



Republic of the Philippines  
PROVINCE OF LEYTE  
Provincial Capitol  
Tacloban City

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PROVINCIAL LEGAL OFFICE

Sangguniang Panlalawigan  
Province of Leyte  
**RECEIVED**  
Date: APR 24 2026  
By: [Signature]

PROVINCE OF LEYTE  
LEGAL OFFICE  
**RELEASED**  
By: [Signature]  
Date: 14.14.26 Time: 9:21

Item No.: 30  
Date: 21 2026 APR

**2<sup>nd</sup> INDORSEMENT**

March 4, 2026

Respectfully returned to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Leyte, through the SP Secretary, the attached Ordinance No. 4, S 2026 of the Sangguniang Bayan of Villabas, Leyte.

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

- Ordinance No. 4, s. 2026 entitled: "Mt. Buga-Buga Eco Park Ordinance."

**REVIEW/RECOMMENDATION/LEGAL OPINION:**

This office is of the opinion that the subject Ordinance is generally in accordance with its power under Section 447(a)(1)(vi)<sup>1</sup> and Section 447(5)(i)<sup>2</sup> 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*

<sup>1</sup> (vi) Protect the environment and impose appropriate penalties for acts which endanger the environment, such as dynamite fishing and other forms of destructive fishing, illegal logging and smuggling of logs, smuggling of natural resources products and of endangered species of flora and fauna, slash and burn farming, and such other activities which result in pollution, acceleration of eutrophication of rivers and lakes, or of ecological imbalance;

<sup>2</sup> (i) Provide for the establishment, maintenance, protection, and conservation of communal forests and watersheds, tree parks, greenbelts, mangroves, and other similar forest development projects;

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

PROVINCE OF LEYTE  
LEGAL OFFICE

RECEIVED

**1<sup>st</sup> Indorsement**  
03 March 2026

By: *Jus*  
Date: 3.4.26 Time: 9:24

The Provincial Legal Office is respectfully requested to review and submit recommendations on the herein enclosed **Municipal Ordinance No. 4, s. 2026** of the **Municipality of Villaba, Leyte**, entitled: **An Ordinance declaring Mount Buga-Buga (Mt. Buga-Buga) a peace memorial, a forest protected area and religious municipal park.**



**FLORINDA JILL S. UYVICO**  
Secretary to the Sanggunian



Republic of the Philippines  
Province of Leyte

**Municipality of Villaba**

# OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

March 2, 2026

**THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN MEMBERS**  
New Provincial Government Complex  
Campetic, Palo, Leyte

Sangguniang Panlalawigan  
Province of Leyte

**RECEIVED**

Date: MAR 03 2026  
By: [Signature]

Thru: **LEONARDO M. JAVIER, JR**  
Vice Governor/Presiding Officer

Hon. Sangguniang Panlalawigan Members:

We respectfully transmit herewith fourteen (14) original copies of:

**MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 4, 2026** – entitled: “AN ORDINANCE DECLARING MOUNT BUGA-BUGA (MT. BUGA-BUGA) A PEACE MEMORIAL, A FOREST PROTECTED AREA AND RELIGIOUS MUNICIPAL PARK,”

For your review and approval.

Best regards.

Very truly yours,

**ATTY. MC QUIRIE P. UMPAD**  
Secretary to the Sangguniang Bayan

*Copy Furnished:*

1. *Municipal Treasury Office*
  2. *Municipal Accounting Office*
  3. *Municipal Budget Office*
- LGU- Villaba, Leyte*



Republic of the Philippines  
Province of Leyte

**Municipality of Villaba**

# OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

March 2, 2026

## THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN MEMBERS

New Provincial Government Complex  
Campetic, Palo, Leyte

Thru: **LEONARDO M. JAVIER, JR**  
Vice Governor/Presiding Officer

Hon. Sangguniang Panlalawigan Members:

In relation to our letter of transmittal for review of MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 4, S. 2026 "AN ORDINANCE DECLARING MOUNT BUGA-BUGA (MT. BUGA-BUGA) A PEACE MEMORIAL, A FOREST PROTECTED AREA AND RELIGIOUS MUNICIPAL PARK", the undersigned undertake to submit the proof of publication within twenty (20) days from receipt of this letter.

