



Sangguniang Panlalawigan
Province of Leyte
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Date: JUN 26 2026
By: famll

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF LEYTE
Provincial Capitol
Tacloban City

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PROVINCIAL LEGAL OFFICE

Item No.: 32

Date: 07 2026 JUL

PROVINCE OF LEYTE
LEGAL OFFICE

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By: Jas
Date: Co. 26. 26 Time: 1:20

2nd INDORSEMENT

June 3, 2026

Respectfully returned to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Leyte, through SP Secretary, the attached Ordinance No. 10 of the Sangguniang Bayan of Merida, Leyte.

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

- Ordinance No. 10 entitled: "An Ordinance establishing the Merida Aids Council (MAC) etc.."

REVIEW/RECOMMENDATION/LEGAL OPINION:

This office is of the opinion that the subject Ordinance is generally in accordance with its power under Section 76¹ of the Local Government Code of 1991 (R.A 7160) in consonance with Section 443(c)(2)² of the same, subject to CSC rules and the availability of funds. Hence, we recommend 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;Section 76. Organizational Structure and Staffing Pattern. - Every local government unit shall design and implement its own organizational structure and staffing pattern taking into consideration its service requirements and financial capability, subject to the minimum standards and guidelines prescribed by the Civil Service Commission.

² Section 443.

(c) The sangguniang bayan may:

(2) Create such other offices as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the municipal government;

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

1ST INDORSEMENT
29 May 2026

PROVINCE OF LEYTE
LEGAL OFFICE
RECEIVED

By: _____ Time: _____
Date: _____

The Provincial Legal Office is respectfully requested to review and submit recommendations on the herein enclosed **Municipal Ordinance No. 10, series of 2026 of the Municipality of Merida, Leyte**, entitled: **An Ordinance establishing the Merida Aids Council (MAC), institutionalizing local HIV and AIDS response mechanisms and a comprehensive HIV and AIDS Prevention and Control Program in the Municipality of Merida, defining its powers and functions, prohibiting discrimination against persons living with HIV, and appropriating funds therefor.**



FLORINDA JILLS. UYVICO
Secretary to the Sanggunian

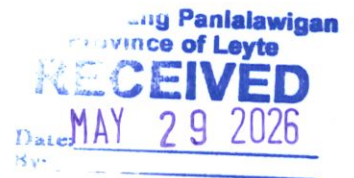


Republic of the Philippines
Province of Leyte
MUNICIPALITY OF MERIDA

OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

28 MAY 2026

THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN OF LEYTE
CAPITOL BUILDING
PALO LEYTE



DEAR HONORABLE MEMBERS;

I have the honor to submit to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Leyte copies of **MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 10, SERIES OF 2026 "AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE MERIDA AIDS COUNCIL (MAC), INSTITUTIONALIZING LOCAL HIV AND AIDS PREVENTION AND CONTROL PROGRAM IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MERIDA, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, PROHIBITING AGAINST PERSONS LIVING WITH HIV, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"** enacted by the 19th 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



Sangguniang Panlalawigan
Province of Leyte

THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PROVINCE OF LEYTE

SANGGUNIANG BAYAN NG MERIDA (19TH COUNCIL)



BAGONG PILIPINAS

RECEIVED

Date: MAY 29 2026

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 33RD REGULAR SESSION OF THE
SANGGUNIANG BAYAN (19TH COUNCIL), MERIDA, LEYTE, HELD ON APRIL 22, 2026
AT THE LEGISLATIVE BUILDING SESSION HALL.

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 22, 2026.**

JOSELITO T. DELOS ANGELES
SB Secretary

SANGGUNIANG BAYAN MEMBERS:

HON. ATTY. CHRISTIAN O. SALTA
SB Member

HON. BENJAMIN A. TRAYERO JR.
SB Member

HON. JESUS ANTONIO R. MARTINEZ
SB Member

HON. CHENIL C. CALDERON
SB Member (Sick Leave)

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 O. LABANG
LNB President (Forced Leave)

HON. ASHLEY NOREEN J. DIAZ
SK Federation President

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

-RESOLUTION NO. 19-26-089-

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 10, SERIES OF 2026 "AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE MERIDA AIDS COUNCIL (MAC), INSTITUTIONALIZING LOCAL HIV AND AIDS RESPONSE MECHANISMS AND A COMPREHENSIVE HIV AND AIDS PREVENTION AND CONTROL PROGRAM IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MERIDA, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION AGAINST PERSONS LIVING WITH HIV, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR."

