteeing the following rights:

- A. **Protection from Violence and Harassment** – YHRDs shall be safeguarded from threats, intimidation, harassment, and reprisals arising from their human rights activities. The Local Government shall establish protective measures to ensure their safety and well-being.
- B. **Right to Legal Representation** – YHRDs shall have access to legal representation and justice mechanisms in cases where their rights are violated. This includes free legal aid, fair trials, and remedies for human rights abuses.
- C. **Right to Privacy** – YHRDs shall have the right to privacy and protection of personal data from unauthorized surveillance, monitoring, or interference by state and non-state actors.

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- D. **Right to Freedom of Movement** – YHRDs shall have the right to move freely within their locality and across regions to engage in human rights advocacy, attend forums, and collaborate with national and international partners.
- E. **Right to Support and Recognition** – YHRDs shall have the right to receive institutional support, recognition, and protection for their human rights work. This includes access to training, resources, and platforms to amplify their advocacy efforts.

**ARTICLE XIII
RIGHT TO AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD SECURITY**

SECTION 31. RECOGNITION OF RIGHT TO AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD SECURITY - The Local Government of the Municipality of Jaro shall recognize, uphold, and promote the right of the youth to agricultural development and food security as an essential component of sustainable national growth and rural advancement. The State and all relevant stakeholders shall ensure that the youth have equitable access to opportunities, resources, and support systems that enable their active participation in the agricultural sector.

SECTION 32. ACCESS TO AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND RESOURCES - The youth shall have the right to quality agricultural education, capacity-building programs, and technical training to enhance their knowledge and skills in modern, sustainable, and climate-resilient farming practices. The Local Government, in coordination with educational institutions, research agencies, and private sector partners, shall:

- A. Develop and integrate agriculture-focused curricula in formal and non-formal education;
- B. Provide scholarships, internship programs, and vocational training in agribusiness and farm management;
- C. Ensure access to farming resources, tools, and technology that improve productivity and sustainability.

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SECTION 33. YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN POLICY-MAKING AND AGRICULTURAL GOVERNANCE - The youth shall have the right to actively participate in agricultural policy-making, planning, and governance to strengthen their role in food production, rural development, and environmental sustainability. To achieve this, the Local Government shall:

- A. Establish youth representation in local agricultural councils, cooperatives, and rural development bodies;
- B. Support youth-led agricultural organizations and advocacy initiatives that promote sustainable farming and food security;
- C. Ensure that youth perspectives and innovations are integrated into agricultural development programs and policies.

SECTION 34. FAIR MARKET ACCESS, FINANCIAL SUPPORT, AND AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGIES - The youth engaged in agriculture shall have the right to equitable access to fair markets, financial support, and technological advancements that enhance productivity and economic sustainability. The Local Government, in partnership with financial institutions, cooperatives, and private sector stakeholders, shall:

- A. Provide financial assistance, grants, and low-interest loans for young farmers and agripreneurs;
- B. Facilitate market access and fair-trade opportunities to ensure sustainable livelihoods;
- C. Promote agricultural innovations, research, and digital technologies to modernize farming practices and improve efficiency.

**ARTICLE XIV
RIGHT TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND CLIMATE ACTION**

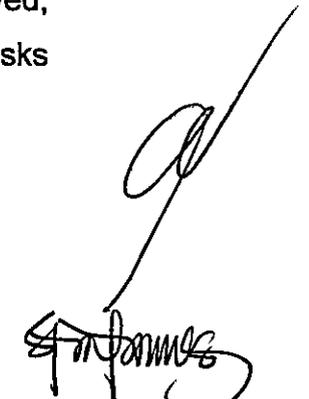
SECTION 35. RECOGNITION OF RIGHT TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND CLIMATE ACTION - The Local Government of Jaro, in collaboration with the Local Environment and Natural Resources Office, Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office, civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector, shall implement policies, programs, and projects aimed at environmental protection and conservation, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and disaster risk reduction and management, in alignment with just transition principles and sustainable development goals.

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To ensure the effective implementation of these initiatives, the Local Government Unit (LGU) shall allocate the necessary budget and institutionalize mechanisms for youth participation and engagement in environmental governance and climate action.

All youth in the Municipality of Jaro shall have the following rights:

- A. **Right to a Healthy Environment.** The youth shall have the right to live in a clean, safe, and ecologically balanced environment, free from pollution, degradation, and environmental hazards. This includes access to clean air, water, and land, as well as protection from harmful toxins and pollutants.
- B. **Right to Participate in Environmental Decision-Making.** The youth shall have the right to be informed, consulted, and actively engaged in decision-making processes related to environmental policies, projects, and initiatives that affect their present and future well-being. The Local Government shall provide institutional support and resources for youth-led environmental research, projects, and advocacy efforts.
- C. **Right to Environmental Education and Awareness.** The youth shall have the right to education and capacity-building programs on climate change, biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction, and sustainable practices. The Local Government shall integrate environmental education into formal and non-formal learning systems to equip the youth with the knowledge, skills, and values necessary for environmental stewardship.
- D. **Right to Climate Justice.** The youth shall have the right to advocate for climate justice and equity, ensuring that climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts prioritize vulnerable communities and uphold principles of fairness and intergenerational responsibility.
- E. **Right to a Sustainable Future.** The youth shall have the right to inherit a sustainable and resilient future, wherein ecosystems are preserved, natural resources are managed responsibly, and climate-related risks are mitigated through proactive and science-based approaches.



- F. **Right to Safety and Resilience.** The youth shall have the right to live in disaster-resilient communities, with access to early warning systems, emergency preparedness programs, and climate-adaptive infrastructure designed to withstand environmental shocks and disasters.
- G. **Right to Access Environmental Justice.** The youth shall have the right to seek legal remedies and accountability for environmental harm, pollution, or violations of their environmental rights. This includes the right to file complaints, participate in legal proceedings, and hold individuals, corporations, and government entities accountable for environmental violations.

**ARTICLE XV
RIGHT TO GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP AND INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT**

SECTION 36. RECOGNITION OF RIGHT TO GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP AND INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT - The Local Government of Jaro shall develop and implement policies and programs that promote global citizenship among the youth, recognizing the necessity of preparing them to thrive in an increasingly interconnected and diverse world. These initiatives shall aim to foster international awareness, cross-cultural understanding, and active participation in global affairs, thereby contributing to a more inclusive, sustainable, and cooperative international community.

To achieve these objectives, the Local Government shall undertake, but shall not be limited to, the following programs and services:

- A. **Cultural Exchange Programs:** The Local Government shall establish and support cultural exchange programs that allow young people to immerse themselves in different cultures, languages, and traditions. These programs can include student exchanges, volunteer opportunities abroad, and partnerships with international organizations to facilitate cross-cultural learning experiences. The Local Government can collaborate with the National Youth Commission, Department of Education, and Commission on Higher Education.

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- B. **Language Education:** The Local Government shall promote language education programs within schools and communities to equip youth with the linguistic skills needed to engage with people from diverse backgrounds and navigate global environments effectively. This could involve offering language classes, organizing language exchange events, or supporting language immersion programs. The Local Government can collaborate with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA).

- C. **International Internships and Work Opportunities:** The Local Government shall facilitate access to international internships, job placements, and volunteer opportunities to enable young people to gain valuable cross-cultural experiences, develop professional skills, and broaden their perspectives. The Local Government can collaborate with businesses, NGOs, and educational institutions to create pathways for youth employment and mobility.

- D. **Global Citizenship Education:** The Local Government shall integrate global citizenship education into school curricula and extracurricular activities to help young people develop critical thinking, empathy, and intercultural competence. This education can cover topics such as human rights, sustainability, social justice, and global issues, empowering youth to become responsible global citizens.

- E. **Access to Global Learning Resources:** The Local Government shall ensure equitable access to global learning resources, including libraries, museums, online courses, and educational materials, to enable youth to explore diverse perspectives, access information, and engage with global issues. Local Governments can invest in public libraries, digital infrastructure, and community centers that provide access to these resources.

- F. **Youth Leadership and Participation:** The Local Government shall empower youth to take on leadership roles and participate in decision-making processes at local, national, and international levels.

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ARTICLE XVI
LOCAL YOUTH CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT AND EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM:
TOWARDS NATION-BUILDING

SECTION 37. MANDATORY AND CONTINUING TRAINING PROGRAM - The Local Government shall design and implement a mandatory and continuing training program for all the members of registered youth and youth-serving organizations, Sangguniang Kabataan elective and appointive officials, and individual youth who are not affiliated with any organizations. Here are the trainings, including but not limited to the following:

- A. **Leadership and Governance Training** - This includes training sessions focused on leadership development, governance principles, and public service ethics. This equips youth leaders and SK officials with the knowledge and skills needed to fulfill their roles responsibly, lead effectively, and uphold human rights and ethical standards in decision-making and governance.
- B. **Legal and Regulatory Compliance** - This includes training sessions on relevant laws, regulations, and policies governing youth organizations and SK operations such as understanding the Local Government Code, SK Reform Act, and other pertinent legislation, as well as familiarizing participants with their rights and responsibilities as public servants.
- C. **Community Development and Social Responsibility** - This includes training on community development approaches, social responsibility, and participatory governance to engage with the communities effectively, identify needs, and mobilize resources for collective action. This may involve workshops on community organizing, project management, and stakeholder engagement.
- D. **Communication and Advocacy Skills** - This includes training on communication and advocacy skills, such as public speaking, media relations, social media management, and campaign strategies. These skills enable youth leaders to effectively communicate with constituents, advocate for their needs and priorities, and mobilize support for community initiatives.

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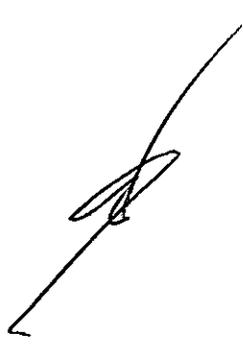
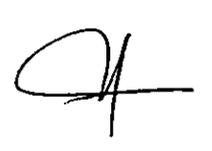
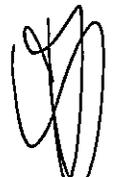
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- E. **Financial Management and Resource Mobilization** - This includes training on financial management, budgeting, and resource mobilization for ensuring transparency, accountability, and sustainability in youth organizations and SK projects. This may involve financial literacy, grant writing, fundraising strategies, and project budgeting to equip the youth leaders with the tools to manage funds responsibly and maximize impact.
- F. **Conflict Resolution and Mediation** - This includes training on conflict resolution, mediation, and consensus-building to help youth leaders and SK officials navigate interpersonal conflicts, address disputes, and foster constructive dialogue within their organizations and communities.
- G. **Monitoring and Evaluation** - This includes training on monitoring and evaluation to equip youth leaders with essential skills to assess program effectiveness. This includes understanding M&E concepts, developing comprehensive plans, collecting, and analyzing data, measuring outcomes, utilizing findings for decision-making, building organizational M&E capacity, adhering to ethical standards, and integrating M&E into program management. Such training strengthens their ability to plan, implement, and assess programs effectively, contributing to youth development and community empowerment.

SECTION 38. LOCAL YOUTH PARLIAMENT

- A. **Institutionalization.** The Local Youth Parliament shall be institutionalized, implemented, and maintained by the Local Government once every three years. It shall serve as a forum for young people to discuss and advocate for issues relevant to their lives and communities, enabling them to review, propose, and advocate for policies and initiatives that address youth concerns and contribute to positive social change.
- B. **Organizing Committee.** An organizing committee shall be convened to spearhead and manage the implementation of the program. The committee shall be supervised by the Program Coordinator for Program and Operations from the Local Youth Development Office and by the President of the Pambayan na Pederasyon ng mga Sangguniang Kabataan and shall be composed of SK Federation Officers and Local Youth Development Council members. The committee shall formulate guidelines and processes on how to implement the program.



SECTION 39. LINGGO NG KABATAAN - The Local Government shall conduct an annual activity to be known as the "Linggo ng Kabataan" on the week when the 12th of August falls to coincide with the International Youth Day. The SK, in the case of barangays, and the respective LYDC in cooperation with the Pederasyon ng mga SK, shall take the lead in this observance.

- A. The observance of the Linggo ng Kabataan shall include the election of counterparts of all local elective and appointive officials, as well as heads of national offices or agencies stationed or assigned in the territorial jurisdiction of the LGU, among in-school and community youth residing in the Local Government concerned from ages fifteen (18) to twenty-four (24). During the said week, they shall hold office as youth officials and shall perform such duties and conduct such activities as may be provided in the ordinance enacted pursuant to this IRR.

SECTION 40. LOCAL YOUTH OFFICIALS PROGRAM

- A. **Institutionalization** - The Local Youth Officials Program shall be institutionalized, implemented, and thereafter maintained by the Local Government to serve as an avenue for future leaders to be able to gain first-hand knowledge of government functions as related to community problems and development.
- B. **Organizing Committee** - An organizing committee shall be convened to spearhead and manage the implementation of the program. The committee shall be supervised by the Program Coordinator for Program and Operations from the Local Youth Development Office and by the President of the Pambayan na Pederasyon ng mga Sangguniang Kabataan and shall be composed of former Local youth officials. The committee shall formulate guidelines and processes on how to implement the program.
- C. **Oath of Office** - Selected Local youth officials shall take their oath of office before the Local Mayor at the date that shall be set by the Organizing Committee.

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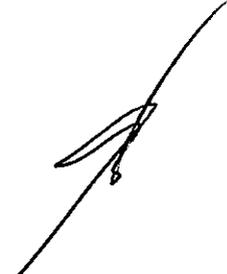
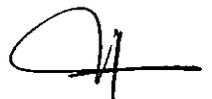
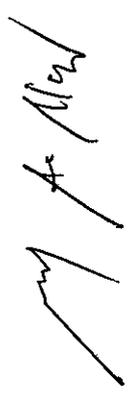
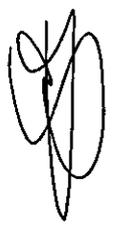
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- D. **Term of Office** - The Local Youth Officials shall serve for the period of one (1) week during the "Linggo ng Kabataan".
- E. **Honorarium** - The Local Youth Official is entitled to receive an honorarium based on their daily accomplishments during their tenure with their official counterparts. The amount of the honorarium shall be based on the amount that shall be set by the Organizing Committee subject to the approval of the Local Mayor.
- F. **Limitation** - The Local Youth Officials will be given the opportunity to handle the operations of the Local Government except in the areas which are policy determining or requiring monetary disbursements.

SECTION 41. SAGISAG NG MODELONG PAGGOGOBYERNO

- A. **Institutionalization.** The *Sagisag ng Modelong Paggogobyerno* Program shall be institutionalized, implemented, and thereafter maintained by the Local Government to recognize and reward outstanding performance demonstrated by Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) councils and officials, student governments, student leaders, youth, and youth-serving organizations, as well as youth leaders and volunteers within the community.
- B. **Organizing Committee.** An organizing committee shall be convened to spearhead and manage the implementation of the program. The committee shall be supervised by the Program Coordinator for Program and Operations from the Local Youth Development Office and by the President of the Pambayan na Pederasyon ng mga Sangguniang Kabataan and shall be composed of representatives from the municipal council, DILG, COA, NYC, and non-governmental organizations. The committee shall formulate guidelines and processes on how to implement the program.
- C. **Awarding of the Sagisag ng Modelong Paggogobyerno.** The *Sagisag ng Modelong Paggogobyerno* serves as a prestigious recognition, awarded biennially during the Linggo ng Kabataan celebration.



- D. **Incentives.** SMP awardees shall receive a cash incentive intended solely for supplementing the ongoing and new initiatives of the youth governing bodies. Additionally, winners will be presented with a plaque or certificate of recognition.

SECTION 42. JARO TEEN CENTER

- A. There shall be established a Teen Center under the supervision and management of the Local Youth Development Office (LYDO) of the Municipality of Jaro, Leyte. The Teen Center shall serve as a safe, inclusive, and youth-friendly facility that promotes the holistic growth and well-being of the youth through access to psychosocial, educational, and recreational programs. It shall function as a dedicated venue for:

1. **Mental health and psychosocial support** programs, including counseling, peer mentoring, and awareness campaigns;
2. **Adolescent sexual and reproductive health (ASRH)** education and referral services, in coordination with the
3. Municipal Health Office and accredited medical practitioners;
4. **Life skills and leadership trainings**, values formation sessions, and civic education activities;
5. **Recreational, cultural, and sports development** programs designed to encourage positive youth engagement and community interaction;
6. **Digital literacy and innovation activities**, including workshops on ICT, communication, and creative industries; and
7. **Youth consultation and participation mechanisms**, serving as a space for youth-led initiatives, dialogues, and policy discussions.

