



Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF LEYTE
Provincial Capitol
Tacloban City

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PROVINCIAL LEGAL OFFICE

2nd INDORSEMENT

July 8, 2026

Respectfully returned to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Leyte, through 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: "Palo Integrated Local Heath Ordinance"

REVIEW/RECOMMENDATION/LEGAL OPINION:

This office is of the opinion that the subject Ordinance is generally in accordance to its power under Sections 447(a)¹ of the Local Government Code of 1991 (R.A 7160) pursuant to RA 11223², subject to availability of funds and to usual auditing procedures. 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,

² Universal Health Care Act

Item No.: 62
Date: 08 2026 SEP

PROVINCE OF LEYTE
LEGAL OFFICE

RELEASED

By: [Signature]
Date: 8-28-26 Time: 2:24

Sangguniang Panlalawigan
Province of Leyte

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Date: AUG 28 2026
By: [Signature]

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PROVINCE OF LEYTE
Palo, Leyte
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PROVINCE OF LEYTE
LEGAL OFFICE

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Date: 7-8-26 Time: pm

OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN

1ST INDORSEMENT
07 July 2026

The Provincial Legal Office is respectfully requested to review and submit recommendations on the herein enclosed **Municipal Ordinance No. 2026-03** of the **Municipality of Palo, Leyte**, entitled: **An Ordinance institutionalizing the integration of Local Health Systems of the Municipality of Palo, Leyte into the Province-wide Health System (PWHs).**


FLORINDA JILL S. UYVICO
Secretary to the Sanggunian

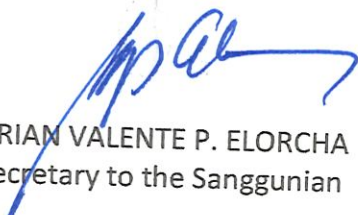


Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF LEYTE
Municipality of Palo

SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

1st Indorsement
July 7, 2026

Respectfully forwarded to the Hon. Sangguniang Panlalawigan thru Hon. Vice-Governor Leonardo Javier, Jr., Province of Leyte, Palo, Leyte, the herein attached copy of Municipal Ordinance No. 2026-03 of the Sangguniang Bayan, Palo, Leyte, dated June 16, 2026, which is self-explanatory.


BRIAN VALENTE P. ELORCHA
Secretary to the Sanggunian

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PROVINCE OF LEYTE
Municipality of Palo

SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

EXCERPTS FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 50TH REGULAR SESSION OF THE 12TH SANGGUNIANG BAYAN OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF PALO, PROVINCE OF LEYTE, HELD ON JUNE 16, 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. 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

Absent:

Hon. Felipe T. Ygrubay, Jr.	SB Member – on Official Travel
Hon. Mary Dwell S. Agner	President, PPSK – on Official Travel

MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 2026-03

AN ORDINANCE INSTITUTIONALIZING THE INTEGRATION OF LOCAL HEALTH SYSTEMS OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF PALO, LEYTE, INTO THE PROVINCE-WIDE HEALTH SYSTEM (PWHS).

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Health is a fundamental right and a key responsibility of local government units under the 1987 Constitution, the Local Government Code of 1991, and Republic Act No. 11223 or the Universal Health Care Act. Despite existing efforts, challenges such as fragmented service delivery, inefficient referral systems, and gaps in health information systems continue to affect the delivery of quality healthcare.

To address these, the Province of Leyte has established the Province-Wide Health System (PWHS) to ensure integrated, coordinated, and people-centered health services across all levels of care.

This Ordinance seeks to institutionalize the integration of the PWHS into the local health system of the Municipality of Palo, Leyte. It aims to strengthen primary care, improve referral mechanisms, enhance coordination with the Provincial Government, and promote the use of digital health systems such as the Quick Medical Electronic Record (QMeR) for better service delivery and health information management.

Through this measure, the Municipality of Palo reaffirms its commitment to Universal Health Care by ensuring accessible, efficient, and quality health services for all its constituents.

Thus, this ordinance:



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(Mun. Ord.# 2026-03)

AN ORDINANCE INSTITUTIONALIZING THE INTEGRATION OF LOCAL HEALTH SYSTEMS OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF PALO, LEYTE, INTO THE PROVINCE-WIDE HEALTH SYSTEM (PWHS).

