

Item No.: 08  
Date: 02 2026 JUN

PROVINCE OF LEYTE  
Provincial Capitol  
Tacloban City

-oOo-

Sangguniang Panlalawigan  
Province of Leyte

PROVINCIAL LEGAL OFFICE

**RECEIVED**

Date: MAY 29 2026  
By: \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> INDORSEMENT  
May 4, 2026

PROVINCE OF LEYTE  
LEGAL OFFICE

RELEASED

By: [Signature]  
Date: 5.24.26 Time: 9:57

Respectfully returned to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Leyte, through the SP Secretary, the attached Ordinance No. 516 s. 2026 of the Sangguniang Bayan of Babatngon, Leyte.

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

- Ordinance No. 516 entitled: **“An Ordinance authorizing the Barangay Chairpersons and School Heads to declare Localized Class Suspension in the Municipality of Babatngon, 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)<sup>1</sup> of the Local Government Code of 1991 (R.A 7160), pursuant to DepEd Order No. 37 s, 2022<sup>2</sup>. However, under the same Department Order, only Local Chief Executives may exercise cancellations and suspensions in their respective municipalities. Hence, further review of the Ordinance is recommended.

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> (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

<sup>2</sup> Guidelines on the cancellation or suspension of classes and work in schools in the event of Natural Disasters, Outages/Power interruptions, and other calamities.

Republic of the Philippines  
PROVINCE OF LEYTE  
Palo, Leyte  
-000-

**OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN**

**1<sup>ST</sup> INDORSEMENT**  
10 April 2026

PROVINCE OF LEYTE  
LEGAL OFFICE  
**RECEIVED**  
By: *[Signature]*  
Date: *4.19.26* Time: *9:24*

The Provincial Legal Office is respectfully requested to review and submit recommendations on the herein **Ordinance No. 516 s. 2026** of the **Municipality of Babatngon, Leyte**, entitled: **An Ordinance authorizing the Barangay Chairpersons and School Heads to declare localized class suspension in the Municipality of Babatngon, Leyte.**

*[Signature]*  
**FLORINDA JILL S. UYVICO**  
Secretary to the Sanggunian

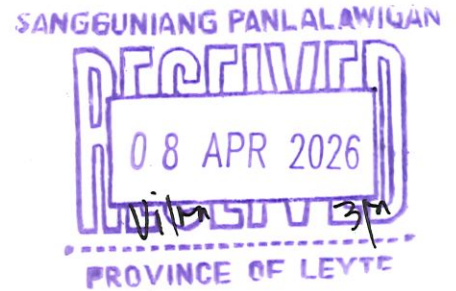


**OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN**

07 April 2026

**Honorable Leonardo M. Javier, Jr,**  
Vice Governor and Presiding Officer, and

**The Honorable Members**  
**Sangguniang Panlalawigan**  
**Province of Leyte**  
Legislative Bldg., Capitol Grounds  
Tacloban City



Dear Honorable Ladies and Gentlemen,


Respectfully endorsed to the Honorable Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Leyte is **ORDINANCE NO. 516, ENTITLED: "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE BARANGAY CHAIRPERSONS AND SCHOOL HEADS TO DECLARE LOCALIZED CLASS SUSPENSION IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BABATNGON, LEYTE."** Said ordinance is being forwarded to that Body for review in compliance with Section 56(a) of Republic Act 7160.

Enclosed please find the following:

1. Ordinance No. 516
2. Certification of Posting

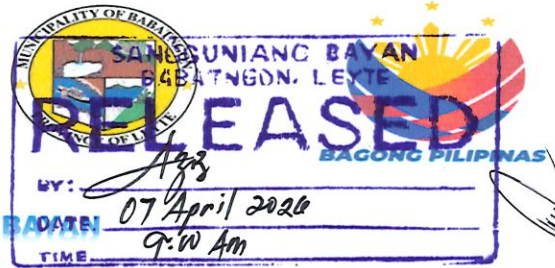
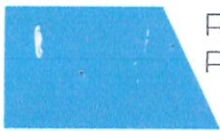
Please find them in order and praying for your favorable action thereof.

Very truly yours,

  
**ALMA A. BALDOMAR**  
Secretary II  
Secretary to the Sanggunian-designate

Enclosed:  
As stated





OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 32ND REGULAR SESSION OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN OF BABATNGON, LEYTE HELD ON THE 24<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026 AT THE SB SESSION HALL, LEGISLATIVE BUILDING, BABATNGON, LEYTE.

