



Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF LEYTE
 Provincial Capitol
 Tacloban City

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PROVINCIAL LEGAL OFFICE

Item No.: 27
 Date: 21 2026 APR
 Sangguniang Panlalawigan
 Province of Leyte
RECEIVED
 Date: APR 15 2026
 By: [Signature]
 PROVINCE OF LEYTE
 LEGAL OFFICE
RELEASED
 By: [Signature]
 Date: 4.15.26 Time: 2:17

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

2nd INDORSEMENT
 February 26, 2026

Respectfully returned to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Leyte, through the SP Secretary, the attached Ordinance No. 123-26 of the Sangguniang Bayan of Leyte, Leyte.

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

- Ordinance No. 123-26 entitled: **“Barangay Reading Center 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 **A**

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. 123-26** of the **Municipality of Leyte, Leyte**, entitled: **An Ordinance mandating the establishment of Barangay Reading Centers in all barangays of the of the Municipality of Leyte, Province of Leyte, in support of the Municipal Literacy and Reading Promotion Program, and for other purposes.**

FLORINDA JILLS UYVICO
Secretary to the Sanggunian

Received by:
ART EMMANUEL N. BABILAS
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. 123-26 Entitled "AN ORDINANCE MANDATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BARANGAY READING CENTERS IN ALL BARANGAYS OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF LEYTE, PROVINCE OF LEYTE, IN SUPPORT OF THE MUNICIPAL LITERACY AND READING PROMOTION PROGRAM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"**.

Attached herewith are the following:

1. Municipal Ordinance No.123-26
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. 123-26

Author: **Hon. Asefa Gail Granados-Caña**

Co-Author: **Hon. Charito T. Gato**

AN ORDINANCE MANDATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BARANGAY READING CENTERS IN ALL BARANGAYS OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF LEYTE, PROVINCE OF LEYTE, IN SUPPORT OF THE MUNICIPAL LITERACY AND READING PROMOTION PROGRAM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, literacy promotion is a declared policy of the Municipality of Leyte under the Municipal Literacy and Reading Promotion Ordinance, which establishes a municipality-wide framework for improving reading skills and access to learning resources;

WHEREAS, Section 5 of the Municipal Literacy and Reading Promotion Ordinance provides for the establishment of Community Reading Hubs utilizing existing public facilities;

WHEREAS, barangays play a vital role in grassroots implementation of municipal programs, particularly those involving children, youth, and families;

WHEREAS, the establishment of Barangay Reading Centers serves as the primary barangay-level mechanism for implementing the objectives of the Municipal Literacy and Reading Promotion Program;

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 **“BARANGAY READING CENTER ORDINANCE OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF LEYTE.”**

SECTION 2. RELATION TO THE MUNICIPAL LITERACY AND READING PROMOTION ORDINANCE. This Ordinance is hereby declared as a **complementary and implementing ordinance** of the **Municipal Literacy and Reading Promotion Ordinance of the Municipality of Leyte**. Barangay Reading Centers established under this Ordinance shall function as **Community Reading Hubs** as contemplated under **Section 6** of the Municipal Literacy and Reading Promotion Ordinance.

SECTION 3. DECLARATION OF POLICY. Consistent with **Section 2 (Declaration of Policy)** of the Municipal Literacy and Reading Promotion Ordinance, it is hereby declared the policy of the Municipality of Leyte to institutionalize barangay-based reading centers to ensure accessible, inclusive, and sustainable literacy services at the community level.

SECTION 4. OBJECTIVES. In support of **Section 3 (Objectives)** of the Municipal Literacy and Reading Promotion Ordinance, this Ordinance aims to:

- a. Improve reading and comprehension skills at the barangay level;

(Handwritten signatures of the Sangguniang Bayan members and officials)

- b. Provide safe and accessible reading spaces within each barangay;
- c. Encourage volunteerism and shared responsibility for literacy development; and
- d. Ensure effective barangay participation in the municipal literacy framework.

