Item No.: 17
Date: NOV 25 2026 BAGONG PILIPINAS

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MAYOR

November 16, 2026

Sangguniang Panlalawigan
Province of Leyte
RECEIVED
Date: NOV 18 2026
By:

HON. LEONARDO M. JAVIER, JR.
Vice Governor and Presiding Officer
Sangguniang Panlalawigan
Province of Leyte
Leyte Provincial Government Complex
Palo, Leyte

THRU: **HON. FLAVIANO C. CENTINO, JR.**
HON. ELMER FREDERICO N. CODILLA
Members, Sangguniang Panlalawigan
Fourth District of Leyte

SUBJECT: **REQUEST FOR THE ADOPTION OF A PROVINCIAL RESOLUTION OPPOSING HOUSE BILL NO. 4065**

Honorable Vice Governor and Members of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan:

Warmest Himorasak greetings from the Town of United and Happy People!

The Municipal Government of Matag-ob, Leyte, respectfully seeks the support and intervention of the Honorable Sangguniang Panlalawigan, through our Fourth District Representatives, Hon. Flaviano C. Centino, Jr. and Hon. Elmer Frederico N. Codilla, for the adoption of a provincial resolution formally opposing House Bill No. 4065, which seeks to declare portions of the Municipalities of Palompon, Matag-ob, and Villaba, Leyte, as the Palompon Protected Landscape.

The Municipality has consistently opposed the proposed legislation on substantial technical, legal, environmental, and socioeconomic grounds. Among our principal concerns are the unfavorable suitability assessments previously undertaken by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), unresolved questions concerning compliance with the statutory requirements for protected-area establishment, the potential consequences upon private property rights and existing lawful land uses, and the lack of sufficiently informed and meaningful consultations with directly affected communities.

These concerns have already been formally brought before the House Committee on Natural Resources through the Municipality's Preliminary Position Paper dated October 6, 2026, and Supplemental Position Paper dated November 1, 2026. The salient points of which, together with the subsequent actions undertaken by the Municipality and the documented positions of affected barangays and people's organizations, have been consolidated and reiterated in the attached Position Paper (Annex A).

Significantly, the Municipality's opposition is further supported by documented expressions of concern from affected barangays and people's organizations, as evidenced by their respective resolutions, signature campaigns, and assembly records, copies of which are attached as Annex B (Barangay-Level Records) and Annex C (People's Organizations' Resolutions).

Further affirming the Municipality's institutional position, the Sangguniang Bayan of Matag-ob has likewise adopted a Resolution formally expressing its opposition to House Bill No. 4065, supporting the Municipality's Position Paper, and recognizing the documented sentiments of the affected barangays and people's organizations. A copy of the said Resolution is attached as Annex D.

The proposed declaration raises serious concerns regarding its potential impact on private property rights, agricultural livelihoods, existing land uses, and local development, particularly in the absence of verified boundaries, land classifications, and adequate assessment of its legal and socioeconomic consequences.

Moreover, the proposal is being pursued despite DENR's unfavorable technical suitability findings and unresolved statutory and consultation requirements. These concerns extend beyond Matag-ob and warrant provincial intervention, given their implications for property rights, sustainable development, and the welfare of affected communities throughout Leyte.

In view of the foregoing, we respectfully request the Honorable Sangguniang Panlalawigan to consider and adopt a Resolution:

1. EXPRESSING SUPPORT for the position of the Municipal Government of Matag-ob and recognizing the documented concerns of the affected barangays and people's organizations concerning House Bill No. 4065;
2. FORMALLY OPPOSING HOUSE BILL NO. 4065 and respectfully requesting its disapproval by the House of Representatives in view of the unresolved technical, legal, environmental, and socioeconomic concerns;
3. CALLING UPON THE DENR to comprehensively review and address the unfavorable suitability findings, verify the proposed boundaries and land classifications, clarify the legal status of the existing watershed reservation, and determine the implications of the proposed designation upon private property rights and existing lawful land uses; and
4. AFFIRMING THE CONTINUED PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION of the watershed through scientifically supported, legally appropriate, and community-responsive environmental management measures.

In this regard, we particularly appeal to our Fourth District Representatives, Hon. Flaviano C. Centino, Jr. and Hon. Elmer Frederico N. Codilla, to sponsor or endorse the proposed resolution and facilitate its inclusion in the agenda of the Honorable Sangguniang Panlalawigan for deliberation and appropriate action.

We likewise respectfully seek the support of the Honorable Vice Governor and all Members of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan in adopting a unified provincial position on this matter. Should the proposed resolution be adopted, we further request that copies thereof be transmitted to the House Committee on Natural Resources, the concerned Members of Congress, and the Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for their consideration and appropriate action.

We wish to emphasize that Matag-ob's opposition to House Bill No. 4065 should not be construed as opposition to environmental protection or watershed conservation. What we oppose is the proposed legislative designation in its present form, considering the

substantial issues that remain unresolved and the potential consequences for the rights and welfare of our constituents.

We trust in the wisdom and leadership of the Honorable Sangguniang Panlalawigan in giving due consideration to the Municipality's position and, more importantly, to the concerns of the communities who stand to be directly affected by the proposed legislation.

Thank you for your consideration and continued support.

Very truly yours,

HON. ROMEO N. ALBARIDA
Acting Municipal Mayor

For and in the absence of:

HON. BERNANDINO G. TACOY
Municipal Mayor, Matag-ob, Leyte

Enclosures:

- Annex "A" - Position Paper
- Annex "B" - Barangay-level records of assemblies and community positions:
  - B-1 Barangay Candelaria: barangay resolution and assembly documentation.
  - B-2 Barangay Malazarte: barangay resolution and assembly documentation.
  - B-3 Barangay Masaba: barangay resolution and assembly documentation.
  - B-4 Barangay Cambadbad: signature campaign and assembly documentation.
  - B-5 Barangay Sta. Rosa: signature campaign and available assembly.
- Annex "C" - Resolutions of people's organizations concerning House Bill No. 4065
  - C-1 Brgy. Malazarte Matag-ob Kauswagan Farmers Association, Inc. (BMMKFAI)
  - C-2 Cambadbad Upland Farmer Association (CUFA)
  - C-3 Matag-Ob Community Worker's Association (MACOWA)
- Annex "D" — Sangguniang Bayan Resolution

POSITION PAPER

STRONGLY OPPOSING HOUSE BILL NO. 4065, PROPOSING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PALOMPON PROTECTED LANDSCAPE

I. STATEMENT OF POSITION

The Municipal Government of Matag-ob, Leyte, reiterates its STRONG OPPOSITION to House Bill No. 4065, which seeks to declare portions of the Municipalities of Palompon, Matag-ob, and Villaba, Leyte, as the Palompon Protected Landscape, and respectfully calls for its DISAPPROVAL.

This Consolidated Position Paper brings together the Municipality's longstanding institutional opposition, its Preliminary Position Paper dated October 6, 2026, and Supplemental Position Paper dated November 1, 2026, together with the subsequent actions undertaken by the Municipality and the documented positions of affected barangays and people's organizations.

The Municipality's opposition rests on substantial technical, legal, environmental, and socioeconomic considerations, particularly:

1. The unfavorable Protected Area Suitability Assessment (PASA) findings previously undertaken by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR);
2. The unresolved statutory and technical requirements governing the establishment of protected areas under Republic Act No. 7586, as amended by Republic Act No. 11038;
3. The need to protect constitutionally guaranteed private property rights, existing lawful land uses, and agricultural livelihoods;
4. The absence of sufficiently verified boundaries, land classifications, and clear identification of affected properties;
5. The inadequacy of previous consultations and the documented concerns of affected barangays, residents, and people's organizations; and
6. The existence of local environmental protection measures that may be strengthened without prematurely imposing the additional legal and socioeconomic consequences of the proposed protected-landscape designation.

The Municipality does not oppose watershed protection, biodiversity conservation, or environmental rehabilitation. It opposes the proposed legislative designation in its present form because the technical justification, legal requirements, and consequences for affected communities have not been satisfactorily addressed.

The protection of the environment must be pursued consistently with the Constitution, applicable environmental laws, the rights of property owners, and the welfare of the communities directly affected.

II. BACKGROUND AND ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN BY THE MUNICIPALITY

A. Earlier opposition to House Bill No. 7160

On May 12, 2023, the Sangguniang Bayan of Matag-ob adopted Resolution No. 23-082, strongly opposing House Bill No. 7160, an earlier legislative proposal authored by Representative Richard I. Gomez seeking to establish the Palompon Protected Landscape. The Resolution raised concerns regarding insufficient public consultation and coordination with affected local government units, as well as the need for appropriate preparatory studies and hearings. House Bill No. 4065 substantially revives the same proposal. The introduction of a new bill does not, by itself, resolve the concerns previously raised by the Municipality.

B. Support for DENR's recommendation for disestablishment

On June 29, 2023, the Sangguniang Bayan unanimously adopted Resolution No. 23-104, endorsing DENR Region VIII's recommendation to disestablish the Palompon Watershed Forest Reserve as an initial component of the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS), following its failure to satisfy the applicable suitability assessment. The Resolution cited the PASA conducted on November 4, 2022, which yielded a reported suitability rating of 47.5%, and the public hearing conducted in Matag-ob on April 14, 2023, where participating stakeholders unanimously supported the disestablishment recommendation. It likewise recorded concerns regarding substantial areas classified as alienable and disposable lands within the affected coverage.

