



Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF LEYTE
Provincial Capitol
Tacloban City

-oOo-

Sangguniang Panlalawigan
Province of Leyte

RECEIVED

Date: JUL 21 2026
By: J. R. M.

PROVINCIAL LEGAL OFFICE

2nd INDORSEMENT

June 3, 2026

PROVINCE OF LEYTE
LEGAL OFFICE

RELEASED

By: J. R. M.
Date: 7.11.26 Time: 9:20

Respectfully returned to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Leyte, through the SP Secretary, the attached Ordinance No. 16 s. 2026 of the Sangguniang Bayan of Villaba, Leyte.

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

- Ordinance No. 16 s. 2026 entitled: “An Ordinance on Anti-Trafficking in Persons of Villaba, Leyte .”

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)¹ of the Local Government Code of 1991 (R.A 7160) in consonance with RA No. 10364². 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 “Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2012”

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

PROVINCE OF LEYTE
LEGAL OFFICE

RECEIVED

By: 

Date: 05-28-20 Time: 10:20 AM

OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN

1st Indorsement
26 May 2026

The Provincial Legal Office is respectfully requested to review and submit recommendations on the herein enclosed **Municipal Ordinance No. 16, s. 2026** of the **Municipality of Villaba, Leyte**, entitled: **Establishing the Villaba: Anti-Trafficking in Persons Ordinance**, providing local mechanisms for the prevention, suppression, and elimination of trafficking in persons in the Municipality of Villaba, Leyte, providing protective measures for victims, and for other purposes.


FLORINDA JILL S. UYVICO
Secretary to the Sanggunian



Sangguniang Bayan
Office of the Secretary to the Sanggunian

May 20, 2026

Sangguniang Panlalawigan
Province of Leyte
RECEIVED

Date: MAY 20 2026
By: (Signature)

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

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

Hon. Sangguniang Panlalawigan Members:

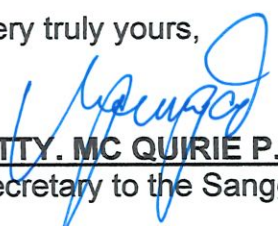
We respectfully transmit herewith fourteen (14) original copies of:

MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 16, 2026 – entitled: “ESTABLISHING THE VILLABA ANTI-TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS ORDINANCE, PROVIDING LOCAL MECHANISMS FOR THE PREVENTION, SUPPRESSION, AND ELIMINATION OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF VILLABA, LEYTE, PROVIDING PROTECTIVE MEASURES FOR VICTIMS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,”

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*

MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 16, S. 2026

ESTABLISHING THE VILLABA ANTI-TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS ORDINANCE, PROVIDING LOCAL MECHANISMS FOR THE PREVENTION, SUPPRESSION, AND ELIMINATION OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF VILLABA, LEYTE, PROVIDING PROTECTIVE MEASURES FOR VICTIMS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

PREFATORY STATEMENT

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Villaba recognizes that trafficking in persons is a violation of human rights and an affront to the dignity of every individual pursuant to R.A 10364 otherwise known as The Expanded Anti-Trafficking Act in the Local Government Unit of Villaba;

WHEREAS, trafficking in persons undermines social development, threatens vulnerable sectors particularly women and children, and disrupts families and communities;

WHEREAS, local government units are mandated under the Local Government Code to promote the general welfare and protect their constituents from exploitation and abuse;

WHEREAS, there is a need to establish a localized and strengthened mechanism within the Municipality of Villaba to prevent trafficking activities, protect victims, and ensure coordination among local offices and law enforcement agencies;

WHEREAS, it is imperative to institutionalize a comprehensive municipal anti-trafficking program aligned with national policies against trafficking but responsive to local conditions and realities;

NOW, THEREFORE, on motion by the Hon Jamel O. Gonzales, duly seconded en masse,

BE IT ORDAINED by the Sangguniang Bayan of Villaba, Leyte, in session duly assembled, that:

EDGAR T. VELOSO, M.D. Vice Mayor/ Presiding Officer MERIAM P. UMPAD Sangguniang Bayan Member JAMEL O. GONZALES Sangguniang Bayan Member	DENNIS L. SY Sangguniang Bayan Member ELMER C. SILVA Sangguniang Bayan Member MACARIO V. ESMAS LNB President	RICHARD S. VELOSO Sangguniang Bayan Member ROQUE M. COMPRA Sangguniang Bayan Member RILE CHRISTIAN G. VELOSO SK Pederasyon President ENGR. CARLOS G. VELOSO Municipal Mayor	JULCA KATRINA L. CON-UI Sangguniang Bayan Member RANDEL M. LOON Sangguniang Bayan Member ATTY. MIC QUIRIE P. UMPAD Secretary to the Sanggunian
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SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE

This Ordinance shall be known as the "Villaba Anti-Trafficking in Persons Ordinance of 2026."

SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY

It is hereby declared the policy of the Municipality of Villaba to:

1. Uphold and protect the fundamental rights and dignity of all persons;
2. Prevent and suppress trafficking in persons within its territorial jurisdiction;
3. Protect and rehabilitate victims of trafficking;
4. Promote partnership among government agencies, barangays, civil society organizations, and the community.

SECTION 3. DEFINITION OF TERMS

For purposes of this Ordinance:

- a. Trafficking in Persons - The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons within or outside the Municipality, by means of threat, force, coercion, fraud, deception, abuse of power, or vulnerability, for purposes of exploitation.
- b. Exploitation - Includes sexual exploitation, forced labor, slavery, servitude, debt bondage, removal or sale of organs, forced marriage, and other similar practices.
- c. Child - A person below eighteen (18) years of age.
- d. Victim - Any person who has suffered harm as a result of trafficking.

SECTION 4. PROHIBITED ACTS

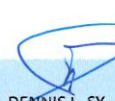
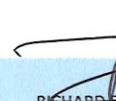
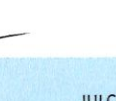
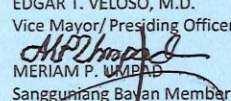
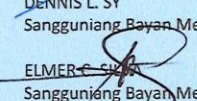
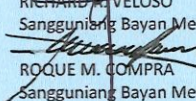
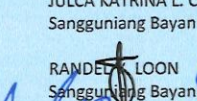
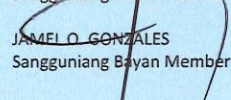
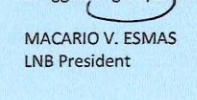
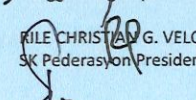
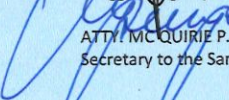
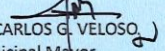
The following acts are prohibited:

1. Canvassing, enlisting, utilizing, recruiting, transporting, or harboring persons for exploitation;
2. Operating establishments that knowingly allow trafficking activities;
3. Facilitating fraudulent travel documents for trafficking purposes;
4. Attempting or conspiring to commit trafficking;
5. Obstructing investigation or prosecution of trafficking cases.
6. No minors shall be allowed to travel without the consent of the parents or guardian.

SECTION 5. CREATION OF THE MUNICIPAL ANTI-TRAFFICKING COUNCIL (MATC)

There is hereby created a Municipal Anti-Trafficking Council (MATC) composed of:

- Municipal Mayor - Chairperson
- Municipal Social Welfare and Development Officer - Vice Chairperson
- Chief of Police of Villaba Municipal Police Station
- Municipal Health Officer

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

- Public Employment Service Office (PESO) Manager
- SB Member Chairman on Women and Children
- District Supervisor
- MLGOO
- President of Local Peoples Council
- Women and Children Sector Representative

Functions:

1. Formulate and implement a Municipal Anti-Trafficking Action Plan;
2. Conduct barangay-level awareness campaigns;
3. Coordinate rescue and referral services;
4. Establish reporting mechanisms and case monitoring system;
5. Submit annual reports to the Sangguniang Bayan.

