



Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF LEYTE
Provincial Capitol
Tacloban City

-oOo-

PROVINCIAL LEGAL OFFICE

Sangguniang Panlalawigan
Province of Leyte

RECEIVED

2nd INDORSEMENT

August 3, 2026

Date: **AUG 11 2026**
By: *[Signature]*

Respectfully returned to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Leyte, through SP Secretary, the attached Ordinance No. 2026-14 of the Sangguniang Bayan of Hilongos, Leyte.

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

- Ordinance No. 2026-14 entitled: “**Anti-Child Marriage Ordinance of the Municipality of Hilongos, Leyte .**”

REVIEW/RECOMMENDATION/LEGAL OPINION:

This office is of the opinion that the subject Ordinance is generally in accordance to its power under Section 447(a)¹ 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;(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,

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OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN

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LEGAL OFFICE
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1ST INDORSEMENT
30 July 2026

By: _____
Date: _____ Time: _____

The Provincial Legal Office is respectfully requested to review and submit recommendations on the herein enclosed **Municipal Ordinance No. 2026-14** of the **Municipality of Hilongos, Leyte**, entitled: **An Ordinance strengthening protective measures and support services against child marriage and implementing the Republic Act No. 11596 (Anti-Child Marriage Law) in the Municipality of Hilongos, Leyte.**



FLORINDA JILL S. UYVICO
Secretary to the Sanggunian



FILE



Republic of the Philippines
Province of Leyte
Municipality of Hilongos

Sangguniang Panlalawigan
Province of Leyte

RECEIVED

Date: JUL 30 2026
By: [Signature]



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY TO THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

28 July, 2026

HON. LEONARDO M. JAVIER, JR.
Provincial Vice-Governor
Province of Leyte

Sir:

Greetings!

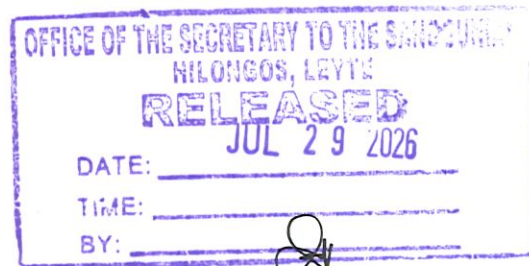
Respectfully forwarding fifteen (15) copies of the enacted **Municipal Ordinance No. 2026-14**: "An Ordinance Strengthening Protective Measures and Support Services Against Child Marriage and Implementing the Republic Act No. 11596 (Anti-Child Marriage Law) in the Municipality of Hilongos"

- 1) Minutes of the Committee Meeting
- 2) Duly Accomplished Attendance Sheet
- 3) Pictures
- 4) Certificate of Posting

Hoping this suffice.

Respectfully yours,

[Signature]
CATHERINE A. FABULAR, J.D.
Secretary to the Sanggunian





Date: JUL 30 2026
By: [Signature]

MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 2026-14

**AN ORDINANCE STRENGTHENING PROTECTIVE MEASURES AND SUPPORT SERVICES
AGAINST CHILD MARRIAGE AND IMPLEMENTING THE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11596
(ANTI-CHILD MARRIAGE LAW) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF
HILONGOS, LEYTE**

Authored by: **HON. BERNADETH M. NERVES**

Chairperson, Committee on Social Services, Women, Children, Family Affairs and GAD

X-----X

WHEREAS, Section 13, Article II of the Philippine Constitution declares, that the State recognize the vital role of the youth in nation building and promotes and protects their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well-being;

WHEREAS, in the pursuit of this policy, the State shall abolish all traditional and cultural practices and structures that perpetuate discrimination, abuse and exploitation of children such as the practice of child marriage;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 11596, otherwise known as the "Anti-Child Marriage Law", was enacted to declare child marriage illegal and provide measures to protect children from the harmful effects of early marriage;

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Hilongos recognizes the importance of protecting children's rights and ensuring their well-being, including their right to education, health, and development;

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Hilongos, views child marriage as a practice constituting child abuse because it debases, degrades and demeans the intrinsic worth and dignity of children;

WHEREAS, there is a need to implement R.A. No. 11596 and its provisions at the local level, and strengthen preventive measures, programs and services aimed at preventing and addressing child marriage in the Municipality of Hilongos, Leyte;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN OF
HILONGOS, LEYTE, IN SESSION ASSEMBLED:**

**ARTICLE I
TITLE AND SCOPE**

SECTION 1. TITLE. This Ordinance shall be known as the "*Anti-Child Marriage Ordinance of the Municipality of Hilongos, Leyte.*"

SECTION 2. SCOPE. This Ordinance shall apply to all residents of the Municipality of Hilongos, Leyte, including but not limited to, minors, parents, guardians, priests, pastors, ministers or religious leaders.

