



Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF LEYTE
Provincial Capitol
Tacloban City

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PROVINCIAL LEGAL OFFICE

2nd INDORSEMENT

August 4, 2026

Sangguniang Panlalawigan
Province of Leyte
RECEIVED
Date: AUG 11 2026
By: Fernil

Respectfully returned to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Leyte, through the SP Secretary, the attached Ordinance No. 2026-04 of the Sangguniang Bayan of Palo, Leyte.

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

- Ordinance No. 2026-04 entitled: “**Mangrove forest Ordinance of Palo, 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)(vi)¹ and Section 447(5)(i)² of the Local Government Code of 1991 (R.A 7160). Hence, we recommend for the declaration of its validity.

We hope to have assisted you with this request. Please note that the opinion rendered by this Office are based on the facts available and may vary or change when additional facts and documents are presented or changed. This opinion is likewise without prejudice to the opinions rendered by higher and competent authorities and/or the courts.


ATTY. JOSE RAYMUND A. ACOL
Provincial Legal Officer

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

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

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Palo, Leyte
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OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN

1ST INDORSEMENT
27 July 2026

PROVINCE OF LEYTE
LEGAL OFFICE
RECEIVED

By: *[Signature]* Date: 7-27-26 Time: 1:24

The Provincial Legal Office is respectfully requested to review and submit recommendations on the herein enclosed **Municipal Ordinance No. 2026-04** of the **Municipality of Palo, Leyte**, entitled: **An Ordinance providing for the conservation, reforestation, rehabilitation, management, and sustainable development of Mangrove Forests in the Municipality of Palo, Leyte, providing penalties therefor and for other purposes.**

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



Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF LEYTE
Municipality of Palo

SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

1st Indorsement
July 23, 2026

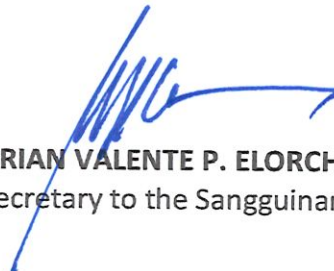
Sangguniang Panlalawigan
Province of Leyte

RECEIVED

1 JUL 23 2026

Date: _____
By: Ewene 1:30pm

Respectfully forwarded to Hon. Sangguniang Panlalawigan, Province of Leyte thru Hon. Vice-Governor Leonardo Javier, Jr., Palo, Leyte, the herein attached copy of Municipal Ordinance No. 2026-04 of the Sangguniang Bayan, Palo, Leyte, dated July 7, 2026, being submitted herewith as part for consideration and review.


BRIAN VALENTE P. ELORCHA
Secretary to the Sanggunian

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Municipality of Palo

SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

Sangguniang Bayan
Province of Leyte
RECEIVED

Date: JUL 23 2026
By: [Signature]

EXCERPTS FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 53RD REGULAR SESSION OF THE 12TH SANGGUNIANG BAYAN OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF PALO, PROVINCE OF LEYTE, HELD ON JULY 7, 2026, AT THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN SESSION HALL.

Present:

Hon. Jonathan P. Chiquillo	Presiding Officer
Hon. Chiqui Ruth C. Uy	SB Member
Hon. Andres Ian R. Sevilla	SB Member
Hon. Felipe T. Ygrubay, Jr.	SB Member
Hon. Casimero B. Parado II	SB Member
Hon. Antonino C. Hernit	SB Member
Hon. Casimero P. Villas, Jr.	SB Member
Hon. Panchito M. Cortez	SB Member
Hon. Aaron H. Roca	SB Member
Hon. Gregorio Papoose V. Lantajo, Jr.	President, Liga ng mga Barangay
Hon. Mary Dwell S. Agner	President, PPSK

Absent:

None.

MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 2026-04

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE CONSERVATION, REFORESTATION, REHABILITATION, MANAGEMENT, AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF MANGROVE FORESTS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PALO, LEYTE, PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Section 1. SHORT TITLE. This ordinance shall be known as the "Mangrove Forest Ordinance of the Municipality of Palo, Leyte".

Section 2. COVERAGE. This ordinance shall cover all coastal barangays in the Municipality of Palo, Leyte.

Section 3. OBJECTIVES.

- To ensure the conservation, reforestation, rehabilitation, management and sustainable development of Mangrove Forests in the Municipality of Palo, Leyte;
- To establish and declare Mangrove Forest Protected Areas in the municipality and to ensure their conservation, management and sustainable development;
- To encourage residents, especially those living in the coastal barangays to conserve and maintain mangrove forests for their protection against storm surges and other calamities; and
- To encourage intensified mangrove tree planting and reforestation in the municipality.