- B. The Teen Center shall be accessible to all children and youth aged eight (8) to thirty (30) years old, regardless of gender, status, or affiliation, and shall operate in partnership with public and private institutions, civil society organizations, and youth-serving groups.

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C. TEEN CENTER MANAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

1. The Local Youth Development Officer (LYDO) shall manage and coordinate the operations of the Teen Center and shall develop a Teen Center Operations Manual, subject to the approval of the Local Chief Executive.
2. The LYDO may enter into partnerships or memoranda of agreement (MOA) with national government agencies, private institutions, and non-government organizations for the provision of technical, financial, or professional assistance.
3. Partnerships may include coordination with the National Youth Commission (NYC), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Education (DepEd), Commission on Population and Development (POPCOM), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and other youth-serving or faith-based organizations.

D. ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL OF THE LOCAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT OFFICE - To ensure the efficient operation of the LYDO

and the Teen Center, the Local Government shall provide the following additional personnel positions, subject to the approval of the Local Chief Executive and the Sangguniang Bayan, and in accordance with Civil Service Commission (CSC) rules:

1. Program Development Officer – to coordinate youth programs, training, and evaluation;
2. Youth Welfare or Guidance Officer – to manage counseling, peer support, and Teen Center activities;
3. Part-time Guidance Counselor or Psychologist – to provide mental health services and referrals;
4. Volunteer or Support Staff – to assist in the implementation of activities, data gathering, and youth profiling.

The Human Resource Management Office (HRMO), in coordination with the Local Chief Executive, shall determine the appropriate status, salary grade, and qualifications for said personnel, subject to budgetary appropriations approved by the Sangguniang Bayan.

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- E. FUNDING AND MAINTENANCE** - The necessary funds for the establishment, operation, and maintenance of the Jaro Teen Center and the hiring of additional LYDO personnel shall be included in the Annual Investment Plan (AIP) and the annual budget of the Municipality of Jaro. The Local Government may also seek grants, partnerships, and donations from national agencies, private institutions, and development organizations, provided that such arrangements comply with all applicable laws and Commission on Audit (COA) regulations.

**ARTICLE XVII
DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE YOUTH**

SECTION 43. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE YOUTH - Youth as members of society shall have important duties and responsibilities, including but not limited to the following:

- A. Education and Self-Improvement** - Continuously strive to educate oneself, develop skills, and cultivate critical thinking abilities to contribute meaningfully to society.
- B. Community Engagement** - Actively participate in community service projects, volunteer work, and initiatives that address local issues such as poverty, homelessness, and environmental sustainability.
- C. Advocacy and Activism** - Advocate for social justice, human rights, and equality for all individuals, regardless of race, gender, religion, or socioeconomic status.
- D. Environmental Stewardship** - Take actions to protect the environment, promote sustainability, and combat climate change through conservation efforts, recycling, and adopting eco-friendly practices.
- E. Promoting Peace and Conflict Resolution** - Work towards fostering understanding, empathy, and peaceful resolutions to conflicts both locally and globally.
- F. Promotion of Health and Well-being** - Encourage healthy lifestyles, mental health awareness, and support initiatives that address public health issues such as access to healthcare, disease prevention, and mental wellness.

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- G. **Civic Engagement** - Participate in democratic processes, vote in elections, and engage in discussions about public policy issues to contribute to positive societal change.
- H. **Promotion of Diversity and Inclusion:** Embrace diversity, challenge discrimination, and foster inclusive environments that celebrate people of all backgrounds and identities.
- I. **Promotion of Technology for Good** - Utilize technology responsibly to innovate solutions for societal challenges, bridge digital divides, and promote access to information and resources.
- J. **Promotion of Global Citizenship** - Foster a sense of global responsibility, solidarity, and cooperation by supporting international development efforts, cultural exchange programs, and initiatives that address global challenges.
- K. **Empowerment of Marginalized Communities** - Advocate for the rights and empowerment of marginalized groups, including refugees, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, and LGBTQ+ individuals.
- L. **Defending National Interests** - Stand up for the sovereignty, security, and interests of their country, whether through diplomatic efforts, advocacy, or other means of constructive engagement.
- M. **Ethical Leadership** - Lead by example, demonstrate integrity, and inspire others to act ethically and responsibly in their interactions with others and the world around them.

**ARTICLE XVIII
FINAL PROVISIONS**

SECTION 44. APPROPRIATIONS – The Local Government shall appropriate an annual budget for the purpose of successful and efficient implementation of this ordinance. The said amount shall be lodged or included in the Local Youth Development Office.

SECTION 45. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this ordinance, the Local Youth Development Council, Sangguniang Kabataan Federation shall hold consultations, primarily with legal advisers and the youth, youth organizations, and youth-serving organizations. These consultations will determine effective ways and methods for the implementation of this ordinance and the crafting of Implementing Rules and Regulations.

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SECTION 46. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE – If any provision of this ordinance is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions, not affected thereby, shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 47. REPEALING CLAUSE – All provision of local ordinances, orders, resolutions, inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed and/or modified accordingly.

SECTION 48. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE – This ordinance shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper and after posting copies of this Ordinance in conspicuous locations within the **Municipality**.

ENACTED ON DECEMBER 9, 2025.

I HEREBY CERTIFY, to the correctness of the foregoing Ordinance.



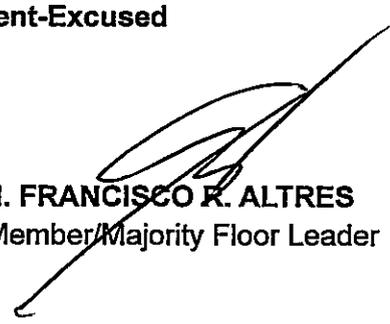
RENATO B. OBIÑA
Acting Secretary to the Sangguniang Bayan
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CONCURRED:

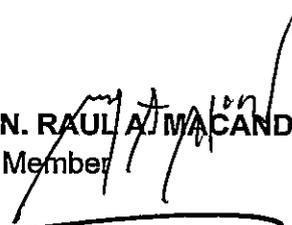
HON. REY P. AURE
SB Member/Presiding Officer Pro-Tempore
Absent-Excused



HON. LANULFO M. BORJA
SB Member



HON. FRANCISCO R. ALTRES
SB Member/Majority Floor Leader



HON. RAUL A. MACANDA
SB Member



HON. BENJAMIN H. GARIANDO, JR.
SB Member



HON. TEOFILO C. CABELLO
SB Member



HON. CARMENCITA G. TAÑALA
SB Member



HON. ALMA A. TAMAYO
SB Member



HON. ZANDRO T. MORABE
SB Member/LIGA FED.-President



HON. VIANCA MAE N. FAMILAR
SB Member/SK FED.-President

ATTESTED:



HON. PEDRO B. TAÑALA, JR.
Municipal Vice Mayor
SB Presiding Officer

APPROVED:



HON. JASSIE LOU TAÑALA
Municipal Mayor



Republic of the Philippines
 PROVINCE OF LEYTE
 MUNICIPALITY OF JARO

TANGGAPAN NG SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

MINUTES OF THE 20th REGULAR SESSION OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN
 OF JARO, LEYTE HELD AT THE SB SESSION HALL LEGISLATIVE BUILDING
 ON DECEMBER 9, 2025

PRESENT:

HON. PEDRO B. TAÑALA, JR.	-Municipal Vice Mayo/Presiding Officer
HON. FRANCISCO R. ALTRES	-SB Member/Majority Floor Leader
HON. LANULFO M. BORJA	-SB Member
HON. RAUL A. MACANDA	-SB Member
HON. TEOFILO C. CABELLO	-SB Member
HON. CARMENCITA G. TAÑALA	-SB Member
HON. ALMA A. TAMAYO	-SB Member
HON. BENJAMIN H. GARIANDO, JR.	-SB Member
HON. ZANDRO T. MORABE	-SB Member/LIGA Fed.-President
HON. VIANCA MAE N. FAMILAR	-SB Member/SK Fed.-President

ABSENT:

HON. REY P. AURE	-SB Member/Presiding Officer Pro-Tempore
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RECORDS OF THE PROCEEDINGS:

CALL TO ORDER, PRAYER, SINGING OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL ANTHEM AND ROLL CALL.

Honorable Pedro B. Tañala, Jr., Vice-Mayor and SB Presiding Officer called to order the 20th Regular Session of the Sangguniang Bayan at 10:02 in the morning. He then requested the SB Members to stand for the prayer, which was followed by the singing of the Philippine National Anthem.

PRAYER

The Body offered a silent prayer.

PAMBANSANG AWIT

The Body sang the Philippine National Anthem.

ROLL CALL

After the singing of the Philippine National Anthem, the Chair requested the SB Secretary to call the roll to determine if there is a quorum, as follows:

PRESENT:

HON. PEDRO B. TAÑALA, JR.	-Municipal Vice Mayo/Presiding Officer
HON. LANULFO M. BORJA	-SB Member
HON. FRANCISCO R. ALTRES	-SB Member/Majority Floor Leader
HON. RAUL A. MACANDA	-SB Member

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Page 2 of 67 Pages
MINUTES OF THE 20th SB REGULAR SESSION
HELD ON DECEMBER 9, 2025

HON. BENJAMIN H. GARIANDO, JR. -SB Member
HON. TEOFILO C. CABELLO -SB Member
HON. CARMENCITA G. TAÑALA -SB Member
HON. ALMA A. TAMAYO -SB Member
HON. ZANDRO T. MORABE -SB Member/LIGA Fed.-President
HON. VIANCA MAE N. FAMILAR -SB Member/SK Fed.-President

ABSENT:

HON. REY P. AURE -SB Member/Presiding Officer Pro-Tempore

The Chair declared that with Ten (10) Sangguniang Bayan members present, the 20th Sangguniang Bayan Regular Session had a quorum. The Chair then requested Honorable Francisco R. Altres, Majority Floor Leader, to facilitate the Order of Business for the day.

Honorable Francisco R. Altres obtained the floor and requested the reading of the minutes of the 19th Regular Session of the Sangguniang Bayan held on December 01, 2025. After the reading, the Chair asked the Body if there were any amendments to the minutes. Hearing none, the Chair declared that the minutes of the 19th Regular Session of the Sangguniang Bayan were duly adopted without amendments thereto, as read by the SB Secretary.

PRIVILEGE HOUR-NONE.

QUESTION HOUR-NONE

READING AND REFERRAL OF PROPOSED MEASURES: NONE

COMMITTEE REPORT: NONE

CALENDAR OF BUSINESS:

- A. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE
- B. BUSINESS FOR THE DAY:

ITEM NO. 1 – EXECUTIVE AGENDA:

FIRST READING RULE:

PROPONENT: HONORABLE CARMENCITA G. TAÑALA

Chairman Committee on Finance, Budget and Appropriations

APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE NO. 02

Series of 2025

A PROPOSED ORDINANCE APPROVING THE SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET NO. 01 FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 AMOUNTING TO TWENTY-TWO MILLION NINE HUNDRED THIRTY-NINE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED TWENTY PESOS AND 4/100 (PHP 22,939,520.04) TO BE UTILIZED FOR THE VARIOUS PROGRAMS, PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES (PPAs) AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE LGU JARO, LEYTE.

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Carmencita G. Tanala

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The Chair gave the floor to Hon. Carmencita G. Tañala to offer the motion and reading of number and title of the ordinance, under the first reading.

Hon. Carmencita G. Tañala, took the floor and read the number and title of the ordinance. Thereafter, in accordance with the rules on First Reading, she offered a motion, which was duly seconded.

Hon. Carmencita G. Tañala stated that since this matter was already discussed last session, she requested that a committee meeting be conducted to review the proposed ordinance, with the Sangguniang Bayan Members convening as a Committee of the Whole on December 09, 2025, 11:00 in the afternoon.

Hon. Teofilo C. Cabello manifested that since this is an Executive Agenda, it need not be referred to the committee level, as the passage of this ordinance is urgent.

At this point in time, Hon. Benjamin Gariando, Jr., moved for a five-minute recess, which was duly seconded. The Chair declared a recess at 10:31 A.M.

After the recess, the Chair declared the session resumed at 11:05 A.M.

Hon. Carmencita G. Tañala emphasized the need to refer the matter to committee level to thoroughly discussed the said ordinance.

The Chair then declared that Appropriation Ordinance No. 02, Series of 2025, is approved on first reading, referred to the Committee for review and encouraged all SB Members to attend the said committee meeting.

ITEM NO. 2 – EXECUTIVE AGENDA:

PROPONENT: HONORABLE FRANCISCO R. ALTRES

Chairman Committee on Education

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING HONORABLE JASSIE LOU TAÑALA, THE LOCAL CHIEF EXECUTIVE, TO ENTER INTO AND SIGN A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT (MOA) WITH THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS REPRESENTED BY THEIR SCHOOL HEAD OR PRINCIPAL FOR WORK IMMERSION PARTNERSHIP.

Hon. Francisco R. Altres moved for the approval of the proposed resolution, which was unanimously approved en masse by the Body.

Hon. Francisco R. Altres stated that there was a document transmitted by the school head or school principal regarding the immersion of the students.

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Carmencita Tañala

Thereafter, the Chair declared that Item No. 2 under the Business for the Day had been moved, carried, and approved en masse by the August Body.

**ITEM NO. 3- APPROVAL ON THIRD AND FINAL READING
OF ORDINANCE NO. 17 SERIES OF 2025
INTRODUCED BY: HONORABLE VIANCA MAE N. FAMILAR
Chairman Committee on Youth, Sports and Development**

**ORDINANCE NO. 17
SERIES OF 2025**

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE YOUTH WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT CODE OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF JARO, LEYTE, OTHER PURPOSE, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREOF.

The Chair recognized Hon. Vianca Mae N. Familiar to offer the motion which was duly seconded.

The Chair then opined and inquired from the floor if there were any minor amendments to the ordinance, and hearing none, requested Hon. Vianca Mae N. Familiar to offer the final motion.

Hon. Vianca Mae N. Familiar took the floor, and moved for its final approval, which was duly seconded en masse.

Thereafter, the Chair declared that **Municipal Ordinance No. 17, Series of 2025, otherwise known as the "COMPREHENSIVE YOUTH WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT CODE OF JARO, LEYTE"** has been moved, carried, and approved en masse by the August Body under the **third and final reading**.

**ITEM NO. 4- APPROVAL ON THIRD AND FINAL READING
OF ORDINANCE NO. 18 SERIES OF 2025
INTRODUCED BY: HONORABLE VIANCA MAE N. FAMILAR
Chairman Committee on Youth, Sports and Development**

**ORDINANCE NO. 18
SERIES OF 2025**

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE "MENTAL HEALTH AND CRISIS SAFETY PROGRAM" FOR THE YOUTH OF JARO, LEYTE; CREATING AND OPERATIONALIZING THE MUNICIPAL TEEN CENTERS AS SAFE AND YOUTH-FRIENDLY FACILITY FOR COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT; MANDATING THE CONDUCT OF PSYCHOLOGICAL FIRST AID (PFA) TRAININGS BY QUALIFIED HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE PROFESSIONALS, PROVIDING FOR MUNICIPAL REFERRAL AND CRISIS RESPONSE NETWORK; AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR ITS EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION.

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The Chair recognized Hon. Vianca Mae N. Familiar to offer the motion which was duly seconded.

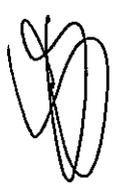
The Chair then opined and inquired from the floor if there were any minor amendments to the ordinance, and hearing none, requested Hon. Vianca Mae N. Familiar to offer the final motion.

Hon. Vianca Mae N. Familiar took the floor, and moved for its final approval, which was duly seconded en masse.

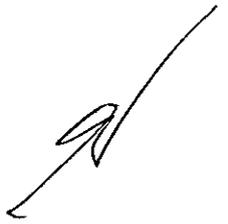
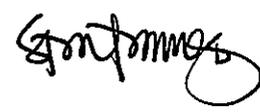
Thereafter, the Chair declared that **Municipal Ordinance No. 18, Series of 2025, otherwise known as the "MENTAL HEALTH AND CRISIS SAFETY ORDINANCE OF THE YOUTH OF JARO, LEYTE"** has been moved, carried, and approved en masse by the August Body under the **third and final reading**.

