



Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF LEYTE
 Provincial Capitol
 Tacloban City

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PROVINCIAL LEGAL OFFICE

Item No.: 26
 Date: 21 2026 APR

Sangguniang Panlalawigan
 Province of Leyte
RECEIVED
 Date: APR 15 2026
 By: [Signature]
 LEGAL OFFICE

RECEIVED
 By: [Signature]
 Date: 4.15.26 Time: apud

2nd INDORSEMENT
 February 26, 2026

Respectfully returned to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Leyte, through the SP Secretary, the attached Ordinance No. 122-26 of the Sangguniang Bayan of Leyte, Leyte.

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

- Ordinance No. 122-26 entitled: **“Municipal Literacy and Reading Promotion Ordinance of the Municipality of Leyte , 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)¹ and 17(a)² of the Local Government Code of 1991 (R.A 7160). 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, and shall:

(1) Approve ordinances and pass resolutions necessary for an efficient and effective municipal government,

² (a) Local government units shall endeavor to be self-reliant and shall continue exercising the powers and discharging the duties and functions currently vested upon them. They shall also discharge the functions and responsibilities of national agencies and offices devolved to them pursuant to this Code. Local government units shall likewise exercise such other powers and discharge such other functions and responsibilities as are necessary, appropriate, or incidental to efficient and effective provisions of the basic services and facilities enumerated herein.


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

1ST INDORSEMENT
26 February 2026

The Provincial Legal Office is respectfully requested to review and submit recommendations on the herein enclosed **Municipal Ordinance No. 122-26** of the **Municipality of Leyte, Leyte**, entitled: **An Ordinance establishing the Municipal Literacy and Reading Promotion Program in the Municipality of Leyte, Province of Leyte, and for other purposes.**

FLORINDA JILLS UYVICO
Secretary to the Sanggunian

Received by: 
ART EMMANUEL B. BANTUA
1-26-26



Republic of the Philippines
MUNICIPALITY OF LEYTE
L E Y T E

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Office of the Sangguniang Bayan

1st ENDORSEMENT
February 25, 2025

Respectfully forwarded to the Honorable Sangguniang Panlalawigan in session, through the Sangguniang Panlalawigan Secretary, Province of Leyte, Palo, Leyte, the herein **Municipal Ordinance No. 122-26 Entitled “AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE MUNICIPAL LITERACY AND READING PROMOTION PROGRAM IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LEYTE, PROVINCE OF LEYTE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”**.

Attached herewith are the following :

1. Municipal Ordinance No.122-26
2. Certificate of Posting


VILMA D. COMBATE
SB Secretary



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
MUNICIPALITY OF LEYTE
LEYTE

OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN OF LEYTE

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION BY THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN HELD ON FEBRUARY 6, 2026, AT THE SB SESSION HALL, MUNICIPAL BUILDING, LEYTE, LEYTE

Present:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Hon. Arnold James M. Ysidoro, ----- | Municipal Vice Mayor/ Presiding Officer |
| Hon. Asefa Gail Granados-Caña, ----- | Sangguniang Bayan Member |
| Hon. Lileth I. Gatchalian, ----- | -do- |
| Hon. Pedro B. Panis, ----- | -do- |
| Hon. Evelyn V. Cabardo, ----- | -do- |
| Hon. Paquito D. Pelipel, Jr. ----- | -do- |
| Hon. Charito T. Gato, ----- | -do- |
| Hon. Rowil G. Batan ----- | -do- |
| Hon. Edward Jay A. Durante, ----- | -do- |
| Hon. Jerry G. Apacible, ----- | Liga ng mga Barangay President |
| Hon. Nellie Grace D. Dandan ----- | SK Federation President |

MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 122-26

Author: Hon. Asefa Gail Granados-Caña

Co-Author: Hon. Charito T. Gato

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE MUNICIPAL LITERACY AND READING PROMOTION PROGRAM IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LEYTE, PROVINCE OF LEYTE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, literacy is a vital foundation for education, personal development, informed citizenship, and sustainable community growth;

WHEREAS, Section 16 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, mandates local government units to promote the general welfare of their constituents, including education and human development;

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Leyte recognizes the need to improve reading skills and literacy levels among children, youth, and adults, particularly in barangays with limited access to learning resources;

WHEREAS, community-based and facility-based literacy programs are more sustainable and cost-effective than capital-intensive initiatives requiring vehicles and high maintenance expenses;

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Leyte aims to strengthen a culture of reading and learning by maximizing existing public facilities, volunteerism, and partnerships;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Sangguniang Bayan of the Municipality of Leyte, Province of Leyte, in session assembled, that:

SECTION 1. TITLE. This Ordinance shall be known as the **"MUNICIPAL LITERACY AND READING PROMOTION ORDINANCE OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF LEYTE."**

SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY. It is hereby declared the policy of the Municipality of Leyte to promote literacy and lifelong learning by creating accessible, inclusive, and sustainable reading programs that encourage community participation and utilize existing municipal and barangay resources.