C. Renewed opposition following the 2025 suitability assessment

On October 6, 2025, the Sangguniang Bayan adopted Resolution No. 25-117, reiterating the Municipality's opposition to the proposed protected-area designation and supporting the appropriate disestablishment process insofar as Matag-ob is concerned. The Resolution referred to the PASA activities conducted on August 11–16, 2025, and the subsequent consultation on October 3, 2025. It recorded findings that the area did not satisfy the applicable ecological and scientific criteria under DENR-BMB Technical Bulletin No. 2016-04, as well as 60.75% negative responses among key informants concerning the proposed declaration. The latter figure reflects reported stakeholder sentiments and is distinct from the technical suitability rating.

D. Submission of position papers to the House Committee on Natural Resources

On October 6, 2026, the Municipality submitted its Preliminary Position Paper to the House Committee on Natural Resources in connection with the congressional hearing scheduled for October 7, 2026. The Municipality received the hearing notice only on October 6, 2026, leaving approximately one day to review the proposed legislation, consolidate technical records, and consult affected communities. The Municipality expressly reserved its right to submit additional evidence and legal arguments after obtaining the necessary technical documents.

Following the hearing, the Municipality prepared its Supplemental Position Paper dated November 1, 2026, further explaining its objections and presenting additional technical, legal, institutional, and community records. These submissions consistently requested the disapproval of House Bill No. 4065 or, alternatively, the deferral of favorable legislative action until the outstanding concerns were satisfactorily resolved.

E. Consultations with affected barangays and community organizations

Following the October 7, 2026 congressional hearing, the Municipality facilitated discussions of House Bill No. 4065 among affected communities. Barangays Candelaria, Cambadbad, Malazarte, Sta. Rosa, and Masaba conducted barangay assemblies concerning the proposed measure. Barangays Candelaria, Malazarte, and Masaba adopted formal barangay resolutions, while Barangays Cambadbad and Sta. Rosa documented community sentiments through signature campaigns. Concerned people's organizations likewise expressed their positions through resolutions, particularly:

- Brgy. Malazarte Matag-ob Kauswagan Farmers Association, Inc. (BMMKFAI);
- Cambadbad Upland Farmer Association (CUFA); and
- Matag-ob Community Worker's Association (MACOWA).

These community records demonstrate that the concerns regarding the proposed legislation extend beyond the Municipal Government and are also being raised by residents, farmers, and community organizations whose properties, livelihoods, and economic activities may be affected.

III. PRINCIPAL GROUNDS FOR OPPOSITION

A. The proposed area has failed to satisfy the applicable technical suitability criteria

Republic Act No. 7586, as amended by Republic Act No. 11038, establishes a statutory framework for determining the suitability of areas proposed for inclusion in the legislated protected-area system. Section 5(a.2) requires DENR, in preparation for congressional establishment of remaining NIPAS initial components, to prepare maps and technical descriptions, conduct suitability assessments, and undertake public consultations.

DENR Administrative Order No. 2019-05 likewise provides implementing requirements concerning protected-area suitability assessments, with biodiversity and ecological considerations forming an important basis for determining suitability.

The available records cited in the Municipality's previous submissions indicate the following reported findings:

- 2022 PASA: 47.5% suitability rating;
- 2025 PASA: 38% suitability rating, subsequently reportedly adjusted to 51% through a Biodiversity Management Bureau memorandum dated February 25, 2026; and
- Applicable technical criterion: Reportedly 80% under DENR-BMB Technical Bulletin No. 2016-04.

These figures, particularly the 2025 assessment and subsequent adjustment, require reconciliation against the complete signed DENR technical reports, scoring worksheets, and official memoranda. Nevertheless, the reported findings consistently raise substantial questions concerning the area's suitability for the proposed declaration.

During the October 7, 2026 congressional hearing, DENR Region VIII reportedly reiterated the area's lack of suitability at that time, citing continued resource extraction, agricultural expansion, and prevailing site conditions.

The Municipality respectfully submits that a protected-landscape designation should not proceed merely through legislative declaration without a clear and scientifically supported explanation of how the unfavorable suitability findings have been addressed. Congress possesses legislative authority to establish protected areas. However, the technical assessment process expressly contemplated by law should be given substantive consideration. The Municipality therefore maintains that the passage of House Bill No. 4065, without adequately addressing the unfavorable DENR findings, would undermine the technical and scientific safeguards intended to guide protected-area establishment.

B. *The proposed declaration raises serious constitutional and legal concerns regarding the protection of private property rights*

One of the Municipality's most serious concerns is the potential impact of House Bill No. 4065 upon privately owned lands, existing agricultural holdings, lawful settlements, established improvements, and the legitimate property interests of residents within the proposed protected landscape and its contemplated buffer zone. The right to property is expressly protected under the Constitution.

Article III, Section 1 provides that no person shall be deprived of property without due process of law, while Article III, Section 9 prohibits the taking of private property for public use without just compensation.

Although private property is subject to reasonable regulation in the interest of public welfare and environmental protection, the exercise of such regulatory authority must remain consistent with constitutional guarantees. The establishment of a legislated protected landscape may entail additional restrictions concerning land utilization, construction, agricultural activities, resource extraction, development, and other lawful uses of property.

The Municipality is particularly concerned that private landowners may be subjected to substantial and continuing restrictions without first being adequately informed whether their properties are included, what limitations will apply, and how their existing rights will be protected.

These concerns are not merely speculative from a legal standpoint. Section 8 of RA No. 7586, as amended by RA No. 11038, expressly contemplates restrictions affecting private lands within designated buffer zones, requiring their owners to consider the applicable protected-area management plan in undertaking development. These statutory provisions underscore the need to identify affected private property interests and ensure that existing lawful rights are respected in both the legislative and administrative processes.

The Municipality respectfully raises the following fundamental concerns:

First, the proposed protected-area boundaries have not been sufficiently reconciled with authoritative land-classification records and existing private land titles.

Second, affected landowners have not been furnished adequate parcel-level information identifying the properties that may fall within the proposed protected landscape or buffer zone.

Third, the nature and extent of restrictions upon existing agricultural activities, construction, improvements, and future development have not been sufficiently explained.

Fourth, the proposed measure's treatment of vested property rights, existing lawful occupations, and established land uses requires further clarification.

Finally, the potential economic consequences of the designation upon affected property owners and communities have not been comprehensively assessed.

While protected-area designation does not automatically transfer ownership of private lands to the State or necessarily constitute a compensable taking, restrictions that substantially interfere with lawful property interests must still be evaluated in light of constitutional due process, the limits of police power, and, where legally applicable, the requirement of just compensation.

Environmental protection, however legitimate its objectives, should not be pursued through measures that leave affected property owners uncertain about the continued exercise and enjoyment of their lawful rights.

Before any additional protected-landscape designation is advanced, the Municipality respectfully submits that the government must first establish the exact territorial coverage, identify affected properties, disclose the restrictions contemplated, and provide adequate opportunities for landowners and occupants to be heard.

The State's duty to protect the environment must be discharged together with its equally important duty to uphold the Constitution and respect existing lawful property rights.

C. *The legal requirements governing the establishment of protected areas have not been satisfactorily addressed*

The Palompon Watershed Forest Reserve was established under Presidential Proclamation No. 212, series of 1988. By operation of Republic Act No. 7586, previously proclaimed watershed reserves were included among the initial components of NIPAS.

However, the existing status of an area as a watershed reservation and NIPAS initial component must be distinguished from its subsequent establishment by Congress as a legislated protected area.

Section 5(a.2) of Republic Act No. 7586, as amended by RA No. 11038, expressly contemplates the preparation of maps and technical descriptions, suitability assessment, and public consultations in preparation for the legislative establishment of remaining initial components. The same provision directs that initial components failing to satisfy the specified requirements be disestablished pursuant to Section 7.

The Municipality acknowledges that Congress has the authority to establish protected areas through legislation. Its objection is not based on an alleged absence of such legislative

power. Rather, the Municipality questions the propriety of proceeding with the proposed designation when the relevant technical findings remain unfavorable and compliance with the statutory preparatory requirements has not been satisfactorily demonstrated.

The Municipality previously supported DENR Region VIII's recommendation for disestablishment of the existing reserve as an initial NIPAS component in light of the adverse suitability assessment. The continued legal protection of the existing watershed reservation should not be confused with the justification for imposing a new legislated protected-landscape designation.

D. The proposed boundaries, land classifications, and buffer zones require further verification

The Municipality remains concerned regarding the accuracy and legal basis of the proposed territorial coverage. Its previous submissions identified the need to reconcile the boundaries under Presidential Proclamation No. 212 with existing DENR and NAMRIA maps, land-classification records, and the proposed coverage under House Bill No. 4065.

Particular attention must be given to areas classified as alienable and disposable lands, existing titled properties, settlements, agricultural holdings, public facilities, and water infrastructure.

The Municipality likewise requests clarification of the scientific and legal justification for the proposed buffer-zone coverage, including the previously identified 1,000-meter buffer and its implications for landowners and communities.

The boundaries of a proposed protected area are not merely technical details. They determine which properties, communities, and economic activities may become subject to additional regulatory restrictions. A permanent legislative declaration should not precede the reliable identification of the lands and communities it will affect.