OTHER MATTERS:

1. Hon. Benjamin H. Gariando Jr. proposed a Resolution Congratulating and Commending Judge Carlos O. Arguelles for his achievement in successfully completing the Doctor of Juridical Science (S.J.D.) Degree, which was unanimously approved *en masse* by the August Body.
2. Hon. Lanulfo M. Borja raised concerns regarding a social media post about a complaint on the extraction of sand and gravel in Barangay Olotan. Although he had not personally inspected the site, he emphasized that the matter must be addressed by the Body. He stated that he would pay a courtesy call to the Punong Barangay of Olotan and personally visit the site. He further requested that Mr. Martin Cativo, in charge of the SAG operations, be invited to increase monitoring efforts, considering that there are sufficient personnel in the SAG office who can conduct monitoring. He mentioned that he had monitored SAG activities for several nights and observed that some posts had no personnel on duty. He expressed concern that illegal activities may occur during nighttime without their knowledge, stating that they could be robbed of resources unknowingly. He suggested holding a meeting with SAG personnel to strengthen the monitoring of exit points related to these activities.



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3. The Chair announced that the 4Ps Municipal Links were present for a courtesy call to discuss the salient points of Republic Act No. 11310, otherwise known as "An Act Institutionalizing the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps)." He stated that they intended to propose an ordinance prohibiting the pawning of cash cards of 4Ps beneficiaries.

Ms. Fernandez, together with other case managers, presented the salient points of RA 11310.

Hon. Carmencita G. Tañala asked how many 4Ps beneficiaries are in Barangay 1. Ms. Fernandez responded that there are 80 beneficiaries, adding that the number fluctuates every period.

Hon. Carmencita G. Tañala further asked whether 4Ps beneficiaries are required to perform activities in return for the grant provided by the government.

Ms. Fernandez replied that beneficiaries are encouraged to engage in community participation activities. She mentioned that this concern was raised by several Punong Barangays due to the perceived lack of community participation by some beneficiaries. She explained that community participation as a condition in exchange for the grant is not included in the IRR of the law; however, to meet halfway, they requested Punong Barangays to provide schedules of community clean-up activities so that the 4Ps beneficiaries could be informed, as beneficiaries tend to comply more with DSWD directives than those of the Punong Barangays.

Hon. Raul A. Macanda suggested that parent leaders should inform beneficiaries that attendance at the Barangay Assembly is mandatory. Ms. Fernandez stated that the suggestion was well taken.

Hon. Alma A. Tamayo asked about the interventions of the DSWD regarding the pawning of cash cards by 4Ps beneficiaries.

Ms. Fernandez replied that the practice cannot be fully prevented since their interventions apply only to the beneficiaries and not to the lenders.

Hence, they are requesting the August Body to enact an ordinance prohibiting the pawning of cash cards.

The Chair requested Hon. Raul A. Macanda to propose the requested ordinance regarding cash card pawning.

Hon. Francisco R. Altres asked about the purpose of the grants given to 4Ps beneficiaries.

Ms. Fernandez replied that the grants are intended for food and other basic needs.

The Chair asked whether the DSWD calls the attention of beneficiaries who use the grant for other purposes such as buying liquor or gambling.

Ms. Fernandez replied in the affirmative and stated that warnings are issued to such beneficiaries.

In relation thereto, Hon. Carmencita G. Tañala asked whether beneficiaries sign a contract upon registration.

Ms. Fernandez replied that beneficiaries take an Oath of Commitment. Hon. Benjamin H. Gariando Jr. asked about the process for obtaining an endorsement for the LPT.

Ms. Fernandez replied that their office has received several endorsements, which are processed on a region-wide basis. However, new applicants still have no endorsements due to late submission of required documents.

4. The Chair announced that the 174th Founding Anniversary will be held on December 10, 2025. A motorcade will take place at 7:00 A.M. Attire will be a white T-shirt, while SB members will wear their brown shirts. Registration will be at the Municipal Grounds from 6:00 A.M. to 7:00 A.M.

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Hon. Macanda asked whether the local holiday falls on December 10 or December 12, as DepEd was seeking clarification.

The Chair replied that December 10, 2025, is the declared local holiday according to the Mayor's Office.

There being no further business for consideration, Hon. Benjamin H. Gariando, Jr., moved for the adjournment of the session, duly seconded. Thereafter, the Chair declared the 20th SB Regular Session adjourned at 12:13 A.M.

EXCERPT RESOLUTION/ORDINANCE:

ITEM NO.1- PROPONENT: HONORABLE FRANCISCO R. ALTRES
Chairman Committee on Education, Legal Matters, Laws and Privileges

RESOLUTION NO. 2025 - 193

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING HONORABLE JASSIE LOU TAÑALA, THE LOCAL CHIEF EXECUTIVE, TO ENTER INTO AND SIGN A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT (MOA) WITH THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS REPRESENTED BY THEIR SCHOOL HEADS OR PRINCIPAL FOR WORK IMMERSION PARTNERSHIP.

WHEREAS, presented to the body by the Chairman of the Committee on Education, Legal Matters, Laws and Privileges for approval of the Sangguniang Bayan is an executive agenda, authorizing Honorable Jassie Lou Tañala, Local Chief Executive to enter into and sign a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Public and Private Schools represented by their School Heads or Principal for Work Immersion Partnership;

WHEREAS, this Body earnestly believes that for an effective implementation of the program, the LGU recognizes the importance for a safe work immersion environment for the students and teachers, which is conducive to learning, and to provide facilities for the use of the participating students, in order to attain the purpose of the work immersion program;

WHEREAS, it understood that the MOA is entered into by and between the LGU and the Public and Private Schools represented by their School Heads or Principal for the mutual compliance on the roles and responsibilities of the contracting parties, specifically provided for in the MOA;

NOW, THEREFORE, on motion of **Honorable Francisco R. Altres**, duly seconded en masse by the Honorable Sanggunian members present be it-

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RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED TO AUTHORIZED HONORABLE JASSIE LOU TAÑALA, THE LOCAL CHIEF EXECUTIVE, TO ENTER INTO AND SIGN A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT (MOA) WITH THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS REPRESENTED BY THEIR SCHOOL HEADS OR PRINCIPAL FOR WORK IMMERSION PARTNERSHIP;

RESOLVED FINALLY, to furnished copy of this resolution to the Municipal Mayor, the Public and Private Schools represented by their School Heads or Principal, the HRMO and to other offices concerned with their information.

APPROVED ON DECEMBER 9, 2025.

ITEM NO. 2- PROPONENT: HONORABLE VIANCA MAE N. FAMILAR
Chairman Committee on Youth, Sports and Development

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Philippine Constitution, under Section 13, Article II, provides that *"the State shall recognize the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being and shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs"*.

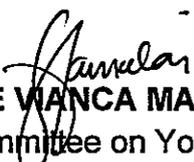
Republic Act 8044, also known as "The Youth in Nation-Building Act," was enacted to recognize and fulfill the responsibilities of the youth to actively contribute to the process of nation-building.

Chapter III, Section 23 of the Republic Act 10742 otherwise known as the "Sangguniang Kabataan Reform Act of 2015" has introduced reforms that includes the creation of Local Youth Development Council to ensure the wide and multi-sectoral youth participation in local governance.

There is a recognition of the necessity for the Lokal na Sanggunian to enact an ordinance that shall uphold the rights and ensure the promotion of general welfare of the youth and their protection from acts, conditions, or influences that are prejudicial to their development, and which shall set the guidelines for ordinances pertaining to the youth sector of the Municipality.

Republic Act No. 7160, also known as the Local Government Code of 1991, states that every Local Government Unit shall exercise powers expressly granted, those necessarily implied therefrom, as well as powers necessary, appropriate, or incidental for its efficient and effective governance, and those which are essential to the promotion of the general welfare.

To realize the municipality's vision of providing an enabling, safe, and youth-friendly environment for improving the well-being of its youth sector, there is a need to establish a Comprehensive Youth Code of Jaro, Leyte that will uphold the rights of youth, ensure the promotion of their general welfare, and shield them from detrimental influences or circumstances hindering their development, and which shall set the framework for ordinances pertaining to the youth sector of the Municipality of Jaro.


HONORABLE WANCA MAE N. FAMILAR
Chairman Committee on Youth, Sports and
Development

**ORDINANCE NO. 17
SERIES OF 2025**

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE YOUTH WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT CODE OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF JARO, LEYTE, OTHER PURPOSES, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREOF.

INTRODUCED BY: HONORABLE VIANCA MAE N. FAMILAR
Chairman Committee on Youth, Sports and Development

BE IT ORDAINED by the Sangguniang Bayan of Jaro, Leyte, in session assembled, that:

**ARTICLE I
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

SECTION 1. TITLE - This Ordinance shall be known as the "Comprehensive Youth Welfare and Development Code of Jaro, Leyte."

SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY - The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs.

SECTION 3. DEFINITION OF TERMS - For the purposes of this Code, the term:

- A. **Civil Rights** - shall refer to the rights that protect individuals' freedoms, liberties, and equality under the law. These rights ensure that people are treated fairly and are free from discrimination based on characteristics such as age, religion, ethnicity, health status, disability, social class, political affiliations, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Civil rights include freedoms such as the right to freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of assembly, freedom of movement, and the right to privacy. They guarantee individuals' autonomy and protection from arbitrary interference by the state or other entities;
- B. **Commission** - shall refer to the National Youth Commission;

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- C. **Community-based Youth** - shall refer to organizations whose majority of the membership are youth residing in the particular barangay or contiguous area and whose advocacy centers on serving the youth in that particular area;
- D. **Cultural Rights** - shall pertain to the right to participate in cultural life, the right to freely participate in cultural activities, and the right to access and enjoy cultural heritage. These rights recognize the importance of cultural identity, expression, and diversity in fostering individual and collective well-being;
- E. **Economic Rights** - shall include the right to work, the right to fair wages, the right to social security, and the right to an adequate standard of living. Economic rights ensure that individuals can access resources and opportunities necessary for their economic well-being and stability;
- F. **Environmental Rights** - shall relate to the right to a healthy environment, the right to access clean air and water, and the right to participate in environmental decision-making. These rights acknowledge the interconnectedness between human well-being and environmental sustainability, emphasizing the need to protect and preserve natural resources for present and future generations;
- G. **Faith-based Youth** - shall refer to all youth organizations that were organized under the rules and regulations of a religious institution and recognize as such;
- H. **In-School Youth** - shall refer to all youth of school age, whether organized or not, presently enrolled with any educational or vocational institution, which includes, but not limited to the following: school organizations (academic or non-academic), student government, fraternities, and sororities;
- I. **Local Chief Executive (LCE)** - shall refer to the provincial governor and city/municipal mayor.
- J. **Out-of-School-Youth** - shall refer to all youth of school age, whether organized or not, who are unable to avail of the formal school system or

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who have dropped out from formal elementary, secondary, tertiary, or vocational education;

- K. **Philippine Youth Development Plan (PYDP)** - shall refer to the comprehensive national plan expressing the convergence efforts of the different youth-serving national agencies, civil society organizations (CSOs), and youth organizations designed to promote the general welfare, development, and empowerment of the youth, in preparation for their vital role in nation-building. The formulation of the plan shall be spearheaded by the Commission and shall be based on the findings of the National Youth Assessment Study, Youth Development Index, and the directions set by the Philippine Development Plan. It may also take into consideration the findings of the different international organizations;
- L. **Political Rights** - shall refer to the rights that pertain to participation in the political process and governance. These rights enable individuals to engage in political activities, express their political beliefs, and participate in decision-making processes that affect their lives. Political rights include the right to vote, the right to run for public office, the right to join political parties or associations, and the right to engage in peaceful protest or advocacy;
- M. **Social Rights** - shall include the right to education, the right to healthcare, the right to housing, and the right to social protection. These rights aim to ensure that individuals have access to essential services and support systems that contribute to their social welfare and inclusion;
- N. **Special Advocacy-Based Youth** - shall refer to any youth organization whose primary purpose is to serve youth with particular needs namely: youth with disabilities, youth in situations of armed conflict, victims of natural disaster and calamities, youth offenders, delinquent youth, LGBTQ+ youth, drug-dependent youth, street youth, abused/exploited youth, and abandoned/neglected youth, among others;

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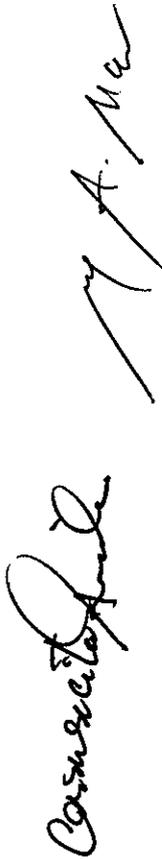
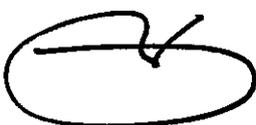
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- O. **The Cultural Identity-based Youth** - shall refer to youth organizations whose primary purpose is to advance the cultural identity of the indigenous people of the Municipality of Jaro;
- P. **Working youth** - shall refer to all youth whose ages range from 18-30 years who are employed either on a regular or temporary basis;
- Q. **Youth** - shall refer to persons with age ranging from fifteen (15) to thirty (30) years old as defined in the Republic Act No. 8044 or the "Youth in Nation Building Act of 1994". For the purpose of targeted programming for the youth sector, the age shall be disaggregated to the following:
 - 1. Child youth- Fifteen (15) years old to seventeen (17) years old;
 - 2. Core youth- Eighteen (18) years old to twenty-four (24) years old;
and
 - 3. Adult youth- Twenty-five (25) years old to thirty (30) years old.
- R. **Youth Organizations** - shall refer to those organizations whose membership or composition are youth;
- S. **Youth-Serving Organizations** - shall refer to those registered organizations whose principal programs, projects, and activities are youth-oriented and youth-related, and whose composition is not limited to the youth. The organization shall be duly-recognized or accredited either by proper national or Local Government registering entities.

SECTION 4. LOCAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PLAN

- A. There shall be a three (3)-year Local Youth Development Plan (LYDP) aligned with the Philippine Youth Development Plan. The LYDP shall be based on data analysis and interpretation of information obtained from the Philippine Statistics Authority, Barangay Youth Profiling, or other official government records. It shall also be formulated through consultations with the Sangguniang Kabataan, local youth organizations, relevant Local Government agencies, the private sector, and non-governmental organizations.



- B. The LYDP shall be initially drafted by the respective SK Pederasyon and shall be finalized by the Local Youth Development Council (LYDC). This shall be submitted to the Local Chief Executive (LCE) for inclusion in the Local Development Plan and subsequently endorsed to the Local Sanggunian concerned for approval.

SECTION 5. LOCAL YOUTH ASSESSMENT STUDY

- A. There shall be a local study on the "Progressive Monitoring and Situation of the Youth" to gather information and insights about priority needs, prevailing attitudes and values of youth, existing services, and gaps in the delivery of services for basic youth needs, and challenges and opportunities facing young people.
- B. The Local Government shall conduct a local youth assessment study every three (3) years to understand the specific needs, challenges, and strengths of the local youth population. This understanding helps in designing targeted interventions and programs that directly address the identified needs of local youth, as well as allocating resources effectively to maximize their impact. Moreover, the Local Government shall utilize the empirical data to make evidence-based policies and track progress over time, ensuring that interventions remain effective and adjustments can be made as needed.

**ARTICLE II
LOCAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

SECTION 6. LOCAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

- A. **CREATION** - To ensure wide and multi-sectoral youth participation in local governance, there shall be in every province, city, and municipality an LYDC which shall be called PYDC, CYDC, and MYDC, respectively. The LYDC shall be chaired by the duly elected SK Pederasyon President and co-chaired by the SK Pederasyon Vice President and the Sectoral Chairperson.

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Its membership shall be composed of duly recognized representatives from youth organizations and youth-serving organizations operating at the provincial, city, and municipal levels. The LYDC shall serve as an advisory and coordinating body, assisting in the formulation, implementation, and monitoring of programs and projects initiated by its member organizations, the Sangguniang Kabataan, and the SK Pederasyon.