**ARTICLE II
DEFINITION OF TERMS**

MANUEL R. VILLAHERMOSA
Municipal Mayor

BERNADETH M. NERVES
SB Member

JOSEPH F. FULACHE
SB Member

ALBERT R. VILLAHERMOSA
Municipal Vice-Mayor

CATHERINE A. FABULAR, J.D.
Secretary to the Sanggunian

RICHARD BENEDICT V. OGARIO
Ex-Officio Member/President,
Liga ng mga Barangay (absent)

MANUEL M. GABISAN
SB Member (absent)

CRIS ANTONIO B. ONG
SB Member

MANUEL V. TORA
SB Member

CECILLE ANTONIETTE C. SABRIDO
Ex-Officio Member / President, Pambayang Pederasyon ng
Sangguniang Kabataan

FRANCISCO M. ORTEGA
SB Member

TRINIDAD V. ZARATE
SB Member

ALINE B. REOMA
SB Member

SECTION 3. DEFINITION OF TERMS. For purposes of this Ordinance, following terms shall be defined as follows:

- a. **Adoptive Parent/s** - refers to child's mother and father by legal adoption;
- b. **Arranged Marriage** - refers to marriages where parties do not have a say in the selection of their spouse;
- c. **Biological Parent/s** - refers to the child's mother and father by nature, or the mother alone if the child is an unacknowledged non-marital child;
- d. **Child** - refers to any human being under eighteen (18) years of age, or any person eighteen (18) years of age or over but who is unable to fully take care and protect oneself from abuse, neglect, cruelty, exploitation or discrimination because of a physical or mental disability or condition;
- e. **Child Marriage** - refers to any marriage entered into where one or both parties are children as defined in the paragraph above, and solemnized in civil or church proceedings, or any recognized traditional, cultural or customary manner. It shall include an informal union or cohabitation outside of wedlock between an adult and a child, or between children;
- f. **Cohabitation** - refers to act of dwelling together, in the manner of husband and wife, as couples, or as partners, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity or expression, for some period of time, as distinguished from occasional, transient intervals for unlawful intercourse;
- g. **Customary law** - refers to a set of practices, beliefs, and customs that are accepted as rules of conduct by a community. It's based on the traditions and norms of a group of people, such as an ethnic group, tribe, or religious group;
- h. **Early Marriage** - refers to any marriage solemnized before the legal age of eighteen (18) years old;
- i. **Facilitation of Child Marriage** - refers to the act of causing, fixing, or arranging the child marriage of contracting parties that leads to their marriage and cohabitation;
- j. **Forced Marriage** - refers to marriage where one or both parties are married without their free and full consent;
- k. **Foster Parents** - refers to persons duly licensed by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to provide foster care to a child or children;
- l. **Guardian** - refers to relatives or individuals taking custody of a child in absence of the parents or anyone to whom a child is given or left for care or custody, whether permanent or temporary including but not limited to foster parents, or person judicially appointed by a competent court as guardians;

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Municipal Vice-Mayor

- m. **Parent** - refers to the biological or adoptive parent(s) of the child;
- n. **Perpetrator** - refers to an adult who commits any of the acts prohibited and considered as unlawful under Section 4, Article III, of this Ordinance;
- o. **Social and Behavioral Change Communications (SBCC)** - encompasses any set of strategies and interventions, including but not limited to, information dissemination, motivation, problem solving and planning, that influence drivers of change and supports local action to empower individuals and communities, and lower structural barriers that hinder people from adopting positive practices and behavior, and societies from becoming more equitable, inclusive, cohesive, and peaceful;
- p. **Solemnization of Child Marriage** - refers to the act of performing of officiating a ceremony, in accordance with the prescribed forms or religious sites, which leads to child marriage and/or cohabitation of contracting parties, with the purview of this Ordinance;
- q. **Solemnizing Officer** - refers to any person authorized to officiate a marriage under Executive Order No. 209, otherwise known as the Family Code of the Philippines or recognized to celebrate marriage by reason of religion, traditions or customs.

CECILLE ANTONIETTE C. SABRIDO
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ARTICLE III PROHIBITED ACTS AND PENALTIES

SECTION 4. PROHIBITED ACTS. The following acts are hereby declared unlawful and prohibited:

- A. **Facilitation of Child Marriage.** Any person causes, fixes, facilitates or arranges a child marriage shall suffer the penalty. Also, perpetrator who is an ascendant, parent, adoptive parent, step parent or guardian of the child. Provided, however, any person who produces, prints, issues and/or distributes fraudulent or tampered documents such as birth certificates, affidavits of delayed registration of birth and/or foundling certificates for the purpose of misrepresenting the age of a child to facilitate child marriage or evade liability under this Act shall be liable under this section, without prejudice to liability under other laws. Finally, that if a perpetrator is a public officer, he or she shall be dismissed from the service and may be perpetually disqualified from holding office, at the discretion of the courts;
- B. **Solemnization of Child Marriage.** Any person who performs or officiates a child marriage shall suffer the penalty. Provided, however, that if a perpetrator is a public officer, he or she shall be dismissed from the service and may be perpetually disqualified from holding office, at the discretion of the courts;
- C. **Cohabitation of an Adult with the Child Outside Wedlock.** An adult partner who cohabits with a child outside wedlock shall suffer the penalty. Provided, however, that if a perpetrator is a public officer, he or she shall be dismissed from the service and may be perpetually disqualified from holding office, at the discretion of the courts. Provided, finally, that this shall be

without prejudice to higher penalties that may be imposed in the Revised Penal Code and other special laws.

SECTION 5. PENALTIES. The maximum fine of Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (₱2,500.00), which can also be accompanied by imprisonment of up to 6 months, at the discretion of the court shall be imposed for violations of this Ordinance.