SECTION 5. DEFINITION OF TERMS. As used in this Ordinance, the following terms shall mean:

- a. **Barangay Reading Center** – a designated reading facility established by the barangay within an existing public structure that provides access to reading materials and literacy activities, and which serves as the barangay’s **Community Reading Hub** under the Municipal Literacy and Reading Promotion Ordinance.
- b. **Community Reading Hub** – a public reading space defined under **Section 4(d)** of the Municipal Literacy and Reading Promotion Ordinance, where books and literacy activities are made accessible to the community.
- c. **Literacy Activities** – organized programs such as storytelling, reading sessions, reading clubs, and other learning activities aligned with **Section 7** of the Municipal Literacy and Reading Promotion Ordinance.
- d. **Reading Materials** – books, magazines, learning modules, pamphlets, and other age-appropriate educational resources in print or digital form.
- e. **Barangay Reading Coordinator** – a person designated by the Punong Barangay to oversee the management, operation, and reporting of the Barangay Reading Center.
- f. **Volunteer** – any individual who offers time and service, without compensation, to support literacy and reading activities under this Ordinance, consistent with **Section 8** of the Municipal Literacy and Reading Promotion Ordinance.

SECTION 6. ESTABLISHMENT OF BARANGAY READING CENTERS.

- a. Each barangay in the Municipality of Leyte is hereby **mandated to establish at least one (1) Barangay Reading Center**, which shall serve as the barangay’s designated **Community Reading Hub** under the Municipal Literacy and Reading Promotion Ordinance.
- b. Reading Centers shall be located in existing barangay facilities such as barangay halls, day care centers, multipurpose halls, or other suitable government-owned spaces.
- c. No new infrastructure shall be required.

SECTION 7. MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS.

- a. In accordance with **Section 6(c)** of the Municipal Literacy and Reading Promotion Ordinance, the Punong Barangay shall designate a **Barangay Reading Coordinator** and or Sangguniang Kabataan Members to operate and maintain the Reading Center.
- b. The Reading Center shall be managed with the assistance of volunteers, consistent with **Section 8 (Volunteers and Partnerships)** of the Municipal Ordinance.
- c. Operating schedules shall be determined by the Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan, taking into account school hours and community needs.

SECTION 8. READING MATERIALS AND RESOURCES.

- a. Reading materials shall be sourced in accordance with **Section 9 (Book Donation and Resource Mobilization)** of the Municipal Literacy and Reading Promotion Ordinance.
- b. Priority shall be given to age-appropriate and culturally relevant materials in **English, Filipino, and Waray**.
- c. All donated materials shall be inventoried and properly maintained.

SECTION 9. BARANGAY LITERACY ACTIVITIES. Barangay Reading Centers shall conduct literacy activities aligned with **Section 7 (Literacy and Reading Activities)** of the Municipal Literacy and Reading Promotion Ordinance, including but not limited to:

- a. Storytelling and reading sessions;
- b. After-school, weekend, and summer reading programs;
- c. Reading clubs and family-oriented literacy activities;
- d. Literacy events during national and municipal observances.

SECTION 10. ROLE OF THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT.

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- a. Pursuant to **Section 10 (Implementing Office)** of the Municipal Literacy and Reading Promotion Ordinance, the Municipal Government of Leyte, through the MSWDO or designated office, shall provide technical assistance, coordination, and monitoring support to barangays.
- b. The Municipal Government may conduct capacity-building activities for Barangay Reading Coordinators and volunteers.

SECTION 11. FUNDING.

- a. Funding support for Barangay Reading Centers shall be consistent with **Section 11 (Funding)** of the Municipal Literacy and Reading Promotion Ordinance.
- b. Barangays and Sangguniang Kabataan shall allocate funds from their respective regular budget to support Reading Center operations, subject to existing budgeting and auditing rules.
- c. Donations, grants, and partnerships are encouraged.