WHEREAS, the State recognizes the seriousness of HIV and AIDS as a public health concern and promotes the protection of the health and well-being of the people through responsive and coordinated policies and programs;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 11166, otherwise known as the *Philippine HIV and AIDS Policy Act*, mandates national and local government units to strengthen programs on HIV prevention, treatment, care, and support while ensuring respect for human rights and dignity;

WHEREAS, local government units play a vital role in the implementation of public health programs and in mobilizing communities to prevent the spread of HIV and AIDS;

WHEREAS, there is a need to establish a **multi-sectoral body** in the Municipality of Merida to formulate policies, coordinate programs, and monitor initiatives related to HIV and AIDS prevention and control;

WHEREAS, addressing HIV and AIDS contributes to the attainment of the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals**, particularly **Sustainable Development Goal 3**, which seeks to ensure healthy lives, promote well-being for all, and end the AIDS epidemic by 2030;

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Merida recognizes the importance of strengthening local health systems, promoting awareness, and eliminating stigma and discrimination against persons living with HIV;

NOW, WHEREFORE, ON MOTION OF Hon. Brenda T. Adolfo Chairman Committee on Health duly seconded by MASS, BE IT RESOLVED TO ENACT;

-MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 10-
Series of 2026

INTRODUCED/AUTHORED BY:
HON. BRENDA T. ADOLFO

SECTION 1. TITLE

This Ordinance shall be known as the "Merida HIV and AIDS Prevention and Control Ordinance of 2026."

SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY

It is hereby declared the policy of the Municipality of Merida to adopt a **comprehensive, rights-based, gender-responsive, and community-driven approach** in addressing HIV and AIDS through prevention, education, treatment, care, and support programs.

The Municipality shall strengthen local mechanisms that support the attainment of **Sustainable Development Goal 3**, particularly Target 3.3, which seeks to end the epidemics of AIDS and other communicable diseases.

SECTION 3. DEFINITION OF TERMS

For purposes of this Ordinance, the following terms shall mean:

- **AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome)** – a medical condition caused by the advanced stage of infection with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus.
- **HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus)** – the virus that attacks the immune system and may lead to AIDS if untreated.

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THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
 PROVINCE OF LEYTE
SANGGUNIANG BAYAN NG MERIDA (19TH COUNCIL)



(CONTINUATION OF MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 10, SERIES OF 2026, DATED APRIL 22, 2026.//PAGE 02)

- **Persons Living with HIV (PLHIV)** – individuals who have tested positive for HIV.
- **HIV Counseling and Testing** – the process by which an individual receives counseling before and after being tested for HIV.
- **Discrimination** – any act or omission that results in restriction, exclusion, or preference based on actual or perceived HIV status.
- **Stigma** – negative attitudes or beliefs directed toward persons living with HIV.
- **Confidentiality** – the protection of HIV-related information from unauthorized disclosure.
- **Treatment Facility** – a health facility accredited to provide HIV treatment and care services.
- **Merida AIDS Council (MAC)** – the multi-sectoral body created under this Ordinance responsible for policy formulation, planning, coordination, and monitoring of HIV and AIDS programs in the municipality.

SECTION 4. CREATION OF THE MERIDA AIDS COUNCIL

There is hereby created the **Merida AIDS Council (MAC)** which shall serve as the **primary policy-formulating, planning, coordinating, and advisory body** on HIV and AIDS prevention and control in the Municipality of Merida.

SECTION 5. COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL

Chairperson: Municipal Mayor

Vice Chairperson: Municipal Health Officer

Members:

- Chairperson, SB Committee on Health
- Municipal Social Welfare and Development Officer
- Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator
- Municipal Budget Officer
- Municipal Information Officer
- Representative from **Department of Education**
- Chief of Police, Merida PNP
- Sangguniang Kabataan Federation President
- Municipal Youth Development Officer
- Representative from Civil Society Organizations
- Representative from the Private Health Sector
- Youth Sector Representative
- Representative of Persons Living with HIV, when available

The Council may invite other agencies, organizations, or experts as resource persons whenever necessary.

SECTION 6. POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL

The Merida AIDS Council shall:

1. **Formulate policies, plans, and programs** on HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, care, and support in the municipality;
2. Recommend local legislation, guidelines, and policy measures to the Sangguniang Bayan;
3. Develop and implement the **Municipal HIV and AIDS Strategic Plan**;
4. Coordinate HIV and AIDS programs among municipal offices, barangays, national government agencies, and civil society organizations;
5. Conduct sustained **Information, Education, and Communication (IEC)** campaigns;
6. Promote voluntary HIV counseling and testing services;
7. Ensure that municipal programs are aligned with **Republic Act No. 11166** and policies of the **Philippine National AIDS Council**;
8. Mobilize resources and partnerships for HIV prevention and treatment programs;
9. Monitor and evaluate the implementation of HIV-related initiatives;
10. Submit an **Annual HIV Situation and Program Report** to the Sangguniang Bayan.