- B. **FORMAL ORGANIZATION OF NON-ORGANIZED YOUTH** - To give equal opportunity for the youth, from the time of the enactment of this Code and up to the deadline for registration set by the National Youth Commission and the Local Government, non-organized youth groups may formally organize themselves and register in accordance with paragraph (d) of this section.
- C. **COMPOSITION OF YOUTH ORGANIZATION AND YOUTH-SERVING ORGANIZATION** - Youth Organization is an organization with members entirely composed of the youth, whose ages range from fifteen (15) to thirty (30) years old with a core advocacy that serves the youth. On the other hand, Youth-Serving Organization is an organization with the same core advocacy, but whose members are not entirely composed of the youth, which may include civil society organizations. The Youth-Serving Organization shall determine which youth sector it mainly serves.
- D. **LOCAL REGISTRATION OF YOUTH ORGANIZATION AND YOUTH-SERVING ORGANIZATION** - All youth organizations and youth-serving organizations, with a minimum of ten (10) members in good standing and which are operating within the Local, shall be registered to the Local Youth Development Office. Youth and youth-serving organizations registered in other national and regional government agencies shall also be recognized as registered organizations by the LYDO, provided that the organization is based and/or operates in the province, city, or municipality.
- E. **LOCAL VERIFICATION OF YOUTH ORGANIZATION AND YOUTH-SERVING ORGANIZATION** - The Local Youth Development Office shall verify the registration information provided by these organizations. The Office shall then send a list of registered and verified youth organizations and youth-serving organizations to the National Youth Commission.

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F. **RENEWAL, VERIFICATION, AND CONTINUING LOCAL REGISTRATION** - Registered youth and youth-serving organizations shall renew their local registration and verification every three (3) years. The Local Youth Development Office shall conduct a continuing registration procedure taking into consideration the budgetary and manpower requirements and the presence of youth and youth-serving organizations.

G. **CONDITION PRECEDENT** - Local registration and verification of youth organization and youth-serving organization is a condition precedent for participation in the Council elections. However, if a youth organization or youth-serving organization is denied local registration and verification, such organization can apply for special registration and verification to the National Youth Commission as provided for by law. Such special registration and verification entitle the organization to participate in the LYDC elections.

H. **QUALIFICATION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE LYDC** - A member of the LYDC must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of Jaro, Leyte for not less than one (1) year immediately preceding the day of their election to the Council. They must be at least fifteen (15) years, but not more than thirty (30) years of age on the day of their election to the Council, able to read and write, Filipino, English, and must not have been convicted by final judgment of any crime involving moral turpitude.

I. **COMPOSITION OF THE LYDC** - The LYDC shall be composed of at least seven (7) members and at most twenty-one (21) members including the two (2) core members from the SK. The two (2) core members shall be composed of the president and the vice-president of the concerned Pederasyon and shall be supported by at least five (5) but not more than nineteen (19) other representatives from registered youth organizations or youth-serving organizations, provided that all other incumbent SK officials shall not be eligible as a member of the LYDC. There shall be an equitable allocation of representatives from the following youth sectors:

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1. In-school youth sector;
2. Community-based youth sector;
3. Out-of-school youth sector;
4. Working youth sector;
5. Women youth sector;
6. LGBTQIA+ youth sector;
7. Persons with Disabilities (PWD) youth sector;
8. Cultural identity-based youth sector; and
9. Faith-based youth sector.

J. **MANNER OF THE ELECTIONS** - Within forty-five (45) days after the Sangguniang Kabataan elections, the Local Youth Development Office shall notify all the presidents or authorized representatives of the registered youth organizations and youth-serving organizations in the locality, assemble them in a public venue or through electronic means, and by consensus per or secret balloting per youth sector. These representatives shall serve for a term of three (3) years as members of the Council.

K. **ELECTION OF LYDC SECTORAL CHAIRPERSON AS CO-CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL** - The representatives from the youth organizations and youth-serving organizations shall vote among themselves a Sectoral Chairperson who shall act as Co-Chair with the President of the concerned Pederasyon and who shall serve a term of three (3) years. No Sectoral Chairperson shall serve for more than two (2) consecutive terms. The Sectoral Co-Chairperson shall coordinate with the President of the concerned Pederasyon in all matters relating to sectoral concerns. The President of the concerned Pederasyon shall be the official representative of the Council to the Local Sanggunian as provided for by the law.

L. **CONVENING OF THE COUNCIL** - Any of the Chairpersons (President or Vice President of the Pederasyon, and the Sectoral Chairperson) with the concurrence of one another may call a meeting. The President of the concerned Pederasyon, or in their absence, the Vice-President or the Sectoral Chairperson, shall initially convene the Council and shall be given preference to preside over the meeting.

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M. MEETINGS AND QUORUMS

1. The Council shall schedule a meeting every month and as often as needed. However, if the President, the Vice President of the concerned Pederasyon, or the Sectoral Chairperson fails to convene the Council as scheduled, at least one-third ($\frac{1}{3}$) of the total membership of the LYDC may call for a meeting. In both instances, a written notice shall be sent either through traditional or non-traditional means, to all members setting the date, time, place, and agenda of the meeting which must be received at least two (2) days in advance.
2. The presence of the majority (50% + 1) of all members of the LYDC shall constitute a quorum.

N. DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE LYDC - The LYDC shall discharge the following duties and functions:

1. Serve as the core of the advocacy on youth participation in nation-building and youth empowerment;
2. Finalize the three (3) year Local Youth Development Plan that is anchored in the Philippine Youth Development Plan (PYDP).

The Local of Jaro Youth Development Plan shall be initially drafted by the concerned Pederasyon and shall be finalized by the Local Youth Development Council. This shall be submitted to the LCE for inclusion in the Local Development Plan and subsequently endorsed to the Local Sanggunian. These plans shall give priority to programs projects and activities that will promote and ensure the meaningful youth participation in nation-building, sustainable youth development and empowerment, equitable access to quality education, environmental protection, climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and resiliency, youth employment and livelihood, health and anti-drug abuse, gender sensitivity, social protection, capability building and sports development;

3. Monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Local Youth Development Plan;



4. Formulate, adopt, and prescribe policies, guidelines, and rules and regulations for the smooth operation of the Local Youth Development Office;
5. Receive, evaluate, modify, and approve youth-related project proposals and accordance with the approved plans and programs of the Local Youth Development Office;
6. Approve the annual and/or supplemental budget of the Local Youth Development Office;
7. Formulate and approve the internal rules and regulations of the Council including policies addressing representation, substitution, absence, and delinquency of council members; and
8. Perform such other functions as may be provided by law or ordinances.

 O. **SPECIAL BODIES AND COMMITTEES** - The members of the LYDC shall designate among themselves the alternate representatives of the President of the concerned Pederasyon in all committees or special bodies in which the SK President is an official sitting member subject to the internal rules of the Council. If the SK President is not available during a meeting of a committee or special body, the alternative representative shall represent the SK President and report to the latter and to Council all matters that have transpired during the meeting.

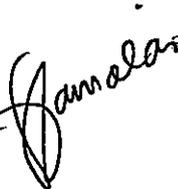
 P. **ADVISORY GROUP** - The following shall be resource persons whom the LYDC may invite to shed light and advise the body on pertinent issues affecting the youth:

1. Local Planning and Development Officer.
2. Local Social Welfare and Development Officer.
3. Local Health Officer.
4. Local Schools Division Superintendent.
5. Chairperson of the Committee on Barangay Affairs in the Sangguniang Pambayan.







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6. Chairperson of the Committee on Education in the Sangguniang Pambayan.
7. Chairperson of the Committee on Health and Social Services in the Sangguniang Pambayan.
8. Regional Director or Representative from the Commission on Population Development.
9. Department Head or Representative from the Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office.

Q. LOCAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL FUNDS - The LYDC shall be funded by their respective Sangguniang Panlalawigan, Sangguniang Panlungsod, and Sangguniang Bayan. All expenditures of these funds shall be subject to COA rules and regulations.

**ARTICLE III
LOCAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT OFFICE**

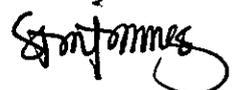
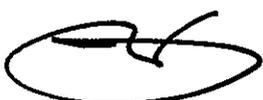
SECTION 7. LOCAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

A. CREATION OF THE LOCAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT OFFICE.

Through an Executive Order to be issued by the LCE, a Local Youth Development Office shall be created as a separate unit under the Office of the LCE. This shall be housed within the operating structure/s of the Local Government. The Local Youth Development Office shall be managed by LGU personnel who shall be designated by the LCE and who shall be referred to as Local Youth Development Officer. Other LGU personnel may be assigned to the Local Youth Development Office through lateral movement whenever necessary. The designated Local Youth Development Officer and other designated staff shall continue to act as such unless sooner substituted or succeeded by another LGU personnel upon the directive of the LCE.

B. QUALIFICATIONS OF THE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT OFFICER. In addition to the requirements prescribed by the Civil Service Commission (CSC), the youth development officer shall:

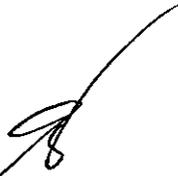
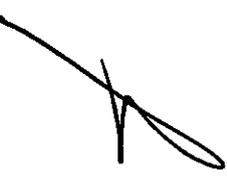
1. be preferably not more than thirty years of age at the time of their appointment;



2. be of good moral character;
3. must have acquired experience in youth development affairs or involvement in youth or youth-serving organizations for at least three (3) years; and
4. They shall be appointed by the concerned LCE, but in no case, if they are within the fourth (4th) civil degree of consanguinity or affinity of the appointing authority.

C. FUNCTIONS OF THE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT OFFICE. The Office shall have the following functions:

1. In accordance with Section 6 (d) of this Code, register, and verify youth and youth-serving organizations;
2. Provide technical assistance to the LYDC in the formulation of the LYDP;
3. Facilitate the election of the LYDC representatives;
4. Serve as the secretariat to the LYDC;
5. Conduct the mandatory and continuing training of the SK Officials and LYDC members, in accordance with the programs jointly designed and implemented by the Commission and the DILG. The local youth development officer and/or his or her staff shall apply for accreditation from the Commission in order for them to conduct the mandatory and continuing training programs of the SK officials and LYDC members;
6. Provide technical, logistical, and other support in the conduct of the mandatory and continuing training programs, and to such other programs of the Commission and DILG;
7. Lead the Local Youth Assessment Study and consolidate all data and reports related to youth;
8. Coordinate with the Commission with regard to the youth programs within their jurisdiction;
9. To assist the Local Social Welfare and Development and the Local Health Office in its duty related to the general welfare and health of the youth sector;



10. To organize and implement programs and activities that will promote a broad understanding of the problems affecting the youth in the vulnerable communities of Jaro, Leyte;
11. To undertake such action projects as may be necessary to promote the attainment of the objectives and purposes of this ordinance;
12. To promote and publish information and studies on the youth, especially in the Local in all its aspects;
13. To coordinate with any department, division, office, or any instrumentality of the Local Government or of the national government for such assistance as it may require in the performance of its functions; and
14. Perform such other functions as may be prescribed by law, ordinance or as the Local Mayor, the DILG or the Commission may require.

 **D. OTHER PERSONNEL OF THE LOCAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT OFFICE** – The Local Government, upon the recommendation of the Local Youth Development Officer and the Sangguniang Pambayan, may provide additional staffing requirements in the Office and shall be appointed by the LCE in whatever status deemed appropriate, and in accordance with the civil service rules and regulations.

 **E. LOCAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT OFFICE FUNDS** – The Local Government Unit shall incorporate in its annual budget such amount as may be necessary for the operation and effective functioning of the Local Youth Development Office and in accordance with the Commission on Audit (COA) accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

F. The LGU shall provide office space and/or desks within the province, preferably within the Youth Development Office, to effectively perform their duties.

ARTICLE IV
BARANGAY YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
SECTION 8. BARANGAY YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

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- A. **CREATION** - To ensure wide and multi-sectoral youth participation in local governance, there shall be created the Barangay Youth Development Council which shall be called the "BYDC" for brevity. The BYDC shall be headed by the concerned SK Chairperson, co-chaired by the Sectoral Chairperson, and composed of representatives of youth and youth-serving organizations in the barangay. The BYDC shall assist in the planning and execution of projects and programs of its member organizations and the SK at all levels.
- B. **COMPOSITION OF YOUTH ORGANIZATION AND YOUTH-SERVING ORGANIZATION** - Youth Organization is an organization with members entirely composed of the youth, whose ages range from fifteen (15) to thirty (30) years old with a core advocacy that serves the youth. On the other hand, Youth-Serving Organization is an organization with the same core advocacy, but whose members are not entirely composed of the youth, which may include civil society organizations. The Youth-Serving Organization shall determine which youth sector it mainly serves.
- C. **REGISTRATION OF YOUTH ORGANIZATION AND YOUTH-SERVING ORGANIZATION** - All youth organizations and youth-serving organizations, with a minimum of ten (10) members in good standing and which are operating within the barangay, shall be registered to the Sangguniang Kabataan Office.
- Youth and youth-serving organizations registered in other national and Local Government agencies shall also be recognized as registered organizations by the Sangguniang Kabataan, provided that the organization is based and/or operates in the barangay.
- D. **RENEWAL, VERIFICATION, AND CONTINUING LOCAL REGISTRATION** - Registered youth and youth-serving organizations shall renew their registration and verification every three (3) years. The Sangguniang Kabataan shall conduct a continuing registration procedure taking into consideration the budgetary and manpower requirements and the presence of youth and youth-serving organizations.
- E. **CONDITION PRECEDENT** - Registration and verification of youth organization and youth-serving organization is a condition precedent for participation in the Barangay Youth Development Council elections.

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F. **QUALIFICATION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE BYDC** - A member of the BYDC must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of (Insert Barangay) for not less than one (1) year immediately preceding the day of their election to the BYDC. They must be at least fifteen (15) years, but not more than thirty (30) years of age on the day of their election to the Council, able to read and write, Filipino, English, and must not have been convicted by final judgment of any crime involving moral turpitude.

G. **COMPOSITION OF THE BYDC** - The BYDC shall be at least nine (9) members and at most twenty-one (21) members, and composed of the following:

1. SK Chairperson as the Chairperson of the BYDC
2. Sectoral Chairperson as Co-Chairperson
3. SK Secretary and SK Treasurer as the Secretary and Treasurer of the BYDC
4. SK Councilor or the Chairperson of Committee on Active Citizenship
5. Representative/s from in-school youth sector;
6. Representative/s from out-of-school youth sector;
7. Representative/s from working youth sector;
8. Representative/s from women youth sector;
9. Representative/s from LGBTQIA+ youth sector;
10. Representative/s from Persons-with-Disability youth sector;
11. Representative/s from cultural identity-based youth sector; and
12. Representative/s from faith-based youth sector.

H. **MANNER OF ELECTIONS** - Within forty-five (45) days after the SK elections, the SK shall notify all the presidents or authorized representatives of the registered youth organizations and youth-serving organizations in the barangay, assemble them in a public venue, and by consensus per or secret balloting per youth sector. These representatives shall serve for a term of three (3) years as members of the BYDC.

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- I. **ELECTION OF BYDC SECTORAL CHAIRPERSON AS CO-CHAIRPERSON.** The representatives from the youth organizations or youth-serving organizations shall vote among themselves a Sectoral Chairperson who shall serve a term of two (3) years. No Sectoral Chairperson shall serve for more than three (3) consecutive terms.

The Sectoral Chairperson shall act as Co-Chairperson of the BYDC with the SK Chairperson. The Sectoral Co-Chairperson shall coordinate with the SK Chairperson in all matters relating to sectoral concerns.

The SK Chairperson shall be the official representative of the BYDC to the Barangay Council as provided for by law.

- J. **CONVENING OF THE BYDC.** Any of the chairpersons (SK Chairperson and the Sectoral Chairperson) with the concurrence of one another may call a meeting. The SK Chairperson, or in their absence, the Sectoral Co-Chairperson shall initially convene the Council and shall be given preference to preside over the meeting.

- K. **MEETINGS AND QUORUM.**

1. The BYDC shall schedule a meeting every month, and as often as needed. However, if the Chairperson or the Sectoral Chairperson fails to convene the BYDC as scheduled, at least one-third of the total membership of the BYDC may call for a meeting. In both instances, a written notice shall be sent either through traditional or non-traditional means, to all members setting the date, time, place, and agenda of the meeting which must be received at least two (2) days in advance.
2. The presence of the majority (50% + 1) of all members of the BYDC shall constitute a quorum.

- L. **DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE BYDC.** The BYDC shall discharge the following duties and functions:

1. Serve as the core of the advocacy on youth participation in nation-building and youth empowerment at the barangay level;

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2. Finalize the three (3) year CBYDP as approved by the Katipunan ng Kabataan that is anchored in the LYDP and the PYDP and the Local Development Plans.
3. Monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Comprehensive Barangay Youth Development Plan;
4. To formulate and approve the internal rules and regulations of the Council including policies addressing representation, substitution, absence, and delinquency of council members; and
5. Perform such other functions as may be provided by law or ordinances.