Hoping for your favorable cooperation.

Thank you.

Best regards,

**ATTY. MC QUIRIE P. UMPAD**  
Secretary to the Sangguniang Bayan



**MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 4, S. 2026**

**AN ORDINANCE DECLARING MOUNT BUGA-BUGA (MT. BUGA-BUGA) A PEACE MEMORIAL, A FOREST PROTECTED AREA AND A RELIGIOUS MUNICIPAL PARK**

**Authored by: DENNIS LIM SY**

During the Japanese Occupation of the Philippines, Mount Buga-Buga served as the last mountain stronghold for Japanese soldiers, led by General Suzuki. The rugged terrain made it difficult battle for the American force. For this reason, the mountain was known as “The Last Stand” of the Japanese in Leyte.

Today, a Peace Memorial Shrine stands in the mountain as a tribute to the soldiers who lost their lives, which served as a reminder of the conflict and a symbol of Peace and Friendship.



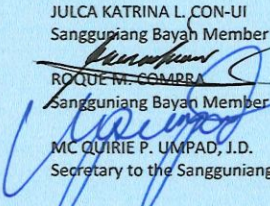
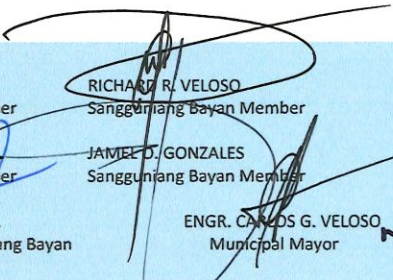
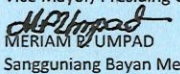
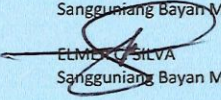
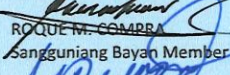
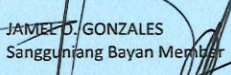
For its reason, it is proper to declare Mt. Buga-Buga as a historical site a mini forest protected area and a religious municipal park.

**WHEREAS**, the town of Villaba is written in the annals of world History with the successful beachhead of the allied liberation forces on October 20, 1944 led by Gen. Douglas Mac Arthur and ably supported by the Filipino Guerrillas;

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Executive Order 23, S.2011, the National Greening Program (NGP) of the National Government and as a climate change adaption strategy, the Local Government Unit of Villaba adopts the inter-generation responsibility to protect the environment and to prevent both man-made and natural disasters by declaring Mt. Buga-Buga as a mini-forest protected area;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, on motion by the Hon. Elmer C. Silva, duly seconded by the Hon. Jamel O. Gonzales,

Be it ordained by the Sangguniang Bayan of the Municipality of Villaba, Leyte, that:

 EDGAR T. VELOSO, M.D. Vice Mayor/ Presiding Officer	 DENNIS L. SK Sangguniang Bayan Member	 JULCA KATRINA L. CON-UI Sangguniang Bayan Member	 RICHARD R. VELOSO Sangguniang Bayan Member
 MERIAM UMPAD Sangguniang Bayan Member	 ELMER C. SILVA Sangguniang Bayan Member	 ROQUE M. COMBRA Sangguniang Bayan Member	 JAMEL O. GONZALES Sangguniang Bayan Member
MACARIO V. ESMAS LNB President	RILE CHRISTIAN G. VELOSO SK Pederasyon President	MC QUIRIE P. UMPAD, J.D. Secretary to the Sangguniang Bayan	ENGR. CARLOS G. VELOSO Municipal Mayor

**Section 1. TITLE.** This Ordinance shall be called as “**MT. BUGA-BUGA ECO PARK**”

**Section 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY.** It is hereby declared the policy of the Local Government Unit:



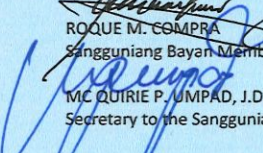
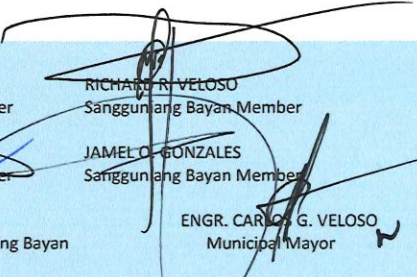
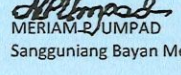
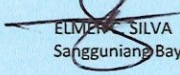
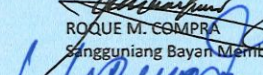
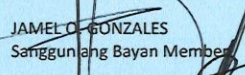
- a. To protect and promote Mt. Buga-Buga a tourism and pilgrimage destination being both a religious and a historical site;
- b. To manage and regulate activities within the Mount’s premises in a manner consistent with the principle of eco-tourism and sustainable development;
- c. To enhance/promote and sustain tourism activities in the municipality through conservation and protection of various tourist destination, especially those landmarks of cultural and historical significance found in Mt. Buga-Buga; and,
- d. To enhance people’s participation in the management, protection and regulation of activities in Mt. Buga-Buga

**Section 3. DEFINITION OF TERMS.** As used in this ordinance the following terms and phrases shall mean as follows:

- a. **Destructive Activities** - shall mean those activities that bring & cause damage or destruction to life-habitant and established facilities of Mt. Buga-Buga
- b. **Tourism Wardens** – refers to volunteer residents, recognized and deputized by the Municipal Government, whose task is to monitor, prevent or Police Mt. Buga-Buga and such other areas within the town with tourism, historical, cultural and religious significance against all sort of illegal activities committed by any natural or judicial person.
- c. **Extractive Activities** – taking out, catching or collecting of any living & non-living things within the mountain.
- d. **Mt./Mountain of Buga-Buga**
- e. **Persons** – natural or juridical entities such as individuals, associations, partnership, cooperatives or corporations;
- f. **The Municipal Council for Tourism, Culture and the Arts** – the duly authorized council that has been organized by the municipality charge with management and promotion of Mt. Buga-Buga pursuant to this ordinance;
- g. **Vandalism** – any action involving deliberate of or damage to public property or to any facilities, landmark and structures found in the Mountain.

**Section 4. GENERAL PROBITIONS.**

a. All destructive and extractive activities are prohibited within the Mountain access and use of the Mt. Shall be regulated and the following shall be declared as prohibited activities within and on the Area of the Mt.

 EDGAR T. VELOSO, M.D. Vice Mayor/ Presiding Officer	 DENNIS L. SY Sangguniang Bayan Member	 JULCA KATRINA L. CON-UI Sangguniang Bayan Member	 RICHARD R. VELOSO Sangguniang Bayan Member
 MERIAM E. UMPAD Sangguniang Bayan Member	 ELMER C. SILVA Sangguniang Bayan Member	 ROQUE M. COMPRA Sangguniang Bayan Member	 JAMEL O. GONZALES Sangguniang Bayan Member
MACARIO V. ESMAS LNB President	RILE CHRISTIAN G. VELOSO SK Pederasyon President	MIC OUTRIE P. UMPAD, J.D. Secretary to the Sangguniang Bayan	ENGR. CARLOS G. VELOSO Municipal Mayor

1. Gathering collection, and/or destruction of any kind of wildlife comprising the Mt's natural flora and fauna;
2. Treasure hunting;
3. Cutting of any tree species, natural growth or planted;
4. Littering;
5. Squatting or illegal occupation in the Mt. Such as construction of houses, cottages and the like whether temporary or permanent;
6. Destruction of facilities and any existing structures threat;
7. Gathering of any object of historical value;
8. Any act of vandalism; and
9. Construction of any permanent/semi-permanent structure without the permission of the Municipality of Villaba.

b. Camping, pilgrimage, trekking, and other cultural and religious activities are allowed in the Mt. Provided that all activities that required overnight stay in the Mt. shall be with a clearance from the Municipal Tourism, Culture and Arts Officer subject to such guidelines and regulations which may be imposed by the council for maintenance of the Mt., structures and facilities thereon, maintenance of peace and order, safety and security.

c. Any other activities other than the traditional activities every Lenten Season and those mentioned (B) hereof, shall be required a mayor's permit.

