



Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF LEYTE
Provincial Capitol
Tacloban City

-oOo-

PROVINCIAL LEGAL OFFICE

Item No.: 28

Date: 18 2026 AUG

2nd INDORSEMENT

August 3, 2026

Sangguniang Panlalawigan
Province of Leyte

RECEIVED

Date: AUG 11 2026
By: Jenny

Respectfully returned to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Leyte, through SP Secretary, the attached Ordinance No. 2026-15 of the Sangguniang Bayan of Hilongos, Leyte.

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

- Ordinance No. 2026-15 entitled: “**Alternative Child Care 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,

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF LEYTE
Palo, Leyte
-o0o-

OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN

PROVINCE OF LEYTE
LEGAL OFFICE

RECEIVED

1ST INDORSEMENT
30 July 2026

By: *[Signature]*
Date: *7/31/26* Time: *9:45*

The Provincial Legal Office is respectfully requested to review and submit recommendations on the herein enclosed **Municipal Ordinance No. 2026-15** of the **Municipality of Hilongos, Leyte**, entitled: **An Ordinance institutionalizing the Local Alternative Child Care Programs and Services**, designating the Local Alternative Child Care Focal Person and appropriating funds thereof.

[Signature]

FLORINDA JILL S. UYVICO
Secretary to the Sanggunian

For the Province of Leyte, the Provincial Legal Office is respectfully requested to review and submit recommendations on the herein enclosed Municipal Ordinance No. 2026-15 of the Municipality of Hilongos, Leyte, entitled: An Ordinance institutionalizing the Local Alternative Child Care Programs and Services, designating the Local Alternative Child Care Focal Person and appropriating funds thereof.

MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 2026-15



FILE



Republic of the Philippines
Province of Leyte
Municipality of Hilongos

Sangguniang Panlalawigan
Province of Leyte
RECEIVED

Date: JUL 20 2026
By: [Signature]



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY TO THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

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

Sir:

Greetings!

Respectfully forwarding fifteen (15) copies of the enacted **Municipal Ordinance No. 2026-15**: "An Ordinance Institutionalizing The Local Alternative Child Care Programs and Services, Designating The Local Alternative Child Care Focal Person and Appropriating Funds Thereof, together with the supporting documents:

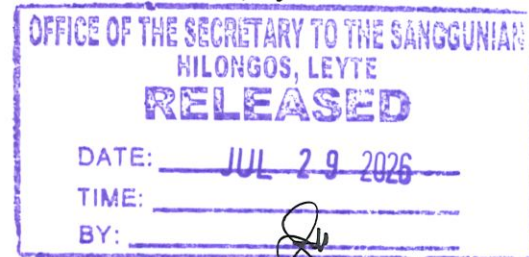
- 1) Minutes of the Committee Meeting
- 2) Duly Accomplished Attendance Sheet
- 3) Pictures
- 4) Certificate of Posting

Hoping this suffice.

Respectfully yours,

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

28 July, 2026





OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

MUNCIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 2026-15

Date: July 20 2026
By: [Signature]

AN ORDINANCE INSTITUTIONALIZING THE LOCAL ALTERNATIVE CHILD CARE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES, DESIGNATING THE LOCAL ALTERNATIVE CHILD CARE FOCAL PERSON AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF.

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

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

X X
WHEREAS, Section 3, Article XV of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that "the state shall defend the rights of children to assistance, including proper care and nutrition, and special protection from all forms of neglect, abuse, cruelty, exploitation and other conditions prejudicial to their development";

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 11642, known as the Domestic Administrative Adoption and Alternative Child Act, declares that is the policy of the State to ensure that every child remains under the care and custody of the parents and be provided with love, care, understanding and security towards the full and harmonious development of the child's personality;

WHEREAS, it is hereby recognized that the administrative adoption process for the cases of legally-available children, relative, stepchild and adult adoptees are the most expeditious proceedings that will redound to their best interest;

WHEREAS, the best interest of the child shall be the paramount consideration in the enactment of local legislative measures that will pave the way in establishing local alternative care standards and custody to ensure that the quality of live and living conditions set are conducive to the child's development;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Sangguniang Bayan in session assembled:

SECTION 1. TITLE. This ordinance shall be known as the "Alternative Child Care Ordinance of the Municipality of Hilongos, Leyte."

SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY. The Municipality of Hilongos adheres to the principles that every child has a right to a family-like environment. The municipality shall protect children from neglect, abuse, or exploitation by providing through its social welfare office, sustainable, alternative care services for children who cannot be cared for by their biological parents, pursuant to Republic Act 11642.

SECTION 3. DEFINITION OF TERMS. For the purpose of this Ordinance, the following terms and phrases shall mean:

A. Abandoned Child - refers to a child who has no proper care or guardianship, a foundling or on who has been deserted by one's parents

MANUEL R. VILLAHERMOSA
Municipal Mayor

BERNADETH M. NERVES
SB Member

JOSEPH E. FULACHE
SB Member

ALBERT R. VILLAHERMOSA
Municipal Vice-Mayor

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

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. LORA
SB Member

for a period of at least three (3) continuous months and has been declared as such by the (National Authority for Child Care (NACC));

- B. Actual Custodian** – refers to the guardian or spouses who raised a child or person and consistently treated the child as their own;
- C. Adoption** – refers to the socio-legal process of providing a permanently family to a child whose parents had voluntarily or involuntarily given up their parental rights, permanently transferring all rights and responsibilities, along with filiation, making the child a legitimate child of the adoptive parents;
- D. Aging Out** – refers to leaving the foster care system upon reaching a certain age;
- E. Alternative Child Care** – refers to the provision of planned substitute parental care to a child who is orphaned, abandoned, neglected or surrendered, by a child-caring or child-placing agency. This may refer to foster care, kinship care, family-like care residential care or adoption;
- F. Child** – refers to a person below eighteen (18) years of age or over but is unable to fully take care of himself/herself from abuse, neglect, cruelty, exploitation or discrimination because of a physical or mental disability or condition;
- G. Child Legally Available for Adoption (CLAA)** – refers to a child in whose favor a certification was issued by the NACC through RACCO that such child is legally available for adoption after the fact of abandonment has been proven through the submission of pertinent documents;
- H. Domestic Adoption** – refers to administrative adoption proceedings where the Order of Adoption is issued within the Philippines and is undertaken between a Filipino child and eligible adoptive parents;
- I. Foster Care** – refers to the provision of planned temporary substitute parental care to a child by a foster parent;
- J. Foster Child** – refers to a child placed under foster care;
- K. Foster Family Care License** – refers to the document issued by the DSWD authorizing the foster parent to provide foster care;
- L. Foster Parent** – refers to a person, duly licensed by the DSWD-RACCO, to provide foster care;
- M. Kinship Care** – is the full-time care of a child by a relative or another member of the extended family;
- N. Local Alternative Child Care Focal Person** – a designated social worker in the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office responsible for receiving, evaluating and managing cases of alternative care;

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

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Ex-Officio Member/President,
Liga ng mga Barangay (absent)

MANUEL M. GABISAN
SB Member (absent)

CRIS ANTONIO B. ONG
SB Member

MANUEL V. LORAN
SB Member

MANUEL R. VILLAHERMOSA
Municipal Mayor

BERNADETTE M. NERVES
SB Member

JOSEPH F. FULACHE
SB Member

ALBERT R. VILLAHERMOSA
Municipal Vice-Mayor

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Sangguniang Kabataan

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SB Member

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SB Member

ALINE B. REOMA
SB Member

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Ex-Officio Member/President,
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SB Member