Section 1. SHORT TITLE. This Ordinance shall be known as the "Palo Integrated Local Health System Ordinance".

Section 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY. It is the declared policy of the Municipality of Palo, Leyte to uphold the constitutional right to health and ensure equitable, accessible, efficient, and quality healthcare services and align with the Province-Wide Health System (PWHS) of Leyte in consonance with the Universal Health Care Act and other existing pertinent laws, rules and regulations.

Section 3. OBJECTIVES.

1. Establish a functional Local Health System within the Municipality of Palo aligned and integrated with the Province-Wide Health System (PWHS) that ensures accessible, affordable, and quality health services for all constituents;
2. Integrate all municipal health facilities, including the Rural Health Unit (RHU), Barangay Health Stations (BHS), and other LGU-managed health services into a coordinated and functional local health system linked to the provincial network;
3. Promote cooperation and collaboration between the Municipality of Palo, the Provincial Government of Leyte, and other health stakeholders in addressing local and inter-LGU health concerns;
4. Strengthen primary care services, streamline referral pathways from barangay to higher-level facilities, and optimize the use of available health resources within the primary care provider network in the municipality and its linkages to the provincial health system and to the healthcare provider network;
5. Institutionalize the use of the Quick Medical Electronic Record (QMeR) system of the Province of Leyte as the official digital health information platform of the Municipality of Palo, ensuring interoperability, enabling efficient referral mechanisms, and improving coordination, efficiency, accountability, and continuity of healthcare services.

Section 4. SCOPE OF APPLICATION. This Ordinance shall apply to all health offices, facilities, services, human resources, and other operations related to health under the management of the Municipality of Palo, including the Rural Health Unit (RHU), Barangay Health Stations (BHS), and other LGU- managed health facilities.

It shall likewise apply to other healthcare institutions insofar as they participate in and align with the Province-Wide Health System (PWHS) and its service delivery, referral, and health information systems.

Handwritten signatures of the Sangguniang Bayan members, including the Mayor and Councilors, in blue ink.



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Municipality of Palo

SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

EXCERPTS FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 50TH REGULAR SESSION OF THE 12TH SANGGUNIANG BAYAN OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF PALO, PROVINCE OF LEYTE, HELD ON JUNE 16, 2026, AT THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN SESSION HALL.

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(Mun. Ord.# 2026-03)

Section 5. DEFINITION OF TERMS. For purposes of this Ordinance, the following terms are hereby defined:

- a. Allied Health Personnel – Refers to trained and authorized individuals, other than physicians, dentists, nurses and midwives, who provide health and health-related services, including those involved in diagnostics, treatment support, rehabilitation, and health promotion.
- b. Continuity of Care – The provision of integrated and coordinated health services across all levels of care, from health promotion and disease prevention to treatment, rehabilitation, and palliative care, within the Municipality of Palo and its linkages to the Province-Wide Health System.
- c. Health Care Provider Network (HCPN) – A network of primary to tertiary healthcare providers within the Municipality of Palo and its partner referral facilities, delivering comprehensive and coordinated health services in an integrated manner.
- d. Interoperability – The ability of different health information systems, including the Quick Medical Electronic Record (QMeR), to exchange, process, and utilize health data seamlessly across facilities within the Municipality of Palo and the Province of Leyte.
- e. Local Health System (Palo) – The network of health services, facilities, human resources, and support systems under the Municipality of Palo, including the Rural Health Unit and Barangay Health Stations, aligned with the Province-Wide Health System.
- f. Primary Care Provider Network (PCPN) – The group of primary care providers within the Municipality of Palo, including the Rural Health Unit and Barangay Health Stations, serving as the initial and continuing point of contact of clients in the health care delivery system.
- g. Province-Wide Health System (PWHS) – An integrated local health system where healthcare providers deliver continuous and coordinated health services to individuals and communities, to which the Municipality of Palo is aligned as part of the Province of Leyte.
- h. Quick Medical Electronic Record (QMeR) – The official electronic health information system designed by the Province of Leyte, to support patient records, referrals, and reporting strictly adhering with data privacy laws.
- i. Referral System (QReferral) – A standardized mechanism for coordinating patient transfers within the Municipality of Palo and across the Province-Wide Health System, ensuring timely access to appropriate levels of care through a functional two-way referral process.
- j. Special Health Fund (SHF) – A pooled financial resources at the barangay, municipal, and provincial levels intended to support the delivery of health services and system operations within the integrated health system.
- k. Two-Way Referral System – A referral mechanism that ensures the transfer of patients to appropriate facilities and the return of relevant clinical information to the referring facility to support continuity of care.