E. The documented opposition of affected communities requires meaningful consideration

The Municipality respectfully emphasizes that House Bill No. 4065 directly affects the welfare and future development of communities within its territorial jurisdiction. The October 2026 congressional hearing was preceded by approximately one day's actual notice to the Municipality, limiting its opportunity to review the proposed measure, examine the technical documents, and adequately consult affected residents.

While the Municipality recognizes the legislative authority of Congress to conduct hearings, the abbreviated notice did not provide a meaningful opportunity for complete and informed local participation. Furthermore, the requirements for public consultation under the Expanded NIPAS framework must be addressed independently of the conduct of a congressional committee hearing.

The subsequent barangay assemblies, formal resolutions, signature campaigns, and people's organization resolutions demonstrate that the proposed declaration has generated substantial concerns among affected communities. These concerns include possible

restrictions on agricultural activities, property development, access to resources, and established livelihoods.

The Municipality does not claim that every affected resident uniformly opposes the measure. Rather, it submits that the documented community positions constitute material evidence that must be genuinely evaluated. The views of affected residents and property owners should not be treated as secondary considerations in determining the future regulatory status of the lands upon which they live and depend.

F. The proposed declaration must respect the responsibilities of local government and existing environmental protection measures

The Municipality recognizes the importance of protecting the watershed for water security, biodiversity conservation, erosion control, and environmental sustainability. Indeed, Matag-ob has already undertaken significant legislative, planning, and implementation measures toward these objectives.

Under Republic Act No. 7160, particularly Sections 16, 17, and 447, local governments exercise functions relating to public welfare, environmental management, resource conservation, and the protection of ecological balance, subject to applicable national laws.

Matag-ob has adopted its Forest Land Use Plan for 2022–2028, through Resolution No. 23-096, and enacted ordinances concerning forest and wildlife protection, tree cutting and replenishment, chainsaw regulation, groundwater extraction, freshwater protection, sanitation, and solid waste management. These include Municipal Ordinances Nos. 138 and 139, series of 2022; Nos. 150, 153, and 156, series of 2023; and No. 186, series of 2024, among others. The Municipality has likewise established its FLUP institutionalization framework under Municipal Ordinance No. 176, series of 2023, as amended by Municipal Ordinance No. 257, series of 2026. Its Ten-Year Solid Waste Management Plan was approved under NSWMC Resolution No. 412-A, series of 2023.

These legislative and planning initiatives are complemented by continuing implementation programs, including:

- Tree Growing and Nurturing Activity;
- River Clean-Up Drive;
- Basura Ko, Kinabukasan Ko Program;
- Ecolekta Patrol;
- ECOTURO information and education campaign; and
- Balik Kalikasan Program.

These measures demonstrate the Municipality's established commitment to environmental protection and responsible resource management.

These demonstrate that watershed conservation can be pursued through the strengthened enforcement of existing laws, rehabilitation programs, coordinated forest management, and meaningful community participation. The Municipality therefore submits that any additional national designation must be justified by clear conservation objectives and must account for its consequences upon existing local governance responsibilities, land-use planning, development programs, and community welfare.

IV. PRAYER

WHEREFORE, in view of the foregoing, the Municipal Government of Matag-ob, Leyte, respectfully:

1. REITERATES ITS STRONG OPPOSITION to House Bill No. 4065 and respectfully requests its DISAPPROVAL by the House of Representatives;
2. REQUESTS THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES to undertake a comprehensive review of the technical suitability findings, applicable statutory requirements, and legal status of the existing Palompon Watershed Forest Reserve;
3. CALLS FOR THE PROTECTION OF EXISTING PROPERTY AND PRIVATE RIGHTS, including the identification of affected properties, verification of land classifications and boundaries, disclosure of proposed restrictions, and meaningful consultation with affected property owners, occupants, and communities;
4. REAFFIRMS THE MUNICIPALITY'S COMMITMENT to work with DENR, the Provincial Government, neighboring local government units, and affected communities in implementing scientifically supported, legally appropriate, and sustainable watershed conservation measures.

The Municipality firmly believes that environmental protection and respect for private property rights are not mutually exclusive objectives. Both are essential responsibilities of government, and both must be upheld.

The legitimate objective of protecting the watershed must not come at the expense of disregarding unfavorable technical findings, bypassing statutory safeguards, or placing the rights and livelihoods of affected communities under uncertainty.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PROVINCE OF LEYTE
MUNICIPALITY OF MATAG-OB
BARANGAY CANDELARIA
OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG BARANGAY
RESOLUTION NO. 39
Series of **2026**

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE CONTINUING AND FIRM OPPOSITION OF BARANGAY CANDELARIA, MATAG-OB, LEYTE, TO THE PROPOSED DECLARATION OF THE PALOMPON WATERSHED FOREST RESERVE AS THE PALOMPON PROTECTED LANDSCAPE UNDER THE NATIONAL INTEGRATED PROTECTED AREAS SYSTEM, REQUESTING A THOROUGH REVIEW OF HOUSE BILL NO. 4065 IN LIGHT OF THE PREVIOUSLY FILED HOUSE BILL NO. 7160 AND THE OBJECTIONS OF AFFECTED COMMUNITIES, AND URGING THE EXCLUSION OF AREAS WHOSE SUITABILITY HAS NOT BEEN ADEQUATELY ESTABLISHED

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 7586, otherwise known as the *National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 1992*, as amended by Republic Act No. 11038, or the *Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 2018*, establishes the legal framework for the identification, evaluation, establishment, and management of protected areas in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, the Palompon Watershed Forest Reserve (PWFR) includes areas within the territorial jurisdiction of the Municipality of Matag-ob, Leyte, including portions of Barangay Candelaria, whose residents and local government have legitimate interests in the protection of the environment, the sustainable use of natural resources, and the preservation of lawful livelihoods and existing community activities;

WHEREAS, the affected local government and community have consistently voiced their objections to the proposed declaration of the PWFR as the Palompon Protected Landscape, expressing concerns regarding the proposed boundaries, the implications for existing lawful land uses and livelihoods, and the adequacy of the technical and scientific basis for the proposed designation;

WHEREAS, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) conducted a Protected Area Suitability Assessment (PASA) on August 11 to 16, 2025, with the assessment findings reportedly presented during a consultation held on October 3, 2025, at the Municipal Hall of Palompon, Leyte, which process gave rise to further concerns among affected stakeholders regarding the proposed protected-area designation;

WHEREAS, the results of the consultation reportedly reflected substantial opposition among interviewed stakeholders, with 60.75% expressing disagreement or strong disagreement with the proposed declaration, underscoring the need for meaningful consideration of the affected community's concerns, while recognizing that community opposition must be considered together with the applicable technical, scientific, and legal requirements;

WHEREAS, House Bill No. 7160 was filed during the Nineteenth Congress, proposing to declare the PWFR, covering portions of Palompon, Matag-ob, and Villaba, Leyte, as the Palompon Protected Landscape, and House Bill No. 4065 has subsequently been filed in the Twentieth Congress to advance substantially the same principal proposal;

WHEREAS, the filing of a substantially similar measure in a succeeding Congress does not, by itself, resolve the material objections and concerns previously raised by affected local governments and communities, and warrants a clear accounting of the earlier proposal's legislative history, the findings of the relevant DENR assessments, and the extent to which the current proposal addresses outstanding technical, environmental, legal, and socioeconomic issues;

WHEREAS, any proposed protected-area designation must be supported by the applicable statutory requirements, reliable scientific and technical findings, appropriate delineation of boundaries, and meaningful consultation with affected stakeholders, consistent with Republic Act No. 7586, as amended, its implementing rules and regulations, and other applicable laws and issuances;

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Matag-ob and its barangays have adopted local plans, environmental policies, and conservation-related initiatives, including applicable Forest Land Use Planning measures and other lawful environmental programs, which should be examined in evaluating the proposed designation and determining how conservation objectives may be achieved without unnecessarily prejudicing lawful community interests;

WHEREAS, the Local Government Code of 1991, or Republic Act No. 7160, recognizes the responsibilities of local government units in environmental management, ecological balance, and the delivery of basic services, subject to national laws and the respective powers and responsibilities of national government agencies;

WHEREAS, this Sangguniang Barangay maintains that the protection of the environment and the welfare of affected communities are complementary objectives, and that the proposed designation should not proceed in its present form without adequate substantiation of the suitability of the affected areas and a reasoned response to the material objections raised by the community;

NOW, THEREFORE, on motion of Hon. Reymar D. Andales, duly seconded by Hon. Agustin L. Demeterio, Jr., be it

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to express the continuing and firm opposition of Barangay Candelaria, Matag-ob, Leyte, to the proposed declaration of the Palompon Watershed Forest Reserve as the Palompon Protected Landscape under the National Integrated Protected Areas System, insofar as it affects the territorial jurisdiction and legitimate interests of this Barangay, in the proposal's present form and extent;

RESOLVED FURTHER, to request the DENR Regional Office VIII and the appropriate concerned offices to provide and explain the relevant Protected Area Suitability Assessment reports, technical studies, biodiversity findings, maps, proposed boundaries, consultation records, and other pertinent documents, including the findings and disposition of the earlier assessment and proposal, subject to applicable laws and regulations;

RESOLVED FURTHER, to request a thorough review of House Bill No. 4065 in light of House Bill No. 7160, the previous objections of affected communities, and all relevant technical and legal findings, with a view to determining whether the present proposal adequately establishes the suitability and necessity of including the affected portions within the proposed protected area;

RESOLVED FURTHER, to urge the DENR and other concerned authorities to conduct meaningful consultations with the affected local governments and communities, afford them a reasonable opportunity to examine the supporting documents and submit evidence or objections, and address such submissions before making or maintaining any favorable recommendation concerning the affected portions;

RESOLVED FURTHER, to request that no favorable final recommendation be made concerning the affected portions until the material objections and technical issues have been properly examined and addressed, and to urge the exclusion of any portion whose suitability for protected-area designation has not been adequately established under applicable law;

RESOLVED FURTHER, to respectfully urge the appropriate committees and Members of the House of Representatives to consider this Resolution and its supporting documents in their evaluation of House Bill No. 4065, and to reject or reconsider the measure in its present form if its legal, scientific, and technical basis remains insufficient or the material concerns of affected communities remain unresolved;

RESOLVED FINALLY, that copies of this Resolution be furnished to the DENR Regional Office VIII, the concerned Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office and Community Environment and Natural Resources Office, the Municipal Government of Matag-ob, the Sangguniang Bayan of Matag-ob, the Provincial Government of Leyte, the appropriate committees of the House of Representatives, the Representative of the concerned legislative district, and other concerned government offices for their information and appropriate action.

