



Item No.: 19
Date: 28 2026 APR

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF LEYTE
Provincial Capitol
Tacloban City

-oOo-

PROVINCIAL LEGAL OFFICE

Sangguniang Panlalawigan
Province of Leyte
RECEIVED

Date: APR 22 2026
By: [Signature]

PROVINCE OF LEYTE
LEGAL OFFICE

RELEASED

By: [Signature]
Date: Apr. 22. 26 Time: 9:21

2nd INDORSEMENT
April 10, 2026

Respectfully returned to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Leyte, through the SP Secretary, the attached Ordinance No. 238 the Sangguniang Bayan of San Matag-ob, Leyte.

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

- Ordinance No. 238 entitled: **“Municipal Anti-Trafficking in Persons of the Municipality of Matag-ob, Leyte.”**

REVIEW/RECOMMENDATION/LEGAL OPINION:

This office opines that the subject Ordinance is, in general, within the legislative authority of the Sangguniang Bayan under Sections 447(a)¹ of the Local Government Code of 1991 (R.A 7160) pursuant to RA 9208², as amended. Hence, we recommend for the declaration of its validity.

We hope to have assisted you with this request. Please note that the opinion rendered by this Office are based on the facts available and may vary or change when additional facts and documents are presented or changed. This opinion is likewise without prejudice to the opinions rendered by higher and competent authorities and/or the courts.

ATTY. JOSE RAYMUND A. ACOL
Provincial Legal Officer

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

² Ant-Trafficking in Persons Act

Republic of the Philippines
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Palo, Leyte
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PROVINCE OF LEYTE
LEGAL OFFICE

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By: JG
Date: 3/27/26 Time: 1:41

OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN

2nd Indorsement
27 March 2026

The Provincial Legal Office is respectfully requested to review and submit recommendations on the herein enclosed **Municipal Ordinance No. 238, s. 2026** of the **Municipality of Matag-ob, Leyte**, entitled: **An Ordinance IMPLEMENTING THE PROVISIONS OF R. A. No. 9208, as amended by R. A. No. 10364, the ANTI TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS ACT in the Municipality of Matag-ob, Leyte** providing for the prevention, prohibition, protection and prosecution of trafficking in persons, for other purposes.

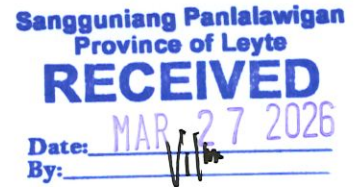

FLORINDA JILL S. UYVICO
Secretary to the Sanggunian



SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

ENDORSEMENT

March 25, 2026




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

Sir:

Respectfully forwarding to your good office the herein attached **Municipal Ordinance No. 238** series 2026, entitled "**AN ORDINANCE IMPLEMENTING THE PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9208, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10364, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "ANTI-TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS ACT," IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MATAG-OB, LEYTE, PROVIDING FOR THE PREVENTION, PROHIBITION, PROTECTION, AND PROSECUTION OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**" of the Sangguniang Bayan of Matag-ob, Leyte for review and approval by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan:

Very truly yours,


ANA MARIA SANORIA-ECIJA
Secretary to the Sanggunian

"The Town of United and Happy People"

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

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SANGGUNIAN BAYAN

CERTIFICATION OF POSTING

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that copies of **Municipal Ordinance No. 238** series 2026, entitled **"AN ORDINANCE IMPLEMENTING THE PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9208, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10364, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "ANTI-TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS ACT," IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MATAG-OB, PROVINCE OF LEYTE, PROVIDING FOR THE PREVENTION, PROHIBITION, PROTECTION, AND PROSECUTION OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"** of the Sangguniang Bayan of Matag-ob, Leyte are posted in Three (3) conspicuous places within the municipality of Matag-ob, Leyte for three consecutive weeks from March 25, 2026.

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

Issued this 25th Day of March, 2026.

Very truly yours,

ANA MARIA SANORIA-ECIJA
Secretary to the Sanggunian

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I HEREBY CERTIFY that this is a true and accurate copy of the resolution duly adopted by the Sangguniang Bayan of Matag-ob, Leyte on March 02, 2026.

ANA MARIA SANORIA-ECIJA
Secretary to the Sanggunian

ATTESTED:


HON. ARTEMIO T. ALMOROTO
Senior SB Member


HON. JOEL N. DENOY
SB Member


HON. EVANGELINE C. CARNO
SB Member



HON. RICARDO L. GIVA
SB Member


HON. RODOLFO N. SUNIR
SB Member

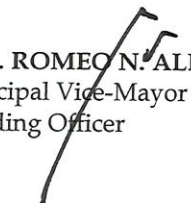

HON. LUZ M. BOLDERO
SB Member


HON. JOSE B. YAP
SB Member


HON. EDUARDO I. TOLEDO
SB Member


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


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


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

SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

EXCERPTS FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 36th REGULAR SESSION OF THE 12th SANGGUNIANG BAYAN OF MATAG-OB, LEYTE HELD AT THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION HALL ON MARCH 02, 2026.

MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 238

AN ORDINANCE IMPLEMENTING THE PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9208, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10364, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "ANTI-TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS ACT," IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MATAG-OB, LEYTE, PROVIDING FOR THE PREVENTION, PROHIBITION, PROTECTION, AND PROSECUTION OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Author : Hon. Evangeline C. Carno

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

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 9208, as amended by Republic Act No. 10364, declares it a policy of the State to value the dignity of every human person and guarantee the respect of individual rights by preventing and suppressing trafficking in persons, especially women and children;

WHEREAS, trafficking in persons is a grave violation of human rights and poses serious threats to the safety, welfare, and development of individuals and communities;

WHEREAS, local government units are mandated to take an active role in the prevention of trafficking in persons, the protection and recovery of victims, and the prosecution of offenders;

WHEREAS, there is a need to institutionalize local mechanisms in the Municipality of Matag-ob, Leyte

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I HEREBY CERTIFY that this is a true and accurate copy of the resolution duly adopted by the Sangguniang Bayan of Matag-ob, Leyte on March 02, 2026.

ANA MARIA SANORIA-ECIJA
Secretary to the Sanggunian

ATTESTED:

HON. ARTEMIO T. ALMOROTO
Senior SB Member

HON. JOEL N. DENOY
SB Member

HON. EVANGELINE C. CARNO
SB Member

HON. RICARDO L. GIVA
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SB Member

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Ex-Officio Member, SK Fed. Pres.

HON. JOEL G. TACOY
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HON. ROMEO N. ALBARIDA
Municipal Vice-Mayor
Presiding Officer

SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

to effectively implement Republic Act No. 9208, as amended, and strengthen coordination among concerned agencies at the municipal and barangay levels;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Sangguniang Bayan of the Municipality of Matag-ob hereby enacts this Ordinance.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Sangguniang Bayan of the Municipality of Matag-ob, Leyte, in session duly assembled, that:

SECTION 1. Title. This Ordinance shall be known as the "Municipal Anti-Trafficking in Persons Ordinance of the Municipality of Matag-ob, Leyte."

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. It is hereby declared the policy of the Municipality of Matag-ob, Leyte to prevent and suppress trafficking in persons in all its forms, protect and assist victims of trafficking, promote gender equality and child protection, and ensure the effective prosecution of offenders, in coordination with national government agencies and civil society partners.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. For purposes of this Ordinance, the terms used herein shall be understood as defined under Republic Act No. 9208, as amended, including but not limited to:

- (a) Trafficking in Persons - The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons through threat, use of force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power, or abuse of vulnerability for the purpose of exploitation.
- (b) Victim of Trafficking - Any person who is a victim of trafficking as defined under the law.
- (c) Child - A person below eighteen (18) years of age.

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(d) MSWDO - Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office of Matag-ob, Leyte.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that this is a true and accurate copy of the resolution duly adopted by the Sangguniang Bayan of Matag-ob, Leyte on March 02, 2026.

ANA MARIA SANORIA-ECIJA
 Secretary to the Sanggunian

ATTESTED:

HON. ARTEMIO T. ALMOROTO
 Senior SB Member

HON. JOEL N. DENOY
 SB Member

HON. EVANGELINE C. CARMO
 SB Member

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 Ex-Officio Member, SK Fed. Pres.

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

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

SECTION 4. Prohibited Acts. All acts of trafficking in persons, attempted trafficking, acts that promote trafficking, and the use of trafficked persons are hereby prohibited within the territorial jurisdiction of the Municipality of Matag-ob, Leyte in accordance with Republic Act No. 9208, as amended.

SECTION 5. Creation of the Municipal Anti-Trafficking Council. There is hereby created a Municipal Anti-Trafficking Council (MATC) which shall serve as the primary body responsible for coordinating and monitoring anti-trafficking efforts in the Municipality of Matag-ob, Leyte.

Chairperson	Municipal Mayor
Vice-Chairperson	SB Cmte. on Women
Members	MSWDO
	PNP
	Municipal Health Office
	Local Civil Registrar
	Public Employment Service Office (PESO)
	Liga ng mga Barangay
	other relevant offices or organizations.