SECTION 6. PUBLIC CRIMES. The foregoing unlawful and prohibited acts are deemed public crimes and their legal action any be initiated by any concerned individual.

ARTICLE IV PROTECTIVE MEASURES FOR LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION

SECTION 7. Mandatory BARANGAY-LEVEL MAPPING AND CASE IDENTIFICATION. Every Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC) and in coordination with the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office (MSWDO), shall conduct regular mapping and maintain an updated registry of out-of-school children and youth, children at risk of child marriage, and other vulnerable children within their respective barangays, subject to applicable data privacy laws and confidentiality requirements.

The information gathered shall be consolidated and validated by the MSWDO and, where appropriate and legally permissible, cross-referenced with available local social protection databases, including the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), Listahanan, and other relevant government records, for the purpose of identifying households experiencing economic vulnerability and facilitating timely referral, case management, and appropriate social protection interventions.

The registry shall be used solely for planning, monitoring, referral, and the delivery of child protection and family support services, and shall not be disclosed except as authorized by law.

SECTION 8. STRENGTHENING FAMILY AND COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION. The Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office (MSWDO), in coordination with the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK), barangays, schools, and other concerned agencies, shall institutionalize regular advocacy, education, and capacity-building activities on the prevention of child marriage and the provisions of Republic Act No. 11596. Such initiatives shall include family strengthening programs, parent education sessions, youth leadership and peer advocacy workshops, and community awareness campaigns that promote the rights of children, gender equality, responsible parenthood, and the prevention of child marriage.

Safe and inclusive spaces shall likewise be established where children and adolescents, particularly girls and other vulnerable youth, may access information, receive psychosocial support, share experiences, and strengthen their capacity to resist early and forced marriages.

Subject to the availability of funds and existing government programs, the LGU shall facilitate appropriate family support interventions, including

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SB Member

livelihood assistance, agricultural and livestock support, skills training, and referrals to social protection programs, to address poverty-related factors that increase the risk of child marriage.

SECTION 9. COLLABORATION WITH SCHOOLS. The Local Government Unit of Hilongos, through the Local School Board (LSB), in coordination with the Department of Education (DepEd), the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), and other concerned agencies, shall promote school retention and educational opportunities as a strategy to prevent child marriage.

Subject to the availability of funds, the LSB may provide educational assistance to identified at-risk children and adolescents, including school supplies, uniforms, transportation assistance, and menstrual hygiene support. The LGU shall also facilitate access to TESDA scholarships and skills training for eligible out-of-school youth and school dropouts.

Schools shall integrate age-appropriate awareness on Republic Act No. 11596, children's rights, and the harmful effects of child marriage into existing advocacy activities. They shall likewise establish referral mechanisms to identify and refer learners at risk of child marriage and other child protection concerns to the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office (MSWDO) for appropriate intervention.

SECTION 10. INFORMATION, EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION (IEC) CAMPAIGN. The Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office (MSWDO), in coordination with the Department of Education (DepEd), Barangays, the Municipal Health Office (MHO), the Philippine National Police (PNP), faith-based organizations, civil society organizations, and other concerned agencies, shall conduct sustained and comprehensive Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) campaigns to raise public awareness on the harmful effects and legal consequences of child marriage and to promote the rights, education, health, personal development, and overall well-being of children.

The IEC campaign shall be implemented through schools, communities, families, youth organizations, religious institutions, and other appropriate platforms. It shall include discussions on the provisions of Republic Act No. 11596, the criminal liabilities and penalties imposed upon persons who facilitate, solemnize, arrange, or otherwise participate in child marriages, as well as the importance of responsible parenthood, gender equality, child protection, and positive family values.

SECTION 11. STRICT CIVIL REGISTRATION PROTOCOLS AND ENFORCEMENT. The Local Civil Registrar (LCR) shall strictly enforce age verification and documentary requirements for all marriage license applications in accordance with existing laws. No marriage license shall be issued where either party is below the legal age for marriage or where the application violates Republic Act No. 11596.

The LCR shall immediately refer suspected or attempted child marriages and related violations to the Philippine National Police (PNP), the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office (MSWDO), and other

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appropriate authorities for investigation, child protection intervention, and legal action. All actions shall uphold the best interests of the child and ensure the protection and support of child victims.

ARTICLE V **SUPPORT SERVICES FOR LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION**

SECTION 12. ADOLESCENT-FRIENDLY HEALTH SPACES (AFHS). The Rural Health Unit (RHU) shall establish and strengthen Adolescent-Friendly Health Spaces (AFHS) or Teen Centers that provide accessible, confidential, and non-discriminatory adolescent health services, including mental health counseling, sexual and reproductive health education, and appropriate referrals. These services shall promote informed decision-making, prevent early and unintended pregnancies, and contribute to the prevention of child marriage through comprehensive health education, counseling, and support for at-risk adolescents.

SECTION 13. MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL CARE. The Local Government Unit of Hilongos shall provide accessible mental health and psychosocial support services for children and adolescents at risk of or affected by child marriage. Trained Barangay Health Workers (BHWs) and other frontline workers shall identify at-risk adolescents, including those experiencing early pregnancy or psychosocial distress, and promptly refer them to appropriate health, social welfare, and psychological services.