ADOPTED this 26th day of October 2026, at Barangay Candelaria, Municipality of Matag-ob, Province of Leyte, Philippines.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CESAR P. DE ASIS
Barangay Secretary

ATTESTED BY:

ALGERICA P. ANDALES
Barangay Kagawad

AGUSTIN L. DEMETERIO, JR.
Barangay Kagawad

LEZIL D. POVADORA
Barangay Kagawad

ROCHE B. OLORVIDA
Barangay Kagawad

REYMAR D. ANDALES
Barangay Kagawad

RODULFO L. CATANDA
Barangay Kagawad

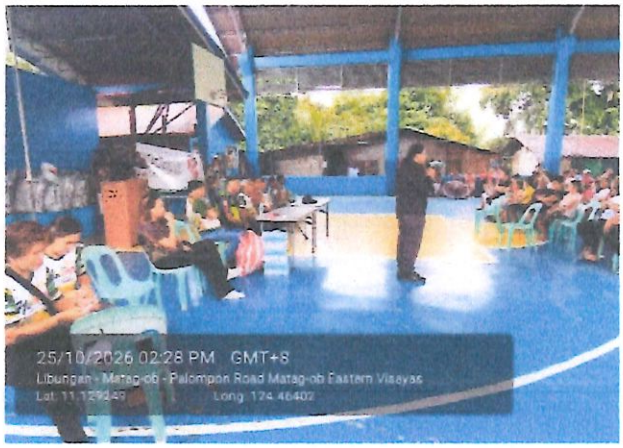
MARK LINDON B. OLORVIDA
Barangay Kagawad

LEO V. PELAYO
SK Chairman

APPROVED BY:

DIONESIO A. OLORVIDA, SR.
Presiding Officer/Punong Barangay


BARANGAY ASSEMBLY DAY


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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PROVINCE OF LEYTE
MUNICIPALITY OF MATAG-OB
BARANGAY Malazarte
OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG BARANGAY

RESOLUTION NO. 168
Series of **2026**

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE CONTINUING AND FIRM OPPOSITION OF BARANGAY MALAZARTE, MATAG-OB, LEYTE, TO THE PROPOSED DECLARATION OF THE PALOMPON WATERSHED FOREST RESERVE AS THE PALOMPON PROTECTED LANDSCAPE UNDER THE NATIONAL INTEGRATED PROTECTED AREAS SYSTEM, REQUESTING A THOROUGH REVIEW OF HOUSE BILL NO. 4065 IN LIGHT OF THE PREVIOUSLY FILED HOUSE BILL NO. 7160 AND THE OBJECTIONS OF AFFECTED COMMUNITIES, AND URGING THE EXCLUSION OF AREAS WHOSE SUITABILITY HAS NOT BEEN ADEQUATELY ESTABLISHED

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 7586, otherwise known as the *National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 1992*, as amended by Republic Act No. 11038, or the *Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 2018*, establishes the legal framework for the identification, evaluation, establishment, and management of protected areas in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, the Palompon Watershed Forest Reserve (PWFR) includes areas within the territorial jurisdiction of the Municipality of Matag-ob, Leyte, including portions of Barangay Malazarte, whose residents and local government have legitimate interests in the protection of the environment, the sustainable use of natural resources, and the preservation of lawful livelihoods and existing community activities;

WHEREAS, the affected local government and community have consistently voiced their objections to the proposed declaration of the PWFR as the Palompon Protected Landscape, expressing concerns regarding the proposed boundaries, the implications for existing lawful land uses and livelihoods, and the adequacy of the technical and scientific basis for the proposed designation;

WHEREAS, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) conducted a Protected Area Suitability Assessment (PASA) on August 11 to 16, 2025, with the assessment findings reportedly presented during a consultation held on October 3, 2025, at the Municipal Hall of Palompon, Leyte, which process gave rise to further concerns among affected stakeholders regarding the proposed protected-area designation;

WHEREAS, the results of the consultation reportedly reflected substantial opposition among interviewed stakeholders, with 60.75% expressing disagreement or strong disagreement with the proposed declaration, underscoring the need for meaningful consideration of the affected community's concerns, while recognizing that community opposition must be considered together with the applicable technical, scientific, and legal requirements;

WHEREAS, House Bill No. 7160 was filed during the Nineteenth Congress, proposing to declare the PWFR, covering portions of Palompon, Matag-ob, and Villaba, Leyte, as the Palompon Protected Landscape, and House Bill No. 4065 has subsequently been filed in the Twentieth Congress to advance substantially the same principal proposal;

WHEREAS, the filing of a substantially similar measure in a succeeding Congress does not, by itself, resolve the material objections and concerns previously raised by affected local governments and

communities, and warrants a clear accounting of the earlier proposal's legislative history, the findings of the relevant DENR assessments, and the extent to which the current proposal addresses outstanding technical, environmental, legal, and socioeconomic issues;

WHEREAS, any proposed protected-area designation must be supported by the applicable statutory requirements, reliable scientific and technical findings, appropriate delineation of boundaries, and meaningful consultation with affected stakeholders, consistent with Republic Act No. 7586, as amended, its implementing rules and regulations, and other applicable laws and issuances;

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Matag-ob and its barangays have adopted local plans, environmental policies, and conservation-related initiatives, including applicable Forest Land Use Planning measures and other lawful environmental programs, which should be examined in evaluating the proposed designation and determining how conservation objectives may be achieved without unnecessarily prejudicing lawful community interests;

WHEREAS, the Local Government Code of 1991, or Republic Act No. 7160, recognizes the responsibilities of local government units in environmental management, ecological balance, and the delivery of basic services, subject to national laws and the respective powers and responsibilities of national government agencies;

WHEREAS, this Sangguniang Barangay maintains that the protection of the environment and the welfare of affected communities are complementary objectives, and that the proposed designation should not proceed in its present form without adequate substantiation of the suitability of the affected areas and a reasoned response to the material objections raised by the community;

NOW, THEREFORE, on motion of Hon. Armando F. Nuñez, duly seconded by Hon. Geraldine A. Flores, be it

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to express the continuing and firm opposition of Barangay Malazarte, Matag-ob, Leyte, to the proposed declaration of the Palompon Watershed Forest Reserve as the Palompon Protected Landscape under the National Integrated Protected Areas System, insofar as it affects the territorial jurisdiction and legitimate interests of this Barangay, in the proposal's present form and extent;

RESOLVED FURTHER, to request the DENR Regional Office VIII and the appropriate concerned offices to provide and explain the relevant Protected Area Suitability Assessment reports, technical studies, biodiversity findings, maps, proposed boundaries, consultation records, and other pertinent documents, including the findings and disposition of the earlier assessment and proposal, subject to applicable laws and regulations;

RESOLVED FURTHER, to request a thorough review of House Bill No. 4065 in light of House Bill No. 7160, the previous objections of affected communities, and all relevant technical and legal findings, with a view to determining whether the present proposal adequately establishes the suitability and necessity of including the affected portions within the proposed protected area;

RESOLVED FURTHER, to urge the DENR and other concerned authorities to conduct meaningful consultations with the affected local governments and communities, afford them a reasonable opportunity to examine the supporting documents and submit evidence or objections, and address such submissions before making or maintaining any favorable recommendation concerning the affected portions;

RESOLVED FURTHER, to request that no favorable final recommendation be made concerning the affected portions until the material objections and technical issues have been properly examined and addressed, and to urge the exclusion of any portion whose suitability for protected-area designation has not been adequately established under applicable law;

RESOLVED FURTHER, to respectfully urge the appropriate committees and Members of the House of Representatives to consider this Resolution and its supporting documents in their evaluation of House Bill No. 4065, and to reject or reconsider the measure in its present form if its legal, scientific, and technical basis remains insufficient or the material concerns of affected communities remain unresolved;

RESOLVED FINALLY, that copies of this Resolution be furnished to the DENR Regional Office VIII, the concerned Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office and Community Environment and Natural Resources Office, the Municipal Government of Matag-ob, the Sangguniang Bayan of Matag-ob, the Provincial Government of Leyte, the appropriate committees of the House of Representatives, the Representative of the concerned legislative district, and other concerned government offices for their information and appropriate action.