**Section 5. MANAGEMENT OF MT. BUGA-BUGA** - The Villaba Municipal Tourism, Culture and the Arts Council shall be responsible for planning, management and enforcement of the Mt. Pursuant thereof, the council shall:





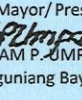
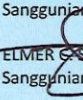
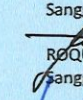
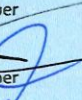


a. The Council shall make the Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR),

b. The Council shall determine the scope of the Protected Area of Mt. Buga-Buga,

c. Organize programs that encourages and enhances the community's participation in the management and protection of the Mt. such as but not limited to **(1) Information and Education, (2) Protection and Enforcement, (3) Monitoring and Evaluation, and (4) Tourism Promotions.** It may likewise establish other programs as the need arises in furtherance of the policies set forth under this ordinance;

d. Prepare a 3-year Management Plan and ensure that regular maintenance budget shall be allocated for the maintenance and upgrade of the facilities of the Mt. and for such activities necessary for the promotion and protection of the Mt. and,

e. Be authorized to construct structures on areas of the Mt. for the purpose of enhancement, development and promotion of Tourism, Culture and the Arts,

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pursuant to the provisions under Section 2 of this Ordinance and as may be allowed by existing ordinances, laws and regulations.

**Section 6. ADMINISTRATIVE AND PENAL PROVISION** - Any person or persons violating any of the provision of this ordinance shall be subject to the following penalties:

**Section 6.1. AMINISTRATIVE FINES** - An Administrative fine shall be imposed upon any person or persons violating any provision of this ordinance;

1<sup>st</sup> Offense - A fine of One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php 1,500.00) plus Confiscation of any tool or paraphernalia used in the commission of the offense;


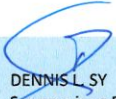
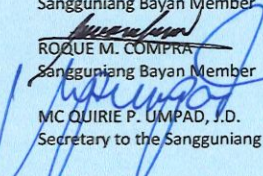
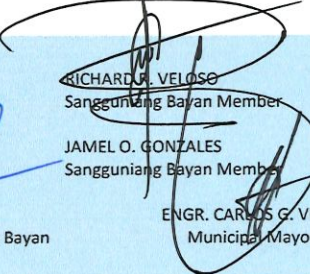
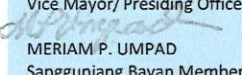
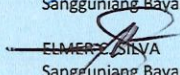
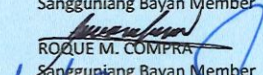
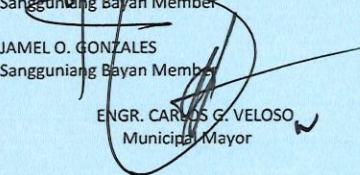
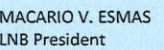
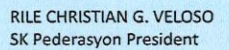
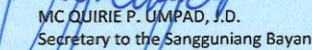
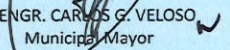
2<sup>nd</sup> Offense - A fine of Two Thousand Pesos (Php 2,000.00) plus Confiscation of any tool or paraphernalia used in the commission of the offense;

3<sup>rd</sup> Offense - A fine of Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php 2,500.00) plus Confiscation of any tool or paraphernalia used in the commission of the offense;

**Section 6.2. PENAL PROVISION** - Fourth Offenders and any person or persons that will commit any of the prohibited activities under Sec. 4 sub paragraph A shall be fined Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php 2,500.00), confiscation of any paraphernalia or tools used in the commission of the offense and imprisonment of six (6) months at the discretion of the court, except for the violation of Sec. 4 subparagraph A1 and A3 which may be punished under PD 705 or the Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines and RA 9147 Or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of the Philippines, depending on the circumstances surrounding the said violations.

**Section 6.3. IMPOSITION OF FINES AND PENALTIES** - All violators shall each be fined and penalized separately. If the violator is a juridical person, the person who shall be fined and penalized shall be the manager or president or any person of the same rank heading the company or corporation who have participation shall likewise be fined and penalized.

Tools or paraphernalia used in the commission of the offense shall be declared forfeited in favor of the Municipality.