SECTION 14. REFERRAL PATHWAYS AND LEGAL AID. The Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office (MSWDO) shall establish and maintain a localized, coordinated, and multi-sectoral referral system to ensure the timely reporting, assessment, rescue, protection, recovery, and reintegration of children at risk of or affected by child marriage. The referral pathway shall provide immediate access to legal assistance, medical and reproductive health services, psychosocial support, temporary shelter, educational interventions, livelihood assistance, and other appropriate social protection services.

All reports of actual, attempted, or suspected child marriage received by the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC), schools, health facilities, law enforcement agencies, or other concerned individuals or institutions shall be immediately referred to the MSWDO for case assessment, appropriate intervention, and coordination with the concerned agencies.

The MSWDO shall lead the implementation of the referral system in coordination with the following agencies and stakeholders:

- a. Municipal Health Office (MHO);
- b. Department of Education (DepEd);
- c. Philippine National Police (PNP) – Women and Children's Protection Desk (WCPD);
- d. Liga ng mga Barangay;

MANUEL R. VILLAHERMOSA
Municipal Mayor

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SB Member

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MANUEL R. VILLAHERMOSA
Municipal Mayor

- e. Barangay Councils for the Protection of Children (BCPCs);
- f. Local Civil Registrar (LCR);
- g. Public Attorney's Office (PAO);
- h. Accredited Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and faith-based organizations; and
- i. Other government agencies and private institutions involved in child protection and social welfare.

All concerned agencies shall ensure prompt action, confidentiality, child-sensitive procedures, and the observance of the best interests of the child in the implementation of this referral mechanism.

SECTION 15. KEY COMPONENTS OF THE REFERRAL SYSTEM. The referral systems shall incorporate the following:

- A. Identification:** Clear mechanism for identifying children at risk or affected by child marriage, including self-referral, community reporting (e.g., through teachers, barangay officials, health workers) and proactive identification by schools, health centers, and others frontline service providers. This mechanism should be culturally sensitive and accessible to children and families.
- B. Assessment:** A standardized, child-sensitive process for assessing the needs of the child and their family. This assessment should be conducted by qualified professionals (e.g., social workers or psychologists) and should consider the child's physical and mental health, social circumstances, educational needs, and legal situation.
- C. Referral:** Clearly defined pathways for referring children to appropriate services based on their assessed needs. Referral pathways should be streamlined and efficient to minimize delays in assessing services.
- D. Case Management:** A system for coordinating services and monitoring the child's progress. A designated case manager - a social worker should be assigned to each child to ensure continuity of care and advocate for their best interest.
- E. Follow-up:** Regular follow-up mechanism to ensure the child is receiving the necessary support and that their needs are being met. Follow-up should also include evaluating the effectiveness of the interventions provided.

SECTION 16. CRISIS SAFE SHELTER AND PROTECTION INFRASTRUCTURE. The LGU of Hilongos shall allocate budget from the Gender and Development (GAD) fund to establish crisis intervention spaces or temporary shelter. Ensuring these spaces will provide emergency housing, immediate medical attention and trauma-informed psychosocial processing for rescued children. Provide protection communities for children fleeing immediate threats of forced marriage.

BERNADETH M. NERVES
SB Member

JOSEPH E. EULACHE
SB Member

ALBERT R. VILLAHERMOSA
Municipal Vice-Mayor

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SB Member

SECTION 17. DUTIES OF THE MSWDO. The Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office (MSWDO) shall have the following responsibilities in establishing and implementing the referral system:

- A. Protocol Development:** Develop and disseminate clear, written referral protocols and guidelines to all stakeholders involved in the referral system. These protocols should outline the steps to be taken in identifying, assessing, referring, and managing case of child marriage or children at risk.
- B. Training and Capacity Building:** Conduct regular training and capacity-building activities for all stakeholders involved in the referral system, including but not limited to those listed above, to ensure they are knowledgeable about the referral protocols, RA No. 11596, its IRR, this Local Ordinance, Child Protection Policy and Principles, and case management best practices.
- C. Monitoring and Evaluation:** Develop and implement a system for monitoring the effectiveness of the referral system, including tracking the number of referrals made, the type of services provided, and the outcomes for children and families. This data should be used to improve the system over time.
- D. Confidential:** Ensure the confidentiality of all information shared within the referral system, adhering strictly to data privacy laws and ethical standards related to child protection.
- E. Focal Person/Team:** Designate a focal person or team within the MSWDO to manage and oversee the referral system.

SECTION 18. Capacity Building. The Local Government Unit of Hilongos shall conduct capacity building activities to partner stakeholders, including social workers, teachers, law enforcement personnel, and community leaders to enhance their knowledge and skills in preventing and addressing child marriage.

ARTICLE VI GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 19. Appropriations. The Local Government Unit of Hilongos shall appropriate a functional annual budget sufficient for the effective implementation of this Ordinance, to be included in the Annual Gender and Development Plan and be allocated to Annual Budget.

SECTION 20. Separability Clause. If any provision of this Ordinance is declared unconstitutional, other parts not affected shall remain in full force.

SECTION 21. Effectivity. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon approval after its publication in newspaper of regional circulation.

ENACTED this 29th day of June, 2026 during the Twenty-Sixty Regular Session of the 17th Sangguniang Bayan.