M. **SPECIAL BODIES AND COMMITTEES.** The members of the BYDC shall create regular or special committees based on the existing committee of the Sangguniang Kabataan, where the Chairperson of the formed committees will become members of the corresponding committees of the Sangguniang Kabataan.

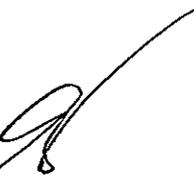
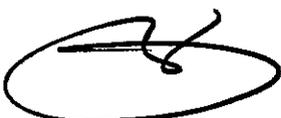
N. **ADVISORY GROUP** - The following shall be resource persons whom the Barangay Youth Development Council may invite to shed light and advise the body on pertinent issues affecting the:

1. Representative from the Barangay Council
2. Representative from SK Federation
3. Representative from Local Youth Development Office
4. National Anti-Poverty Commission- Youth and Students Sector Council Member
5. Representative from non-governmental organizations/civil society organizations

O. **BARANGAY YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL FUNDS** - The BYDC shall be funded by their respective Sangguniang Kabataan. The province, city, municipality, and barangay may provide additional funding. All expenditures of these funds shall be subject to COA rules and regulations.

ARTICLE V

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GENERAL DECLARATION OF YOUTH RIGHTS

SECTION 9. FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF THE YOUTH - All youth within the Municipality of Jaro are entitled to the following fundamental rights:

- A. Right to Governance and Active Citizenship
- B. Right to Culture and Patriotism
- C. Right to Health and Well-being
- D. Right to Quality and Inclusive Education
- E. Right to Economic Empowerment
- F. Right to Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI)
- G. Right to Peacebuilding and Security
- H. Right to Agricultural Development and Food Security
- I. Right to Environmental Protection and Climate Action
- J. Right to Global Citizenship and International Engagement

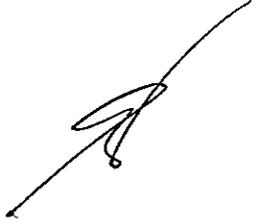
SECTION 10. RECOGNITION, PROTECTION, AND PROMOTION OF YOUTH RIGHTS - The Local Government of the Municipality of Jaro shall recognize, uphold, and protect the fundamental rights of the youth as declared in this Ordinance. These rights are interrelated, interdependent, and indivisible, and no right shall be exercised in a manner that infringes upon or diminishes another.

In pursuit of this mandate, the Local Government, in coordination with families, parents, non-government organizations, civil society organizations, communities, and other government agencies, shall adopt measures to safeguard and promote the rights of the youth. It shall develop and implement policies, programs, and initiatives designed to provide avenues, facilities, platforms, and interventions that facilitate the full enjoyment of these rights.

To ensure the effective realization of youth rights, the Local Government shall institutionalize mechanisms for enforcement, monitoring, and evaluation, ensuring that all relevant stakeholders fulfill their respective roles in fostering an environment conducive to youth development, participation, and empowerment.

ARTICLE VI

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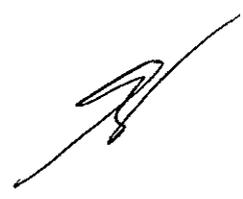
RIGHT TO GOVERNANCE AND ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

SECTION 11. RECOGNITION OF YOUTH GOVERNANCE RIGHTS - The Local Government of Jaro shall recognize and uphold the right of the youth to participate in governance and active citizenship. The youth shall have the right to engage in decision-making processes, influence public policies, and access mechanisms for meaningful participation in democratic governance.

The Local Government shall implement policies, programs, and institutional mechanisms to ensure youth empowerment, representation, and engagement in political and civic affairs. These efforts shall include, but are not limited to, participation in local councils, advisory bodies, policy advocacy, and electoral processes.

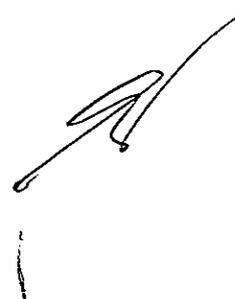
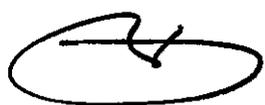
SECTION 12. YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING - The youth shall have the right to actively participate in shaping policies, programs, and services that directly or indirectly affect their welfare. The Local Government shall:

- A. Recognize and institutionalize the **Local Youth Development Council (LYDC)** as a consultative body to ensure youth representation in decision-making processes. The LYDC shall have representation in advisory boards, councils, and committees to provide insights and recommendations on youth-related policies and programs.
- B. Appoint youth representatives to **Local Government committees and task forces** focusing on key areas such as education, health, environment, and youth affairs, ensuring their active involvement in policy development and implementation.
- C. Institutionalize the **Katipunan ng Kabataan (KK)** as the highest policymaking body representing the youth at the barangay level. The **Sangguniang Kabataan (SK)** shall consult and secure the concurrence of the majority of KK members, subject to a quorum, in the formulation and approval of policies, programs, and activities such as the Comprehensive Barangay Youth Development Plan (CBYDP) and Annual Barangay Youth Investment Program (ABYIP).



SECTION 13. YOUTH ACCESS TO INFORMATION - To uphold transparency, accountability, and informed decision-making, the youth shall have the right to access accurate and relevant information regarding governance, political processes, policies, and public affairs. The Local Government shall ensure this right through the following mechanisms:

- A. **Local Youth Assembly** - The Local Government, through the SK Federation officers and the Local Chief Executive, shall conduct reporting and consultations specifically targeting young people through a Local Youth Assembly to provide updates on programs and projects, financial reports, performance evaluations, and other relevant data. The youth shall have the opportunity to review and scrutinize reports, ask questions, and hold leaders accountable for their actions and decisions.
- B. **Katipunan ng Kabataan (KK) Assembly** - Regular assemblies of the KK shall be held at least once every six (6) months, convened by the SK. The SK Council, headed by the SK Chairperson, shall present the annual and end-of-term program accomplishments and financial reports. The KK shall have the opportunity to review and scrutinize reports, ask questions, and hold the SK accountable for their actions and decisions.
- C. **State of the Youth Address** - An annual State of the Youth address, which may be held separately or simultaneously with the local youth assembly, shall take place in each Municipality. This event will be led by the SK Federation President at the provincial, municipal, or city level, and in every Barangay, it will be led by the SK Chairperson.
- D. **Full Disclosure Policy Bulletin**. There shall be a local youth full disclosure policy bulletin, a centralized platform for disseminating information related to youth development initiatives, programs, and services in the community.
1. The bulletin contains a wide range of information pertaining to youth-related policies, programs, projects, and expenditures. This may include details on budget allocations, expenditure reports,



project proposals, progress updates, evaluation findings, and success stories related to youth development initiatives.

2. The bulletin shall be accessible to all stakeholders, including youth, parents, educators, policymakers, and members of the public. It shall be distributed through various channels to ensure widespread access and visibility. This may include electronic distribution via email, social media platforms, and the official website of the Local Government or youth organization.
3. Every Sangguniang Kabataan shall create and update a Full Disclosure Policy Bulletin in every Barangay.

SECTION 14. YOUTH FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION AND EXPRESSION

- A. **Freedom of Association.** Youth shall have the right to form and join associations, organizations, and movements to advance their interests, advocate for policies, and contribute to social and political change. No restrictions shall be imposed on lawful youth organizing, except as provided by law to protect public safety and order.
- B. **Freedom of Expression.** The youth shall have the right to express their opinions, ideas, and beliefs freely through speech, writing, art, social media, and other lawful forms of expression. Any form of suppression or censorship shall be prohibited, except in cases involving threats to public safety, incitement of violence, or defamation as defined by law.

SECTION 15. YOUTH SUFFRAGE AND ELECTORAL PARTICIPATION - The youth shall have the right to participate in the electoral process by exercising their right to vote and seek public office.

- A. The Local Government shall implement voter education initiatives to promote youth engagement in elections at both local and national levels. It shall undertake campaigns, workshops, and outreach programs to encourage voter registration, electoral participation, and informed decision-making.

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- B. The Local Government shall collaborate with national electoral bodies to ensure accessible and widely promoted voter registration among young constituents, including the establishment of convenient registration centers and awareness campaigns.

SECTION 16. YOUTH RIGHT TO RUN FOR PUBLIC OFFICE - The youth shall have the right to seek elective and appointive positions in government, including but not limited to Sangguniang Kabataan elections.

- A. The Local Government shall establish youth-friendly political environments that encourage young candidates to run for office without intimidation, discrimination, or unnecessary barriers.
- B. Policies shall be enacted to promote fair, inclusive, and transparent elections, ensuring that young individuals have an equal opportunity to participate in governance.

**ARTICLE VII
RIGHT TO CULTURE AND PATRIOTISM**

SECTION 17. RECOGNITION OF CULTURE AND PATRIOTISM RIGHTS - The Local Government of Jaro, Leyte shall recognize, uphold, and promote the right of the youth to culture and patriotism as an essential component of identity formation, national pride, and active citizenship. The Local Government shall formulate and implement inclusive, engaging, and empowering policies and programs that foster a deep appreciation for cultural heritage, strengthen national consciousness, and inspire civic responsibility among the youth.

To achieve these objectives, the Local Government shall undertake, but shall not be limited to, the following programs and services:

- A. **Cultural Education and Heritage Preservation** - The Local Government shall prioritize educational initiatives that celebrate and preserve cultural heritage. These initiatives may include integrating cultural studies into school curricula, organizing cultural festivals and events, and supporting local arts, crafts, music, and dance traditions.
- B. **Patriotic Education and Civic Values** - The Local Government shall support initiatives such as civics education programs, youth forums, and

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leadership training opportunities that educate young people about national history, symbols, values, and democratic principles.

- C. **Celebration of National Holidays and Commemorative Events** - The Local Government shall organize and support commemorative events to mark significant national holidays, anniversaries, and historical milestones to reinforce national identity and collective memory.
- D. **Access to Recreational and Cultural Facilities** - The Local Government shall ensure access to recreational and cultural facilities, such as parks, museums, libraries, and community centers, to provide youth with opportunities to explore their interests, connect with peers, and engage in cultural activities such as "Laro ng Lahi" and "Buwan ng Wika."
- E. **Cultural Festivals and Markets** - The Local Government shall organize cultural festivals, bazaars, and markets to provide platforms for showcasing locally made products, traditional crafts, indigenous artistry, and culinary delights from various cultural, ethnic, and religious communities.
- F. **Promotion of Artisanal and Handicraft Industries** - The Local Government shall support local artisans, craftsmen, and indigenous communities in producing and marketing traditional handicrafts, textiles, pottery, and artwork.
- G. **Protection of Cultural Freedom** - The Local Government shall safeguard the rights of youth to practice cultural activities, such as performances, rituals, and ceremonies, free from discrimination, harassment, or abuse. Any person or group found guilty of violating these rights shall be subject to penalties in accordance with existing laws and local ordinances.

**ARTICLE VIII
RIGHT TO HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**

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SECTION 18. RECOGNITION OF HEALTH AND WELL-BEING RIGHTS - The Local Government of the Municipality of Jaro recognizes the right of the youth to health and well-being, ensuring their access to comprehensive healthcare, adequate nutrition, reproductive health services, mental health support, and sports and recreation. The LGU shall implement policies and programs aimed at protecting young people from health risks and ensuring financial risk protection in healthcare services, regardless of socio-economic status.

To achieve these objectives, the Local Government shall undertake, but shall not be limited to, the following programs and services:

- A. **Access to Comprehensive Healthcare:** Youth have the right to access comprehensive healthcare services that address their physical, mental, and emotional well-being, without discrimination based on factors such as age, gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, religion, disability, or socio-economic status. This includes preventive care, primary healthcare, reproductive health services, mental health support, and treatment for substance abuse;
- B. **Adequate Nutrition.** Youth have the right to access sufficient and nutritious food to address specific nutritional needs during crucial stages of growth and development. This ensures prevention of undernutrition, stunted growth, and micronutrient deficiencies.
- C. **Confidentiality and Privacy:** Youth have the right to confidentiality and privacy in healthcare settings. This means that their medical information, including reproductive health and mental health issues, should be kept confidential, and their privacy respected during examinations and consultations;
- D. **Reproductive Health:** Youth have the right to access accurate information and services related to reproductive health, including contraception, family planning, sexual education, and pregnancy-related care. They also have the right to make informed decisions about their reproductive health without coercion or discrimination;
- E. **Sexual and Gender Health:** Youth have the right to sexual and gender health services that are inclusive, non-discriminatory, and respectful of

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their identities and orientations. This includes access to HIV/AIDS prevention, testing, and treatment, as well as support for LGBTQ+ youth;

- F. **Preventive Health Services:** Youth have the right to access preventive healthcare services, including vaccinations, screenings, and health education programs aimed at promoting healthy lifestyles, preventing diseases, and reducing risk factors such as smoking, substance abuse, and unsafe sexual practices;
- G. **Mental Health Support:** Youth have the right to access mental health services and support to address issues such as depression, anxiety, stress, trauma, and suicidal thoughts. This includes counseling, therapy, crisis intervention, and access to psychiatric care when needed;
- H. **Sports and Recreations:** Youth have the right to access facilities, equipment, coaching, mentorship programs, and support in competitions for sports and recreational activities. This encompasses providing funding for programs, scholarships, and subsidies, as well as investing in infrastructure, resources, and initiatives that promote youth participation in sports and recreation.
- I. **Substance Abuse Treatment:** Youth struggling with substance abuse have the right to access treatment and rehabilitation services to overcome addiction and regain control of their lives. This includes detoxification, counseling, peer support programs, and rehabilitation programs tailored to the needs of youth;
- J. **Informed Consent and Participation:** Youth have the right to be informed about their healthcare options, participate in decisions about their treatment, and give informed consent for medical procedures. Healthcare providers should involve youth in their care and respect their autonomy and preferences.
- K. **Comprehensive Health Education:** Youth have the right to access comprehensive health education that covers physical, mental, emotional, and social aspects of well-being. It includes teaching about nutrition,

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exercise, hygiene, mental health, relationships, sexuality, disease prevention, life skills, risk reduction, and community health to empower young people to make informed decisions, adopt healthy behaviors, and lead fulfilling lives while contributing to a healthier community.

**ARTICLE IX
RIGHT TO QUALITY AND INCLUSIVE EDUCATION**

SECTION 19. RECOGNITION OF RIGHT TO QUALITY AND INCLUSIVE EDUCATION - The Local Government of the Municipality of Jaro recognizes the fundamental right of every youth to accessible, quality, and inclusive education. The LGU shall formulate policies and programs to address the concerns of In-School Youth and Out-of-School Youth, particularly in reducing dropout rates, improving literacy, expanding access to educational opportunities, enhancing facilities and resources, and addressing academic performance challenges.

SECTION 20. IN-SCHOOL YOUTH - In-School Youth refer to individuals who are currently enrolled in formal educational institutions, including primary, secondary, and tertiary schools. This section aims to uphold their welfare and ensure that they have access to quality education, holistic development, and a safe learning environment.

To safeguard their well-being and rights, the following shall be upheld:

- A. **Protection Against Discrimination in Educational Institutions** – No student shall be denied admission, expelled, subjected to disciplinary action, or deprived of scholarships and other privileges based on disability, socio-economic status, political and religious beliefs, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or organization membership.
- B. **Access to Quality and Relevant Education** – Schools shall provide an education that fosters critical thinking, creativity, and holistic personal development. Students shall also have the opportunity to evaluate teacher performance each term.
- C. **Freedom to Organize** – Students may establish or join organizations, alliances, or federations. Accredited groups may coordinate activities



with the Office of Student Affairs. Schools must provide a designated space for student organizations.

- D. **Establishment of a Student Council or Government** – Every school shall recognize a student council or government as the primary representative body of students.
- E. **Protection Against Campus Militarization** – Schools shall ensure that students enjoy an academic environment free from military and police surveillance or interference.
- F. **Freedom to Publish Student Publications** – Schools shall uphold the **Campus Journalism Act of 1991 (RA 7079)** by ensuring that students can publish independent newspapers and other media.
- G. **Access to Adequate Welfare Services and Facilities** – Schools shall maintain functioning clinics, counseling services, libraries, laboratories, and recreational facilities.
- H. **Representation in the School's Policy-Making Body** – A student representative shall be part of the highest policy-making body of the school, chosen through a selection process established by the student government.
- I. **Access to Information** – Students shall have access to matters affecting their welfare, including school policies, tuition fee breakdowns, and student government decisions.
- J. **Freedom of Expression and Assembly** – Students may express their views freely and organize peaceful assemblies to raise concerns without fear of disciplinary action.
- K. **Academic Freedom** – Students shall have intellectual autonomy in their studies and be encouraged to engage in critical discourse.
- L. **Due Process in Disciplinary Cases** – No student shall be suspended, expelled, or otherwise penalized without due process.
- M. **Fair Academic Procedures** – Students shall have the right to make up for missed academic requirements due to excusable absences and access their class performance records.