Section 4. DEFINITION OF TERMS. The following terms are being defined for the purpose of this Ordinance:

- Mangroves – refers to wetland shrubs and trees that grow in dense thickets or forests along tidal estuaries, in salt marshes, and on muddy saline or brackish coasts, and that characteristically have exposed supporting roots. (*Brittanica*)
- Mangrove Forest – refers to coastal intertidal ecosystems composed of salt-tolerant trees and shrubs, found in tropical and subtropical latitudes. They thrive in low-oxygen, nutrient-rich, muddy soils and are characterized by dense, stilt-like root systems that stabilize coastlines against erosion while acting as critical, bio-diverse nurseries for marine life. (*NOAA National Ocean Service*)



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SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

EXCERPTS FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 53RD REGULAR SESSION OF THE 12TH SANGGUNIANG BAYAN OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF PALO, PROVINCE OF LEYTE, HELD ON JULY 7, 2026, AT THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN SESSION HALL.

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(Mun. Ord. # 2026-04)

- c. Mangrove Forest Protected Area – refers to a designated coastal wetland, specifically within the intertidal zone, where mangroves are managed, conserved, and restored to preserve biodiversity and ecological services. These areas often include adjacent mudflats, estuaries, and associated habitats. (SEAFDEC/AQD)

Section 5. PALO MANGROVE DAY. The Local Government Unit of Palo, Leyte together with the coastal barangays of the municipality shall celebrate the “Palo Mangrove Day” on July 26 of every year in accordance with the World Mangrove Day. Different activities such as, but not limited to, tree-planting activities, lectures, clean-up drives, and such other related activities shall be dedicated to raising awareness on the importance of mangrove ecosystems and promoting their sustainable management, conservation, and use.

Section 6. MANGROVE FOREST PROTECTED AREAS. The Local Government Unit of Palo, Leyte, through the Municipal Environment and Solid Waste Management Office (MESWMO) and Municipal Planning Development Office (MPDO) in coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) shall profile and create a list of all Mangrove Forest Areas in the Municipality of Palo, Leyte to be updated annually. These areas, including Sibukaw Island, shall automatically be declared as Mangrove Forest Protected Areas under this Ordinance. Upon listing and declaration, these valuable ecosystems shall be protected and safeguarded from threats such as deforestation.

Section 7. PROMOTION OF DEVELOPMENT AND CONSERVATION OF MANGROVE FOREST PROTECTED AREAS.

Tree planting activities conducted in the municipality shall give utmost priority to the planting of mangrove trees in areas to be designated by the Municipal Environment and Solid Waste Management Office subject to approval by the Office of the Municipal Mayor.

Further, the municipal government together with the coastal barangays shall exert efforts to conserve and maintain the established Mangrove Forest Protection Areas within their territorial jurisdiction, as follows:

- Mangrove Eco-Parks shall be established to protect mangroves and serve as an invaluable educational resource to promote understanding of the mangrove ecosystem's role in protecting coastal environments and to inculcate the significance of environmental protection;
- Maintain a local seedling/planting material production or nursery facility for mangrove species;
- Encourage and motivate stakeholders to support and engage in the conservation and reforestation of mangrove forests and plantations;
- Encourage partnerships with academic institutions, the private sector and other civil society or non-government organizations to enhance the scale and scope of mangrove rehabilitation and development;



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(Mun. Ord. # 2026-04)

Section 12. APPROPRIATION. The Local Government Unit shall provide appropriations necessary or incidental to the implementation of this Ordinance subject to the availability of funds and usual budgeting, accounting and auditing rules.

Section 13. REPEALING CLAUSE. Any ordinance, rule or regulation, or executive order which may be inconsistent herewith is hereby amended or repealed accordingly

Section 14. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. If for any reason, any part or provision of this Ordinance shall be held or declared to be invalid, other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Section 15. EFFECTIVITY. This ordinance shall take effect upon its approval and after compliance with the posting and publication requirements, as provided under the Local Government Code of 1991.

APPROVED.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

BRIAN VALENTE P. ELORCHA
Secretary to the Sanggunian

ATTESTED:

JONATHAN P. CHIQUILLO
Vice Mayor
Presiding Officer

CHIQUI RUTH C. UY
SB Member

ANDRES IAN R. SEVILLA
SB Member

FELIPE T. YGRUBAY, JR.
SB Member

CASIMERO B. PARADO II
SB Member

ANTONINO C. HERNIT
SB Member

CASIMERO P. VILLAS, JR.
SB Member

PANCHITO M. CORTEZ
SB Member

AARON H. ROCA
SB Member

GREGORIO PAPOOSE V. LANTAJO, JR.
President, Liga ng mga Barangay

MARY DWELL S. AGNER
President, PPSK

APPROVED July 23, 2026.

REMEDIOS "MATIN" L. PETILLA
Municipal Mayor