ADOPTED this 24th day of October 2026, at Barangay Malazarte, Municipality of Matag-ob, Province of Leyte, Philippines.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

JUVERIZA P. SAMSON
Barangay Secretary

ATTESTED BY:

MIGUEL E. DAGSAAN
Barangay Kagawad

ARMANDO F. NUÑEZ
Barangay Kagawad

LINA L. RAGAS
Barangay Kagawad

CAROLINA R. BONGBONG
Barangay Kagawad

PRAXEDES C. EGUIO
Barangay Kagawad

CAMILO P. BONGBONG JR.
Barangay Kagawad

GERALDINE A. FLORES
Barangay Kagawad

APPROVED BY:

SHERWEN B. NUÑEZ
Presiding Officer / Punong Barangay

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PROVINCE OF LEYTE
MUNICIPALITY OF MATAG-OB
BARANGAY MASABA

OFFICE OF THE PUNONG BARANGAY

EXCERPTS FROM THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF BARANGAY COUNCIL BARANGAY MASABA ,MATAG-OB , LEYTE HELD AT BRGY. HALL ON OCTOBER 17,2026.

PRESENT:

1.EDITO D. PANTANO (Presiding Officers)	PUNONG BARANGAY	
2.Hon.NIRESA C. MALAMDAG	BARANGAY KAGAWAD	
3.Hon. VIC R. LODOVICA	BARANGAY KAGAWAD	
4.Hon. LETECIA L. LUBIANO	BARANGAY KAGAWAD	
5.Hon. MICHELLE I. RELOS	BARANGAY KAGAWAD	
6.Hon. ROSALINDA P. RESANDO	BARANGAY KAGAWAD	
7.Hon. ELSIE M. GONZAGA	BARANGAY KAGAWAD	
8.Hon. DONABEL M. LUBIANO	BARANGAY KAGAWAD	

THIS SESSION WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 8:00 A.M. BY THE PRESIDING OFFICERS

RESOLUTION NO. 295
Series of **2026**

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE CONTINUING AND FIRM OPPOSITION OF BARANGAY MASABA, MATAG-OB, LEYTE, TO THE PROPOSED DECLARATION OF THE PALOMPON WATERSHED FOREST RESERVE AS THE PALOMPON PROTECTED LANDSCAPE UNDER THE NATIONAL INTEGRATED PROTECTED AREAS SYSTEM, REQUESTING A THOROUGH REVIEW OF HOUSE BILL NO. 4065 IN LIGHT OF THE PREVIOUSLY FILED HOUSE BILL NO. 7160 AND THE OBJECTIONS OF AFFECTED COMMUNITIES, AND URGING THE EXCLUSION OF AREAS WHOSE SUITABILITY HAS NOT BEEN ADEQUATELY ESTABLISHED

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 7586, otherwise known as the *National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 1992*, as amended by Republic Act No. 11038, or the *Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 2018*, establishes the legal framework for the identification, evaluation, establishment, and management of protected areas in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, the Palompon Watershed Forest Reserve (PWFR) includes areas within the territorial jurisdiction of the Municipality of Matag-ob, Leyte, including portions of Barangay Masaba, whose residents and local government have legitimate interests in the protection of the environment, the sustainable use of natural resources, and the preservation of lawful livelihoods and existing community activities;

WHEREAS, the affected local government and community have consistently voiced their objections to the proposed declaration of the PWFR as the Palompon Protected Landscape, expressing concerns regarding the proposed boundaries, the implications for existing lawful land uses and livelihoods, and the adequacy of the technical and scientific basis for the proposed designation;

WHEREAS, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) conducted a Protected Area Suitability Assessment (PASA) on August 11 to 16, 2025, with the assessment findings reportedly presented during a consultation held on October 3, 2025, at the Municipal Hall of Palompon, Leyte, which process gave rise to further concerns among affected stakeholders regarding the proposed protected-area designation;

WHEREAS, the results of the consultation reportedly reflected substantial opposition among interviewed stakeholders, with 60.75% expressing disagreement or strong disagreement with the proposed declaration, underscoring the need for meaningful consideration of the affected community's concerns, while recognizing that community opposition must be considered together with the applicable technical, scientific, and legal requirements;

WHEREAS, House Bill No. 7160 was filed during the Nineteenth Congress, proposing to declare the PWFR, covering portions of Palompon, Matag-ob, and Villaba, Leyte, as the Palompon Protected Landscape, and House Bill No. 4065 has subsequently been filed in the Twentieth Congress to advance substantially the same principal proposal;

WHEREAS, the filing of a substantially similar measure in a succeeding Congress does not, by itself, resolve the material objections and concerns previously raised by affected local governments and communities, and warrants a clear accounting of the earlier proposal's legislative history, the findings of the relevant DENR assessments, and the extent to which the current proposal addresses outstanding technical, environmental, legal, and socioeconomic issues;

WHEREAS, any proposed protected-area designation must be supported by the applicable statutory requirements, reliable scientific and technical findings, appropriate delineation of boundaries, and meaningful consultation with affected stakeholders, consistent with Republic Act No. 7586, as amended, its implementing rules and regulations, and other applicable laws and issuances;

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Matag-ob and its barangays have adopted local plans, environmental policies, and conservation-related initiatives, including applicable Forest Land Use Planning measures and other lawful environmental programs, which should be examined in evaluating the proposed designation and determining how conservation objectives may be achieved without unnecessarily prejudicing lawful community interests;

WHEREAS, the Local Government Code of 1991, or Republic Act No. 7160, recognizes the responsibilities of local government units in environmental management, ecological balance, and the delivery of basic

services, subject to national laws and the respective powers and responsibilities of national government agencies;

WHEREAS, this Sangguniang Barangay maintains that the protection of the environment and the welfare of affected communities are complementary objectives, and that the proposed designation should not proceed in its present form without adequate substantiation of the suitability of the affected areas and a reasoned response to the material objections raised by the community;

NOW, THEREFORE, on motion of Hon. Donabel Lubiano, duly seconded by Hon. Niresa M.Comeso, be it

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to express the continuing and firm opposition of Barangay Masaba, Matag-ob, Leyte, to the proposed declaration of the Palompon Watershed Forest Reserve as the Palompon Protected Landscape under the National Integrated Protected Areas System, insofar as it affects the territorial jurisdiction and legitimate interests of this Barangay, in the proposal's present form and extent;

RESOLVED FURTHER, to request the DENR Regional Office VIII and the appropriate concerned offices to provide and explain the relevant Protected Area Suitability Assessment reports, technical studies, biodiversity findings, maps, proposed boundaries, consultation records, and other pertinent documents, including the findings and disposition of the earlier assessment and proposal, subject to applicable laws and regulations;

RESOLVED FURTHER, to request a thorough review of House Bill No. 4065 in light of House Bill No. 7160, the previous objections of affected communities, and all relevant technical and legal findings, with a view to determining whether the present proposal adequately establishes the suitability and necessity of including the affected portions within the proposed protected area;

RESOLVED FURTHER, to urge the DENR and other concerned authorities to conduct meaningful consultations with the affected local governments and communities, afford them a reasonable opportunity to examine the supporting documents and submit evidence or objections, and address such submissions before making or maintaining any favorable recommendation concerning the affected portions;

RESOLVED FURTHER, to request that no favorable final recommendation be made concerning the affected portions until the material objections and technical issues have been properly examined and addressed, and to urge the exclusion of any portion whose suitability for protected-area designation has not been adequately established under applicable law;

RESOLVED FURTHER, to respectfully urge the appropriate committees and Members of the House of Representatives to consider this Resolution and its supporting documents in their evaluation of House Bill No. 4065, and to reject or reconsider the measure in its present form if its legal, scientific, and technical basis remains insufficient or the material concerns of affected communities remain unresolved;

RESOLVED FINALLY, that copies of this Resolution be furnished to the DENR Regional Office VIII, the concerned Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office and Community Environment and Natural Resources Office, the Municipal Government of Matag-ob, the Sangguniang Bayan of Matag-ob, the Provincial Government of Leyte, the appropriate committees of the House of Representatives, the Representative of the concerned legislative district, and other concerned government offices for their information and appropriate action.

ADOPTED this 18th day of OCTOBER 2026, at Barangay Masaba, Municipality of Matag-ob, Province of Leyte, Philippines.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

MIRALYN E. LUBIANO
Barangay Secretary

ATTESTED BY:

HON. EDITO D. PANTANO
Punong Barangay

APPROVED BY:

HON. EDITO D. PANTANO
Presiding Officer / Punong Barangay

MANIFESTATION OF OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILL NO. 4065 AND SUPPORT FOR THE DISESTABLISHMENT OF THE PALOMPON WATERSHED FOREST RESERVE (PWFR) ON THE GROUND OF FAILURE TO MEET THE PROTECTED AREA SUITABILITY ASSESSMENT (PASA) STANDARDS AND CRITERIA PRESCRIBED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DENR) REGION VIII.