MANUEL R. VILLAHERMOSA
Municipal Mayor

BERNADETA M. NERVES
SB Member

JOSEPH F. ROLACHE
SB Member

ALBERT R. VILLAHERMOSA,
Municipal Vice-Mayor

CATHERINE A. FABULAR, J.D.
Secretary to the Sanggunian

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Municipal Ordinance No. 2026-14:

"Anti-Child Marriage Ordinance of the Municipality of Hilongos, Leyte"

MANUEL M. GABISAN
Sangguniang Bayan Member (*absent*)

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SB Member

CECILLE ANTONIETTE C. SABRIDO
Ex-Officio Member/President,
Pambayang Pederasyon ng Sangguniang
Kabataan

I HEREBY CERTIFY to the correctness of the foregoing ordinance.

CATHERINE A. FABULAR, J.D.
Secretary to the Sanggunian

ATTESTED:

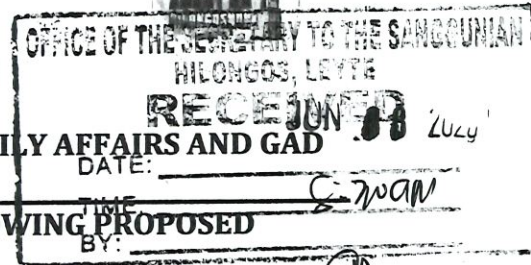
ALBERT R. VILLAHERMOSA
Municipal Vice Mayor / Presiding Officer

APPROVED:

MANUEL R. VILLAHERMOSA
Municipal Mayor
Date: 7/27/26



Republic of the Philippines
Province of Leyte
Municipality of Hilongos
OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNANG BAYAN



COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SERVICES, WOMEN, CHILDREN, FAMILY AFFAIRS AND GAD

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING ON THE FOLLOWING PROPOSED

MUNICIPAL ORDINANCES:

- A) ALTERNATIVE CHILD CARE ORDINANCE**
- B) ANTI- CHILD MARRIAGE ORDINANCE**
- C) HILONGOS ANTI-VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN**
- D) PARENT EFFECTIVE SERVICE (PES) PROGRAM**

**ON THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2026, 1:00 IN THE AFTERNOON AT THE MAYOR'S
CONFERENCE ROOM, MUNICIPAL HALL, HILONGOS, LEYTE**

In attendance:

(pls see attached sheet for attendance)

X ----- X

The meeting was convened at 1:57 p.m. with an opening prayer led by Ms. Letecia S. Caballero. Thereafter, a roll call was conducted, wherein the majority of the members were present. Consequently, Hon. Nerves declared the existence of a quorum.

Hon. Nerves thanked everyone for their presence and proceeded to present the purpose of the meeting.

The meeting focused on the following proposed Municipal Ordinances:

- a) Alternative Child Care Ordinance
- b) Anti- Child Marriage Ordinance
- c) Hilongos Anti-Violence Against Women and Children
- d) Parent Effective Service (PES) Program

A) Alternative Child Care Ordinance of the Municipality of Hilongos

The ordinance primarily seeks to adopt Republic Act No. 11642, otherwise known as the Domestic Administrative Adoption and Alternative Child Care Act, to streamline and expedite the adoption process.

Under **Section 4**, Hon. Nerves explained the various services covered by the Alternative Child Care Program, which include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. **Foster Care Program** – This program caters to children who are abandoned, surrendered, neglected, or otherwise in need of temporary family-based care.
2. **Local Adoption Program** – This program provides a simplified and less costly process for individuals and families seeking to adopt a child.
3. **Kinship Care Support** – This arrangement prioritizes keeping a child within their extended family or with individuals known to them, rather than placing them with strangers or in institutional care.
4. **Support for Transitioning Youth** – This after-care program is designed to provide support services and developmental opportunities to children and youth as they transition to independent living and adulthood.

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CATHERINE A. FABULAR, J.D.
Secretary to the Sanggunian
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For **Section 5**, Hon. Nerves explained the functions of the Local Alternative Child Care Focal Person (LACCFP), who shall be the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Officer (MSWDO), Mr. Lenart T. Jabillo.

For **Section 8**, Hon. Nerves discussed the designation of the Adoption and Alternative Child Care Week, which shall be observed every second week of June.

Hon. Nerves also presented **Section 9**, Appropriation of Funds, which provides for the allocation of funds necessary to implement programs, activities, and training initiatives that will support the effective implementation of this ordinance.

Hon. Nerves informed the body that the proposed Alternative Child Care Ordinance is scheduled for its Third and Final Reading for approval.

Mr. Jabillo explained the importance of the proposed ordinance, emphasizing that its primary purpose is to uphold and promote the best interests and welfare of the child. He highlighted that the ordinance seeks to ensure that children in need of care and protection are provided with appropriate family-based care, support, and opportunities for healthy growth and development.

B) Anti- Child Marriage Ordinance

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Hon. Nerves presented the proposed ordinance entitled "An Ordinance Strengthening Protective Measures Against Child Marriage and Implementing the Republic Act No. 11596 (Anti - Child Marriage Law) in the Municipality of Hilongos, Leyte.

In **Section 4**, Prohibited Acts, Hon. Nerves discussed the acts that are declared unlawful and prohibited under the proposed ordinance. These include: (a) Facilitation of child marriage; (b) Solemnization of child marriage; and (c) Cohabitation of an adult with the child outside of wedlock.