SECTION 6. PREVENTION STRATEGIES

The Municipality shall:

- Conduct regular community education campaigns;
- Require business establishments to post anti-trafficking information materials;
- Monitor recruitment and employment practices within the municipality;
- Integrate anti-trafficking education in local programs.

SECTION 7. PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS

Victims shall be entitled to:

1. Immediate rescue and protection;
2. Temporary shelter and counseling services;
3. Medical and legal assistance;
4. Livelihood and skills development support;
5. Confidentiality of records and identity.

SECTION 8. PENALTIES

- Any person found guilty of violating this Ordinance shall be punished by:
- A fine of ₱1,000.00 to ₱2,000.00;
- Imprisonment of six (6) months to one (1) year, at the discretion of the court;
- Revocation of business permits, where applicable.

EDGAR T. VELOSO, M.D.
Vice Mayor/Presiding Officer
MERIAM P. UMPAD
Sangguniang Bayan Member
JAMELO. GONZALES
Sangguniang Bayan Member

DENNIS L. SY
Sangguniang Bayan Member
ELMER S. SILVA
Sangguniang Bayan Member
MACARIO V. ESMAS
LNB President

RICHARD A. VELOSO
Sangguniang Bayan Member
ROQUE M. COMPRA
Sangguniang Bayan Member
RILE CHRISTIAN S. VELOSO
SK Pederasyon President
ENGR. CARLOS G. VELOSO
Municipal Mayor

JULCA KATRINA L. CON-UI
Sangguniang Bayan Member
RANDEL V. LOON
Sangguniang Bayan Member
ATTY. MC QUIRRE P. UMPAD
Secretary to the Sanggunian

- These penalties shall be without prejudice to prosecution under applicable national laws.

SECTION 9. APPROPRIATION

Funds necessary for the implementation of this Ordinance shall be charged against the Municipal General Fund and thereafter included in the annual budget.

SECTION 10. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE

If any provision of this Ordinance is declared invalid, other provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 11. REPEALING CLAUSE

All ordinances, rules, and regulations inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 12. EFFECTIVITY

This Ordinance shall take effect after approval and posting in at least three (3) conspicuous places within the Municipality of Villaba.

This Ordinance was approved by the Sangguniang Bayan in its Regular Session on March 26, 2026.

ATTESTED:


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

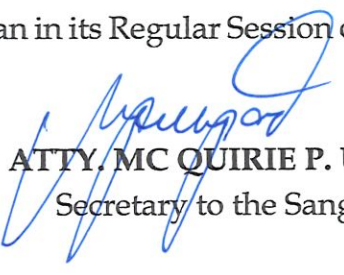

DENNIS L. SY
Sangguniang Bayan Member

JULCA KATRINA L. CON-UI
Sangguniang Bayan Member


RICHARD R. VELOSO
Sangguniang Bayan Member

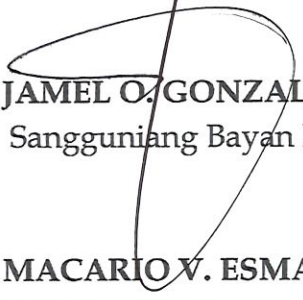

MERIAM P. UMPAD
Sangguniang Bayan Member


ROQUE M. COMPRA
Sangguniang Bayan Member


ATTY. MC QUIRIE P. UMPAD
Secretary to the Sanggunian


ELMER C. SILVA
Sangguniang Bayan Member


RANDEL S. LOON
Sangguniang Bayan Member


JAMEL O. GONZALES
Sangguniang Bayan Member

MACARIO V. ESMAS
LNB President


RILE CHRISTIAN G. VELOSO
SK Pederasyon President

APPROVED:


ENGR. CARLOS G. VELOSO
Municipal Mayor

79 MAY 2026



MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING CONDUCTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON LAWS, PRIVILEGES AND ACCOUNTABILITY ON THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE VILLABA ANTI-TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS ORDINANCE, PROVIDING LOCAL MECHANISMS FOR THE PREVENTION, SUPPRESSION, AND ELIMINATION OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF VILLABA, LEYTE, PROVIDING PROTECTIVE MEASURES FOR VICTIMS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

March 23, 2026 | SB Session Hall

The public hearing was conducted on March 23, 2026, at 10:01 A.M. at the SB Session Hall, presided over by the Chairman of the Committee on Laws, Rules, Privileges, and Accountability, Sangguniang Bayan Member Hon. Jamel O. Gonzales. Present during the hearing were the Municipal Administrator, Mrs. Merlita D. Veloso; CSO President Mrs. Juanita S. Sarsalijo; MSWDO, Mrs. Ma. Flor M. Pastor; Mrs. Marilou E. Vapor, CSO Women's; PCPT Realthur S. Tabernero, Villaba MPS-OIC; Mrs. Marilyn O. Marquez, Villaba South District Supervisor; Ms. Emmame M. Medina, Villaba North District Supervisor; Mr. Manix C. Roa; Hon. Elmer C. Silva, Committee Vice Chairman; and Mr. Roque M. Compra, Committee Member.

The Committee convened to discuss the proposed Anti-Trafficking in Persons Ordinance, focusing on key provisions, concerns, and recommendations from the members and stakeholders present.

One of the primary concerns raised by Mrs. Ma. Flor Pastor pertains to Section 7, particularly the provision on temporary shelter and counseling services. She emphasized that the municipality currently does not have a designated temporary shelter for victims. She previously proposed the establishment of a Municipal Social Welfare and Development (MSWD) Multi-Purpose Building, which would include office space and a temporary shelter facility. However, due to the lack of funding, this has not yet been realized.

The PCPT Realthur Tabernero shared that in other municipalities, such as Palompon, there has a room utilized as a holding area, while Ormoc City has an existing shelter that is not yet accredited by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). It was noted that if the municipality establishes its own shelter, it will also need to undergo accreditation.

Despite these limitations, Mrs. Ma. Flor Pastor recommended that at least a temporary holding area be established, even if not yet accredited, to provide immediate assistance to victims. She reiterated her proposal for a multi-purpose building where the MSWD office could be located on the ground floor and a temporary shelter or holding area on the upper floor. As an interim measure, she suggested adapting existing facilities similar to other municipalities, ensuring that victims have a safe place to stay.

During the discussion, Marilou asked about the possible location of the proposed shelter. Mrs. Ma. Flor responded that it would be ideal for the facility to be located near the MSWD office for easy access and supervision.

Hon. Gonzales raised a concern regarding the need for a policy and regulation on transporting individuals, especially minors, in relation to trafficking in person prevention. Mrs. Pastor has agreed, emphasizing the importance of safeguarding minors, particularly with the anticipated increased activity at the port. She highlighted the need for an assurance that minors are not allowed to travel with unauthorized individuals.

The PCPT Realthur Tabernero stated that minors must have proper authorization or consent from their parents. Hon. Comprá proposed that this has been included as a prohibited act in this ordinance, specifically stating that no minor shall be allowed to travel without parental consent.

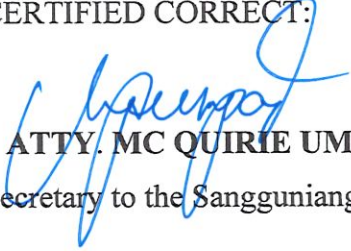
Hon. Gonzales also inquired about any news or existing cases of trafficking in person in their field of jurisdiction. Mrs. Marilyn Marquez shared that, from the perspective of the school system, there have been no reported cases so far. She noted that school heads shall oversee their respective school communities, and emphasized the importance of police visibility towards (PSB) Police sa Barangay.