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Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF LEYTE
Municipality of Palo

SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

EXCERPTS FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 50TH REGULAR SESSION OF THE 12TH SANGGUNIANG BAYAN OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF PALO, PROVINCE OF LEYTE, HELD ON JUNE 16, 2026, AT THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN SESSION HALL.

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(Mun. Ord.# 2026-03)**

Section 6. GENERAL PRINCIPLES.

6.1. The local health system of the Municipality of Palo, aligned with the Province-Wide Health System (PWHS), shall be guided by the principles of universality, equity, quality, efficiency, and accountability.

6.2. Integration of local health systems shall be a shared responsibility between the Municipality of Palo and the Provincial Government of Leyte.

6.3. The local health system shall strengthen primary care and ensure functional two-way referral systems across all levels of care, from the barangay to higher-level facilities.

6.4. The Quick Medical Electronic Record (QMeR) and other related digital health data platforms, shall be interoperable, secure, and implemented in a manner that ensures the protection of patient data in accordance with national data privacy and ICT policies.

6.5. Financing of the local health system shall be supported through available resources at the municipal level, including appropriations from the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Palo as provided in the Annual Investment Plan, PhilHealth reimbursements from primary care and other benefit packages, allocations from the Special Health Fund (SHF) through the Province-Wide Health System, as well as support from the Department of Health (DOH) and in the form of grants, programs, and augmentation funds, and other lawful sources such as national government assistance, non-government organizations (NGOs), development partners and public-private partnerships.

Section 7. GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE.

7.1. The Provincial Health Board (PHB) shall serve as the highest policy-making and oversight body of the Province-Wide Health System (PWHS). The Municipality of Palo shall align its local health system plans, programs, and policies with the directions and standards set by the PHB.

7.2. Local Health Board (LHB). The Local Health Board of the Municipality created under an Executive Order issued by the Municipal Mayor shall serve as the primary policy-making and oversight body of the local health system of the Municipality of Palo, aligned with the Province of Leyte.

7.3. Municipal Health Office (MHO). The Municipal Health Office shall serve as the technical and administrative secretariat of the Municipal Health Board, responsible for the implementation of health programs, development planning, monitoring and evaluation, and ensuring compliance with national, provincial, and local health policies and regulatory standards.

7.4. Barangay Health Boards (BHB). These bodies shall support the implementation of health programs at the barangay level, facilitate primary care services, assist in referral mechanisms, and align their plans and activities with the Municipal Health Office and the Province-Wide Health System framework.

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SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

EXCERPTS FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 50TH REGULAR SESSION OF THE 12TH SANGGUNIANG BAYAN OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF PALO, PROVINCE OF LEYTE, HELD ON JUNE 16, 2026, AT THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN SESSION HALL.

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Section 8. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

8.1. The Municipal Government.

The Municipal Government of Palo, through its Local Health Board, shall:

- a. Formulate local health policies and plans consistent with national and provincial priorities;
- b. Manage and finance the Rural Health Unit (RHU), Barangay Health Stations (BHS), and other LGU-managed health facilities to meet licensing and accreditation standards;
- c. Consolidate health information through the Quick Medical Electronic Record (QMeR) and submit timely reports to the Provincial Health Office (PHO) and the Department of Health (DOH);
- d. Provide technical supervision, capacity building, and logistical support to barangays and health personnel;
- e. Ensure the efficient, prudent, and responsive utilization of local health resources, including municipal budget allocations for the Municipal Health Office (MHO), Barangay Health Stations (BHS), and other municipal offices and programs with health-related functions, as well as Philhealth reimbursements covering medicines, supplies, equipment, and human resources for health, as well as resources accessed through the Special Health Fund (SHF), in harmony with the Province-Wide Health System (PWHS).
- f. Act as the local technical lead in implementing and monitoring the integrated local health system aligned with the Province-Wide Health System (PWHS); and
- g. Ensure compliance with service delivery standards, referral protocols, and health data reporting requirements.