 EDGAR T. VELOSO, M.D. Vice Mayor/ Presiding Officer	 DENNIS L. SY Sangguniang Bayan Member	 JULCA KATRINA L. CON-UI Sangguniang Bayan Member	 RICHARD J. VELOSO Sangguniang Bayan Member
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**Section 7. ALLOCATION, MANAGEMENT AND DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS DERIVED FROM THE FINES-** The fines from the arrest of offenders shall be distributed as follows:

A. 50% will go directly to the LGU funds for the inclusion in the budget for maintenance of the facilities of the Mt. and Solid Waste Management;

B. 30% will go directly to Tourism Warden's enforcement operations, administrative expenses such as Honorarium, Uniforms and Identification Cards, Training's, Basic First Aid and other similar activities that will help enhance and improve the enforcement of this ordinance;

C. 20% will go directly to the apprehending team of person/s who conducted the arrest as incentives.

**Section 8. IMPLEMENTING RULES** - Pursuant to Section 5 (4) of this Ordinance, the Villaba Municipal Tourism, Culture and Arts Council shall formulate the necessary implementing rules and regulations in order to effectively implement this Ordinance.


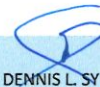
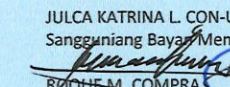

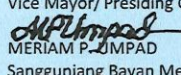
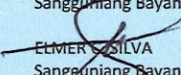
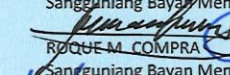
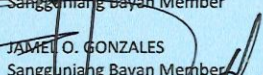
**Section 9. APPROPRIATION** - The Local Government shall set aside funds which shall be allocated for the purpose of setting up the necessary institutional campaign, paraphernalia, and administrative requirements that will ensure the effective implementation of its ordinance.

**Section 10. REPEALING CLAUSE** - All previous ordinances, rules and regulations or parts which are inconsistent with this ordinance are hereby repealed and modified accordingly.

**Section 11. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE** - If, for any reason or reasons, any part or provisions of this ordinance shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby, shall continue to be full force and in effect.

**Section 12. EFFECTIVITY** - This ordinance shall take effect upon approval and after the posting and publication requirements are satisfied.

Approved unanimously.

 EDGAR T. VELOSO, M.D. Vice Mayor/ Presiding Officer	 DENNIS L. SY Sangguniang Bayan Member	 JULCA KATRINA L. CON-UI Sangguniang Bayan Member	 RICHARD R. VELOSO Sangguniang Bayan Member
 MERIAM P. UMPAD Sangguniang Bayan Member	 ELMER S. SILVA Sangguniang Bayan Member	 ROQUE M. COMPRA Sangguniang Bayan Member	 JAMEL O. GONZALES Sangguniang Bayan Member
MACARIO V. ESMAS LNB President	RILE CHRISTIAN G. VELOSO SK Pederasyon President	MC QUIRIE P. UMPAD, J.D. Secretary to the Sangguniang Bayan	ENGR. CARLOS G. VELOSO Municipal Mayor

This Ordinance was approved by the Sangguniang Bayan in its Regular Session on January 29, 2026.

  
MC QUIRIE P. UMPAD, J.D.  
Secretary to the Sanggunian

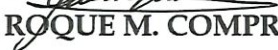
ATTESTED:

  
EDGAR T. VELOSO, M.D.  
Vice Mayor/Presiding Officer

  
DENNIS L. SY  
Sangguniang Bayan Member


  
ELMER C. SILVA  
Sangguniang Bayan Member

JULCA KATRINA L. CON-UI  
Sangguniang Bayan Member

  
ROQUE M. COMPRA  
Sangguniang Bayan Member

  
RICHARD R. VELOSO  
Sangguniang Bayan Member

  
JAMEL O. GONZALES  
Sangguniang Bayan Member

  
MERIAM P. UMPAD  
Sangguniang Bayan Member

MACARIO V. ESMAS  
LNB President

RILE CHRISTIAN G. VELOSO  
SK Pederasyon President

APPROVED:

  
ENGR. CARLOS G. VELOSO  
Municipal Mayor

02 MAR 2026



Republic of the Philippines  
Province of Leyte

Municipality of Villaba

# OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

Minutes of the Committee hearing on the proposed Ordinance “DECLARING MOUNT BUGA-BUGA (MT. BUGA-BUGA) A WAR MEMORIAL, FOREST PROTECTED AREA AND A RELIGIOUS MUNICIPAL PARK.”