SECTION 12. MONITORING AND REPORTING. Barangays shall submit annual reports to the Municipal Government of Leyte, which shall be consolidated as part of the **annual report required under Section 12** of the Municipal Literacy and Reading Promotion Ordinance.

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, or parts thereof inconsistent with this Ordinance and the Municipal Literacy and Reading Promotion Ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.


SECTION 15. EFFECTIVITY. This Ordinance shall take effect after compliance with the publication and posting requirements as required by law.

SO ORDAINED.

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


ASEFA GAIL GRANADOS-CAÑA
SB Member


LILETH I. GATCHALIAN
SB Member

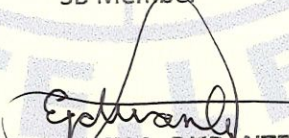

PEDRO B. PANIS
SB Member

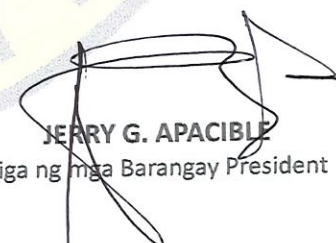

EVELYN V. CABARDO
SB Member


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

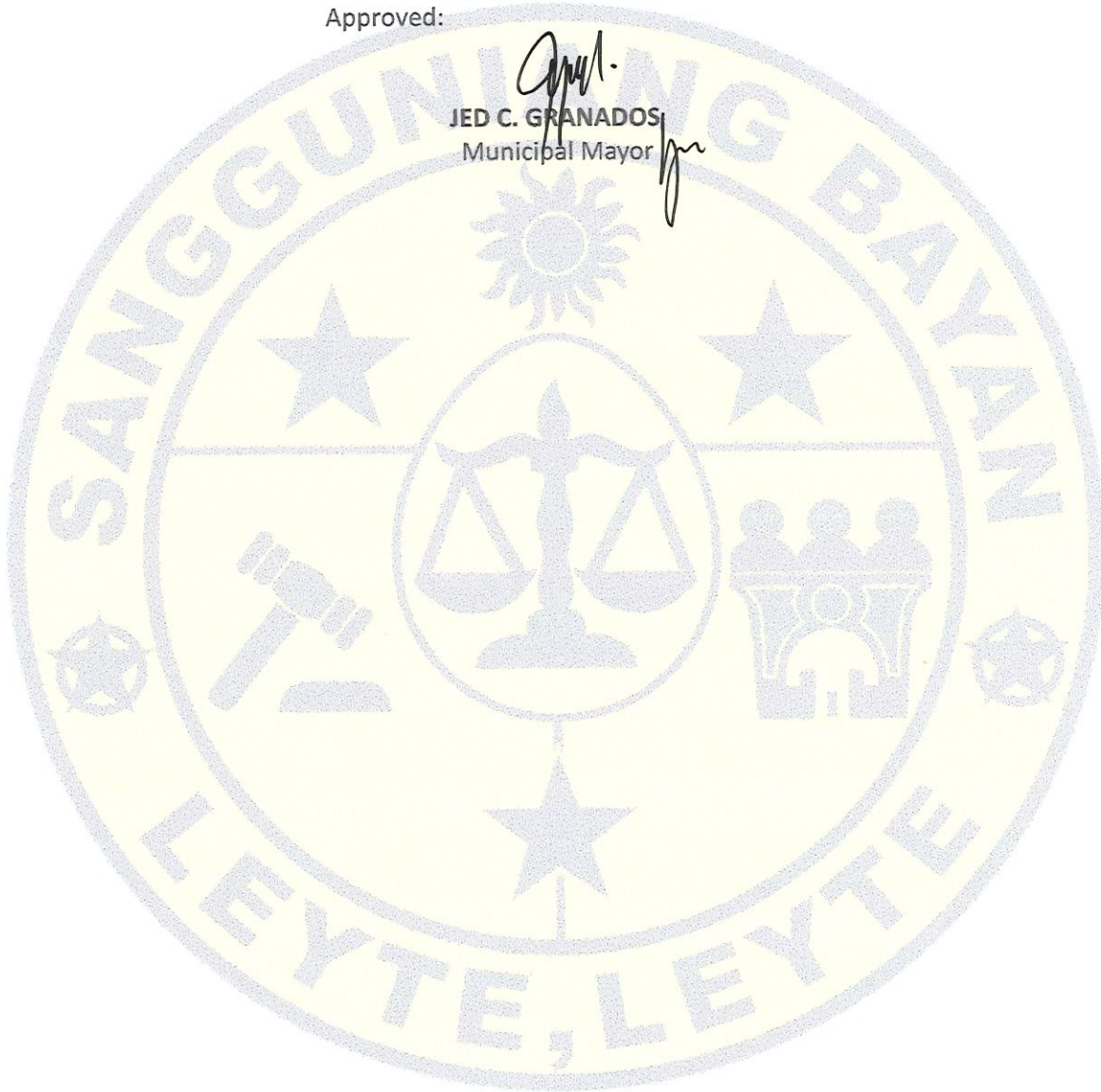
MGDH I (Secretary to the Sanggunian)