MAYOR'S OFFICE  
BABATNGON, LEYTE

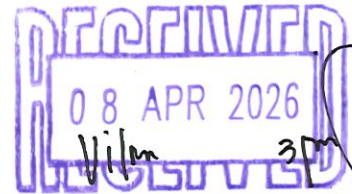
RECEIVED

ORDINANCE NO. 516

Series of 2026

BY: JARED L. MARIANO  
DATE: 03/30/2026  
TIME: 9:00 AM

SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN



AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE BARANGAY CHAIRPERSONS AND SCHOOL HEADS TO DECLARE LOCALIZED CLASS SUSPENSION IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BABATNGON, LEYTE.

Author: HON. CHONA ROSE B. LUGNASIN

Co-Author: ALL SB Members, ABC President and SK Federation President

**WHEREAS**, Section 16 of RA 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, mandates every local government unit to ensure and support programs promoting health, safety and public welfare, particularly in times of disaster and emergency;

**WHEREAS**, RA 10121 or the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010, empowers LGUs to build resilient communities through proactive, risk informed decision-making;

**WHEREAS**, the DepEd pursuant to DepEd Order No. 22, s. 2024 institutionalizes automatic class cancellation based on typhoon warning signals, rainfall intensity advisories, flood warnings, earthquake intensity ratings, and other hazard triggers, and authorizes School Heads to act independently in suspending classes under such conditions;

**WHEREAS**, localized and community-based decision-making by School Head and Barangay Chairperson enables faster, context-aware responses to hazards, reducing delays and protecting lives more effectively;

**WHEREAS**, the topography and vulnerability of several barangays within the Municipality of Babatngon, Leyte necessitate immediate and autonomous responses to sudden hazards such as flooding, landslides and power outages that threaten classroom safety;

**WHEREAS**, empowering School Heads and Barangay Chairpersons to declare localized class suspensions fosters accountability, strengthen disaster preparedness, and promotes a culture of safety in both school and barangay communities;

**WHEREAS**, in recognizing the decentralized nature of hazard response and respecting the autonomy of educational institutions and barangays, the Municipality of Babatngon reaffirms its commitment to collaborative governance, proactive risk management, and localized resilience building;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE ENACTED** by the Sangguniang Bayan of Babatngon, Leyte in session duly assembled that:

*[Handwritten signatures and initials on the right margin]*



**OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN**

**> ORDINANCE NO. 516**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE BARANGAY CHAIRPERSONS AND SCHOOL HEADS TO DECLARE LOCALIZED CLASS SUSPENSION IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BABATNGON, LEYTE.**

**SECTION 1. TITLE.**

This Ordinance shall be known as "An Ordinance Authorizing the Barangay Chairpersons and School Heads to Declare Localized Class Suspension in the Municipality of Babatngon, Leyte."

**SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY.**

It is hereby declared the policy of the Municipality of Babatngon, to prioritize the safety of learners, educators, and school personnel by institutionalizing proactive, community-led class suspensions based on clear and automatic hazard triggers. The Local Government shall uphold decentralized decision-making in alignment with RA 7160 and DepEd Order No. 22, s 2024.

**SECTION 3. COVERAGE.**

This ordinance shall apply to all public and private schools including Alternative Learning System (ALS) centers and all barangays within the territorial jurisdiction of the Municipality of Babatngon.

**SECTION 4. DEFINITION OF TERMS.**

For this ordinance, the following terms are defined, to wit:

- a. AUTOMATIC TRIGGERS - this refers to specific, measurable conditions related to natural hazards or emergencies that, when met, automatically authorize the suspension of classes.
- b. CLASS SUSPENSION - this is the temporary cessation of in-person or online learning activities in schools and learning centers.
- c. PAGASA - this is Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration.
- d. PEIS - this is the PHIVOLCS Earthquake Intensity Scale.
- e. PHIVOLCS - this refers to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology
- f. BARANGAY CHAIRPERSON - the elected head of the barangay.
- g. SCHOOL HEAD - the principal or administrator of any public or private school or learning center.
- h. TCWS - this refers to Tropical Cyclone Warning Signal

**SECTION 5. AUTHORIZED PERSONS TO DECLARE CLASS SUSPENSION.**

The following persons are granted full and independent authority to suspend classes based on the presence of automatic triggers:

1. School heads or principal: for their respective schools or learning centers.



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- 2. Punong Barangays (Barangay Chairpersons): within their territorial barangay in coordination with school officials.