SECTION 3. OBJECTIVES. This Ordinance aims to:

- Improve reading comprehension and literacy skills among children, youth, and adults in the Municipality of Leyte;
- Encourage regular reading habits within families and communities;
- Establish accessible reading spaces in barangays using existing public facilities;
- Promote volunteerism and shared responsibility in literacy development; and

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e. Institutionalize a municipal framework for literacy promotion that is sustainable and cost-efficient.

SECTION 4. DEFINITION OF TERMS. As used in this Ordinance, the following terms shall mean:

- a. **Literacy** – the ability to read, write, understand, and use written information in daily life, including functional reading and comprehension skills.
- b. **Reading Promotion** – organized efforts, programs, and activities aimed at encouraging reading habits, improving reading skills, and increasing access to reading materials.
- c. **Municipal Literacy and Reading Promotion Program** – the municipality-wide program established under this Ordinance that serves as the primary mechanism for planning, coordinating, and implementing all literacy-related initiatives in the Municipality of Leyte.
- d. **Community Reading Hub** – a designated space within an existing public facility such as a barangay hall, day care center, school, or other government-owned space where reading materials and literacy activities are made accessible to the public.
- e. **Barangay Reading Center** – a barangay-based reading facility established pursuant to the Barangay Reading Center Ordinance, which shall serve as the barangay’s Community Reading Hub under this Ordinance.
- f. **Reading Materials** – books, magazines, educational pamphlets, learning modules, and other age-appropriate and educational resources in print or digital form.
- g. **Volunteer** – any individual who willingly offers time and service, without compensation, to support literacy and reading promotion activities under the Program.
- h. **Implementing Office** – the municipal office designated by the Municipal Mayor to oversee the implementation of this Ordinance, including coordination with barangays and partner institutions.

SECTION 5. CREATION OF THE MUNICIPAL LITERACY AND READING PROMOTION PROGRAM. There is hereby created the **Municipal Literacy and Reading Promotion Program of the Municipality of Leyte**, which shall serve as the primary program for planning, coordinating, and implementing all literacy-related initiatives of the Municipality.

SECTION 6. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNITY READING HUBS.

- a. The Municipality shall establish **Community Reading Hubs** in existing public facilities such as barangay halls, day care centers, or other suitable government-owned spaces within the Municipality of Leyte.
- b. Each barangay is encouraged to maintain at least **one (1) Community Reading Hub**, subject to space and resource availability.
- c. Barangay officials shall designate a **Barangay Reading Coordinator** or volunteers to oversee the maintenance and operation of the Reading Hub.

SECTION 7. LITERACY AND READING ACTIVITIES. The Municipal Literacy and Reading Promotion Program may include, but shall not be limited to, the following:

- a. Storytelling and reading sessions for children;
- b. After-school, weekend, and summer reading programs;
- c. Reading clubs and literacy enrichment activities for youth and adults;
- d. Family-oriented reading activities to promote reading at home;
- e. Literacy-related events during National Children’s Month, Nutrition Month, and other relevant municipal or national observances.

SECTION 8. VOLUNTEERS AND PARTNERSHIPS.

- a. The Municipality of Leyte shall encourage the participation of volunteers such as teachers, students, senior citizens, youth organizations, and civic groups in the implementation of the Program.
- b. The Municipal Mayor is hereby authorized to establish partnerships with public and private schools, higher education institutions, non-government organizations, libraries, and private entities for technical assistance, book donations, and other forms of support.

SECTION 9. BOOK DONATION AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION.



- a. The Municipality may conduct regular **book donation drives** to support the Program.
- b. Donated books and learning materials shall be inventoried and distributed equitably among the Community Reading Hubs.
- c. Priority shall be given to age-appropriate, culturally relevant, and educational reading materials in English, Filipino, and Waray, whenever available.

SECTION 10. IMPLEMENTING OFFICE. The implementation of this Ordinance shall be overseen by the **Municipal Mayor of Leyte**, through the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office (MSWDO), in coordination with Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator (MPDC) and the Local Youth Development Office (LYDO), and the Chairperson of Committee on Education of the Sangguniang Bayan, barangay local government units, and other concerned municipal offices.

SECTION 11. FUNDING. Funds necessary for the implementation of this Ordinance shall be charged against available municipal funds, barangay funds, and Sangguniang Kabataan funds subject to existing budgeting, accounting, and auditing rules and regulations. Additional funding may be sourced from grants, donations, and partnerships with public or private institutions.