BRGY. CAMBADBAD, MATAG-OB, LEYTE

No.	Name	Signature
1	FE V. SOSMEÑA	
2	Megie Sanchez	
3	Lilia Pialago	
4	Loyd Piabago	
5	MERLY DECIO	
6	Liberato Piabago	
7	Anita Toledo	
8	Carmel, Jhonna A.	
9	FE TOLEDO	
10	JENNIFER BUENASEDA	
11	Maria Bation	Maria B. Bation
12	Rachel Batian	R. Batian
13	Fedelyn P. Obando	
14	Rogelio	Rogelio
15	Sherlita Bati-on	Sherlita Bation
16	Rosario Bation	
17	Agustina R. Flores	
18	Felix Obando	Felix
19	Merelyn Setenta	
20	Liezel Obando	
21	ROBERTO G. LOAISIGAS JR.	
22	Geronimo Obando	
23	Isabel Villagas	Isabel Villagas
24	Brenda O. Padeiro	
25	ORLANDO PINEDO	
26	Marial Obando	
27	Juana Barog	J. Barog
28	Aneeta Decio	
29	Joshua Himerino	
30	Salvador Decio	

MANIFESTATION OF OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILL NO. 4065 AND SUPPORT FOR THE DISESTABLISHMENT OF THE PALOMPON WATERSHED FOREST RESERVE (PWFR) ON THE GROUND OF FAILURE TO MEET THE PROTECTED AREA SUITABILITY ASSESSMENT (PASA) STANDARDS AND CRITERIA PRESCRIBED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DENR) REGION VIII.

BRGY. CAMBADBAD, MATAG-OB, LEYTE

No.	Name	Signature
31	Alberto Aunzo	
32	Elmer C. Lechavez	
33	Salome L. Cabug	
34	Melanie A. Lechavez	
35	Solita R. Aunzo	Solita R. Aunzo
36	Clemencia B. Nuñez	
37	Virginia Y. Beto	Beto
38	Jossie K. Sasing	
39	Jovenciano S. Zamora	
40	Margie A. Pialago	
41	Michell N. Berog	
42	Antonio Nuñez	
43	Nestiebedad Ormopia	
44	ALFREDO B. Bation	A.B
45	Regine B. Bation	
46	Milagros Zamora	
47	Erwin B Bation IV	
48	Marlinda Bagero	
49	MARCHELL AGUSTIN T. BAGUIO	
50	RUTCHELL M. BAGUIO	
51	ERICA MAY T. BAGUIO	
52	Julita F. Rodriguez	
53	Ma. Pina Villegas	Villegas
54	Jan Jan V. Mabini	
55	Cristina Lavezares	
56	Joshua Almeirino	
57	Marciana Lucanas	Marciana Lucanas
58	Robert A. Pialago	
59	Agnes P. Rialego	
60	Crisaldo Divina	C Divina

MANIFESTATION OF OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILL NO. 4065 AND SUPPORT FOR THE DISESTABLISHMENT OF THE PALOMPON WATERSHED FOREST RESERVE (PWFR) ON THE GROUND OF FAILURE TO MEET THE PROTECTED AREA SUITABILITY ASSESSMENT (PASA) STANDARDS AND CRITERIA PRESCRIBED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DENR) REGION VIII.

BRGY. CAMBADBAD, MATAG-OB, LEYTE

No.	Name	Signature
61	Jonde Mabini	
62	Jennie P. Lubiano	J.L
63	Melvin A. Pialago	
64	Liezel A Pialago	
65	Guilbert A. Pialago	
66	Benjamin Pialago	
67	Antonia A Pialago	
68	Maria Luz L Pialago	
69	Randy A Pialago	
70	Margie P. Dellosa	
71	Jessie Dellosa	J.D
72	Jona Mabini	
73	Marciana Lucañas	M Lucanas
74	Eduardo Lucañas	E.L
75	Joelito Mabini	
76	Rosemari Mabini	
77	Vicente Mabini	
78	Jay-ar Mabini	
79	Norma Decio	
80	Bernie Gaac	
81	Joveslyn Mabini	
82	Maricris Decio	
83	William Decio	
84	Jocelyn Nuñez	
85	Jericho	J.G
86	Bonifacia Berog	B.B
87	Cerilo Berog	C.B
88	Cristian Lumapas	
89	Marvin Montellano	Marvin
90	Paterno Montellano	PM

MANIFESTATION OF OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILL NO. 4065 AND SUPPORT FOR THE DISESTABLISHMENT OF THE PALOMPON WATERSHED FOREST RESERVE (PWFR) ON THE GROUND OF FAILURE TO MEET THE PROTECTED AREA SUITABILITY ASSESSMENT (PASA) STANDARDS AND CRITERIA PRESCRIBED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DENR) REGION VIII.

BRGY. CAMBADBAD, MATAG-OB, LEYTE

No.	Name	Signature
91	Emmanuel Bagno	
92	Shanshin Decio	
93	Bautista Jasan	
94	Jonathan Batian	Jonathan
95	Quirino Dapulag	
96	Ethel Decio	
97	Ethel Decio	
98	Junie Tumacdang	
99	Analiza Lucañas	
100	Mark Pacaldo	
101	May Pacaldo	
102	Michael Pacaldo	
103	Joan Villegas	
104	Francisca Luna	
105	Adelaida Lucañas	Adelaida
106	Roberto Lucañas	R.L
107	MELBO Montellano	MELVO
108	Saturnio Padecio	
109	Lourena Padecio	Leonora
110	Lorena Saldivar	
111	Marciana Yaon	
112	Anesa Laraño	Anesa Laraño
113	Abelina Montellano	Abelina
114	Paquito Montellano Jr.	
115	Paquito Montellano Sr.	
116	Alo Calso	Calso
117	Alfredo Batian	
118	Bruli Decio	
119	Salvador Decio Sr.	
120	Mercedes Manan dagdag	

MANIFESTATION OF OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILL NO. 4065 AND SUPPORT FOR THE DISESTABLISHMENT OF THE PALOMPON WATERSHED FOREST RESERVE (PWFR) ON THE GROUND OF FAILURE TO MEET THE PROTECTED AREA SUITABILITY ASSESSMENT (PASA) STANDARDS AND CRITERIA PRESCRIBED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DENR) REGION VIII.

BRGY. CAMBADBAD, MATAG-OB, LEYTE

No.	Name	Signature
121	Antonio Manzan	
122	Pablita Manzan	
123	Randy Amso	
124	Silverio Amso	
125	Emmie Lanuza	
126	Maribeth Pacaldo	
127	Jessie Montellano	
128	Mansueto Pacaldo	
129	Margie Dulosa	
130	Anadyn Majadas	
131	Floraldis Obando	
132	Maria Decio	
133	Florali Obando	
134	Villegas Benjie G.	
135	Joanne Batian	
136	Villegas Jessie	
137	Jomar Villegas	
138	Romides Villegas	
139	Arlene Dayaba	
140	Romulo Palago	
141	Rosegreen Padeo	
142	Fenandado Bernardino	
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MANIFESTATION OF OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILL NO. 4065 AND SUPPORT FOR THE DISESTABLISHMENT OF THE PALOMPON WATERSHED FOREST RESERVE (PWFR) ON THE GROUND OF FAILURE TO MEET THE PROTECTED AREA SUITABILITY ASSESSMENT (PASA) STANDARDS AND CRITERIA PRESCRIBED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DENR) REGION VIII.

BRGY. STA. ROSA, MATAG-OB, LEYTE

No.	Name	Signature
1	RYAN SOCO	
2	MARIA JUDITH F. SOCO	
3	Lloyd Arjay Soco	
4	Florepas Soco	
5	ISAGANI SOCO	
6	ARIS KIM SOTO	
7	RODERIC GABALES	
8	Nena Soco	
9	DOLORAD ANDALES	
10	Lovett Ann Ariesgado	
11	ANGELOD GABALES	
12	JUAN ANDALES	
13	DANNO VINAMAR	
14	Jacelyn Villamor	
15	Rodrigo Andales	
16	Emelia Andales	
17	Shin Andales	
18	Pinky Andales	
19	Cecile M. Bongo	
20	DANILO CASTAÑO	
21	Leticia Castaño	
22	Glenda Castaño	
23	Norberto Bechaida	
24	Monaliza Bechaida	
25	Anita Sima	
26	Saturnino Bulambaco	
27	Senwin Pogado	
28	Cortez, Mailyn	
29	Letrero, Kenny	
30	Baguero, Ma. Elena	

MANIFESTATION OF OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILL NO. 4065 AND SUPPORT FOR THE DISESTABLISHMENT OF THE PALOMPON WATERSHED FOREST RESERVE (PWFR) ON THE GROUND OF FAILURE TO MEET THE PROTECTED AREA SUITABILITY ASSESSMENT (PASA) STANDARDS AND CRITERIA PRESCRIBED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DENR) REGION VIII.

BRGY. STA. ROSA, MATAG-OB, LEYTE

No.	Name	Signature
31	Felicidad B. Mejos	
32	Dominador M. Mejos	
33	Jinky B. Mejos	
34	Jamell B. Mejos	
35	Shea B. Mejos	
36	Jobert B. Mejos	
37	Arnulfo M. Mejos	
38	Filma D. Rimpag	
39	Felisa M. Donayre	Felisa Donayre
40	Kabelino M. Donayre	
41	Rhodora C. Donayre	
42	Steve M. Donayre	
43	Judiel Steve C. Donayre	
44	Jho Frieo	
45	VILMA M. MEJOS	
46	EMERLINDA M. DECIO	Emerlinda Decio
47	MARCELINO D. DECIO	
48	Rodney Mejos	
49	Elmo Mejos	
50	Evelyn Mejos	
51	Kenlyn Mejos	
52	Ariel Jay Lazo	
53	Jia P. Braulles	
54	Jane M. Olañida	
55	Ramel Lazo	
56	Rosalie C. Lazo	
57	Erwin P. Lazo	Erwin Lazo
58	NICASIO CARBO	
59	Rodelfa Manzalen	
60	Arsifa Molina	

MANIFESTATION OF OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILL NO. 4065 AND SUPPORT FOR THE DISESTABLISHMENT OF THE PALOMPON WATERSHED FOREST RESERVE (PWFR) ON THE GROUND OF FAILURE TO MEET THE PROTECTED AREA SUITABILITY ASSESSMENT (PASA) STANDARDS AND CRITERIA PRESCRIBED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DENR) REGION VIII.