SECTION 7. INTEGRATION INTO LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS

All programs, policies, and initiatives developed by the Merida AIDS Council shall be **integrated into the Municipal Development Plan, Local Health Plan, and Annual Investment Plan** of the Municipality of Merida.

These programs shall contribute to the objectives of **Sustainable Development Goal 3** under the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals**.

SECTION 8. HIV EDUCATION AND AWARENESS PROGRAMS

The Municipality shall implement comprehensive HIV awareness programs including:

- School-based education programs in coordination with the **Department of Education**
- Community awareness campaigns in barangays
- Workplace HIV awareness activities in government and private institutions
- Youth-centered prevention programs through the Sangguniang Kabataan

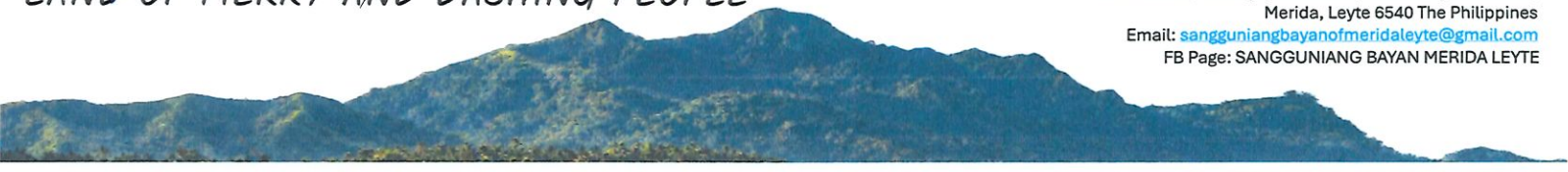
SECTION 9. CONFIDENTIAL HIV TESTING AND REFERRAL SYSTEM

The Municipal Health Office shall:

1. Provide voluntary and confidential HIV counseling and testing services;
2. Establish referral mechanisms with accredited HIV treatment facilities;

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LAND OF MERRY AND DASHING PEOPLE





THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
 PROVINCE OF LEYTE
 SANGGUNIANG BAYAN NG MERIDA (19TH COUNCIL)



(CONTINUATION OF MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 10, SERIES OF 2026, DATED APRIL 22, 2026. //PAGE 03)

3. Provide counseling and psychosocial support services for persons living with HIV;
4. Ensure strict confidentiality of all HIV-related information.

SECTION 10. ANTI-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

No person shall be discriminated against on the basis of actual or perceived HIV status in employment, education, health services, housing, or access to public services.

All municipal offices shall ensure respect for the **dignity, confidentiality, and human rights of persons living with HIV.**

SECTION 11. ROLE OF BARANGAYS

Barangay governments shall:

1. Support HIV awareness campaigns and prevention programs;
2. Assist in community education initiatives;
3. Coordinate with the Municipal Health Office for referrals and information dissemination.

SECTION 12. BARANGAY HIV AND AIDS FOCAL PERSONS

Each barangay shall designate a **Barangay HIV and AIDS Focal Person** who shall coordinate with the Municipal Health Office and the Merida AIDS Council in the implementation of HIV and AIDS programs.

The Barangay HIV Focal Person shall:

1. Assist in the implementation of community-based HIV awareness and education programs;
2. Coordinate with the Municipal Health Office on prevention initiatives and referrals for counseling and testing;
3. Support dissemination of accurate information on HIV and AIDS;
4. Encourage participation of community members in municipal health campaigns;
5. Ensure activities conducted at the barangay level respect confidentiality and human rights principles.

SECTION 13. PROHIBITED ACTS AND PENALTIES

Prohibited acts include:

1. Denial of employment or termination of employment solely on the basis of HIV status;
2. Refusal of admission to educational institutions due to HIV status;
3. Denial of access to health care services;
4. Breach of confidentiality regarding a person's HIV status;
5. Any form of stigma, harassment, or discrimination against persons living with HIV.

Penalties:

- **First Offense:** Fine of ₱1,000 and mandatory HIV awareness orientation;
- **Second Offense:** Fine of 1500;
- **Third and Subsequent Offenses:** Fine of ₱2,500 or imprisonment of up to six (6) months, or both.

SECTION 14. SECRETARIAT

The **Municipal Health Office** shall serve as the **Secretariat of the Merida AIDS Council**, providing technical, administrative, and reporting support.

SECTION 15. FUNDING

Funds necessary for implementation shall be sourced from:

- Annual municipal appropriations;
- Municipal health program funds;
- Grants, donations, and assistance from government agencies and development partners.