A similar statement was shared by Villaba North District Supervisor, confirming that no cases have been reported to date.

Additionally, Hon. Silva suggest to include the Sangguniang Bayan Member, Chairperson of the Committee on Womens and Children, to be a member of the Municipal Anti-Trafficking Council.

No further comments, objections and other matters were being raised. The public hearing was adjourned at 11:00 A.M.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:


ATTY. MC QUIRIE UMPAD
Secretary to the Sangguniang Bayan

ATTESTED:


HON. JAMEL O. GONZALES
Committee Chairman



COMMITTEE ON LAWS, PRIVILEGES, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 10, Series of 2026

SUBJECT: AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE VILLABA ANTI-TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS ORDINANCE, PROVIDING LOCAL MECHANISMS FOR THE PREVENTION, SUPPRESSION, AND ELIMINATION OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF VILLABA, LEYTE, PROVIDING PROTECTIVE MEASURES FOR VICTIMS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

I. FINDINGS

After thorough discussion, the Committee identified the following key findings:

1. Absence of Temporary Shelter Facility.

The municipality currently has no established temporary shelter or holding area for victims of trafficking in person. This presents a significant gap in the implementation of Section 7 of the proposed ordinance, which mandates the provision of shelter and counseling services.

2. Lack of Infrastructure and Funding

Although there is a prior proposal for the construction of a Municipal Social Welfare and Development (MSWD) Multi-Purpose Building, which includes a temporary shelter, the project has not yet been realized due to lack of funds.

3. Increased Risk Due to Port Operations

With the anticipated full operation of the municipal port, there is a heightened risk of trafficking, particularly involving minors traveling without proper authorization.

4. Need for Stronger Monitoring and Enforcement

There is a need to strengthen the visibility and presence of law enforcement to prevent possible trafficking in persons incidents.

5. Composition of Municipal Anti-Trafficking Council

There is a need to expand the membership of the Municipal Anti-Trafficking Council to include key officials, particularly the Sangguniang Bayan Member who chairs the Committee on Women and Children.

II. RECOMMENDATIONS

In view of the foregoing findings, the Committee respectfully recommends the following:

1. Establishment of a Temporary Holding Area

Pending the construction of a permanent shelter, the municipality should designate an available facility as a temporary holding area for the victims of trafficking in person.

2. Construction of MSWD Multi-Purpose Building

The local government should prioritize funding and implementation of the proposed MSWD Multi-Purpose Building, which will include a temporary shelter and counseling facilities.

3. Inclusion of Prohibited Acts on Minor Travel

The ordinance should explicitly include a provision prohibiting minors from traveling without the consent or proper authorization of their parents or legal guardians.

4. Development of Policies on Transport Monitoring

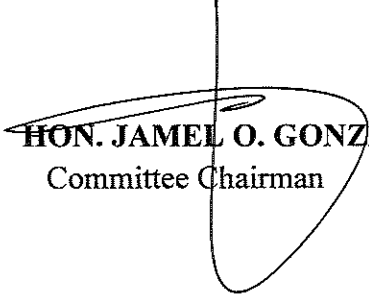
The municipality should develop clear guidelines and protocols for monitoring the transport of individuals, especially minors, in coordination with port authorities and law enforcement agencies.

5. Strengthening Law Enforcement Visibility

Increase the presence and coordination of the PNP and barangay officials to ensure effective monitoring and prevention of trafficking activities.