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SB Member

JOSEPH F. FULACHE
SB Member

ALBERT R. VILLAHERMOSA
Municipal Vice-Mayor

- O. Neglected Child** – refers to a child whose physical and emotional needs have been deliberately unattended or inadequately attended within a period of three (3) continuous months;
- P. Petition** – refers to the duly accomplished application from for the foster care or adoption, including the social case study report and its supporting documents from an unauthorized or accredited agency;
- Q. Placement** – refers to the physical entrustment of the child with the foster parent or to the adoptive parents;
- R. Relative** – refers to someone other than family members, within the fourth (4) degree of consanguinity or affinity;
- S. Simulation of Birth Records** – refers to the tampering of the civil registry to make it appear in the record of birth that the child was born to a person who is not such child's biological mother, causing the loss of the true identity and status of such child;
- T. Support** – refers to everything indispensable for the full and harmonious development of the child;
- U. Transitioning youth** – refers to young people (often aged 16-25) moving from adolescence to adulthood, requiring support for education, employment, housing and healthcare, particularly those "aging out" of foster care or with disabilities.

SECTION 4: INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF ALTERNATIVE CHILD CARE SERVICES. The Local Government Unit (LGU) of Hilongos hereby establishes an Alternative Child Care Program within the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office (MSWDO). Services shall include, but are not limited to:

- A. FOSTER CARE PROGRAM:** Provision of planned and temporary substitute parental care by licensed foster parents to children who are abandoned, neglected, orphaned, or surrendered. It is a family-based service (governed by RA 10165 "Foster Care Act of 2012") designed to offer a nurturing home environment while a permanent arrangement, such as reunification with birth parents or adoption, is finalized.
- B. LOCAL ADOPTION PROGRAM:** A strengthened, streamlined and primarily administrative process, making the process simplified and less costly for adopting a child. The process starts by filling a petition with Regional Authority for Child Care Office (RACCO), eliminating long court trials. The program mandates that all decisions prioritize the child's welfare, ensuring the are placed in a loving home.
- C. KINSHIP CARE SUPPORT:** This is a specialized alternative child care arrangement that prioritizes keeping a child within their extended family or among people known to them, rather than placing them with strangers or in institutional care. The RACCO ensures that kinship care arrangements

CECILIE ANTONIO TE 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

are supported and monitored, ensuring that the best interest of the child is protected.

- D. SUPPORT FOR TRANSITIONING YOUTH.** This is an After-Care Program designed for supportive programs and services to children and youth who have "aged out" for foster care, kinship care, or other alternative care arrangement, helping them reintegrate into society and live independently.

SECTION 5. DESIGNATION OF LOCAL ALTERNATIVE CHILD CARE FOCAL PERSON (LACCFP). The Municipal Social Welfare and Development Officer (MSWDO) of the Local Government Unit of Hilongos, Leyte is hereby designated as the Local Alternative Child Care Focal Person (LACCFP).

Functions of LACCFP:

1. Handle case intake, case studies, inquiries and accepting applications for foster care and adoption ensuring all necessary documents prepared for submission to RACCO.
2. Conduct appropriate counseling services, supervision and monitoring to biological parents, child and the adoptive parents.
3. Facilitate and submit petitions for the Certificate Declaring a Child Legally Available for Adoption (CDCLAA).
4. Ensure that alternative child care options (kinship care, foster care or adoption) are chosen based on the best interest of the child.

SECTION 6. LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT (LGU) - REGIONAL ALTERNATIVE CHILD CARE OFFICE (RACCO) PARTNERSHIP. The LGU shall enter into a partnership with the RACCO to ensure a well-functioning system of receipt of local petitions for adoption, other request regarding alternative placement and well-being of children. Also, RACCO is tasked to provide technical assistance, training on Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) and capacity-building for personnel and foster parents.

SECTION 7. INFORMATION AND DISSEMINATION. The LGU shall disseminate to the public information regarding this Act and its implementation and ensure that adoption and alternative child care are publicize on positive, truthful and free from stigma and discrimination.

The Municipal Health Office (MHO) shall ensure that rural health workers are knowledgeable on adoption process and the criminal liability attached to the act of simulating birth records.

SECTION 8. DESIGNATION OF ADOPTION AND ALTERNATIVE CHILD CARE WEEK. The second week of June of every year shall be designated as Adoption and Alternative Child Care Week.