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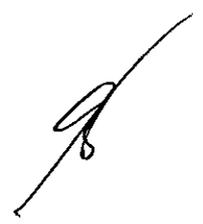
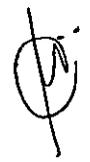
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- N. **Access to School Records** – Students shall have timely access to transcripts, diplomas, certificates, and other school documents within **30 days** of a request.
- O. **Privacy of Communication and Personal Data** – Student correspondence and records shall be protected from unauthorized access.

SECTION 21. OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH - Out-of-School Youth refers to individuals who are not enrolled in formal education due to economic, social, or personal circumstances. This section ensures that they have opportunities for learning, training, and reintegration into education and the workforce.

To address their needs and promote their development, the following shall be upheld:

- A. **Access to Education and Training** – Alternative education, vocational training, and non-formal learning programs shall be made available to help them acquire essential skills.
- B. **Provision of Learning Materials and Financial Assistance** – Support in the form of study materials, vocational tools, transportation allowances, and stipends shall be provided to encourage participation in educational programs.
- C. **Scholarships and Financial Support** – Out-of-School Youth shall have access to financial aid programs such as those under **RA 10931 (Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act)** and **RA 10687 (UniFAST Act)** to support their educational pursuits.
- D. **Recognition of Prior Learning** – Skills and competencies acquired through informal or non-formal education shall be assessed and accredited to facilitate employment or further education.
- E. **Support for Educational Reintegration** – Counseling, mentorship, and tailored learning programs shall be provided to help them transition back into formal education or vocational training.



- F. **Participation in Educational Decision-Making** – Out-of-School Youth shall be given a platform to advocate for their needs and contribute to the development of education policies and programs.

**ARTICLE X
RIGHT TO ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT**

SECTION 22. RECOGNITION OF ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT RIGHTS - The Local Government of the Municipality of Jaro recognizes, upholds, and guarantees the right of the youth to economic empowerment through access to quality employment, entrepreneurship, and livelihood opportunities. These rights safeguard young individuals from work-related vulnerabilities, including discrimination, underemployment, precarious contractual arrangements, occupational hazards, forced labor, and child labor.

The Local Government shall empower the youth to achieve economic self-sufficiency, contribute to national development, and foster a sustainable and inclusive economy. To achieve these objectives, the Local Government shall undertake, but shall not be limited to, programs and services for employment, entrepreneurship, and livelihood.

SECTION 23. EMPOWERED YOUNG WORKERS - The Local Government shall ensure the protection and welfare of young workers by upholding their rights to decent work and labor protections. Youth in employment shall have the following rights:

- A. **Right to Decent Work** – Access to fair wages, safe working conditions, and career growth opportunities.
- B. **Right to Equal Treatment** – Protection against discrimination based on age, gender, ethnicity, religion, or disability.
- C. **Right to Work-Life Balance** – Reasonable working hours, rest periods, and opportunities for personal development.
- D. **Right to Health and Safety** – Protection from occupational hazards and unsafe working conditions. Employers must ensure compliance with safety standards and regulations.
- E. **Right to Fair Compensation** – Entitlement to minimum wages, overtime pay, social security, and paid leave benefits.

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- F. **Right to Freedom of Association** – Ability to join trade unions, labor organizations, or youth associations to protect their rights and interests.
- G. **Right to Education and Training** – Access to training programs and continuing education to enhance employability and career growth.
- H. **Right to Social Protection** – Inclusion in unemployment benefits, health insurance, and social assistance programs to mitigate economic vulnerabilities.

SECTION 24. EMPOWERED YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS - The Local Government shall promote youth entrepreneurship by providing mechanisms that support young entrepreneurs in establishing and sustaining their businesses. Youth entrepreneurs shall have the following rights:

- A. **Right to Entrepreneurial Opportunities** – Access to entrepreneurial support services enabling youth to start, manage, and expand their enterprises.
- B. **Right to Economic Freedom** – Autonomy in business decision-making, market participation, and pursuit of innovation.
- C. **Right to Financial Resources** – Access to loans, grants, and investment capital to overcome financial barriers in starting and scaling businesses.
- D. **Right to Business Support Services** – Access to mentorship, coaching, training, and networking to enhance business knowledge and management skills.
- E. **Right to Intellectual Property Protection** – Protection of trademarks, copyrights, and patents to safeguard innovations and creative works.
- F. **Right to Market Access** – Equal opportunities for youth entrepreneurs to participate in trade fairs, procurement programs, and e-commerce platforms.
- G. **Right to Business Development** – Support for expansion, partnerships, and collaborative ventures to ensure sustainability.

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H. **Right to Recognition and Support** – Government, industry, and community recognition for contributions to economic growth, job creation, and innovation.

**ARTICLE XI
RIGHT TO GENDER EQUALITY, DISABILITY, AND SOCIAL INCLUSION (GEDSI)**

SECTION 25. RECOGNITION OF GENDER EQUALITY, DISABILITY, AND SOCIAL INCLUSION (GEDSI) RIGHTS - The right to Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) ensures that all youth, regardless of gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, ethnicity, economic status, or personal circumstances, can fully participate in society free from discrimination, exclusion, or systemic barriers.

This right specifically upholds the dignity, protection, and empowerment of young LGBTQIA+ individuals, young women, indigenous young people, indigent young people, young persons with disabilities (PWDs), youth in conflict with the law, and young victim-survivors of abuse by ensuring their meaningful participation, representation, and inclusion in all aspects of governance and community life.

The Local Government of Jaro, in collaboration with families, non-government organizations, civil society, and other government agencies, shall enact measures to eliminate discrimination, promote inclusivity, and protect marginalized youth from violence, exploitation, and exclusion.

SECTION 26. PROTECTION FROM DISCRIMINATION AND MARGINALIZATION - To guarantee the full exercise of GEDSI rights, the Local Government shall prohibit and penalize all forms of discrimination, exclusion, and bias against vulnerable youth, including but not limited to:

- A. Discrimination based on gender, sexual orientation, disability, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status in governance, leadership, and civic participation.
- B. Exclusion of marginalized youth from community programs, youth councils, and policymaking processes.
- C. Denial of services or opportunities to young LGBTQIA+ individuals, young women, young PWDs, indigenous youth, and other marginalized groups in public and private institutions.

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- D. Cultural and institutional barriers that limit the rights of indigenous young people, indigent youth, and youth in conflict with the law from participating in social and political activities.

The Local Government shall adopt, strengthen, and enforce anti-discrimination ordinances and establish reporting and grievance mechanisms to address cases of marginalization.

SECTION 27. REPRESENTATION AND PARTICIPATION OF MARGINALIZED YOUTH - To ensure equitable representation, the Local Government shall:

- A. **Institutionalize the representation of marginalized youth** - including young LGBTQIA+ individuals, young women, young PWDs, indigenous youth, indigent youth, youth in conflict with the law, and young victim-survivors of abuse—in local youth councils, advisory bodies, and development committees.
- B. **Mandate youth-focused governance structures** - to adopt policies and programs that are inclusive and responsive to the needs of vulnerable youth.
- C. **Ensure accessibility in civic engagement** by removing physical, financial, and systemic barriers that prevent the participation of young PWDs, indigent youth, and other disadvantaged groups.

SECTION 28. PROTECTION FROM GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE, ABUSE, AND EXPLOITATION - The Local Government shall adopt and enforce policies, programs, and mechanisms to prevent and respond to cases of gender-based violence, harassment, and abuse. The Local Government shall:

- A. Establish safe spaces and protection centers where marginalized youth can access legal assistance, counseling, and reintegration services.
- B. Implement community-based interventions to combat gender-based violence and abuse.
- C. Strengthen law enforcement and reporting mechanisms to ensure cases of violence and discrimination are addressed swiftly and fairly.

**ARTICLE XII
RIGHT TO PEACE-BUILDING AND SECURITY**

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SECTION 29. RECOGNITION OF RIGHT TO PEACE-BUILDING AND

SECURITY - The Local Government of Jaro recognizes the fundamental role of youth in fostering peace, security, and social cohesion. Youth shall be empowered to actively participate in peace-building efforts, conflict prevention, and the promotion of inclusive and just societies. The Local Government shall adopt policies and programs that enhance the capacity of youth to engage in dialogue, counter violent extremism, and contribute to the protection of communities, particularly in conflict-affected areas.

All youth in the Municipality of Jaro shall have the following rights:

- A. **Protection from Violence** - Youth have the right to live free from violence, conflict, and insecurity, including protection from armed conflict, political violence, gang violence, and other forms of physical or psychological harm.
- B. **Participation in Peace Processes.** Youth have the right to meaningful participation in peace-building efforts, conflict resolution, and reconciliation processes. Their perspectives and experiences must be considered in shaping sustainable and inclusive peace agreements.
- C. **Access to Justice.** Youth have the right to fair, impartial, and accountable justice systems that provide legal recourse for victims of violence, as well as opportunities for rehabilitation and reintegration for former combatants or individuals involved in conflict.
- D. **Freedom of Expression and Assembly.** Youth have the right to express their views, advocate for peace, and engage in civic activism without fear of repression or retaliation. Peaceful assembly and protest in furtherance of peace-building efforts shall be respected and protected.
- E. **Education for Peace.** Youth have the right to education that promotes peace, tolerance, diversity, and conflict resolution. The Local Government shall integrate peace education into curricula and provide training programs for educators and community leaders.
- F. **Protection from Recruitment.** Youth shall be protected from forced recruitment into armed groups or militias. The Local Government, in coordination with relevant agencies, shall implement preventive measures, rehabilitation programs, and reintegration efforts for youth affected by recruitment into conflict.

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G. **Protection from Abuse by State Actors.** Youth shall be protected from any form of mistreatment, violence, or exploitation perpetrated by government officials or institutions. Mechanisms for accountability and redress shall be established to ensure protection from state-perpetrated abuses.

SECTION 30. RIGHTS AND PROTECTIONS FOR YOUTH HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS (YHRDs) - Youth Human Rights Defenders (YHRDs) play a crucial role in promoting and protecting human rights within their communities. The Local Government shall ensure the protection and recognition of YHRDs, guaranteeing the following rights:

- A. **Protection from Violence and Harassment** – YHRDs shall be safeguarded from threats, intimidation, harassment, and reprisals arising from their human rights activities. The Local Government shall establish protective measures to ensure their safety and well-being.
- B. **Right to Legal Representation** – YHRDs shall have access to legal representation and justice mechanisms in cases where their rights are violated. This includes free legal aid, fair trials, and remedies for human rights abuses.
- C. **Right to Privacy** – YHRDs shall have the right to privacy and protection of personal data from unauthorized surveillance, monitoring, or interference by state and non-state actors.
- D. **Right to Freedom of Movement** – YHRDs shall have the right to move freely within their locality and across regions to engage in human rights advocacy, attend forums, and collaborate with national and international partners.
- E. **Right to Support and Recognition** – YHRDs shall have the right to receive institutional support, recognition, and protection for their human rights work. This includes access to training, resources, and platforms to amplify their advocacy efforts.

ARTICLE XIII
RIGHT TO AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD SECURITY

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SECTION 31. RECOGNITION OF RIGHT TO AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD SECURITY - The Local Government of the Municipality of Jaro shall recognize, uphold, and promote the right of the youth to agricultural development and food security as an essential component of sustainable national growth and rural advancement. The State and all relevant stakeholders shall ensure that the youth have equitable access to opportunities, resources, and support systems that enable their active participation in the agricultural sector.

SECTION 32. ACCESS TO AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND RESOURCES - The youth shall have the right to quality agricultural education, capacity-building programs, and technical training to enhance their knowledge and skills in modern, sustainable, and climate-resilient farming practices. The Local Government, in coordination with educational institutions, research agencies, and private sector partners, shall:

- A. Develop and integrate agriculture-focused curricula in formal and non-formal education;
- B. Provide scholarships, internship programs, and vocational training in agribusiness and farm management;
- C. Ensure access to farming resources, tools, and technology that improve productivity and sustainability.

SECTION 33. YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN POLICY-MAKING AND AGRICULTURAL GOVERNANCE - The youth shall have the right to actively participate in agricultural policy-making, planning, and governance to strengthen their role in food production, rural development, and environmental sustainability. To achieve this, the Local Government shall:

- A. Establish youth representation in local agricultural councils, cooperatives, and rural development bodies;
- B. Support youth-led agricultural organizations and advocacy initiatives that promote sustainable farming and food security;
- C. Ensure that youth perspectives and innovations are integrated into agricultural development programs and policies.

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SECTION 34. FAIR MARKET ACCESS, FINANCIAL SUPPORT, AND AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGIES - The youth engaged in agriculture shall have the right to equitable access to fair markets, financial support, and technological advancements that enhance productivity and economic sustainability. The Local Government, in partnership with financial institutions, cooperatives, and private sector stakeholders, shall:

- A. Provide financial assistance, grants, and low-interest loans for young farmers and agripreneurs;
- B. Facilitate market access and fair-trade opportunities to ensure sustainable livelihoods;
- C. Promote agricultural innovations, research, and digital technologies to modernize farming practices and improve efficiency.

**ARTICLE XIV
RIGHT TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND CLIMATE ACTION**

SECTION 35. RECOGNITION OF RIGHT TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND CLIMATE ACTION - The Local Government of Jaro, in collaboration with the Local Environment and Natural Resources Office, Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office, civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector, shall implement policies, programs, and projects aimed at environmental protection and conservation, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and disaster risk reduction and management, in alignment with just transition principles and sustainable development goals.

To ensure the effective implementation of these initiatives, the Local Government Unit (LGU) shall allocate the necessary budget and institutionalize mechanisms for youth participation and engagement in environmental governance and climate action.

All youth in the Municipality of Jaro shall have the following rights:

- A. **Right to a Healthy Environment.** The youth shall have the right to live in a clean, safe, and ecologically balanced environment, free from pollution, degradation, and environmental hazards. This includes access to clean air, water, and land, as well as protection from harmful toxins and pollutants.
- B. **Right to Participate in Environmental Decision-Making.** The youth shall have the right to be informed, consulted, and actively engaged in

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decision-making processes related to environmental policies, projects, and initiatives that affect their present and future well-being. The Local Government shall provide institutional support and resources for youth-led environmental research, projects, and advocacy efforts.

- C. **Right to Environmental Education and Awareness.** The youth shall have the right to education and capacity-building programs on climate change, biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction, and sustainable practices. The Local Government shall integrate environmental education into formal and non-formal learning systems to equip the youth with the knowledge, skills, and values necessary for environmental stewardship.
- D. **Right to Climate Justice.** The youth shall have the right to advocate for climate justice and equity, ensuring that climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts prioritize vulnerable communities and uphold principles of fairness and intergenerational responsibility.
- E. **Right to a Sustainable Future.** The youth shall have the right to inherit a sustainable and resilient future, wherein ecosystems are preserved, natural resources are managed responsibly, and climate-related risks are mitigated through proactive and science-based approaches.
- F. **Right to Safety and Resilience.** The youth shall have the right to live in disaster-resilient communities, with access to early warning systems, emergency preparedness programs, and climate-adaptive infrastructure designed to withstand environmental shocks and disasters.
- G. **Right to Access Environmental Justice.** The youth shall have the right to seek legal remedies and accountability for environmental harm, pollution, or violations of their environmental rights. This includes the right to file complaints, participate in legal proceedings, and hold individuals, corporations, and government entities accountable for environmental violations.

**ARTICLE XV
RIGHT TO GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP AND INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT**

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SECTION 36. RECOGNITION OF RIGHT TO GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP AND INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT - The Local Government of Jaro shall develop and implement policies and programs that promote global citizenship among the youth, recognizing the necessity of preparing them to thrive in an increasingly interconnected and diverse world. These initiatives shall aim to foster international awareness, cross-cultural understanding, and active participation in global affairs, thereby contributing to a more inclusive, sustainable, and cooperative international community.