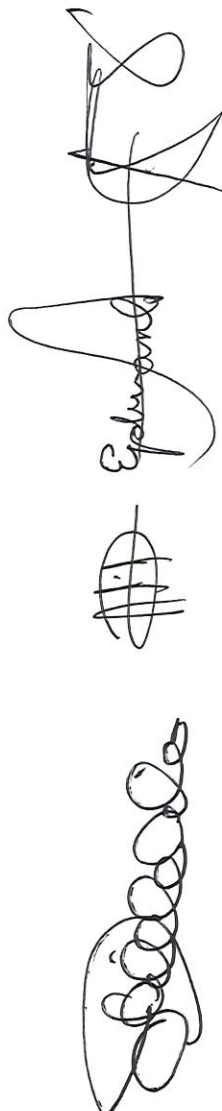
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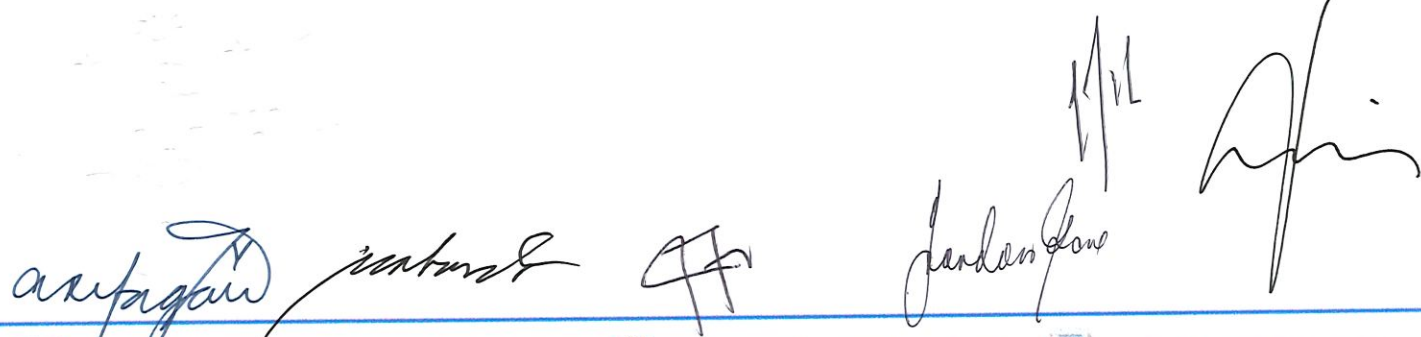

ARNOLD JAMES M. YSIDORO
Municipal Vice Mayor
Presiding Officer

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. 123-26:"AN ORDINANCE MANDATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BARANGAY READING CENTERS IN ALL BARANGAYS OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF LEYTE, PROVINCE OF LEYTE IN SUPPORT OF THE MUNICIPAL LITERACY AND READING PROMOTION PROGRAM, 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