CATHERINE A. PABULAR, JD.
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. TORAN
SB Member

MANUEL R. VILLAHERMOSA
Municipal Mayor

BERNADETH M. NERVES
SB Member

JOSEPH F. FULACHE
SB Member

ALBERT R. VILLAHERMOSA
Municipal Vice-Mayor

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Ex-Officio Member / President, Pambayang Pederasyon ng
Sangguniang Kabataan

FRANCISCO M. ORTEGA
SB Member

TRINIDAD V. ZARATE
SB Member

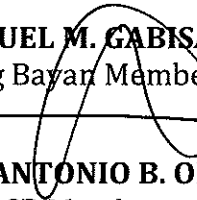
ALINE B. REOMA
SB Member

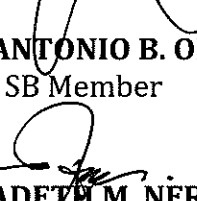
SECTION 9. APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS. The LGU shall appropriate a functional annual budget sufficient for the implementation of this program, covering personnel, training, administrative costs, and subsidies for foster families, to be included in the annual Gender and Development Plan and be allocated to Annual Budget.

SECTION 10. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. If any provision of this Ordinance is declared unconstitutional, other parts not affected shall remain in full force.

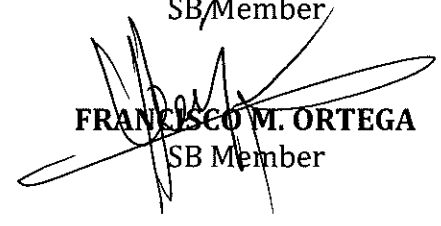
SECTION 11. EFFECTIVITY. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon approval after its publication in newspaper of regional circulation.

ENACTED this 29th day of June, 2026 during the Twenty Sixth Regular Session of the Sanggunian Bayan.

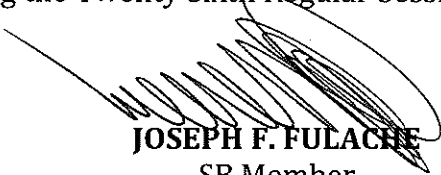

MANUEL M. GABISAN
Sangguniang Bayan Member (*absent*)


CRIS ANTONIO B. ONG
SB Member

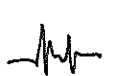

BERNADETH M. NERVES
SB Member

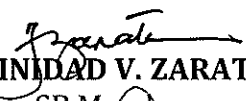

FRANCISCO M. ORTEGA
SB Member

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


JOSEPH F. FULACHE
SB Member


MANUEL V. LORA
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SB Member

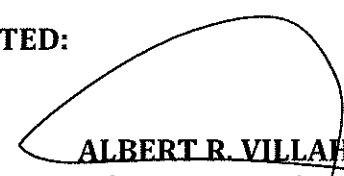

TRINIDAD V. ZARATE
SB Member


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

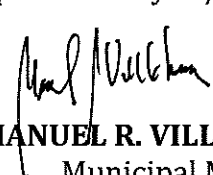
I HEREBY CERTIFY to the correctness of the foregoing ordinance.


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



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Province of Leyte
Municipality of Hilongos



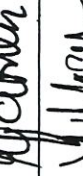
OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIAN BAYAN

ATTENDANCE SHEET

Committee meeting on Social Services, Women, Children, Family and
GAV on Tuesday, June 4, 2024, 1:00 pm at Maricao Conference
Room, Municipal Hall, Hilongos, Leyte.

Name	Position	Sex		Office/ Agency	Signature
		Male	Female		
1. <u>Francisca M. Nemes</u>	<u>SB Member</u>		☒	<u>SB</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>
2. <u>TRINIDAD V. ZARATE</u>	<u>CD MEMBER</u>		☒	<u>CD</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>
3. <u>LEONAR T. JARILIN</u>	<u>MEMBER</u>	☒		<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>
4. <u>ALINE B. KERRIA</u>	<u>SB MEMBER</u>		☒	<u>SB</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>
5. <u>Karmiel D. Rizo</u>	<u>Senior High School VP/SBO</u>		☒	<u>GOC</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>
6. <u>Tyron Gabriel E. Manlangit</u>	<u>Senior High School Senator/SBO</u>	☒		<u>GOC</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>
7. <u>JO THOMAS T. MONTU</u>	<u>LYDC Member</u>	☒		<u>LYDC</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>
8. <u>ARISTEN B. TAN</u>	<u>CHILD REPRESENTATIVE</u>	☒		<u>HNVS</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>
9. <u>Kyle A. Bayda</u>	<u>CHILD Representative</u>	☒		<u>GOC</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>
10. <u>Mg. Ingrid D. Olimpo</u>	<u>Sangguniang Bayan</u>		☒	<u>HNVS</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>