CONCURRING:


HON. ELMER C. SILVA
Vice Chairman


HON. JAMEL O. GONZALES
Committee Chairman


HON. ROQUE M. COMPRA
Member

APPENDICES:

e.g. Minutes of Public Hearing and Committee Meetings and Attendance Sheet, Photo/Videos



Republic of the Philippines
Province of Leyte
Municipality of Villaba
Office of the Secretary to the Sangguniang Bayan

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be conducted by the Sangguniang Bayan Committee on Laws, Rules and Privileges, **March 23, 2026 at 9:30 in the morning** at **Sangguniang Bayan Session Hall**, this Municipality regarding **Proposed Municipal Ordinance Nos. 13, S-2026** authored by Sangguniang Bayan Member **Jamel O. Gonzales** entitled:

"ESTABLISHING THE VILLABA ANTI-TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS ORDINANCE, PROVIDING LOCAL MECHANISMS FOR THE PREVENTION, SUPPRESSION, AND ELIMINATION OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF VILLABA, LEYTE, PROVIDING PROTECTIVE MEASURES FOR VICTIMS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

The Municipal Administrator, Representative from Villaba Municipal Police Station, Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office (MSWDO), Municipal Health Office (MHO), Public Employment Service Office (PESO), Villaba North and South District Supervisors, Municipal Local Government Operations Officer (MLGOO), President of the Municipal People's Council, Representative from the Private Sector and all other interested parties are invited to attend.

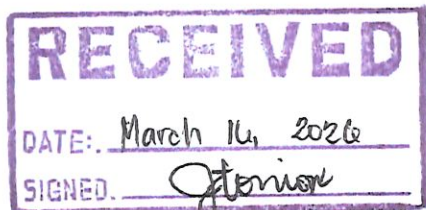
Villaba, Leyte, March 9, 2026.



In public service,

[Signature]
ATTY. MC QUIRIE P. UMPAD
Secretary to the Sanggunian

[Signature]
ROSEMARIE DECAJIN / 3-10-2026



PCpl Jocelyn B Torrian

[Signature]
VILLABA SOUTH DISTRICT
2/14/2024

By *[Signature]*

03-16-2026

03-16-2026 Efrine

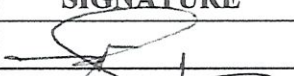
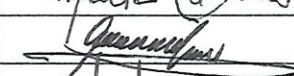
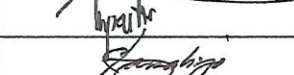
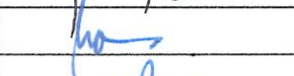
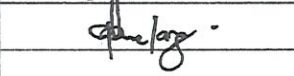
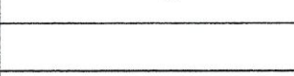
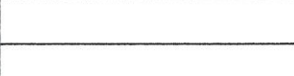
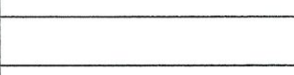
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MARIA HERRERA AREAL
MARIA G. SORIANO 3/17/26



ATTENDANCE SHEET

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE VILLABA ANTI-TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS ORDINANCE, PROVIDING LOCAL MECHANISMS FOR THE PREVENTION, SUPPRESSION, AND ELIMINATION OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF VILLABA, LEYTE, PROVIDING PROTECTIVE MEASURES FOR VICTIMS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

DATE: March 18, 2026
TIME: 9:30 AM
VENUE: SB SESSION HALL

NO.	NAME	DESIGNATION	SIGNATURE
1.	ELMER C SILVA	SBM	
2.	JAMEL O. GONZALEZ	SBM	
3.	MEALITA D. VELOSO	Mun. Ad	
4.	RODRIGO M. COMPIA	SBM	
5.	MA. FLOR M. PACTOR	INWDO	
6.	JUANITA S. SANSALIDO	CSO	
7.	DOPT PERLITA D. REPUERA	VILLABA MPS-DIC	
8.	MARILYN E. VAPOR	CSO OODMNT	
9.	MANIX C. ROA	SR LEO	
10.	MARILYN O. MARQUEZ	VSD-PSDS	
11.	EMMANUEL M. NEOLMA	VMD-DIC	
12.	JEAN DEE DEWE KLAUS	CL T.O	
13.	MICHELLE S. RUBIAN	SB JO	
14.			
15.			
16.			
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20.			