**SECTION 6. GROUNDS FOR AUTOMATIC CLASS SUSPENSION.**

The authority to suspend classes may be exercised without prior approval when any of the following autonomic triggers are present in the area:

- a. Typhoon Warning Signals (TCWS 1-5) issued by PAGASA affecting the municipality or specific barangays
- b. Orange or Red Rainfall Warnings (indicating heavy to intense rainfall) issued by PAGASA affecting the municipality or specific barangays
- c. PAGASA Flood Warnings specifically indicate flooding in the municipality or specific barangays
- d. PHIVOLCS-declared Earthquake Intensity V or higher (based on the PEIS scale) felt in the municipality or specific barangays
- e. Other immediate and Observable Hazards - this includes, but not limited to, Landslides, strong winds not covered by TCWS, flash floods, localized fires that endangers school operations or access, prolonged power outages affecting school safety, or any other immediate threat that makes continued class operation unsafe.
- f. The following are possible reasons for the suspension of classes and/or work in schools:
  - a. Typhoons and Tropical Cyclones

The suspension of classes due to typhoons and tropical cyclones will follow PAGASA's Tropical Cyclone Wind Signals (TCWS) and Executive Order No. 66, s. 2012.

PAGASA TCWS	Suspension
TCWS 1	Classes for kindergarten in the affected area shall be automatically suspended
TCWS 2	Face to face classes for Kindergarten and Elementary to Junior High School (JHS) or Grade 10 in the affected area shall be automatically suspended; provided that Elementary and JHS will shift to modular distance learning, performance tasks, projects, or make-up classes based on their Learning and Service Continuity Plan (LSCP) to ensure that learning competencies are met.
TCWS 3 or above	Classes and work in all levels in the affected area shall be automatically suspended.

If the TCWS is issued at a time when classes have already begun, the school shall immediately suspend the classes and work and send everyone home, if it is safe to do so. However, schools are obligated to keep the students and personnel safe in school if traveling has become unsafe.

*[Handwritten signatures and marks on the right margin]*



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**ORDINANCE NO. 516**

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**b. Heavy Rainfall and Flood**

Suspension of classes for heavy rainfall will depend on the Rainfall Warning by the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA).

PAGASA Rainfall or Flooding warning	Suspension
Yellow Warning (Rainfall) Alarm Water Level (Flooding)	For areas in the province/city/municipality with torrential rains/flooding and based on the assessment of the school, the learners and personnel are still exposed to various risks, the SDS shall coordinate with the local government unit (LGU) for localized school suspension  The LCE shall decide on the suspension of face to face classes, and work in schools, provided that schools will shift to modular distance learning, performance tasks, projects, or make-up classes based on their LSCP to ensure that learning competencies are met.
Orange or red warning (Rainfall) and critical water level (Flooding) at a time when classes have already begun for the day.	The school head shall immediately suspend classes and work from kindergarten to Grade 12 and ALS and send everyone home if it is safe to do so. However, schools are obligated to keep the learners and personnel safely in school if traveling has become unsafe.
Orange or Red Warning (Rainfall) and Critical Water Level (Flooding) at a time when classes have not yet started for the day.	Classes and work from Kindergarten to Grade 12 and ALS are automatically suspended in schools.

**c. Earthquakes**

Suspension of classes and work due to earthquakes will depend on the earthquake intensity as reported by the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS).

PHIVOLCS Intensity	Suspension
V and Below	The LCE shall decide on the suspension of face to face classes and work. For localized school suspensions, the SDS shall coordinate with the LGUs, provided that schools will shift to modular distance learning, performance tasks, projects, or make-up classes based on their LSCP to ensure that learning competencies are met.
VI and above	Classes and work in all levels are automatically suspended in all public schools including ALS. In cases where an earthquake happens while learners are in school, safety procedures shall initially be undertaken, before sending everyone home. However, schools are obligated to keep the learners and personnel safely in school if traveling has become unsafe.