8.2. Barangay Governments.

Barangay Governments, through their respective Barangay Health Boards and Barangay Health Workers, shall:

- a. Support the implementation of primary health care services at the community level;
- b. Assist in patient registration, health promotion, and disease prevention activities;
- c. Facilitate referrals from the barangay to the Municipal Health Office (MHO) and ensure follow-up of referred patients;
- d. Support the implementation and proper use of QMeR, including data collection and submission, as applicable; and
- e. Coordinate with the Municipal Health Office in ensuring that barangay health plans are consistent with and supportive of the municipal and provincial health system priorities.

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8.3. Provincial Health Office (PHO).

The Provincial Health Office shall provide technical guidance, monitoring, and evaluation support of the implementation of the QMeR system. It shall ensure the integration and interoperability of municipal data within the Province-Wide Health System (PWHS) and support capacity-building initiatives across all implementing units.

Section 9. ADOPTION AND INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF THE QMeR SYSTEM OF THE PROVINCE OF LEYTE.

9.1. Adoption as Official Digital Health System.

The Quick Medical Electronic Record (QMeR) System of the Province of Leyte is hereby officially adopted as the primary electronic medical record system of the Municipality of Palo. It shall serve as the standard platform for the documentation, storage, management, and exchange of all patient health information across all public health facilities within the health care provider network of the Province of Leyte.

9.2. Scope of Application.

The QMeR system of the Province of Leyte shall be applied to all health facilities under the Municipality, including but not limited to the Municipal Health Office (MHO), Barangay Health Stations (BHS), and other healthcare institutions, and to include health and allied health personnel involved in the delivery of health and health-related services. The system shall be utilized across all levels of care within the Primary Care Provider Network (PCPN) and Health Care Provider Network (HCPN), in harmony with the Province-Wide Health System (PWHS), and in a manner that ensures the protection of patient data in accordance with applicable data privacy laws.

9.3. Institutionalization.

The QMeR system of the Province of Leyte is hereby institutionalized in the Municipality as an integral component of its local health system and shall be embedded in all routine health service delivery, public health programs, and administrative processes. All health-related transactions, records, and reports shall, as far as practicable, be generated, processed, and maintained through the QMeR system.

9.4. Mandatory Integration of QMeR in Local Health Services.

All authorized health and allied health personnel shall utilize the QMeR system in the performance of their duties, including but not limited to:

- a. Patient registration and consultation;
- b. Clinical documentation and diagnostics recording;
- c. Prescription generation and medication recording, inventory and monitoring
- d. Laboratory and imaging results documentation;
- e. Utilization of available decision-support and assistive technologies integrated within the QMeR system, including but not limited to automated interpretation tools for diagnostic procedures such as electrocardiograms (ECG), to support clinical decision-making, without replacing professional medical judgment.

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- f. Referral and counter-referral management through the QReferral system;
- g. Monitoring of treatment outcomes and follow-up care;
- h. Preparation and submission of official health-related reports to the Provincial Health Office, the Department of Health (DOH) and other authorized agencies.
- i. Preparation, processing, and submission of PhilHealth claims and related documentation in accordance with PhilHealth policies and guidelines.

9.5. Integration with Existing Local and National Health Information Systems and Programs.

The QMeR system of the Province of Leyte shall be integrated with existing local and national health information systems and shall support all priority health programs, including but not limited to maternal and child health, nutrition, immunization, tuberculosis and other communicable diseases, non-communicable diseases including cancer, along with other public health programs and initiatives. It shall likewise ensure interoperability in accordance with standards set by the Department of Health and other relevant authorities.

9.6. Sustainability and Continuity.

The Municipal Government shall ensure the continuous operation, maintenance, and enhancement of the QMeR system of the Province of Leyte, including provision of necessary infrastructure, human resources, and technical support to guarantee its long-term sustainability and effectiveness. The Municipality of Palo shall coordinate with the Province of Leyte for technical assistance, including but not limited to system updates, version upgrades, and resolution of technical issues, to ensure the efficient and reliable operation of the QMeR system of the Province of Leyte.

