



Republic of the Philippines  
**PROVINCE OF LEYTE**  
Provincial Capitol  
Tacloban City

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**PROVINCIAL LEGAL OFFICE**

Item No.: 26

Date: 07 2026 JUL

PROVINCE OF LEYTE  
LEGAL OFFICE

RECEIVED

By: [Signature]  
Date: 6.26.26 Time: pit

Sangguniang Panlalawigan  
Province of Leyte

RECEIVED

Date: JUN 26 2026  
By: [Signature]

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

Jun 3, 2026

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

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

- Ordinance No. 4 entitled: "An Ordinance amending/revising Municipal Ordinance no. 5 etc."

**REVIEW/RECOMMENDATION/LEGAL OPINION:**

This office opines that the subject Ordinance is, in general, within the legislative authority of the Sangguniang Bayan to repeal/amend its prior acts either expressly or by the passage of an essentially inconsistent resolution<sup>1</sup>. 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> (Constantino vs. Desierto, 288 SCRA 654) April 13, 1998

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

PROVINCE OF LEYTE  
LEGAL OFFICE

RECEIVED

**1<sup>ST</sup> INDORSEMENT**  
29 May 2026

By: *Asis*  
Date: 16.01.26 Time: 9:24

The Provincial Legal Office is respectfully requested to review and submit recommendations on the herein enclosed **Municipal Ordinance No. 04, series of 2026 of the Municipality of Merida, Leyte**, entitled: **An Ordinance amending/revising Municipal Ordinance No. 05, series of 2017, otherwise known as "An Ordinance adopting the revised Leyte Children's Welfare Code of 2017", entitled this time as the "Updated Merida Children's Welfare Code of 2026."**



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



Republic of the Philippines  
Province of Leyte  
MUNICIPALITY OF MERIDA

OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

28 MAY 2026

THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN OF LEYTE  
CAPITOL BUILDING  
PALO LEYTE

Sangguniang Panlalawigan  
Province of Leyte  
**RECEIVED**  
Date: MAY 29 2026  
By: \_\_\_\_\_

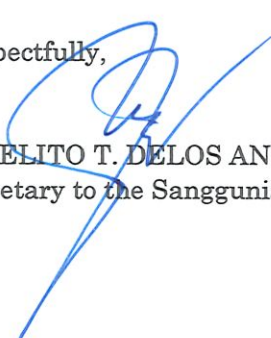
DEAR HONORABLE MEMBERS;

I have the honor to submit to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Leyte copies of **MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 04, SERIES OF 2026 – “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING / REVISING MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 05, SERIES OF 2017, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE REVISED LEYTE CHILDREN’S WELFARE CODE OF 2017” ENTITLED THIS TIME AS THE “UPDATED MERIDA CHILDREN’S WELFARE CODE OF 2026”** enacted by the 19<sup>th</sup> Council of this Municipality, for review and consideration.

Hoping everything is in order.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

  
JOSELITO T. DELOS ANGELES  
Secretary to the Sangguniang Bayan

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123  
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THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
 PROVINCE OF LEYTE  
**SANGGUNIANG BAYAN NG MERIDA (19<sup>TH</sup> COUNCIL)**



**Sangguniang Panlalawigan**  
**Province of Leyte**

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 32<sup>ND</sup> REGULAR SESSION OF THE  
 SANGGUNIANG BAYAN (19<sup>TH</sup> COUNCIL), MERIDA, LEYTE, HELD ON APRIL 15, 2026  
 AT THE LEGISLATIVE BUILDING SESSION HALL.

**RECEIVED**  
 MAY 29 2026

I HEREBY CERTIFY that this is a true and accurate copy of the resolution duly adopted by the Sangguniang Bayan of Merida, Leyte on **APRIL 15, 2026**.