CATHERINE A. FABULAR, J.D.
Secretary to the Sanggunian
DATE: _____

Name	Position	Sex		Office/ Agency	Signature
		Male	Female		
11. EULAMETHA L. ZAFIO	AN		✓	MHT	
12. EDONLUD A. VIGARA	PAO I	✓		NGEN	
13. EURA JENE R. ARASOLA	SVS		✓	MGC	
14. FLANCO, ANNE MARIE	CDW-II		✓	MSDD-Office	
15. LUCILLA DALUY C.	HHSSEA AO-II		✓	HHSSEA	
16. SARAH JANE A. RODRIGO	AO II		✓	HILONGOS NORTH DISTRICT	
17. EVANGELINE V. MILABO	ALS TEACHER		✓	HILONGOS SOUTH	
18. PEGGY MIREL H BORRAS	Asst. WCPD PNCO		✓	HILONGOS PNP	
19. POPL NIKKI L Labidos	Asst. WCPD PNCO		✓	HILONGOS PNP	
20. Catherine A Fabular	Sec. to the SD		✓	SD Secretary	
21. Cassandra Faith T. Flores	Child Representative		✓	Concepcion Central School	
22. ANGEUNE JOYCE P. AUREATE	SD golf		✓	SB	
23. JANINE M. PAJO	Job Order		✓	DUG	
24. Jumanfel C. Elorde			✓	WWPD	
25. JUNE P. DRAG			✓	MDLRM	

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Atty. CATHERINE A. FABULAR, J.D.

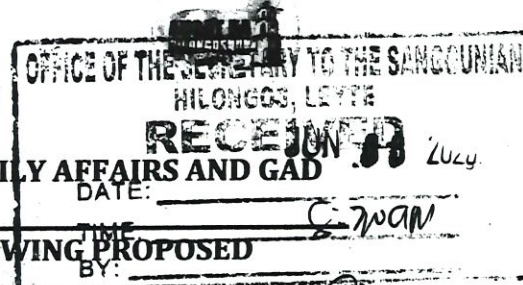
Secretary to the Sanggunian

DATE: _____

Name	Position	Sex		Office/ Agency	Signature
		Male	Female		
26. Elsie P. Junio	School Head		✓	Reported - Wilms Sander District	
27. KURT S. POST	MCR	✓		Lea-Hibon's	
28. JESSICA J. JASON	ALG 88 / 607 V1		✓	DUG - FUNDS	
29. LAMUEL JAN M. NORRIS	NUM-ADM IN	✓		N.O.	
30. Angeline Grace P. Alpashe	SB Staff		✓	SPB	
31. Rhon Orven Zamora	GIP	✓		SPB	
32.	—	Nothing Follows —			
33.	CERTIFIED TRUE COPY FROM THE ORIGINAL				
34.	 CATHERINE A. FABULAR, J.D. Secretary to the Sanggunian				
35.	DATE: _____				
36.					
37.					
38.					
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40.					



Republic of the Philippines
Province of Leyte
Municipality of Hilongos
OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG 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.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY FROM THE ORIGINAL

Catherine A. Fabular, J.D.
Catherine A. Fabular, J.D.
Secretary to the Sanggunian
DATE: _____

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

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

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Secretary to the Sanggunian
DATE: _____

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

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

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DATE: _____

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

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.