Section 10. MONITORING AND EVALUATION. The Municipal Health Board shall conduct regular performance reviews of the local health system of the Municipality of Palo, utilizing standard tools aligned with the Province-Wide Health System (PWHS) monitoring and evaluation framework.

Section 11. FUNDING PROVISIONS. To effectively carry out the provision of this ordinance, an annual appropriation shall be provided under the General Fund and other lawful sources of the Municipality.

The Municipality may likewise access and utilize resources from the Special Health Fund (SHF) established at the provincial level, in coordination with the Provincial Health Board (PHB), in accordance with the Province-Wide Health System (PWHS) framework and existing government auditing rules and regulations.

Section 12. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS (IRR).

The Municipal Health Board, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, shall formulate the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Ordinance.



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Municipality of Palo

SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

EXCERPTS FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 50TH REGULAR SESSION OF THE 12TH SANGGUNIANG BAYAN OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF PALO, PROVINCE OF LEYTE, HELD ON JUNE 16, 2026, AT THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN SESSION HALL.

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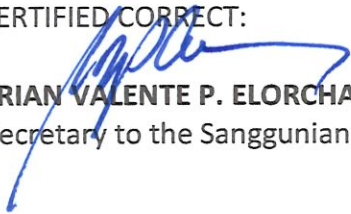
Section 13. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Ordinance is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 14. REPEALING CLAUSE. All ordinances, resolutions, and executive orders inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 15. EFFECTIVITY. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its approval and compliance with the posting requirement as provided by law.

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


ANDRESIAN R. SEVILLA
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

APPROVED July 6, 2026.


REMEDIOS "MATIN" L. PETILLA
Municipal Mayor

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253
254 II. Business for Third and Final Reading.
255

256 1. Draft Ordinance No. D-2025-30

257 An Ordinance Institutionalizing The Integration of Local Health Systems of the
258 Municipality of Palo, Leyte, Into The Province-Wide Health System (PWHS),
259 Sponsor: Hon. Chiqui Ruth C. Uy.
260

- 261 - Copies of the final draft were furnished each Sangguniang Bayan Members for
262 their perusal. Given the floor, Hon. Uy moved for the approval of the final draft
263 on third and final reading. The motion was duly seconded by all Sangguniang
264 Bayan Members present. Since there was no objection, the proposed measure
265 was declared Approved on Third and Final Reading, thus:
266
267

268 **EXPLANATORY NOTE**
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270 Health is a fundamental right and a key responsibility of local government units
271 under the 1987 Constitution, the Local Government Code of 1991, and Republic Act No.
272 11223 or the Universal Health Care Act. Despite existing efforts, challenges such as
273 fragmented service delivery, inefficient referral systems, and gaps in health information
274 systems continue to affect the delivery of quality healthcare.
275

276 To address these, the Province of Leyte has established the Province-Wide Health
277 System (PWHS) to ensure integrated, coordinated, and people-centered health services
278 across all levels of care.
279

280 This Ordinance seeks to institutionalize the integration of the PWHS into the local
281 health system of the Municipality of Palo, Leyte. It aims to strengthen primary care,
282 improve referral mechanisms, enhance coordination with the Provincial Government, and
283 promote the use of digital health systems such as the Quick Medical Electronic Record
284 (QMeR) for better service delivery and health information management.
285

286 Through this measure, the Municipality of Palo reaffirms its commitment to
287 Universal Health Care by ensuring accessible, efficient, and quality health services for all
288 its constituents.
289

290 **MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 2026-03**
291

292 **AN ORDINANCE INSTITUTIONALIZING THE INTEGRATION OF LOCAL HEALTH SYSTEMS**
293 **OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF PALO, LEYTE, INTO THE PROVINCE-WIDE HEALTH SYSTEM**
294 **(PWHS).**
295

296 Section 1. SHORT TITLE. This Ordinance shall be known as the "Palo Integrated
297 Local Health System Ordinance".
298

299 Section 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY. It is the declared policy of the Municipality of
300 Palo, Leyte to uphold the constitutional right to health and ensure equitable, accessible,
301 efficient, and quality healthcare services and align with the Province-Wide Health System
302 (PWHS) of Leyte in consonance with the Universal Health Care Act and other existing
303 pertinent laws, rules and regulations.