To achieve these objectives, the Local Government shall undertake, but shall not be limited to, the following programs and services:

- A. **Cultural Exchange Programs:** The Local Government shall establish and support cultural exchange programs that allow young people to immerse themselves in different cultures, languages, and traditions. These programs can include student exchanges, volunteer opportunities abroad, and partnerships with international organizations to facilitate cross-cultural learning experiences. The Local Government can collaborate with the National Youth Commission, Department of Education, and Commission on Higher Education.
- B. **Language Education:** The Local Government shall promote language education programs within schools and communities to equip youth with the linguistic skills needed to engage with people from diverse backgrounds and navigate global environments effectively. This could involve offering language classes, organizing language exchange events, or supporting language immersion programs. The Local Government can collaborate with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA).
- C. **International Internships and Work Opportunities:** The Local Government shall facilitate access to international internships, job placements, and volunteer opportunities to enable young people to gain valuable cross-cultural experiences, develop professional skills, and broaden their perspectives. The Local Government can collaborate with businesses, NGOs, and educational institutions to create pathways for youth employment and mobility.

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- D. **Global Citizenship Education:** The Local Government shall integrate global citizenship education into school curricula and extracurricular activities to help young people develop critical thinking, empathy, and intercultural competence. This education can cover topics such as human rights, sustainability, social justice, and global issues, empowering youth to become responsible global citizens.
- E. **Access to Global Learning Resources:** The Local Government shall ensure equitable access to global learning resources, including libraries, museums, online courses, and educational materials, to enable youth to explore diverse perspectives, access information, and engage with global issues. Local Governments can invest in public libraries, digital infrastructure, and community centers that provide access to these resources.
- F. **Youth Leadership and Participation:** The Local Government shall empower youth to take on leadership roles and participate in decision-making processes at local, national, and international levels.

ARTICLE XVI
LOCAL YOUTH CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT AND EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM:
TOWARDS NATION-BUILDING

SECTION 37. MANDATORY AND CONTINUING TRAINING PROGRAM - The Local Government shall design and implement a mandatory and continuing training program for all the members of registered youth and youth-serving organizations, Sangguniang Kabataan elective and appointive officials, and individual youth who are not affiliated with any organizations. Here are the trainings, including but not limited to the following:

- A. **Leadership and Governance Training** - This includes training sessions focused on leadership development, governance principles, and public service ethics. This equips youth leaders and SK officials with the knowledge and skills needed to fulfill their roles responsibly, lead effectively, and uphold human rights and ethical standards in decision-making and governance.

- B. **Legal and Regulatory Compliance** - This includes training sessions on relevant laws, regulations, and policies governing youth organizations and SK operations such as understanding the Local Government Code, SK Reform Act, and other pertinent legislation, as well as familiarizing participants with their rights and responsibilities as public servants.
- C. **Community Development and Social Responsibility** - This includes training on community development approaches, social responsibility, and participatory governance to engage with the communities effectively, identify needs, and mobilize resources for collective action. This may involve workshops on community organizing, project management, and stakeholder engagement.
- D. **Communication and Advocacy Skills** - This includes training on communication and advocacy skills, such as public speaking, media relations, social media management, and campaign strategies. These skills enable youth leaders to effectively communicate with constituents, advocate for their needs and priorities, and mobilize support for community initiatives.
- E. **Financial Management and Resource Mobilization** - This includes training on financial management, budgeting, and resource mobilization for ensuring transparency, accountability, and sustainability in youth organizations and SK projects. This may involve financial literacy, grant writing, fundraising strategies, and project budgeting to equip the youth leaders with the tools to manage funds responsibly and maximize impact.
- F. **Conflict Resolution and Mediation** - This includes training on conflict resolution, mediation, and consensus-building to help youth leaders and SK officials navigate interpersonal conflicts, address disputes, and foster constructive dialogue within their organizations and communities.
- G. **Monitoring and Evaluation** - This includes training on monitoring and evaluation to equip youth leaders with essential skills to assess program effectiveness. This includes understanding M&E concepts, developing comprehensive plans, collecting, and analyzing data, measuring outcomes, utilizing findings for decision-making, building organizational M&E capacity, adhering to ethical standards, and integrating M&E into

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program management. Such training strengthens their ability to plan, implement, and assess programs effectively, contributing to youth development and community empowerment.

SECTION 38. LOCAL YOUTH PARLIAMENT

- A. **Institutionalization.** The Local Youth Parliament shall be institutionalized, implemented, and maintained by the Local Government once every three years. It shall serve as a forum for young people to discuss and advocate for issues relevant to their lives and communities, enabling them to review, propose, and advocate for policies and initiatives that address youth concerns and contribute to positive social change.
- B. **Organizing Committee.** An organizing committee shall be convened to spearhead and manage the implementation of the program. The committee shall be supervised by the Program Coordinator for Program and Operations from the Local Youth Development Office and by the President of the Pambayan na Pederasyon ng mga Sangguniang Kabataan and shall be composed of SK Federation Officers and Local Youth Development Council members. The committee shall formulate guidelines and processes on how to implement the program.

SECTION 39. LINGGO NG KABATAAN - The Local Government shall conduct an annual activity to be known as the "Linggo ng Kabataan" on the week when the 12th of August falls to coincide with the International Youth Day. The SK, in the case of barangays, and the respective LYDC in cooperation with the Pederasyon ng mga SK, shall take the lead in this observance.

- A. The observance of the Linggo ng Kabataan shall include the election of counterparts of all local elective and appointive officials, as well as heads of national offices or agencies stationed or assigned in the territorial jurisdiction of the LGU, among in-school and community youth residing in the Local Government concerned from ages fifteen (18) to twenty-four (24). During the said week, they shall hold office as youth officials and shall perform such duties and conduct such activities as may be provided in the ordinance enacted pursuant to this IRR.

SECTION 40. LOCAL YOUTH OFFICIALS PROGRAM

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- A. **Institutionalization** - The Local Youth Officials Program shall be institutionalized, implemented, and thereafter maintained by the Local Government to serve as an avenue for future leaders to be able to gain first-hand knowledge of government functions as related to community problems and development.
- B. **Organizing Committee** - An organizing committee shall be convened to spearhead and manage the implementation of the program. The committee shall be supervised by the Program Coordinator for Program and Operations from the Local Youth Development Office and by the President of the Pambayan na Pederasyon ng mga Sangguniang Kabataan and shall be composed of former Local youth officials. The committee shall formulate guidelines and processes on how to implement the program.
- C. **Oath of Office** - Selected Local youth officials shall take their oath of office before the Local Mayor at the date that shall be set by the Organizing Committee.
- D. **Term of Office** - The Local Youth Officials shall serve for the period of one (1) week during the "Linggo ng Kabataan".
- E. **Honorarium** - The Local Youth Official is entitled to receive an honorarium based on their daily accomplishments during their tenure with their official counterparts. The amount of the honorarium shall be based on the amount that shall be set by the Organizing Committee subject to the approval of the Local Mayor.
- F. **Limitation** - The Local Youth Officials will be given the opportunity to handle the operations of the Local Government except in the areas which are policy determining or requiring monetary disbursements.

SECTION 41. SAGISAG NG MODELONG PAGGOGOBYERNO

- A. **Institutionalization.** The *Sagisag ng Modelong Paggogobyerno* Program shall be institutionalized, implemented, and thereafter maintained by the Local Government to recognize and reward outstanding performance demonstrated by Sangguniang Kabataan

(SK) councils and officials, student governments, student leaders, youth, and youth-serving organizations, as well as youth leaders and volunteers within the community.

- B. **Organizing Committee.** An organizing committee shall be convened to spearhead and manage the implementation of the program. The committee shall be supervised by the Program Coordinator for Program and Operations from the Local Youth Development Office and by the President of the Pambayan na Pederasyon ng mga Sangguniang Kabataan and shall be composed of representatives from the municipal council, DILG, COA, NYC, and non-governmental organizations. The committee shall formulate guidelines and processes on how to implement the program.
- C. **Awarding of the Sagisag ng Modelong Paggogobyerno.** The *Sagisag ng Modelong Paggogobyerno* serves as a prestigious recognition, awarded biennially during the Linggo ng Kabataan celebration.
- D. **Incentives.** SMP awardees shall receive a cash incentive intended solely for supplementing the ongoing and new initiatives of the youth governing bodies. Additionally, winners will be presented with a plaque or certificate of recognition.

SECTION 42. JARO TEEN CENTER

- A. There shall be established a Teen Center under the supervision and management of the Local Youth Development Office (LYDO) of the Municipality of Jaro, Leyte. The Teen Center shall serve as a safe, inclusive, and youth-friendly facility that promotes the holistic growth and well-being of the youth through access to psychosocial, educational, and recreational programs. It shall function as a dedicated venue for:
1. **Mental health and psychosocial support** programs, including counseling, peer mentoring, and awareness campaigns;

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2. **Adolescent sexual and reproductive health (ASRH)** education and referral services, in coordination with the
 3. Municipal Health Office and accredited medical practitioners;
 4. **Life skills and leadership trainings**, values formation sessions, and civic education activities;
 5. **Recreational, cultural, and sports development** programs designed to encourage positive youth engagement and community interaction;
 6. **Digital literacy and innovation activities**, including workshops on ICT, communication, and creative industries; and
 7. **Youth consultation and participation mechanisms**, serving as a space for youth-led initiatives, dialogues, and policy discussions.
- B. The Teen Center shall be accessible to all children and youth aged eight (8) to thirty (30) years old, regardless of gender, status, or affiliation, and shall operate in partnership with public and private institutions, civil society organizations, and youth-serving groups.
- C. **TEEN CENTER MANAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS**
1. The Local Youth Development Officer (LYDO) shall manage and coordinate the operations of the Teen Center and shall develop a Teen Center Operations Manual, subject to the approval of the Local Chief Executive.
 2. The LYDO may enter into partnerships or memoranda of agreement (MOA) with national government agencies, private institutions, and non-government organizations for the provision of technical, financial, or professional assistance.
 3. Partnerships may include coordination with the National Youth Commission (NYC), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Education (DepEd), Commission on Population and Development (POPCOM), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and other youth-serving or faith-based organizations.

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D. ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL OF THE LOCAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT OFFICE - To ensure the efficient operation of the LYDO

and the Teen Center, the Local Government shall provide the following additional personnel positions, subject to the approval of the Local Chief Executive and the Sangguniang Bayan, and in accordance with Civil Service Commission (CSC) rules:

1. Program Development Officer – to coordinate youth programs, training, and evaluation;
2. Youth Welfare or Guidance Officer – to manage counseling, peer support, and Teen Center activities;
3. Part-time Guidance Counselor or Psychologist – to provide mental health services and referrals;
4. Volunteer or Support Staff – to assist in the implementation of activities, data gathering, and youth profiling.

The Human Resource Management Office (HRMO), in coordination with the Local Chief Executive, shall determine the appropriate status, salary grade, and qualifications for said personnel, subject to budgetary appropriations approved by the Sangguniang Bayan.

E. FUNDING AND MAINTENANCE - The necessary funds for the establishment, operation, and maintenance of the Jaro Teen Center and the hiring of additional LYDO personnel shall be included in the Annual Investment Plan (AIP) and the annual budget of the Municipality of Jaro.

The Local Government may also seek grants, partnerships, and donations from national agencies, private institutions, and development organizations, provided that such arrangements comply with all applicable laws and Commission on Audit (COA) regulations.

**ARTICLE XVII
DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE YOUTH**

SECTION 43. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE YOUTH - Youth as members of society shall have important duties and responsibilities, including but not limited to the following:

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- A. **Education and Self-Improvement** - Continuously strive to educate oneself, develop skills, and cultivate critical thinking abilities to contribute meaningfully to society.
- B. **Community Engagement** - Actively participate in community service projects, volunteer work, and initiatives that address local issues such as poverty, homelessness, and environmental sustainability.
- C. **Advocacy and Activism** - Advocate for social justice, human rights, and equality for all individuals, regardless of race, gender, religion, or socioeconomic status.
- D. **Environmental Stewardship** - Take actions to protect the environment, promote sustainability, and combat climate change through conservation efforts, recycling, and adopting eco-friendly practices.
- E. **Promoting Peace and Conflict Resolution** - Work towards fostering understanding, empathy, and peaceful resolutions to conflicts both locally and globally.
- F. **Promotion of Health and Well-being** - Encourage healthy lifestyles, mental health awareness, and support initiatives that address public health issues such as access to healthcare, disease prevention, and mental wellness.
- G. **Civic Engagement** - Participate in democratic processes, vote in elections, and engage in discussions about public policy issues to contribute to positive societal change.
- H. **Promotion of Diversity and Inclusion:** Embrace diversity, challenge discrimination, and foster inclusive environments that celebrate people of all backgrounds and identities.
- I. **Promotion of Technology for Good** - Utilize technology responsibly to innovate solutions for societal challenges, bridge digital divides, and promote access to information and resources.
- J. **Promotion of Global Citizenship** - Foster a sense of global responsibility, solidarity, and cooperation by supporting international development efforts, cultural exchange programs, and initiatives that address global challenges.

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- K. **Empowerment of Marginalized Communities** - Advocate for the rights and empowerment of marginalized groups, including refugees, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, and LGBTQ+ individuals.
- L. **Defending National Interests** - Stand up for the sovereignty, security, and interests of their country, whether through diplomatic efforts, advocacy, or other means of constructive engagement.
- M. **Ethical Leadership** - Lead by example, demonstrate integrity, and inspire others to act ethically and responsibly in their interactions with others and the world around them.

**ARTICLE XVIII
FINAL PROVISIONS**

SECTION 44. APPROPRIATIONS – The Local Government shall appropriate an annual budget for the purpose of successful and efficient implementation of this ordinance. The said amount shall be lodged or included in the Local Youth Development Office.

SECTION 45. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this ordinance, the Local Youth Development Council, Sangguniang Kabataan Federation shall hold consultations, primarily with legal advisers and the youth, youth organizations, and youth-serving organizations. These consultations will determine effective ways and methods for the implementation of this ordinance and the crafting of Implementing Rules and Regulations.

SECTION 46. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE – If any provision of this ordinance is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions, not affected thereby, shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 47. REPEALING CLAUSE – All provision of local ordinances, orders, resolutions, inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed and/or modified accordingly.

SECTION 48. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE – This ordinance shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper and after posting copies of this Ordinance in conspicuous locations within the **Municipality**.

ENACTED ON DECEMBER 9, 2025.

ITEM NO. 3- PROPONENT: HON. LANULFO M. BORJA
Chairman Committee on Health and Sanitation

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

Mental health is a fundamental aspect of human well-being and development, and the youth, being one of the most vulnerable sectors to stress, anxiety, and crisis, must be provided with adequate support, education, and professional care to safeguard their psychological health.

The Municipality of Jaro, through its Sangguniang Kabataan Federation, recognizes the urgent need to institutionalize a comprehensive and sustainable program that promotes youth mental wellness, ensures access to crisis response and psychosocial services, and addresses mental health stigma within the community.

Republic Act No. 11036, otherwise known as the *Mental Health Act*, and Republic Act No. 8044, the *Youth in Nation-Building Act*, both mandate the government to integrate mental health promotion and support into local governance, particularly among the youth sectors.

To strengthen local efforts and ensure the accessibility of appropriate and confidential mental health care services, it is imperative to establish a Municipal Teen Center as a safe space for counseling, mentoring, and community-based learning, and to conduct regular Psychological First Aid (PFA) trainings for barangay frontliners, youth leaders, and service providers.

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HONORABLE VIANCA MAE N. FAMILAR
Chairman Committee on Youth, Sports
and Development

**ORDINANCE NO. 18
SERIES OF 2025**

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE "MENTAL HEALTH AND CRISIS SAFETY PROGRAM" FOR THE YOUTH OF JARO, LEYTE; CREATING AND OPERATIONALIZING THE MUNICIPAL TEEN CENTER AS A SAFE AND YOUTH-FRIENDLY FACILITY FOR COUNSELING AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT; MANDATING THE CONDUCT OF PSYCHOLOGICAL FIRST AID (PFA) TRAININGS; PROVIDING FOR A MUNICIPAL REFERRAL AND CRISIS RESPONSE NETWORK; AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR ITS EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION.