*(Handwritten signatures and initials on the right margin)*



OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

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If an earthquake of Intensity VI or higher occurs, the school head shall request from competent authorities (Department of Public Works and Highways [DPWH], local building officials, division engineers, and other competent professionals) to assess the school buildings before allowing students and personnel to return.

**d. Power Outages/Power Interruption/Brownouts**

There will be no automatic suspension of classes in the event that there are power outages, interruptions, or brownouts.

**e. Extreme Heat Condition**

There will be no automatic suspension of classes due to Extreme Heat Conditions. However, in case of unbearable heat, the LCE may still exercise its authority to facilitate localized class suspension based on the situation in their localities. The SDS shall coordinate with the LGUs for localized school suspensions, provided that schools will shift to modular distance learning, performance tasks, projects, or make-up classes to ensure that learning competencies are met.

**f. Low Air Quality/ Vog (Volcanic Fog)**

Suspension of classes for Low Air Quality and Volcanic Fog will depend on the Particle Matter 2.5 Air Quality Index as reported by the Environment Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Air Quality Index Level	Suspension
Acutely Unhealthy (Purple) PM 2.5 between 55.1-90	The LCE shall decide on the suspension of face to face classes.  The SDS shall coordinate with the LGUs for localized school suspensions, provided that schools will shift to modular distance learning, performance tasks, projects, or make-up classes based on their LSCP to ensure that learning competencies are met.
Emergency ( Maroon) PM 2.5 >91	Classes and work shall be automatically suspended.

**g. Other Emergencies ad Hazards**

In cases of other calamities, emergencies, and hazards not enumerated above that may threaten the welfare and safety of learners and school personnel, the school heads, or the district or division ALS coordinator may suspend classes, and work as maybe appropriate; provided that there is the necessary coordination with the LCE and SDS.

**h. Localized/Granular Suspensions**

In case there is no automatic suspension of classes and in the absence of a declaration from the LGU, the school heads, or the district or division ALS coordinator, may suspend classes and work in the cases listed below, provided that there is the necessary coordination with the LCE and SDS, and when applicable, schools will shift to modular distance learning, performance tasks, projects, or make-up classes based on their LSCP to ensure that learning competencies are met:

**i. In case of torrential rain, flooding, and risk of landslides and storm surges:**

*[Handwritten signatures and initials on the right margin]*



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**> ORDINANCE NO. 516**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE BARANGAY CHAIRPERSONS AND SCHOOL HEADS TO DECLARE LOCALIZED CLASS SUSPENSION IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BABATNGON, LEYTE.**

- ii. In case of localized and specific flooding in the area of the school premises; or when flooding affects a large part of the student and personnel population of the school;
- iii. In case of earthquake, at any intensity if in their assessment, the buildings and other structures within their facilities are deemed to be in danger of collapsing or are found to have major damage. The school head shall request from competent authorities (DPWH, local building officials, division engineers, and other competent professionals) to assess the school buildings before allowing students and personnel to return;
- iv. In case power outages or interruptions last more than half of a school day, making classrooms, uncomfortable or unsafe for students or teachers:
- v. In case the temperature in classrooms or learning spaces is not conducive to learning and affects the health and safety of the learners and teachers:
- vi. In case the air quality or vog levels in the area are poor and could harm students health or hinder learning; and
- vii. In case other calamities, emergencies, and hazards not enumerated above threaten the safety of students and school personnel.

School heads shall immediately notify their respective SDS of the suspension of classes and/or work, including the reason for such suspension. They shall also submit a report (Annex A) to the SDS through the School Governance and Operations Division (SGOD) on a quarterly basis.

**SECTION 7. RESPONSIBILITIES OF SCHOOL HEADS AND PUNONG BARANGAYS.**

**They shall:**

- 1. Verify automatic hazard triggers or observe actual hazardous conditions
- 2. Notify the public through multiple platforms (text groups, megaphone, school signage, social media)
- 3. Submit a written incident report and suspension declaration to the MDRRM Office and DepEd Division Office within twenty-four (24) hours
- 4. Initiate coordination with nearby barangays or DRRM Officers in case of wide-scale or clustered hazards
- 5. Facilitate continuity of learning in line with Section 10
- 6. To establish a real time coordination and reporting on class related emergencies in class suspension thru text group, chat in messenger or thru call.