**JOSELITO T. DELOS ANGELES**  
 SB Secretary

SANGGUNIANG BAYAN MEMBERS:

**HON. ATTY. CHRISTIAN Q. SALTA**  
 SB Member

**HON. BENJAMIN A. TRAVERO JR.**  
 SB Member

**HON. JESUS ANTONIO R. MARTINEZ**  
 SB Member

**HON. CHENIL C. CALDERON**  
 SB Member

**HON. MELQUIADES D. GUIO-GUIO**  
 SB Member

**HON. BRENDA T. ADOLFO**  
 SB Member

**HON. ROGEN G. WENCESLAO**  
 SB Member

**HON. OLIVER R. LIMOSNERO**  
 SB Member

**HON. RONILLO C. LABANG**  
 LNB President

**HON. ASHLEY NORBEN J. DIAZ**  
 SK Federation President

**HON. RODRIGO M. WENCESLAO**  
 Municipal Vice-Mayor Presiding Officer

**-RESOLUTION NO. 19-26-082-**

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 04, SERIES OF 2026 "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING / REVISING MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 05, SERIES OF 2017, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE REVISED LEYTE CHILDREN'S WELFARE CODE OF 2017" ENTITLED THIS TIME AS THE "UPDATED MERIDA CHILDREN'S WELFARE CODE OF 2026".

WHEREAS, on May 26, 2017, the Sangguniang Bayan of Merida enacted Municipal Ordinance No. 05, Series of 2017, to adopt the provincial welfare code;

WHEREAS, Section 447 of RA 7160 mandates that the Sangguniang Bayan ensure the effective delivery of services and provide care for abandoned minors, abused children, and other disadvantaged persons;

WHEREAS, since 2017, the Philippine Congress has enacted several landmark laws to address evolving threats to children, particularly in the areas of digital safety, early childhood nutrition, and the prevention of forced unions;

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Merida seeks to remain at the forefront of child advocacy by ensuring local legislations is fully aligned with these national mandates;

NOW, WHEREFORE, ON MOTION OF Hon. Benjamin A. Travero, Jr., Chairman Committee on Social Services, duly seconded by MASS, BE IT RESOLVED TO ENACT;

**-MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 04-**  
**Series of 2026**

**SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 1 of Municipal Ordinance No. 05, Series of 2017, is hereby amended to read as this Ordinance shall be known as the "UPDATED MERIDA CHILDREN'S WELFARE CODE OF 2026".

**SECTION 2. UPDATED COMPLIANCE.** The implementation of this Code shall now strictly include and be guided by the following national mandates, summarized for the guidance of all local implementers.

- **RA 11596 (PROHIBITION OF CHILD MARRIAGE LAW)** – This law declares child marriage as a public crime and a form of child abuse. It prohibits the facilitation and solemnization of marriages where one or both parties are under 18 years old. It also penalizes their cohabitation of an adult with a child outside of wedlock, ensuring that no child is forced into a domestic union that hinders their development and education;
- **RA 11148 (KALUSUGAN AT NUTRISYON NG MAG-NANAY ACT)** – Known as the First 1,000 Days Act, this law mandates the LGU to prioritize nutrition and health services from the first day of a mother's pregnancy up to the child's second birthday. This "critical window" is essential for preventing stunting and ensuring the healthy physical and mental growth of children in Merida;
- **RA 11930 (ANTI-ONLINE SEXUAL ABUSE OR EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN / OSEAC ACT)** – This law strengthens protections for children in the digital space. It imposes strict penalties on those who produce or distribute child abuse materials and mandates local governments to establish prevention programs. It specifically addresses modern threats like "sextortion" and the use of the exploit minors requiring internet providers and local officials to report such crimes immediately;
- **RA 8353 (ANTI-RAPE LAW OF 1997)** – as amended by RA 11648, is used to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation by clearly defining when sexual acts involving minors become criminal offenses. Under these laws, any sexual intercourse or sexual act with a child below 16 years old is considered statutory rape, regardless of consent, because the law recognizes that children are not capable of giving informed consent;

LAND OF MERRY AND DASHING PEOPLE

LGU Merida, Barangay Poblacion, Greenheights District,  
 Merida, Leyte 6540 The

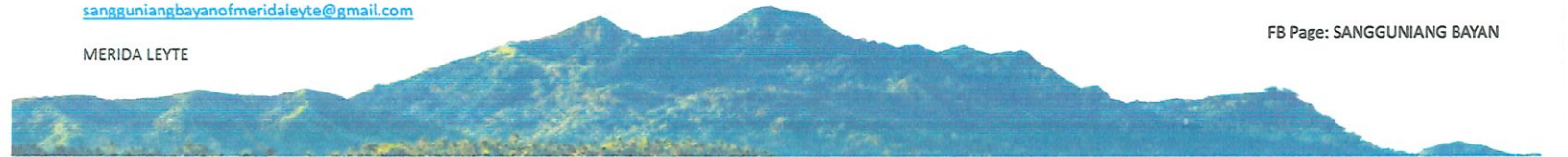
Philippines

Email:

[sangguniangbayanofmeridaleyte@gmail.com](mailto:sangguniangbayanofmeridaleyte@gmail.com)

FB Page: SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

MERIDA LEYTE





THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
 PROVINCE OF LEYTE  
**SANGGUNIANG BAYAN NG MERIDA (19<sup>TH</sup> COUNCIL)**



- **RA 7610** – defines child abuses as any act whether physical, psychological, or sexual that harms or endangers a child’s development and dignity. It includes neglect, cruelty, exploitation, and maltreatment by parents, guardians, or any other person. The law also covers situations where a child is used for sexual exploitation, prostitution, pornography, trafficking, or forced labor. It emphasizes that children (persons below 18 years old) must be protected from conditions that threaten their survival. Growth and well-being an it impose penalties on those who commit of facilities such acts.

**SECTION 3. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE.** If any provision of this updated ordinance is declared unconstitutional, other parts not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.


**SECTION 4. REPEALING CLAUSE.** All local ordinances, resolutions, or executive orders inconsistent with these updates are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 5. EFFECTIVITY.** This Ordinance shall take effect immediately after its approval and required publication.

**ENACTED: 15 APRIL 2026**

**APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**SANGGUNIANG BAYAN MEMBERS**

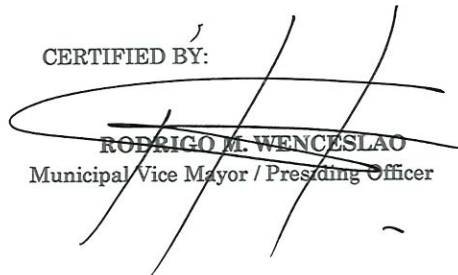
 <b>ATTY. CHRISTIAN Q. SALTA, EnP</b> Municipal Councilor Majority Floor Leader	 <b>BENJAMIN A. TRAVERRO, JR.</b> Municipal Councilor	 <b>CHENIL C. CALDERON</b> Municipal Councilor
 <b>JESUS ANTONIO R. MARTINEZ</b> Municipal Councilor	 <b>BRENDA T. ADOLFO</b> Municipal Councilor	 <b>MELQUIADES D. GUIO-GUIO</b> Municipal Councilor
 <b>ROGENG WENCESLAO</b> Municipal Councilor	 <b>OLIVER R. LINOSBERG</b> Municipal Councilor	 <b>RONILLO O. LABANG</b> Ex-Officio (LNB President)
	 <b>ASHLEY NOREEN J. DIAZ</b> Ex-Officio (Mun. SK Fed. President)	

APPROVED BY HIS HONOR, THE MUNICIPAL MAYOR ON May 04, 2026.

CONFORME:

  
**ENGR. ROLANDO M. VILLASEÑICO**  
Municipal Mayor

CERTIFIED BY:

  
**RODRIGO M. WENCESLAO**  
Municipal Vice Mayor / Presiding Officer

ATTESTED BY:

  
**JOSELITO T. DELOS ANGELES**  
Secretary to the Sangguniang Bayan

**LAND OF MERRY AND DASHING PEOPLE**

LGU Merida, Barangay Poblacion, Greenheights District,  
Merida, Leyte 6540 The

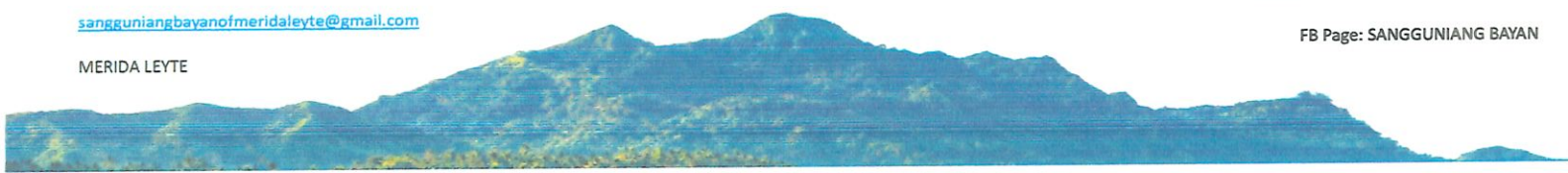
Philippines

Email:

[sangguniangbayanofmeridaleyte@gmail.com](mailto:sangguniangbayanofmeridaleyte@gmail.com)

FB Page: SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

MERIDA LEYTE





Republic of the Philippines  
**PROVINCE OF LEYTE**  
 Tacloban City



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 RELEASED  
 # 2017-20-10  
 DATE 11/11/17  
 BY

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**OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN**

**EXCERPTS FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 52<sup>nd</sup> REGULAR SESSION OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN OF LEYTE CONDUCTED AT THE SESSION HALL, LEGISLATIVE BUILDING, CAPITOL GROUNDS, TACLOBAN CITY, ON 11 SEPTEMBER 2017.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-541**

**A RESOLUTION DECLARING VALID, MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 05, SERIES OF 2017, OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN OF MERIDA, LEYTE.**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 468 (1)(i) of Republic Act 7160 otherwise known as The Local Government Code of 1991, among the powers and duties of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan is "to review all ordinances approved by the Sanggunians of component cities and municipalities;"

WHEREAS, **MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 05, SERIES OF 2017, of the Sangguniang Bayan of MERIDA, LEYTE**, entitled: **"AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE REVISED LEYTE CHILDREN'S WELFARE CODE OF 2017"**, was submitted to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan for approval;

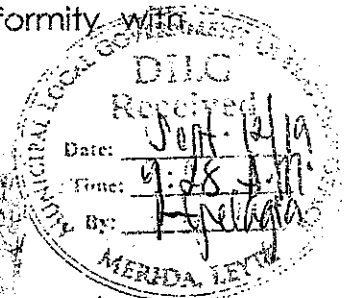
WHEREAS, the Provincial Legal Office was requested to review and submit recommendation on the Subject Ordinance pursuant to Section 481 (3) (vii) of R.A. 7160;

WHEREAS, the Provincial Legal Office through Atty. Faye Gladys M. Tebrero, Acting Assistant Provincial Legal Officer, in an indorsement dated August 22, 2017, recommended for the declaration of its validity pursuant to Section 56 (c) of R.A. 7160, the same being an exercise of the power essential to the promotion of the General Welfare, Police Power under Section 16 of the Code, and in compliance with the mandate of Section 17 (2), (iv) of the same, on the provision of Social Services, on Child and Youth Welfare;

WHEREAS, the August Body, upon review and recommendation of the Provincial Legal Office, finds the subject Ordinance in conformity with existing laws, rules and regulations;

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*Approved*  
*Chief*  
 2017-11-11



**Section 1. SHORT TITLE:** This Ordinance shall be known as "*The Revised Leyte Children's Welfare Code of 2017*".

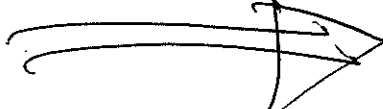

**Section 2. COVERAGE AND SCOPE OF APPLICATION:** This Code shall be applicable within the territorial jurisdiction of the Province of Leyte. It shall apply to all local government units, government agencies and instrumentalities, schools, organizations, corporations, establishments, and all persons concerned especially children.

**Section 3. DECLARATION OF POLICY:** It is hereby declared the policy of the Province of Leyte to defend the rights of the children to survival and assistance, provide every child with proper care, nutrition, equal access to quality education and special protection against all forms of neglect, abuse, cruelty, exploitation and discrimination, as well as other forms of conditions prejudicial to their development. It recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and encourages their involvement in public and civic affairs. The Province of Leyte is a strong advocate for children's rights and ensures the promotion and protection of these rights so as to enable children to develop their potentials and faculties.

**Section 4. BASIC PRINCIPLES:** The implementation of this Code shall be guided by the following basic principles:

- 1) That the Provincial Government of Leyte recognizes the rights of children and acknowledges the fact that the exercise of these rights will ensure their development into exemplary citizen of the country;
- 2) That the best interests of the children shall be paramount consideration in all actions concerning them, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities, and legislative bodies, consistent with the principle of First Call for Children as enunciated in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- 3) That the State shall intervene on behalf of the child when parent, legal guardian, teacher or person having care or custody of the child fails or is unable to protect the child *against abuse, exploitation and discrimination*, or when acts against the child are committed by the said parent, legal guardian, teacher or person having care or custody of the same;
- 4) That the State should try its best to achieve improved infant and child survival rates, enhance the physical, social, emotional, cognitive, psychological, spiritual and language development of young children;
- 5) That every child has the right:
  - a) to be born, to have a name and nationality;
  - b) to have a family who will love and care for them;
  - c) to live in a peaceful community and a wholesome environment;
  - d) to have adequate food and a healthy and active body;