INTRODUCED BY: HONORABLE VIANCA MAE N. FAMILAR
Chairman Committee on Youth, Sports and Development

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BE IT ORDAINED by the Sangguniang Bayan of Jaro, Leyte, in session assembled, that:

**ARTICLE I
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

SECTION 1. TITLE - This ordinance shall be known as *the "Mental Health and Crisis Safety Ordinance of the Youth of Jaro, Leyte."*

SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY - It is hereby declared the policy of the Municipality of Jaro, through the Sangguniang Kabataan Federation, to promote the mental health and emotional well-being of all young people; to ensure access to professional support and crisis response; and to strengthen partnerships with relevant government and non-government institutions for sustainable youth development.

SECTION 3. OBJECTIVES - This ordinance aims to:

- A. Establish and operate the Municipal Teen Center as a safe and youth-friendly facility for counseling and psychosocial support;
- B. Institutionalize the Mental Health and Crisis Safety Program as a continuing initiative for the youth;
- C. Conduct Psychological First Aid (PFA) training for local frontliners, healthcare workers, social workers, and youth leaders;
- D. Promote mental health awareness through education, campaigns, and community-based activities; and
- E. Mobilize municipal resources and partnerships to sustain mental health interventions for the youth sector.

SECTION 4. COVERAGE - This ordinance shall apply to all youth residents of the Municipality of Jaro, Leyte, including those enrolled in local schools, youth organizations, and out-of-school youth within the jurisdiction of the municipality.

SECTION 5. DEFINITION OF TERMS - For purposes of this ordinance, the following terms shall be defined as:

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- A. **Mental Health** – A state of well-being in which an individual realizes their potential, can cope with normal life stresses, and contributes productively to the community.
- B. **Psychological First Aid (PFA)** – A humane, supportive, and practical response to a person suffering from serious stress reactions or crisis, aimed at stabilizing emotions and linking them to professional help.
- C. **Teen Center** – A youth-friendly facility designed to serve as a safe space for counseling, mentoring, learning, and recreational activities promoting mental wellness.
- D. **Youth** – Persons aged fifteen (15) to thirty (30) years, as defined under Republic Act No. 8044 or the “Youth in Nation-Building Act.”

**ARTICLE II
DECLARATION OF POLICY**

 **SECTION 1. DECLARATION OF POLICY** - It is hereby declared the policy of the Municipality of Jaro, Leyte to:

- A. Promote the holistic mental wellness and emotional resilience of the youth by fostering programs and initiatives that support their overall psychological well-being;
- B. Ensure the accessibility of appropriate, confidential, and youth-centered mental health care and crisis intervention services;
- C. Strengthen inter-agency collaboration with the SK Federation of Jaro, Leyte, Municipal Health Office (MHO), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Commission on Population and Development (POPCOM), educational institutions, and other relevant stakeholders to provide professional and sustained mental health support; and
- D. Cultivate a compassionate, inclusive, and proactive community that upholds mental health awareness, understanding, and early intervention as vital components of youth development.

**ARTICLE III
ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF THE JARO
MUNICIPAL TEEN CENTER**

SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT - There is hereby established a *Municipal Teen Center* in the Municipality of Jaro, Leyte, which shall serve as a safe, inclusive, and youth-friendly facility dedicated to promoting the mental health and overall well-being of the youth.

SECTION 2. OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT - The Municipal Teen Center shall be operated and managed by the Local Youth Development Officer (LYDO), in close coordination with the Municipal Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) Federation, the Municipal Government, the Municipal Health Office, and the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office (MSWDO).

SECTION 3. FUNCTIONS OF THE TEEN CENTER

- A. Serve as a venue for municipal mental health awareness programs, seminars, and youth counseling;
- B. Provide first-level psychosocial and emotional support in partnership with the Municipal Health Office (MHO), DSWD, and accredited mental health professionals;
- C. Facilitate mental health referrals and coordinate with local hospitals and social welfare offices;
- D. Maintain confidentiality in all cases handled within the center.

SECTION 4. TEEN CENTER PERSONNEL - The Municipal Government, shall hire or assign qualified Youth Development Workers, Social Welfare Officers, and/or Counselors to serve as staff and program facilitators of the Teen Center.

**ARTICLE IV
MENTAL HEALTH AND CRISIS SAFETY PROGRAM**

SECTION 1. PROGRAM COMPONENTS - The Mental Health and Crisis Safety Program shall include the following major components:

- A. **Mental Health Awareness and Capacity-Building** - Regular conduct of mental health education seminars, capacity-building workshops, and advocacy campaigns in schools, barangays, and community spaces shall be implemented, focusing on the following key areas:

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1. Understanding stress, depression, anxiety, and trauma, including their early warning signs and preventive measures;
2. Developing healthy coping strategies, emotional resilience, and adaptive behavior in times of personal or collective crisis;
3. Promoting positive psychology, mindfulness practices, and sustainable self-care habits;
4. Enhancing emotional intelligence, empathy, and peer support among the youth;
5. Advocating responsible and mindful use of social media to promote digital well-being and cyber safety; and
6. Strengthening suicide prevention efforts, crisis awareness, and referral pathways for at-risk individuals.

Partnerships and collaborations with licensed mental health professionals, school guidance counselors, social workers, accredited psychologists, and trained facilitators shall be actively pursued to ensure that all educational and training activities are evidence-based, inclusive, and youth-responsive.

B. Psychological First Aid (PFA) Training and Capacity Enhancement

1. The Municipal Health Office (MHO), in partnership with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Health (DOH), and accredited psychology professionals, shall conduct regular Psychological First Aid (PFA) trainings for barangay health workers, youth leaders, and frontliners.
2. The training shall cover techniques for early detection of emotional distress, immediate response to crises, trauma-informed care, and proper referral to mental health services.
3. Follow-up workshops and refresher courses should be conducted at least once a year to maintain the competency of PFA-trained personnel.

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4. The SK Federation shall coordinate the scheduling and mobilization of participants across barangays to ensure municipality-wide coverage.
- C. **Referral and Crisis Response Network** - Establishment of a *Municipal Mental Health Referral System*, linking the Teen Center, Barangay Health Stations, the Municipal Health Office, and hospitals with mental health services to ensure timely intervention.
- D. **Youth Helpline and Confidential Support System** - The establishment of a *confidential helpline*, accessible through both phone and online platforms, shall be implemented and managed by trained and authorized personnel. This system shall serve as a safe and reliable channel through which the youth may report mental health concerns, seek immediate assistance, or request counseling and psychosocial support services.
- E. **Youth Mental Health Ambassadors Program** - Designation of trained youth volunteers in each barangay to assist in information dissemination, encourage peer support, and serve as liaisons to the Teen Center.
- F. **Recreational and Therapeutic Interventions** - The Teen Center shall offer creative and recreational programs such as art therapy, journaling, mindfulness activities, physical wellness sessions, and team-building exercises to reduce stress and foster emotional balance.
- G. **Annual Mental Health Awareness Celebration** - Institutionalization of an annual *Mental Health Awareness Month every October*, featuring seminars, creative activities, and advocacy campaigns.

**ARTICLE V
IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING**

SECTION 1. IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES - The Local Youth Development Officer (LYDO), in coordination with the Municipal Government, Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) Municipal Federation, Municipal Health Office, Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Commission on Population and Development (POPCOM), and other relevant agencies, shall serve as the lead implementing bodies of this Ordinance.

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They shall jointly ensure the effective execution, coordination, and monitoring of all programs and activities under the Mental Health and Crisis Safety Program for the youth.

SECTION 2. COORDINATION WITH BARANGAYS - Each Barangay SK Council shall serve as a local partner in disseminating information, referring cases, and mobilizing participants for municipal mental health activities.

SECTION 3. MONITORING AND EVALUATION - The SK Federation, with technical assistance from the Municipal Health Office, shall monitor the progress and effectiveness of the program and submit an annual report to the Municipal Mayor and the DILG Office.

ARTICLE VI FUNDING

SECTION 1. FUNDING - The implementation of this Ordinance shall be jointly funded by the following sources:

- A. The Barangay Sangguniang Kabataan Councils of Jaro, Leyte, through their annual budgets, specifically allocating a portion for mental health and crisis safety programs;
- B. A special fund allocation from the Municipal Government of Jaro, to be included in the Annual Investment Plan (AIP) and Local Development Fund (LDF), earmarked exclusively for the operation and sustainability of the *Mental Health and Crisis Safety Program* and the *Municipal Teen Center*;
- C. Assistance from the Municipal Health Office (MHO), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Health (DOH), Commission on Population and Development (POPCOM), and other relevant government agencies;
- D. Grants, partnerships, and donations from private organizations, non-government organizations (NGOs), and mental health advocacy groups; and
- E. Joint undertakings between the Sangguniang Kabataan Federation and local educational institutions for capacity-building activities, such as training and seminars.

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SECTION 2. UTILIZATION OF FUNDS - The funds shall be utilized for the following purposes:

- A. Operation and maintenance of the Municipal Teen Center;
- B. Conduct of Psychological First Aid (PFA) training, workshops, and mental health awareness campaigns;
- C. Honoraria for mental health professionals, facilitators, and resource persons;
- D. Procurement of equipment, learning materials, and first-aid kits for the Teen Center; and
- E. Communication expenses related to helplines, online support systems, and other digital platforms.

SECTION 3. TRANSPARENCY - All disbursements and financial transactions under this Ordinance shall strictly comply with existing budgeting, accounting, and auditing regulations, and shall be subject to periodic review by the Municipal Accounting Office to ensure transparency and accountability.

SECTION 4. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE - If any provision of this Ordinance is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 5. EFFECTIVITY - This Ordinance shall take effect immediately after its approval and posting in at least three (3) conspicuous places within the Municipality of Jaro, Leyte, in accordance with existing laws and regulations.

ENACTED ON DECEMBER 9, 2025.

ITEM NO. 4: PROPONENT: HONORABLE BENJAMIN H. GARIANDO, JR.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025 - 194

A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING JUDGE CARLOS O. ARGUELLES OF BARANGAY IV POBLACION, JARO, LEYTE FOR HIS EXEMPLARY ACHIEVEMENT IN SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING THE DOCTOR OF JURIDICAL SCIENCE (J.S.D.) DEGREE, AT SAN BEDA UNIVERSITY, GRADUATE SCHOOL OF LAW.

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WHEREAS, presented to the Body by Honorable Benjamin H. Gariando, Jr., a proposed Resolution Congratulating Judge Carlos O. Arguelles of Barangay IV Poblacion, Jaro, Leyte for his achievement in successfully completing the Doctor of Juridical Science (J.S.D.) Degree, at San Beda University, Graduate School of Law;

WHEREAS, the Sangguniang Bayan of Jaro recognizes outstanding academic achievements of its constituents as a testament to hard work, determination, and dedication to excellence;

WHEREAS, Judge Carlos O. Arguelles, a proud resident of Barangay IV poblacion, Jaro, Leyte, has successfully completed the Doctor of Juridical Science (J.S.D.) Degree, at San Beda University, Graduate School of Law;

WHEREAS, such achievement brings pride and honor not only to his family but also to the entire Municipality of Jaro, serving as an inspiration and motivation to the constituents to strive for academic excellence;

WHEREAS, it is but fitting and proper for this August Body to extend its warmest congratulations to Judge Carlos O. Arguelles for his exemplary accomplishment;

NOW, THEREFORE, on motion of **Honorable Benjamin H. Gariando, Jr.**, duly seconded en masse, this Sangguniang Bayan-

RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED TO CONGRATULATE JUDGE CARLOS O. ARGUELLES OF BARANGAY IV POBLACION, JARO, LEYTE FOR HIS EXEMPLARY ACHIEVEMENT IN SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING THE DOCTOR OF JURIDICAL SCIENCE (J.S.D.) DEGREE, AT SAN BEDA UNIVERSITY, GRADUATE SCHOOL OF LAW;

RESOLVED FINALLY, to furnish a copy of this resolution to the Municipal Mayor, and to Judge Carlos O. Arguelles for their information.

APPROVED ON DECEMBER 9, 2025.

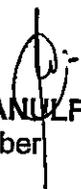
I HEREBY CERTIFY, to the correctness of the foregoing records of the proceedings.



RENATO B. OBIÑA
Acting Secretary to the Sangguniang Bayan
DEMO IV

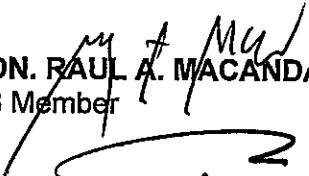
CONCURRED:

HON. REY P. AURE
SB Member/Presiding Officer Pro-Tempore
Absent-Excused

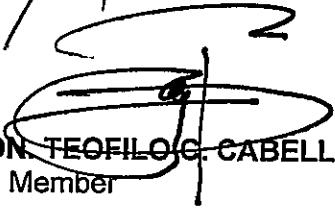


HON. LANULFO M. BORJA
SB Member


HON. FRANCISCO R. ALTRES
SB Member/Majority Floor Leader

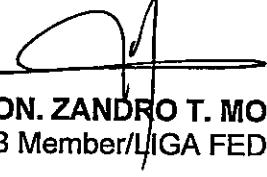

HON. RAUL A. MACANDA
SB Member


HON. BENJAMIN H. GARIANDO, JR.
SB Member


HON. TEOFILO G. CABELLO
SB Member


HON. CARMENCITA G. TAÑALA
SB Member


HON. ALMA A. TAMAYO
SB Member


HON. ZANDRO T. MORABE
SB Member/LIGA FED.-President


HON. VIANCA MAE N. FAMILAR
SB Member/SK FED.-President

ATTESTED:


HON. PEDRO B. TAÑALA, JR.
Municipal Vice Mayor
SB Presiding Officer

APPROVED:


HON. JASSIE LOU TAÑALA
Municipal Mayor



Republic of the Philippines
Province of Leyte
MUNICIPALITY OF JARO
Office of the Sangguniang Bayan Secretary
Legislative Building
Corner Del Carmen and Real Streets

January 29, 2026

CERTIFICATION

TO WHOM THIS MAY CONCERN:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that **MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 17**, series of 2025, otherwise known as, **“AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE YOUTH WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT CODE OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF JARO, LEYTE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREOF.”** have been posted last January 12, 2026 to date in conspicuous place in the Municipality of Jaro, Leyte.

ISSUED this 29th day of January 2026 at Jaro, Leyte.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

RENATO B. OBIÑA
ACTING SECRETARY TO THE SANGGUNIAN
DEMO IV

APPROVED:

HON. REY P. AURE
SB MEMBER
PRESIDING OFFICER PRO-TEMPORE

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Leyte
MUNICIPALITY OF JARO
- o0o -
Barangay I

January 27, 2026

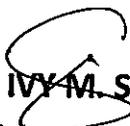
CERTIFICATION

TO WHOM THIS MAY CONCERN:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that **MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 17**, series of 2025, otherwise known as, **“AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE YOUTH WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT CODE OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF JARO, LEYTE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREOF.”** have been posted last January 12, 2026 to date in conspicuous place in our Barangay.

ISSUED this 27th day of January 2026 at Barangay District I, Jaro, Leyte.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:


IVY M. SOLAR
Barangay Secretary

APPROVED:


HON. MARIA FE LINDA B. COSARES
Barangay Chairwoman

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Leyte
MUNICIPALITY OF JARO
- oOo -
Barangay II

January 27, 2026

CERTIFICATION

TO WHOM THIS MAY CONCERN:

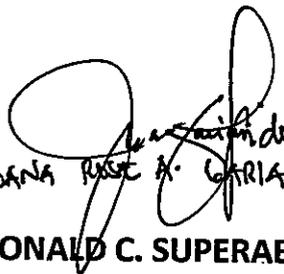
THIS IS TO CERTIFY that **MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 17**, series of 2025, otherwise known as, **“AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE YOUTH WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT CODE OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF JARO, LEYTE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREOF.”** have been posted last January 12, 2026 to date in conspicuous place in our Barangay.

ISSUED this 27th day of January 2026 at Barangay District II, Jaro, Leyte.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:


JENNIFER D. BACALANDO
Barangay Secretary

APPROVED:


for: **JOANA ROSE A. GARIANDOS**
HON. RONALD C. SUPERABLE
Barangay Chairman

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Leyte
MUNICIPALITY OF JARO
- o0o -
Barangay III

January 27, 2026

CERTIFICATION

TO WHOM THIS MAY CONCERN:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that **MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 17**, series of 2025, otherwise known as, **"AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE YOUTH WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT CODE OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF JARO, LEYTE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREOF."** have been posted last January 12, 2026 to date in conspicuous place in our Barangay.

ISSUED this 27th day of January 2026 at Barangay District III, Jaro, Leyte.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:


JAINA O. BATUCAN
Barangay Secretary

APPROVED:


HON. ADRIANO DIOLA
Barangay Chairman