Date: November 19, 2025

Time: 1:00 PM

Venue: SB OFFICE

The public hearing was called to order at exactly 9:10 A.M. by the Committee Chairman, Hon. Dennis L. Sy.

Present:

Hon. Dennis L. Sy - Chairman

Fe M. Elesorio-SBM

Annabelle Heilmann- P/B Buga-Buga

Bernhard Heilmann- Buga-Buga Kabalikat

Candida C. Simbajon- SBM

Marichu A. Singson- SBM

Joel D. Lamoste-SBM

Lowela S. Tampos- SBM

Leonard R. Cueva- MASSO

Hon. Elmer C. Silva- Sangguniang Bayan Member

Lita G. Monterde- SB Staff

Lemar C. Farino- SBM

Juanita S. Sarsalijo - SBM

Jaime O. Arnado- SBM

The Committee Chair, Hon. Dennis L. Sy, opened the meeting by greeting the attendees and confirming whether everyone received a copy of the proposed ordinance. He then proceeded to read the ordinance and asked for comments, suggestions, or clarifications.

Mr. Bernhard Heilmann expressed confusion, explaining that an ordinance had previously been crafted declaring Mt. Buga-Buga as a memorial shrine. He noted that the new ordinance removed the part stating Mt. Buga-Buga as a tourism site. He also mentioned that an existing Executive Order (EO) already covers the area and contains almost the same provisions as the municipal ordinance. He asked whether the new draft is intended to be a separate ordinance.

Hon. Sy explained that the proposed ordinance aims to regulate Mount Buga-Buga and that Any provisions, rules, or ordinances inconsistent with this new ordinance shall be repealed or modified accordingly. The ordinance does not revoke the Executive Order, but in case of conflict, an ordinance prevails over an EO.

Mr. Heilmann insisted that the EO had been approved by the Sangguniang Bayan, but Hon. Dennis Sy clarified that an EO is only approved by the Municipal Mayor, not by the SB.

Mrs. Annabelle Heilmann supported this, confirming that the letter he referred to came from the Mayor and they presented it together with a resolution. Hon. Sy explained that the resolution only manifested support for the Mayor's EO, which is why a more comprehensive ordinance is now being drafted.

Mr. Heilmann also stated that he found the ordinance title *distracting*, specifically objecting to the use of the word “war”, saying the site is now considered a peace memorial shrine.

Hon. Sy agreed and said the committee hearing aims to gather suggestions and make adjustments accordingly.

The next concern focused on the protection of the forest flora and fauna. Mrs. Heilmann shared that Congresswoman Anna Victoria Veloso-Tuazon invested ₱2 million for LNU to conduct research on sustainable livelihood, which included neighboring barangays. Mr. Bernhrd Heilmann asked whether the ordinance covers only the summit or includes surrounding areas, stressing that protection should extend to the mountain's surroundings and caves located in neighboring barangays.

Hon. Sy clarified that The ordinance only covers Mount Buga-Buga and Other areas will require separate ordinances.

Mrs. Heilmann added that other barangays – Campurog (with nice caves), Jalas (waterfalls and caves), Tinghub (caves), and Abijao (historical sites) – also have tourism potential, so they should not be excluded.

Hon. Elmer Silva explained that the ordinance is requested by the Office of the Congresswoman. It aims to preserve, protect, and promote Mount Buga-Buga as a sacred historical site, which is considered a symbol of peace and reconciliation. The ordinance does not contradict existing local laws but strengthens the declaration of the area as a memorial site. After the Memorial Day event, several attendees encouraged the LGU to declare the area a zone of peace and healing. He emphasized that expanding coverage to other areas would not align with the specific purpose of this ordinance.