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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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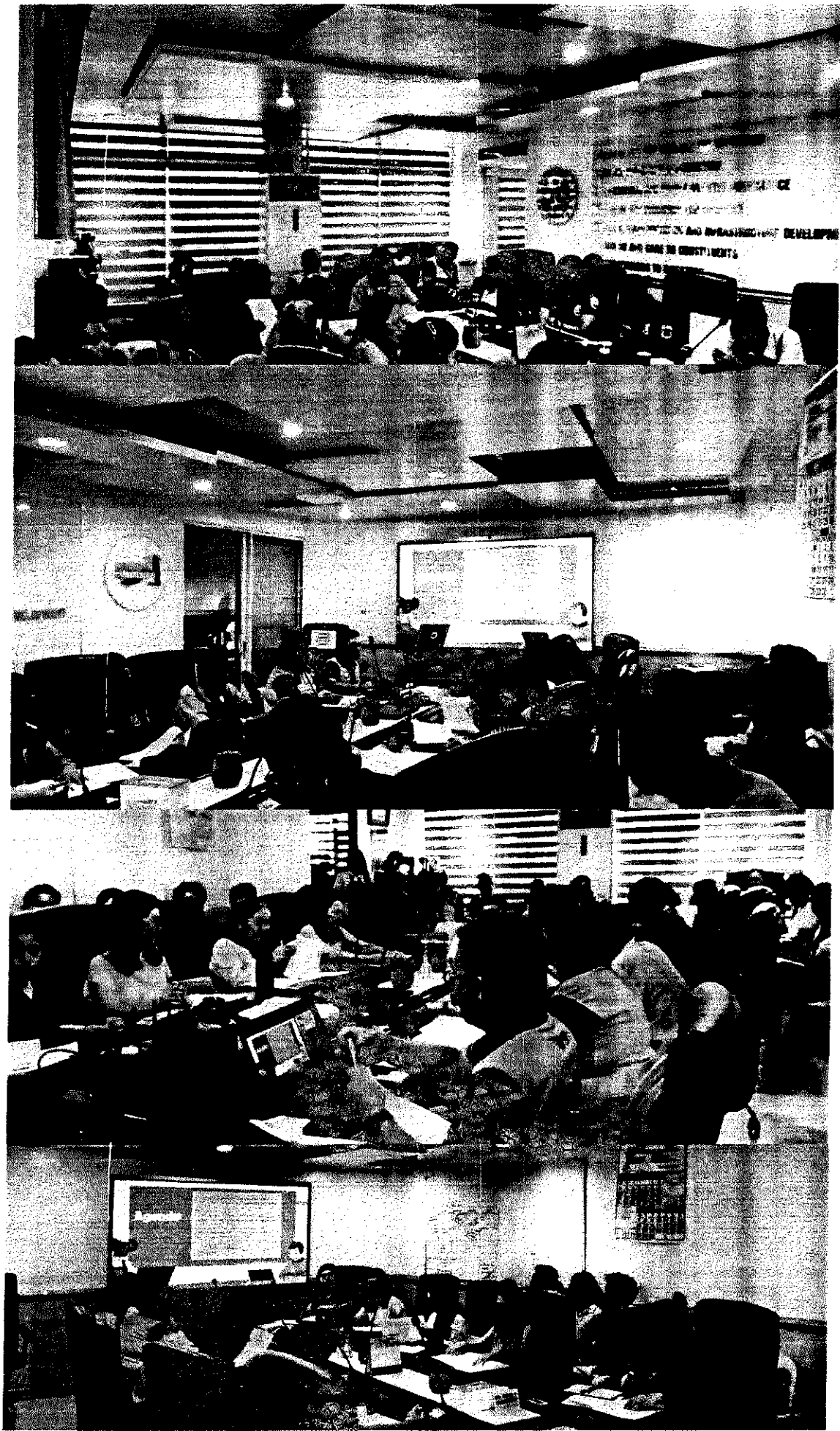

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Concurred by:


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





Republic of the Philippines
Province of Leyte
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- 15 : An Ordinance Institutionalizing the Local Alternative Child Care Programs and Services Designating the Local Alternative Child Care Focal Person and Appropriating Funds Thereof**

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 (2) 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