BRGY. STA. ROSA, MATAG-OB, LEYTE

No.	Name	Signature
61	Rodnen Mejos	
62	AILEEN G. BARCO	
63	RANDY GIVA	
64	James Mejos	
65	Lovie Jhon Lubiano	
66	REMIL C. Labrador	
67		
68	Jike C. Giva	
69	Jaineart G. Barco	
70	ANdy L. Obando	
71	Vicente Somaon	
72	JAY B. CAÑAS	
73	Michael G. Betik	
74	Baran Jeremias	
75	Bongil G. Bonifacio	
76	Lubiano, Renz	
77	Jerick Santos	
78	Kim Baream	
79	PJEGIE GIVA	
80	Althea Mae Giva	
81	Patricia Emilio	
82	Kyle B. Bonquerro	
83	Marvin Giva	
84	VINENCIA M. GIVA	
85	ROLANDO GIVA	
86	Virginia Obando	Virginia Obando
87	Gloria Labrador	Gloria Labrador
88	Ranwayin Aj	
89	MARY ANN J. SELIM	
90		

MANIFESTATION OF OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILL NO. 4065 AND SUPPORT FOR THE DISESTABLISHMENT OF THE PALOMPON WATERSHED FOREST RESERVE (PWFR) ON THE GROUND OF FAILURE TO MEET THE PROTECTED AREA SUITABILITY ASSESSMENT (PASA) STANDARDS AND CRITERIA PRESCRIBED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DENR) REGION VIII.

BRGY. STA. ROSA, MATAG-OB, LEYTE

No.	Name	Signature
91	Jay Ann Regalado	
92	Santos Regalado Sr.	
93	Jonas Lisondra	
94	Mark Anthony Regalado	
95	Dilan Regalado	
96	Marilyn Regalado	
97	Ivy Cunto	
98	Paquito Bulambao Jr.	
99	Ilan Demeterio	idemeterio
100	Ariel Coste	
101	Paquito Bulambao Sr.	
102	Kenlie Bulambao	
103	Mervin Bulambao	
104	Kynie Bulambao	
105	Rosalinda Bulambao	
106	Chinkee Demeterio	
107	Roberto Asingua	R-A
108	Mario Bongo	
109	Agustin Mansing	
110	Cecile Bongo	
111	Rachel Mansing	
112	Rodulfo Monsales	
113	Mariel Monsales	
114	Rodel Monsales	
115	Santiago Calevo	
116	Entracia Calves	
117	Ma. Elena E. Baguero	
118	Virgilio J. Baguero	
119	Marie Gil E. Baguero	
120	VICENTE ANDALES	

MANIFESTATION OF OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILL NO. 4065 AND SUPPORT FOR THE DISESTABLISHMENT OF THE PALOMPON WATERSHED FOREST RESERVE (PWFR) ON THE GROUND OF FAILURE TO MEET THE PROTECTED AREA SUITABILITY ASSESSMENT (PASA) STANDARDS AND CRITERIA PRESCRIBED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DENR) REGION VIII.

BRGY. STA. ROSA, MATAG-OB, LEYTE

No.	Name	Signature
121	JORELITO CUSORE	
122	Delie Almerino	
123	Rea Marie Giva	
124	Ma. RUEL L. GIVA	
125	Vitaliano G. Pamugaling	
126	Juan Rosa M. Leiva	
127	CESAR D CASIANO	C.C
128	MARILYN ALIDO	
129	Elizan Alido	Elizan Alido
130	EMERITA MONTESCLAROS	Emerita Montesclaros
131	Jerick Montesclaros	
132	Evelyn Fernandez	
133	ROBERTA L. LEVA	
134	Edgar CASTAÑO	
135	Amelita Ledisto	
136	Emelia M. Laureño	Emelia M Laureño
137	Julito M. Laureño Jr.	
138	Julito G. Laureño Sr.	
139	Jason M. Laureño	
140	FECHIE L. GIVA	
141	ABUNDIO CASTAÑO	
142	Bienvinido Obando	
143	Anita Leva	
144	REY L. GIVA	
145	Michael G. Betik	
146	Meriam Mejos	
147	Bobby G. Obando	
148	CRESENCIA FERNANDEZ	
149	Margie Bautista	Margie Bautista
150	Angie C. Bautista	

MANIFESTATION OF OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILL NO. 4065 AND SUPPORT FOR THE DISESTABLISHMENT OF THE PALOMPON WATERSHED FOREST RESERVE (PWFR) ON THE GROUND OF FAILURE TO MEET THE PROTECTED AREA SUITABILITY ASSESSMENT (PASA) STANDARDS AND CRITERIA PRESCRIBED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DENR) REGION VIII.

BRGY. STA. ROSA, MATAG-OB, LEYTE

No.	Name	Signature
151	JONKY CASTAÑO	
152	Jovita Almerino	
153	Ritchel G. Gecain	
154	JEONGE P CASTAÑO	
155	BENJIE GIVA	
156	Jeson Giva	
157	Athlea Mae Giva	
158	Rachel Ann Giva	
159	Romeo L. Giva	
160	Rechia Mae C. Giva	
161	Rifecia L Castaño	
162	Danilo V. Castaño	
163	Glenda C. Paredes	
164	JULITO LAUNEMO	J.L
165		
166	Domilin M. Giva	
167	Federico SANTOS	
168	Arnolyn I. OBANDO	
169	NESTOR MONTEALTO	
170	ELMA LEECAIN	
171	Jean CATAMAYAN	
172	MICHAEL CATAMAYAN	
173	AIREN M. FERNANDEZ	
174	REY L. FERNANDEZ	
175	ARCELENE F. SOGILLO	
176	RODEL L. FERNANDEZ	
177	DONCIANO SOGILLO	
178	MAE NICOLE G. FERNANDEZ	
179	GINA OBANDO	
180	LEWIS ONATE	

MANIFESTATION OF OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILL NO. 4065 AND SUPPORT FOR THE DISESTABLISHMENT OF THE PALOMPON WATERSHED FOREST RESERVE (PWFR) ON THE GROUND OF FAILURE TO MEET THE PROTECTED AREA SUITABILITY ASSESSMENT (PASA) STANDARDS AND CRITERIA PRESCRIBED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DENR) REGION VIII.

BRGY. STA. ROSA, MATAG-OB, LEYTE

No.	Name	Signature
181	JOCELYN B DECIPLO	
182	Jecelle P. Peniones	
183	Oliver D. Peniones	
184	Ryan E. Escano	
185	Rene Dela Cruz	R-ENE
186	Marissa D. Ponso	Marissa
187	Melina S. Decio	
188	Mario Decio	mario
189	Justine Decio	
190	Lydia DECIO	
191	Leoncio DECIO	L Deci
192	Jhean Donayre	
193	Gomma N. Donayre	
194	Erly C. Donayre	
195	Eufemio L-Donayre Jr.	
196	Eufemio M. Donayre Sr.	
197	Rebecca L. Donayre	
198	Elyn L. Donayre	
199	Roel L Donayre	
200	Ernito Donayre	
201	JOY B. DECIPOLO	
202	Jovielyn G. Reyray	
203	ROGER DECIPOLO	
204	Jinky Fuentes	
205	Ariel Fuentes	
206	JAIME NODALO	
207	CAMELLE LAURENTE	
208	Dennis Lapino	Dennis
209	Jay Bandino	
210	JESSA TUBOY	

MANIFESTATION OF OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILL NO. 4065 AND SUPPORT FOR THE DISESTABLISHMENT OF THE PALOMPON WATERSHED FOREST RESERVE (PWFR) ON THE GROUND OF FAILURE TO MEET THE PROTECTED AREA SUITABILITY ASSESSMENT (PASA) STANDARDS AND CRITERIA PRESCRIBED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DENR) REGION VIII.

BRGY. STA. ROSA, MATAG-OB, LEYTE

No.	Name	Signature
211	Venus Quintigo	
212	Melissa Cattano	
213	Agustin Cattano	
214	Elvira Cabiltes	
215	Sopriano Comission	
216	Manilo Rondina	
217	Monica P. Ayuste	
218	Erlinda C. Orillo	
219	Alvin S. Rondina	
220	Edgar C Orillo	
221	Pibelo Orillo	
222	Danilo Sumaraga	
223	Edsel Onilo	
224		
225		
226		
227		
228	Rael Rondina	
229		
230	Jessie Dela Cruz	
231		
232		
233		
234		
235	Marina Tabon	
236	Sergia Ponso	
237		
238		
239		
240	Guillermo Donayre	

MANIFESTATION OF OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILL NO. 4065 AND SUPPORT FOR THE DISESTABLISHMENT OF THE PALOMPON WATERSHED FOREST RESERVE (PWFR) ON THE GROUND OF FAILURE TO MEET THE PROTECTED AREA SUITABILITY ASSESSMENT (PASA) STANDARDS AND CRITERIA PRESCRIBED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DENR) REGION VIII.