There were concerns about possible religious discrimination. The committee clarified that the ordinance does not favor any religion – the site is designated as a religious and municipal park, open to all.

Hon. Silva also explained that Mount Buga-Buga is an iconic historical landmark of Villaba and that the ordinance provisions were well-prepared. He also suggested Finding a more appropriate title, such as *“An Ordinance Declaring Mount Buga-Buga as a Zone of Peace, Freedom, Neutrality, and Healing...”* and possibly including a budget allocation from the municipality for preserving caves and enhancing tourism.

Mrs. Heilmann also added that Mayor Carlos Veloso is willing to install Stations of the Cross at Buga-Buga.

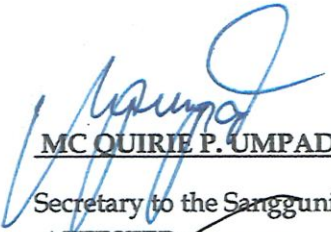
Hon. Elmer Silva then suggested seeking assistance from the Municipal Engineering Office to survey and determine the exact boundaries of the historical zone. The Committee Chair agreed and said he will need to schedule a separate meeting regarding this matter together with the concerned entities.

Hon. Silva also added his recommendation to invite private landowners whose properties may be included.

Finally, Hon Dennis Sy asked again for additional comments or suggestions.

Since there was no other matters to be discussed, The committee hearing was adjourned at 3:40 in the afternoon.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:



MC QUIRIE P. UMPAD

Secretary to the Sangguniang Bayan

ATTESTED:



HON. DENNIS L. SY

Committee Chairman



# OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 3

COMMITTEE REPORT.

NOVEMBER 19, 2025

**Subject:** "AN ORDINANCE DECLARING MOUNT BUGA-BUGA (MT.BUGA-BUGA) A WAR MEMORIAL, A MII FOREST PROTECTED AREA AND RELIGIOUS MUNICIPAL PARK.

## FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### I. FINDINGS

After thorough deliberation during the public hearing held on [insert date], the Committee on Appropriations submits the following findings:

- A previous ordinance and an Executive Order (EO) related to Mt. Buga-Buga already exist.
- Confusion arose regarding whether the Executive Order was approved by the Sangguniang Bayan. It was clarified that an EO is approved solely by the Municipal Mayor, and the resolution presented only expressed support, not formal SB approval.
- The proposed ordinance seeks to regulate Mt. Buga-Buga and will modify or repeal any inconsistent previous legislations. In case of conflict, the ordinance prevails over the EO.
- An objection was raised regarding the presence of the word "war" in the title, citing that Mt. Buga-Buga is currently regarded as a peace memorial shrine.
- The Committee acknowledged this concern and will consider a more suitable and appropriate title.
- Questions were raised regarding whether the ordinance includes only the summit of Mt. Buga-Buga or if it covers surrounding barangays and natural features such as caves and waterfalls.
- The Committee clarified that the proposed ordinance is solely for Mt. Buga-Buga, and protection or development of surrounding areas will require separate ordinances.
- Neighboring barangays (Campurog, J alas, Tinghub, Abijao) were recognized as having significant tourism potential, based on research commissioned by Congresswoman Anna Victoria Veloso-Tuazon.
- The ordinance was endorsed by the Office of the Congresswoman with the primary objective of preserving, protecting, and promoting Mt. Buga-Buga as a sacred historical site and a symbol of peace and reconciliation
- Public sentiment following the Memorial Day observance encouraged the LGU to declare Mt. Buga-Buga as a zone of peace and healing.
- Concerns about potential religious discrimination were clarified. The ordinance designates the area as a religious and municipal park open to all faiths, without preference to any specific religion.

- A recommendation was made to allocate municipal budget for the preservation of caves and tourism needs.
- The Mayor has expressed willingness to install Stations of the Cross at the site.
- The need to determine the exact boundaries of the historical zone was emphasized.
- The Municipal Engineering Office must conduct a survey to establish accurate perimeters.
- Stakeholders, including private landowners whose properties may be affected, should be consulted and invited.
- The Committee Chair will schedule a separate meeting with the Municipal Engineering Office and other concerned parties to address the boundary concerns.