**SECTION 8. ROLE OF MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT.**

The Municipal Government shall:

- 1. Respect and uphold suspension declaration made under this ordinance.
- 2. Provide real-time hazard advisories, date verification and technical assistance.
- 3. Activate municipal-wide suspensions when needed and notify affected parties promptly.
- 4. Through the MDRRM Office, maintain a 24/7 monitoring system and response protocol for class-related emergencies.

**SECTION 9. PRIVATE SCHOOLS AND LEARNING INSTITUTIONS.**

Private schools and other private learning institutions retain their autonomy to declare class suspensions. However, they are encouraged to align their decisions with DepEd Order



**OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN**

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**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE BARANGAY CHAIRPERSONS AND SCHOOL HEADS TO DECLARE LOCALIZED CLASS SUSPENSION IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BABATNGON, LEYTE.**

No. 22, s 2024, and the localized declaration made by the School Head or Barangay Chairperson. In no case private institutions will implement policies that are less stringent than the automatic trigger thresholds recognized in this ordinance. They should always prioritize the safety of their learners and personnel.

**SECTION 10. CONTINUOUS LEARNING PROVISIONS.**

In accordance with DepEd guidelines, whenever in person or online classes are suspended, schools are encouraged to implement alternative learning modalities. This includes modular learning, asynchronous activities, or catch-up learning activities which are feasible, to minimize disruption to education.

**SECTION 11. FUNDING AND RESOURCES.**

Funds necessary to support communication, logistics and capacity building related to localized class suspensions may be drawn from:

1. Municipal DRRM Fund
2. Barangay DRRM Fund

**SECTION 12. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE.**

If any provision of this ordinance is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions shall remain in force and in effect.

**SECTION 13. REPEALING CLAUSE.**


All ordinances, rules, or regulations or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 14. EFFECTIVITY.**

This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon approval and compliance with the posting requirements under the Local Government Code.

**ENACTED and APPROVED** this 24<sup>th</sup> day of February 2026 at Babatngon, Leyte.

**I HEREBY CERTIFY** to the correctness of the foregoing ordinance.

  
**ALMA A. BALDOMAR**  
 Secretary II  
 Secretary to the Sanggunian-Designate

**ATTESTED :**

  
**HON. ROSARY PEARL G. CATUDIO**  
 Municipal Vice-Mayor and  
 Presiding Officer




OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

ORDINANCE NO. 516

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE BARANGAY CHAIRPERSONS AND SCHOOL HEADS TO DECLARE LOCALIZED CLASS SUSPENSION IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BABATNGON, LEYTE.

(Special Leave)

**HON. KEMUEL RUE M. CORSIGA**  
Sangguniang Bayan Member

**HON. CHRISTIAN C. LAW\$IN**  
Sangguniang Bayan Member

**HON. MA. RESTITA D. DANTE**  
Sangguniang Bayan Member

**HON. HILARION S. MENZON**  
Sangguniang Bayan Member

**HON. CHONA ROSE B. LUGNASIN**  
Sangguniang Bayan Member

**HON. FEDERICO D. ELIZAGA, JR.**  
Sangguniang Bayan Member

**HON. ALEX V. BELLO**  
Sangguniang Bayan Member

**HON. ILDEFONSO B. ODON**  
Sangguniang Bayan Member

**HON. EDGARDO Y. MORDEN**  
President, Liga ng mga Barangay

**HON. JUDE LEWEL B. VETHIMVAS**  
President  
Pambayang Pederasyon ng  
Sangguniang Kabataan

APPROVED:

**HON. ELEONOR B. LUGNASIN**  
Municipal Mayor

Date: 06 April 2026





OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

**CERTIFICATION**

**TO WHOM THIS MAY CONCERN:**

**This is to certify that POSTING in prominent places in the Municipal Hall and some conspicuous places in the locality was undertaken starting 07 April 2026 and copies of said ordinance shall remain posted for three (3) consecutive weeks, pursuant to Sec. 59 (b) of Republic Act 7160, in relation to hereunder ordinance, to wit:**

1. **ORDINANCE NO. 516 - AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE BARANGAY CHAIRPERSONS AND SCHOOL HEADS TO DECLARE LOCALIZED CLASS SUSPENSION IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BABATNGON, LEYTE.**

**Made this 7<sup>th</sup> day of April 2026 at Babatngon, Leyte.**

**ALMA A. BALDOMAR**  
**Secretary II**  
**Secretary to the Sanggunian-designate**