SECTION 6. Functions of the Municipal Anti-Trafficking Council. The MATC shall have the following functions:

- (a) Formulate and implement local policies, programs, and action plans against trafficking in persons;
- (b) Coordinate with the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT) and other concerned agencies;
- (c) Monitor, document, and report trafficking cases within the municipality;

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SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

I HEREBY CERTIFY that this is a true and accurate copy of the resolution duly adopted by the Sangguniang Bayan of Matag-ob, Leyte on March 02, 2026.

ANA MARIA SANORIA-ECIJA
 Secretary to the Sanggunian

ATTESTED:

HON. ARTEMIO R. ALMOROTO
 Senior SB Member

HON. JOEL N. DENOY
 SB Member

HON. EVANGELINE C. CARMO
 SB Member

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 Ex-Officio Member, SK Fed. Pres.

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 Ex-Officio Member, LNB President

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

- (d) Conduct advocacy, education, and information campaigns on anti-trafficking;
- (e) Ensure referral, protection, and recovery services for victims of trafficking.

SECTION 7. Duties of the MSWDO. The Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office shall:

- (a) Provide immediate assistance, protection, temporary shelter, counseling, and psychosocial support to victims of trafficking;
- (b) Manage cases and facilitate referrals to appropriate agencies;
- (c) Assist victims in accessing livelihood, education, and reintegration programs.

SECTION 8. Role of Barangays. All barangays in the Municipality of Matag-ob, Leyte shall:

- (a) Establish barangay-level mechanisms to prevent trafficking in persons;
- (b) Monitor and report suspected trafficking activities to the MATC and appropriate authorities;
- (c) Assist in community awareness and prevention activities.

SECTION 9. Confidentiality and Protection of Victims.

The identity and personal circumstances of victims of trafficking shall be kept confidential. Victims shall not be penalized for unlawful acts committed as a direct result of being trafficked, in accordance with existing laws.

SECTION 10. Penalties. Any person who violates this Ordinance shall be penalized in accordance with the penalties provided under Republic Act No. 9208, as amended, without prejudice to the filing of appropriate administrative, civil, or criminal actions.

SECTION 11. Funding. Funds necessary for the implementation of this Ordinance shall be included in the annual budget of the Municipality of Matag-ob,

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ATTESTED:

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

[Signature]
 HON. JOEL N. DENOY
 SB Member

[Signature]
 HON. EVANGELINE C. GARNO
 SB Member

[Signature]
 HON. RICARDO L. GIVA
 SB Member

[Signature]
 HON. RODOLFO N. SUÑIR
 SB Member

[Signature]
 HON. LUZ M. BOLDERO
 SB Member

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 HON. JOSAB. YAP
 SB Member

[Signature]
 HON. EDUARDO I. TOLEDO
 SB Member

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

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

[Signature]
 HON. ROMEO N. ALBARIDA
 Municipal Vice-Mayor
 Presiding Officer

SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

Leyte, subject to existing accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

SECTION 12. Amendments Clause. The Sangguniang Bayan may amend, modify, or revise any provision of this Ordinance through the enactment of a subsequent ordinance, as the need arises, in accordance with existing laws, rules, and regulations.

SECTION 13. Separability Clause. If any provision of this Ordinance is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 14. Repealing Clause. All ordinances, resolutions, rules, or regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 15. Effectivity. This Ordinance shall take effect upon approval and after compliance with the posting and publication requirements under existing laws.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

ENACTED this 2nd day of March, 2026, at the Municipality of Matag-ob, Leyte.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that this is a true and accurate copy of the Ordinance duly adopted by the Sangguniang Bayan of Matag-ob, Leyte on March 02, 2026.

[Signature]
 ANA MARIA SANORIA-ECIJA
 Secretary to the Sanggunian

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**SANGGUNIANG BAYAN
 VOTING ON THIS ORDINANCE:**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that this is a true and accurate copy of the resolution duly adopted by the Sangguniang Bayan of Matag-ob, Leyte on March 02, 2026.

ANA MARIA SANORIA-ECIJA
 Secretary to the Sanggunian

ATTESTED:

HON. ARTEMIO F. ALMOROTO
 Senior SB Member

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

- Hon. Artemio T. Almoroto
- Hon. Joel N. Denoy
- Hon. Evangeline C. Carno
- Hon. Ricardo L. Giva
- Hon. Rodolfo N. Suñir
- Hon. Luz M. Boldero
- Hon. Jose B. Yap
- Hon. Eduardo I. Toledo
- Hon. Ana Love D. Borden
- Hon. Joel G. Tacoy

**AYES - 10
 NAYES - 0
 ABSTAIN - 0**

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

HONORABLE ROMEO N. ALBARIDA
 Municipal Vice-Mayor
 Presiding Officer

APPROVED:

HONORABLE BERNANDINO G. TACOY
 Municipal Mayor

25 MAR 2026

Date Signed

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