Mr. Albert S. Roa explained that, for purposes of determining eligibility under the cohabitation requirement, the parties must have been at least 18 years old and 1 day at the time the five-year cohabitation period is counted backward from the date of the marriage contract.

Hon. Nerves inquired how the Local Civil Registrar could verify the authority of a solemnizing officer when the wedding is to be conducted by a minister or officiant from another religious sect.

In response, Mr. Roa stated that, except for Muslim (based on P.D. 1083) solemnizing officers, ministers and officiants of other religious sects secure and process their licenses through their office. Thus, the Local Civil Registrar may verify the authority of the solemnizing officer through the records maintained by the office.

Mr. Proxy, Chairman of the Muslim Federation, shared that under their practice, marriage may be allowed as early as fifteen (15) years of age, or once the individual has reached puberty.

Mr. Jabillo shared that Pre-Marriage Counseling is conducted for individuals aged 18 to 24 years old, while Pre-Marriage Orientation is for those 25 years old and above. After completing the required session, participants are issued a certificate which forms part of the requirements for the marriage license application. He added that they must complete

these requirements before proceeding with the registration of the marriage license at the Local Civil Registrar (LCR). He assured that their office does not issue pre-marriage certificates for child marriages.

Ms. Jessica Josol expressed her thoughts regarding child marriage and raised the question on what the Local Government Unit (LGU) may further emphasize to strengthen the implementation of relevant policies in Hilongos.

Mr. Jo Thomas Monto, a member of the Local Youth Development Council of Hilongos, raised a question regarding how the ordinance would be implemented regardless of religious affiliation. Hon. Nerves responded that the ordinance would be implemented through strengthened protective measures and support services, emphasizing that its implementation is a collaborative effort among all stakeholders involved.

Ms. Josol further added that the implementation of the ordinance primarily rests with the concerned departments, particularly the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office (MSWDO) and the Local Civil Registrar (LCR), which will play key roles in carrying out its provisions.

Mr. Jabillo emphasized that the implementation of the ordinance should be ensured down to the barangay level. He suggested the creation of a monitoring or watch group to oversee and support the effective implementation of the ordinance within the barangay.

Hon. Nerves shared that, in coordination with the MSWDO and LCR, they will convene a meeting with the Liga ng mga Barangay officers, the Legal Officer, representatives from Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC) to further discuss and finalize the ordinance.

C) Hilongos Anti-Violence Against Women and Children

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Hon. Aline B. Reoma, the author of the proposed ordinance, presented the measure to the body and discussed its salient provisions.

For **Section 9**, Who May File a Petition for a Protection Order, Atty. Lemuel Jan M. Nerves commented that the list of persons authorized to file a petition should be expanded to include barangay officials, social workers, members of the Philippine National Police (PNP), teachers, and any other person who has personal knowledge of the circumstances warranting the issuance of a protection order.

For **Section 10**, Atty. Lemuel Jan M. Nerves suggested the inclusion of necessary requirements for applicants who are not the victims, to properly guide and regulate the filing of petitions on behalf of others.

For **Section 11**, Atty. Nerves further recommended the inclusion of provisions for the establishment of a temporary shelter for the offended party to ensure immediate protection and support. He also emphasized the need to formulate and include Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) to provide clear guidelines for the effective implementation and enforcement of the ordinance and recommended that certain terms be clearly specified under the Definition of Terms section.

Mr. Edmund Vilbar explained **Section 13** of the proposed ordinance, particularly the Men Opposed to Violence Everywhere (MOVE) program, which aims to help prevent violence against women and children (VAWC). He stated that its primary objective is to

mobilize men to support the implementation of existing laws and policies related to the protection of women and children. He further emphasized that the movement encourages men to actively participate in and advocate for the prevention of violence and the promotion of gender-responsive initiatives.

Ms. Fabular added that the Men Opposed to Violence Everywhere (MOVE) program does not necessarily involve all men, but rather those who are willing to support its advocacy and initiatives. She cited members of religious organizations, such as the Couples for Christ (CFC), youth groups, and other men who voluntarily choose to participate in the program. She further suggested the adoption of a step-by-step implementation process, along with regular monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, to ensure the sustainability and effectiveness of the program.

For **Section 15**, Atty. Lemuel Jan M. Nerves suggested the inclusion of additional penalties in accordance with Republic Act No. 9262, depending on the circumstances of the case. He also recommended that offenders be disqualified from availing programs and services from the Local Government Unit (LGU). Furthermore, he proposed mandatory attendance to KA Tropa and MOVE programs, as well as the performance of community service as part of the penalties.

D) Parent Effective Service (PES) Program

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Hon. Trinidad V. Zarate, the author of the proposed ordinance, presented the measure to the body and discussed its salient provisions.

Ms. Josol inquired that since the program is already being implemented, what the ordinance seeks to strengthen. In response, Mr. Jabillo stated that although implementation is currently done through sessions, there is a lack of follow-up and monitoring. He explained that once the ordinance is established, there will be identified support groups to assist in implementation, which the LGU has not consistently conducted before, as monitoring has primarily been handled by the MSWDO alone.

Ms. Josol suggested further study of the ordinance in relation to what the PES is supposed to be.