SECTION 12. MONITORING AND REPORTING. The implementing office shall submit an **annual report** to the Sangguniang Bayan of Leyte detailing the accomplishments, challenges, and recommendations related to the Municipal Literacy and Reading Promotion Program.

SECTION 13. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. If any provision of this Ordinance is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 14. REPEALING CLAUSE. All ordinances, resolutions, executive orders, or parts thereof inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

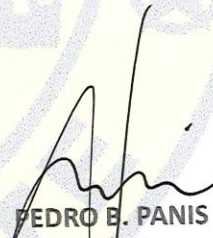
SECTION 15. EFFECTIVITY. This Ordinance shall take effect after compliance with the publication and posting requirements as provided under existing laws and regulations.

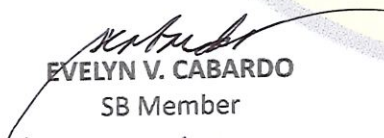
SO ORDAINED.

APPROVED this 6th day of February, 2026, at Leyte, Leyte, Philippines.


ASEFA GAIL GRANADOS-CAÑA
SB Member


LILETH I. GATCHALIAN
SB Member

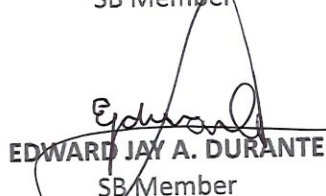

PEDRO B. PANIS
SB Member

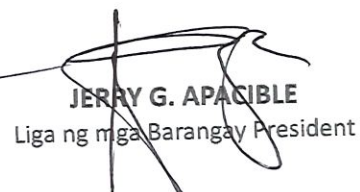

EVELYN V. CABARDO
SB Member

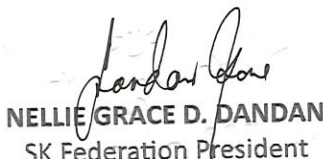

PAQUITO D. PELIPEL, JR.
SB Member


CHARITO T. GATO
SB Member


ROWIL G. BATAN
SB Member


EDWARD JAY A. DURANTE
SB Member


JERRY G. APACIBLE
Liga ng mga Barangay President


NELLIE GRACE D. DANDAN
SK Federation President

Certified Correct:




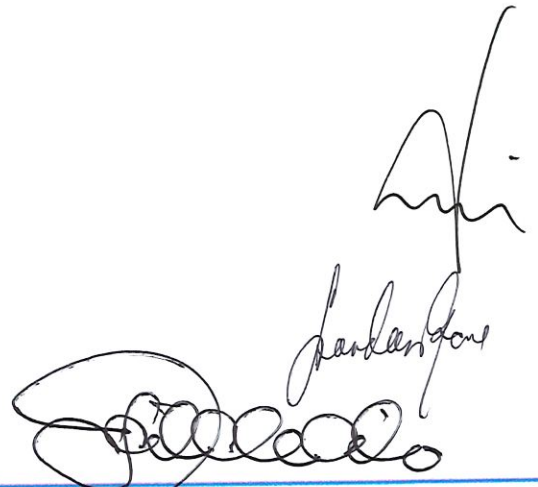
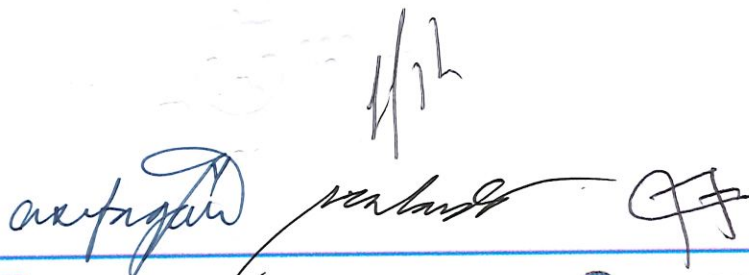
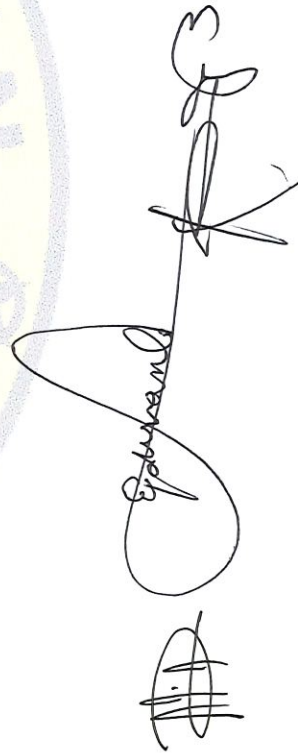
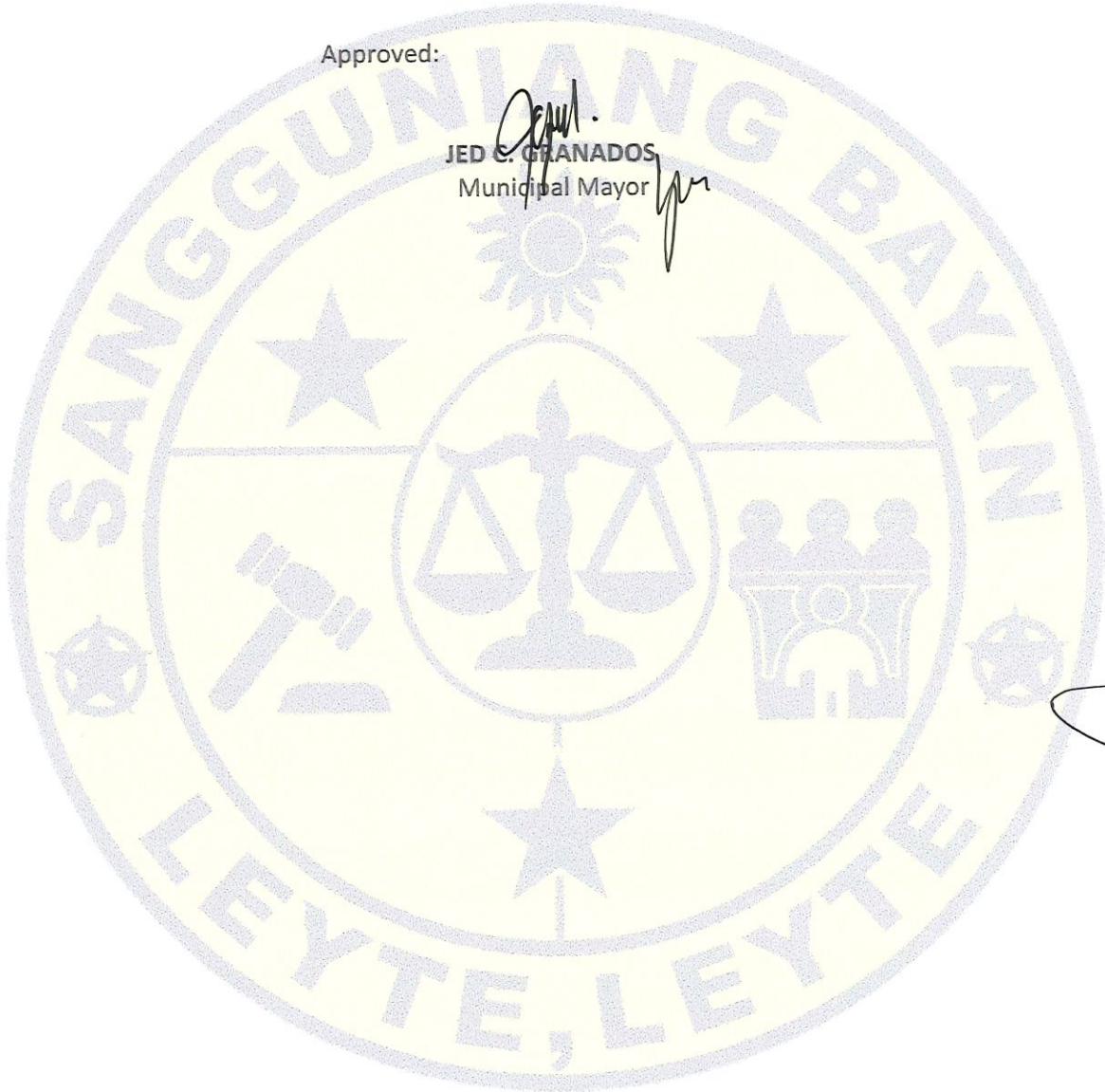
VILMA D. COMBATE
MGDH I (Secretary to the Sanggunian)

Attested:

~~ARNOLD JAMES M. YSIDORO~~
Municipal Vice Mayor
Presiding Officer

Approved:


JED C. GRANADOS
Municipal Mayor





Republic of the Philippines
MUNICIPALITY OF LEYTE
L E Y T E

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Office of the Sangguniang Bayan



CERTIFICATE OF POSTING

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that Municipal Ordinance No. 122-26:"AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE MUNICIPAL LITERACY AND READING PROMOTION PROGRAM IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LEYTE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES", was posted and shall remain posted in three (3) conspicuous places in this Municipality.

This certification is issued this 25th day of February, 2026 at Leyte, Leyte, Philippines.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vilma D. Combate".

VILMA D. COMBATE
Secretary to the Sangguniang Bayan