SECTION 16. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS

Within sixty (60) days after effectivity, the Merida AIDS Council shall formulate the **Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)**.

SECTION 17. MUNICIPAL HIV AND AIDS DATA MONITORING AND REPORTING SYSTEM

1. The Municipal Health Office, in coordination with the Merida AIDS Council and Barangay HIV Focal Persons, shall maintain a **confidential data monitoring and reporting system** for HIV testing, counseling, treatment, and care.
2. The system shall ensure:
 - Confidentiality and security of all personal and medical information;
 - Accurate and timely reporting to the **Philippine National AIDS Council**;
 - Aggregated statistical reports to inform policy and resource allocation;
 - Periodic assessment of program effectiveness.
3. All barangays shall submit **quarterly reports** to the Municipal Health Office.
4. Data shall be used solely for **public health planning and monitoring** and shall never violate confidentiality or discriminate against PLHIV.

SECTION 18. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE

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

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LAND OF MERRY AND DASHING PEOPLE





THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PROVINCE OF LEYTE
SANGGUNIANG BAYAN NG MERIDA (19TH COUNCIL)



(CONTINUATION OF MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 10, SERIES OF 2026, DATED APRIL 22, 2026.//PAGE 04)

SECTION 19. REPEALING CLAUSE

All ordinances, resolutions, and regulations inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

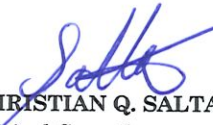
SECTION 20. EFFECTIVITY

This Ordinance shall take effect after compliance with posting and publication requirements under the Local Government Code of 1991.

ENACTED: 22 APRIL 2026

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

SANGGUNIANG BAYAN MEMBERS


ATTY. CHRISTIAN Q. SALTA, EnP
Municipal Councilor
Majority Floor Leader

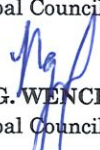

BENJAMIN A. TRAVERO, JR.
Municipal Councilor


CHENIL C. CALDERON
Municipal Councilor
(Sick Leave)

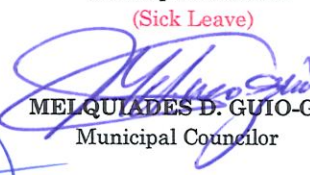

JESUS ANTONIO R. MARTINEZ
Municipal Councilor

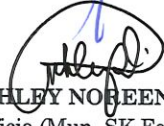

BRENDA T. ADOLFO
Municipal Councilor


MELQUIADES D. GUIO-GUIO
Municipal Councilor


ROGEN G. WENCESLAO
Municipal Councilor


OLIVER R. LIMOSNERO
Municipal Councilor


RONILLO O. LABANG
Ex-Officio (LnB President)
(Forced Leave)

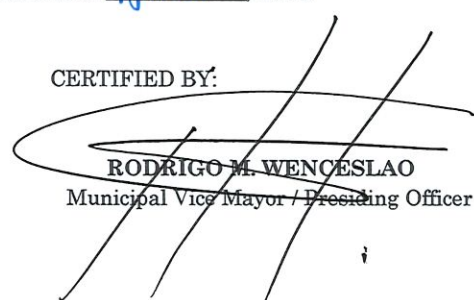

ASHLEY NOORJEN J. DIAZ
Ex-Officio (Mun. SK Fed. President)

APPROVED BY HIS HONOR, THE MUNICIPAL MAYOR ON April 28, 2026.

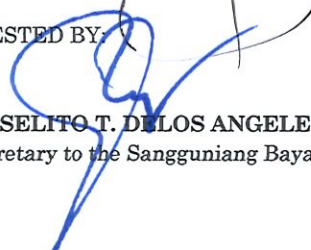
CONFORME:


ENGR. ROLANDO M. VILLASEÑICO
Municipal Mayor

CERTIFIED BY:


RODRIGO M. WENCESLAO
Municipal Vice Mayor / Presiding Officer

ATTESTED BY:


JOSELITO T. DE LOS ANGELES
Secretary to the Sangguniang Bayan





Republic of the Philippines
Province of Leyte
MUNICIPALITY OF MERIDA

OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

CERTIFICATION

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that **MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 10, SERIES OF 2026 – “AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE MERIDA AIDS COUNCIL (MAC), INSTITUTIONALIZING LOCAL HIV AND AIDS PREVENTION AND CONTROL PROGRAM IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MERIDA, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, PROHIBITING AGAINST PERSONS LIVING WITH HIV, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”** had been posted in three (3) conspicuous places in the locality within three (3) consecutive weeks from **APRIL 29, 2026 TO MAY 20, 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 28TH day of MAY 2026 at Merida, Leyte, Philippines.


JOSELITO T. DELOS ANGELES
Secretary to the Sangguniang Bayan