Atty. Lemuel Jan M. Nerves commented that, based on his understanding of the manifestation of Ms. Josol, the focus should be on identifying the key issues related to effective parenting that need to be addressed. He emphasized that these concerns should be properly captured in the ordinance to establish policies that encourage parents to take their parenting responsibilities seriously, especially in the context of the digital age.

Ms. Ingrid D. Olimpo, Guidance Counselor from HNVS, shared that most of the existing problems among students are related to computer and mobile games, as parents often find it difficult to control the use of mobile phones at home. She noted that this sometimes leads to student absenteeism, lack of focus in class, and in some cases, dropping out of school. She also mentioned that the Department of Education (DepEd) has issued a memorandum prohibiting students from using cellphones during class hours.

In relation to the report submitted by Ms. Norie Tidalgo regarding students from far-flung areas who need bicycles, she noted that it would be very helpful if the Local Government Unit (LGU) could extend assistance in this regard.

Atty. Nerves further commented that the primary objective of the ordinance is to capacitate parents and strengthen their parenting capabilities, particularly in the context of the digital age. He emphasized that the ordinance should clearly address the need to guide and support parents in effectively managing their children's use of technology and online activities.

Mr. Monto shared his personal experience on how he was brought up by his parents, which greatly shaped who he is today. He stated that he was motivated by his father, who served as a public servant, and that this influenced his own values and outlook in life. He further shared that his environment inspired him to step up and strive to do his best in serving the people.

Taking into consideration the suggestions and comments raised by stakeholders, the proposed ordinance will be revised and subjected to further study. This is intended to strengthen the PES in addressing pressing issues in the municipality, particularly those concerning children.

With no other matters to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned at 4:33 in the afternoon.

Prepared by:


ANGELINE JOYCE P. ALPECHE
Secretariat

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Secretary to the Sanggunian
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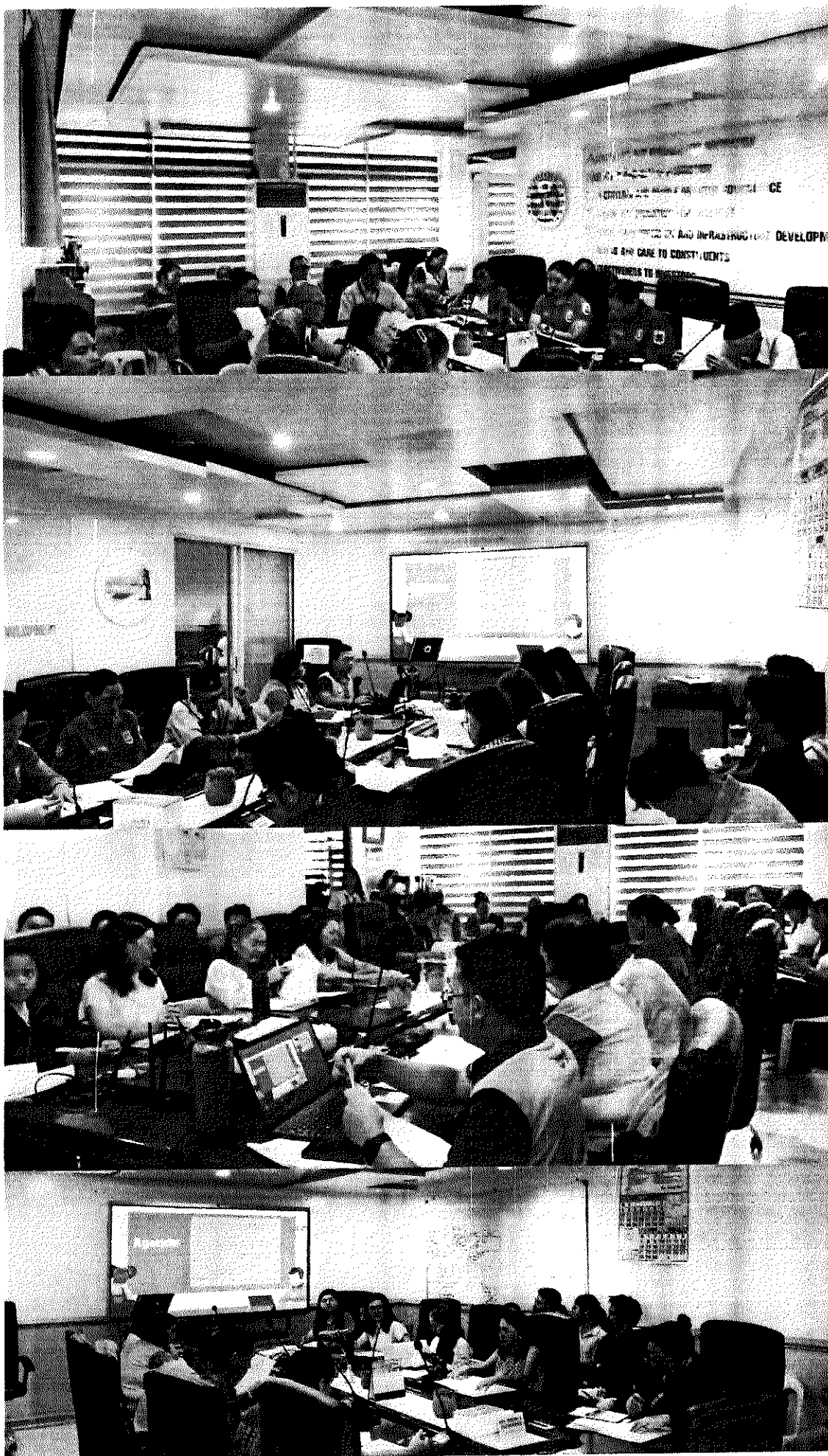
Concurred by:


HON. BERNADETH M. NERVES
Chairperson, Committee on Social Services, Women,
Children, Family Affairs and GAD


HON. TRINIDAD V. ZARATE
Vice-Chairperson, Committee on Social Services,
Women, Children, Family Affairs and GAD


HON. ALINE B. REOMA
Member, Committee on Social Services, Women,
Children, Family Affairs and GAD

6 | Committee Meeting on on Social Services, Women, Children, Family Affairs and GAD





BAGONG PILIPINAS



Republic of the Philippines
Province of Leyte
Municipality of Hilongos

OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN



ATTENDANCE SHEET

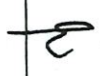
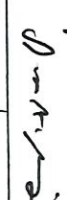
Committee meeting of Social Services, Women, Children, Family and
GAD on Tuesday, June 4, 2024, 1:00 pm at Mayor's Conference
Room, Municipal Hall, Hilongos, Leyte.

Name	Position	Sex		Office/ Agency	Signature
		Male	Female		
1. Francisco M. Nemes	SB Member		✓	SB	Francisco M. Nemes
2. TRINIDAD V. ZARATE	CB MEMBER		✓	LHM SB	Francisco M. Nemes
3. LEMUEL T. JACILLO	member	✓		member	Francisco M. Nemes
4. ALINE B. NEMES	SB member		✓	SB	Francisco M. Nemes
5. KARMIEL D. RIZA	Senior High School VP/SBO		✓	GOCC	Francisco M. Nemes
6. Tynon Gabriel E. Manalangit	Senior High School Senator/SBO	✓		GOCC	Francisco M. Nemes
7. JO THOMAS T. MONTA	LYDC Member	✓		LYDC	Francisco M. Nemes
8. ARLETO B. TAN	CHILD REPRESENTATIVE	✓		HPOUS	Francisco M. Nemes
9. Kyle A. Dasigan	CHILD Representative	✓		GOCC	Francisco M. Nemes
10. Ma. Ingrid D. Olivos	Signature Converter		✓	HKVC	Francisco M. Nemes

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CATHERINE A. FABULAR, J.D.

Secretary of the Sanggunian
DATE: _____

Name	Position	Sex		Office/ Agency	Signature
		Male	Female		
11. EUNNYEN L. ZAFIO	Asst		✓	MND	
12. EDNINO D. VICEAN	Asst	✓		MND	
13. EURE JANE R. REASOLA	SVS		✓	MND	
14. FRANCO, ANNE MARIE	CDW-II		✓	MSWD-office	
15. LUCILLA DAISY C.	HRSSA AO-II		✓	HRSSA	
16. SARAH JANE A. RODRIGO	AO II		✓	HILONEDS NORTH DISTRICT	
17. EVANGELINE V. MILABO	ALS TEACHER		✓	HILONEDS SOUTH	
18. REG. MERZEL H. BORRAS	Asst. WCPD PAGO		✓	HILONEDS PNP	
19. ROY NIKKI L. LABRADOR	Asst. WCPD PAGO		✓	HILONEDS PNP	
20. Catherine A. Fabular	Sec. to the SB		✓	SB Secretary	
21. Cassandra Faith T. Flores	Child Representative		✓	Concepcion Central School	
22. AUGUSTINE JOSE P. AMERCE	SB staff		✓	SB	
23. JAMME M. PAJO	Job order		✓	DLS	
24. JUANMARTIN C. ELORDE			✓	WMPD	
25. JESSICA B. PIRATA	Asst		✓	MND	

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Name	Position	Sex		Office/ Agency	Signature
		Male	Female		
26. Elsie R. Jundio	School Head		☒	Regd. - Bimpo Sand District	
27. KURT S. ROT	MR	☒		Can-Hiborgos	
28. JESSIE J. JON	ALB 18 / 607 V		☒	DILG - TRIBUNAL	
29. JENNY J. M. NERPER	NUM-ADM M	☒		M.O.	
30. Angeline Joyce P. Alpeche	SB 184		☒	SPB	
31. Phon Owen Zamora	CIP	☒		SB	
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 Secretary to the Sanggunian
 Date: _____



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Municipality of Hilongos



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY TO THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

CERTIFICATION

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This is to certify that a copy of **Municipal Ordinance No. 2026- 14** : “ An Ordinance Strengthening Protective Measures and Support Services Against Child Marriage and Implementing the Republic Act No. 11596 (Anti-Child Marriage Law) in the Municipality of Hilongos”

FURTHER, this certify that the undersigned has duly complied the said provision in Section 59(b) of Republic Act 7160, also known as the Local Government Code of 1991 on posting in three (3) conspicuous places from June 15, 2026 to June 25, 2026 in the Bulletin Board of the Municipal Hall and the Legislative Building.

ISSUED this 23rd day of July, 2026 in Hilongos, Leyte, Philippines.

CATHERINE AGRAVANTE FABULAR, J.D.
Secretary to the Sanggunian