## II. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the above findings, the Committee recommends the following:

Adopt a more appropriate and reflective title such as:  
*"An Ordinance Declaring Mount Buga-Buga as a Zone of Peace, Freedom, Neutrality, and Healing, Providing for its Preservation, Management, and Protection, and for Other Purposes."*

- Limit the ordinance to Mt. Buga-Buga as originally intended.
- Recommend the drafting of separate ordinances for surrounding barangays with tourism potential.
- Require the Municipal Engineering Office to conduct a complete survey to determine the exact perimeter of the historical zone.
- Ensure that all affected private landowners are consulted.
- Include a clause directing the Municipal Government of Villaba to allocate necessary funds for:
  - Preservation of historical and natural features
  - Environmental protection
  - Tourism enhancement
- Clearly state in the ordinance that it shall repeal or modify any inconsistent rules, regulations, or prior ordinances, ensuring legal clarity.
- Maintain explicit wording in the ordinance that the site is open to all religious groups and the public, preventing misinterpretation regarding religious exclusivity.
- Conduct follow-up consultations with all concerned sectors—including barangay officials, researchers, and civil society groups—to refine provisions and ensure community support.

Submitted:

  
HON. DENNIS L. SY  
 Committee Chairman



Sangguniang Bayan  
Office of the Secretary to the Sanggunian

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be conducted by the Sangguniang Bayan Committee on Human Resource Development, **November 19, 2025 at 1:00 o'clock in the afternoon** at the Sangguniang Bayan Session Hall, Cayangian, Barangay Poblacion del Norte, this Municipality regarding the **Proposed Municipal Ordinance** authored by Sangguniang Bayan Member Dennis L. Sy entitled:

**"AN ORDINANCE DECLARING MOUNT BUGA-BUGA (MT. BUGA-BUGA) A WAR MEMORIAL, A MINI-FOREST PROTECTED AREA AND A RELIGIOUS MUNICIPAL PARK"**

The Municipal Tourism Operations Officer, Municipal Assessor-Designate, Barangay Officials of Buga-Buga, Members of the Municipal Tourism Council, District Supervisors, Representative from the People's Council, and all other interested parties are invited to attend.

Villaba, Leyte, November 13, 2025.

*Lorinda Villa*  
LORINDA VILLA

*Edlyn Stone*  
EDLYN STONE

*Mark C. Luarte*  
MARK C. LUARTE  
Tourism Officer  
11/13/25

In public service,

*MC Quirie P. Umpad, J.D.*  
**MC QUIRIE P. UMPAD, J.D.**  
Secretary to the Sanggunian

*Received by:*  
J. S. Lopez 11/19/25  
BUSA 2

*Received by:*  
Mary Jane E  
VSD  
11-13-25



Republic of the Philippines  
Province of Leyte

Municipality of Villaba

# OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

## ATTENDANCE SHEET

AN ORDINANCE DECLARING MOUNT BUGA-BUGA (MT.BUGA-BUGA ) A WAR MEMEORIAL,FOREST PROTECTED AREA AND A RELIGIOUS MUNICIPAL PARK.

DATE: NOVEMBER 19, 2025

TIME: 1:00 P.M.

VENUE: SB OFFICE

NO.	NAME	DESIGNATION	SIGNATURE
1	JOHN CARLO MUMINTS	AOTI / VNO Rep.	
2	DENNIS L. SY	SB MEMBER	
3	ANNABELLE G. HELLMANN	Punong Bagay	
4	Bernhard Hellmann	Buga-Buga Kabalikat	
5	Candida C. Simbajon	SBM	
6	LOMAR C. FARIÑO	SBM	
7	Marichu A. Singson	SBM	
8	JUANITA S. SALSALITO	CSO	
9	JUEL P. LAMARTE	SBM	
10	VAINE C. ARANADO	SBM	
11	TAMPAS LOWELA ✓	SBM	
12	ELMBA C. SILVA	SBM	
13	PE M. BUSOJO	SBM	
14	Leonard R. Cueva	MASO	
15	Lita Montredu	SM Staff	
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