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**Article VI**  
**SPECIAL CONCERNS**

**Section 45. ORGANIZATION, FUNCTION, AND STRENGTHENING OF LOCAL COUNCILS FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN:** The Provincial and Municipal/City Council for the Protection of Children shall be organized at the Provincial/Municipal/City level respectively, and the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children shall organize their respective Council for the Protection of Children. The composition of the Provincial Council for the Protection of Children shall be as follows:

- Chairperson : Provincial Governor
- Co-Chair : Sangguniang Panlalawigan Member (Chairperson, Committee On Women, Children, and Family Relations)
- Members : Provincial Director, DILG  
Provincial Social Welfare and Development Officer  
Provincial Labor and Employment Officer  
Leyte Schools Division Superintendent, DepEd  
Provincial Planning and Development Officer  
Provincial Budget Officer  
Provincial Health Officer  
Provincial Director, PNP  
Provincial Treasurer  
President, League of Municipalities of the Philippines (Leyte Chapter)  
Provincial SK Federation President (Leyte Chapter)  
Provincial PCL President (Leyte Chapter)  
Prov'l President, Liga ng mga Barangay (Leyte Chapter)  
**Provincial Nutrition Action Officer**  
**Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Officer**  
**Provincial Gender and Development Focal Person**  
Armed Forces of the Philippines  
At least three (3) representatives from private sector, two (2) of whom are appointed by the Committee handling ECCD programs and one (1) from the labor union sector.

**Functions of LCPCs:**

1. Formulate plans, programs, and policies for children that are gender-fair, culturally relevant and responsive to the needs of diverse group of children from 0 to below 18 years of age;

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years of Age, amending Section 12 of R.A. No. 7610); Republic Act No. 9208 (Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003); Republic Act No. 9262 (Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children Act of 2004); *R. A 9344 (An Act Establishing a Comprehensive Juvenile Justice and Welfare System, Creating the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council under the Department of Justice, Appropriating Funds Therefore and for other Purposes)*; as amended by *RA 10630, RA 9775 (An Act Defining the Crime of Child Pornography, Prescribing Penalties Therefore and for other purposes)*; *Senate Bill No. 1107 (Anti- Corporal Punishment Law)*, *RA 10410 Early Years Act of 2013, RA 10121 (Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010), RA 10821 (Children in Emergencies)*, the Revised Penal Code and other pertinent laws shall be supplementary to this *Code*.

**Section 59. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE:** If for any reason a provision of this *Code* is declared invalid or unconstitutional, other parts or provisions hereof which are affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect:

**Section 60. REPEALING CLAUSE:** All ordinances, resolutions, executive orders, and other local issuances which are inconsistent with any of the provisions of this *Code* are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**Section 61. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE:** This Code shall take effect immediately after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation for three (3) consecutive weeks.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

I HEREBY CERTIFY to the correctness of the foregoing Resolution No. 2017-151 embodying Provincial Ordinance No. 2017-01.

  
**ATTY. MARNI ROSE D. ZATARAIN**  
Provl. Govt. Dept. Head  
Secretary to the Sanggunian

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Republic of the Philippines  
Province of Leyte  
MUNICIPALITY OF MERIDA

## OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

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### CERTIFICATION

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 04, SERIES OF 2026 – “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING / REVISING MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 05, SERIES OF 2017, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE REVISED LEYTE CHILDREN’S WELFARE CODE OF 2017” ENTITLED THIS TIME AS THE “UPDATED MERIDA CHILDREN’S WELFARE CODE OF 2026” had been posted in three (3) conspicuous places in the locality within three (3) consecutive weeks from MAY 05, 2026 TO MAY 26, 2026.

THIS CERTIFICATION has been issued in compliance to Section 511 (1), Title One, book IV of RA 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991.

DONE AND ISSUED this 28<sup>TH</sup> day of MAY 2026 at Merida, Leyte, Philippines.

  
JOSELITO T. DELOS ANGELES  
Secretary to the Sangguniang Bayan