BRGY. STA. ROSA, MATAG-OB, LEYTE

No.	Name	Signature
241	Raquita Bongo	
242	Helen Pobadona	
243	ARNOLD MEJOS	
244	WILLY MEJOS	
245	Perlita Mejos	
246	Maricel Mejos	M.M
247	Conchita Canias	
248	Maria Mansing	
249	PERLITA CATAPIA	P. Catapia
250	RODELIO CATAPIA	
251	Crystal Rose Catapia	
252	Garry Anthony Bagno	
253	Edgardo Corte	Edgardo Corte
254	Michael Baquero	
255	Malyn Baquero	
256	Irene Baquero	
257	CARLO GIVA	
258	ANALYN COSTE	
259	Joan Labrador	
260	Bardelas Bagno	Bardelas
261	ANA MAE LABRADOR	
262	JONAS LABRADOR	
263	Rufino Labrador	
264	Jeneljan Labrador	Jeneljan Labrador
265	CARLO SARAGOZA	C. Saragoza
266	REY SARAGOZA	
267	JAIME SARAGOZA	
268	Rico Evangelio	
269	Marina Evangelio	
270	Oscar Sangcon	

MANIFESTATION OF OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILL NO. 4065 AND SUPPORT FOR THE DISESTABLISHMENT OF THE PALOMPON WATERSHED FOREST RESERVE (PWFR) ON THE GROUND OF FAILURE TO MEET THE PROTECTED AREA SUITABILITY ASSESSMENT (PASA) STANDARDS AND CRITERIA PRESCRIBED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DENR) REGION VIII.

BRGY. STA. ROSA, MATAG-OB, LEYTE

No.	Name	Signature
271	Riva Fe Mejos Majadas	
272	Helen Pagalaco	
273	Chanta Mingasca	
274	Salvadora Mejos	
275	Charlie Pagalaco	
276	DENNIS MINGASCA	
277	Antonio Mingasca	
278	Estrella Mejos	
279	Charaise Anne Mingasca	
280	CHARLIE REGALADO	
281	ANALYN MEJOS	
282	DANILO MEJOS	
283	JOHN ARIO MEJOS	
284	BEA MEJOS	
285	WERMAYBEL VABELONA	
286	ADRIANNE KAYE ALBARADO	
287	JOSE MONTEALTO	
288	Mirasol montealto	
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SEC Registration Number: CN201401022
TIN: 008-693-917-000

BOARD RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 005, Series of 2026

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE OPPOSITION OF THE BARANGAY MALAZARTE MATAG-OB KAUSAWAGAN FARMERS ASSOCIATION, INC. (BMMKFAI) TO HOUSE BILL NO. 4065, SUPPORTING THE DISESTABLISHMENT OF THE PALOMPON WATERSHED FOREST RESERVE (PWFR) FOR FAILURE TO SATISFY THE PROTECTED AREA SUITABILITY ASSESSMENT (PASA) STANDARDS AND CRITERIA PRESCRIBED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DENR) REGION VIII, AND URGING THE PROTECTION OF THE TENURIAL RIGHTS, LIVELIHOODS, AND TENURE SECURITY OF CBFMA BENEFICIARIES.

WHEREAS, Barangay Malazarte is among the barangays situated within the coverage of the Palompon Watershed Forest Reserve (PWFR), which was established through Proclamation No. 212 in 1988 and is presently the subject of legislative measures seeking its declaration as the Palompon Protected Landscape;

WHEREAS, the Barangay Malazarte Matag-ob Kauswagan Farmers Association, Inc. (BMMKFAI) is a duly organized People's Organization located at Barangay Malazarte, Municipality of Matag-ob, Province of Leyte, and is the holder-beneficiary of a Community-Based Forest Management Agreement (CBFMA) covering an area in Brgy. Malazarte, Brgy. Candelaria, and Brgy. Sta. Rosa with an approximate area of 168.58 hectares and CBFM No. R8-48198.

WHEREAS, a substantial portion of the association's area falls within the area proposed for declaration as the Palompon Protected Landscape; and WHEREAS, such declaration may significantly affect the association's tenurial rights, livelihood activities, resource-use practices, and the long-term security of tenure of its member-beneficiaries;

WHEREAS, the proposed declaration of the PWFR as the Palompon Protected Landscape will directly affect the existing CBFMA area of BMMKFAI and may result in restrictions on land use, resource utilization, agroforestry development, and other livelihood activities presently enjoyed by its member-beneficiaries;

WHEREAS, the Association and its members have, for many years, actively protected, rehabilitated, managed, and sustainably utilized the forest resources within the CBFMA area in support of the government's Community-Based Forest Management Program;

WHEREAS, the Association is composed of **50** member-families, all of whom directly depend upon the CBFMA area for their livelihood, food security, agroforestry activities, and economic well-being, and therefore stand to be adversely affected by the proposed protected area declaration;

WHEREAS, the members of the Association have expressed concern that the proposed protected area declaration may diminish their tenure security and limit the exercise of rights and privileges granted under their existing CBFMA, despite their long-standing commitment to forest protection and sustainable resource management;

dated 25 February 2026, still below the 80% suitability criterion prescribed under DENR-BMB Technical Bulletin No. 2016-04 for recommendation as a protected area;

WHEREAS, available records indicate that only 26.2% of the proposed protected area comprises forest lands while 73.8% or approximately 4,172.19 hectares consist of Alienable and Disposable (A&D) lands, including areas occupied, cultivated, and utilized by local communities and organized People's Organizations;

WHEREAS, the Association believes that the declaration of the area as a Protected Landscape despite the foregoing circumstances may adversely affect established communities, existing tenurial arrangements, local investments, and sustainable livelihood activities within the watershed;

WHEREAS, while the Association fully supports environmental conservation, watershed protection, biodiversity preservation, and sustainable resource management, it maintains that such objectives must be balanced with the protection of existing rights, socio-economic welfare, and livelihood of local communities directly affected by the proposal;

NOW, THEREFORE, on motion duly made and seconded;

BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED,

To formally express the opposition of the Barangay Malazarte Matag-ob Kauswagan Farmers Association, Inc. (BMMKFAI) to the proposed declaration of the Palompon Watershed Forest Reserve as the Palompon Protected Landscape;

RESOLVED FURTHER, to respectfully urge the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), concerned legislators, and other relevant government agencies to carefully consider the potential impacts of the proposed declaration of the Palompon Watershed Forest Reserve as the Palompon Protected Landscape on the tenure rights, livelihood, socio-economic welfare, and sustainable resource management activities of the member-beneficiaries of the Barangay Malazarte Matag-ob Kauswagan Farmers Association, Inc. (BMMKFAI)

RESOLVED FURTHER,

To request that the rights, interests, tenure security, existing investments, and livelihoods of the beneficiaries of the Barangay Malazarte Matag-ob Kauswagan Farmers Association, Inc. (BMMKFAI) be fully recognized, protected, and considered in any decision regarding the proposed establishment of the Palompon Protected Landscape;

RESOLVED FURTHERMORE,

RESOLVED FURTHER, to respectfully request the DENR, BMB, and concerned policymakers to withhold further action on the proposed declaration of the Palompon Watershed Forest Reserve as the Palompon Protected Landscape until all affected People's Organizations, local communities, and stakeholders have been adequately consulted and their rights, interests, and welfare fully taken into consideration;

of the Philippines, Provincial Government of Leyte, Municipal Government of Matag-ob, and all other concerned agencies and offices for their information and appropriate action.

APPROVED this **3rd** day of **November** 2026 at Barangay Malazarte, Matag-ob, Leyte.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

MARIAN M. PUSO
Secretary
Barangay Malazarte Matag-Ob Kauswagan Farmers Association, Inc. (BMMKFAI)

ATTESTED BY:

ALEXANDER M. CANSON
BOD-Chairman

ALBERTO D. BONGBONG
BOD-Vice Chairman

AVELINO S. SAMSON
BOD

ARLENE S. NUÑEZ
BOD

GINA T. GEROLAGA
BOD

CAROLINA M. SOSMEÑA
BOD

APPROVED BY

ELIZABETH M. CANSON
President
Barangay Malazarte Matag-Ob Kauswagan Farmers Association, Inc. (BMMKFAI)

RESOLUTION NO. 01
Series of 2026

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE OPPOSITION OF THE CAMBADBAD UPLAND FARMERS ASSOCIATION (CUFA) TO HOUSE BILL NO. 4065, SUPPORTING THE DISESTABLISHMENT OF THE PALOMPON WATERSHED FOREST RESERVE (PWFR) FOR FAILURE TO SATISFY THE PROTECTED AREA SUITABILITY ASSESSMENT (PASA) STANDARDS AND CRITERIA PRESCRIBED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DENR) REGION VIII, AND URGING THE PROTECTION OF THE TENURIAL RIGHTS, LIVELIHOODS, AND TENURE SECURITY OF CBFMA BENEFICIARIES.

WHEREAS, Barangay Cambadbad is among the barangays situated within the coverage of the Palompon Watershed Forest Reserve (PWFR), which was established through Proclamation No. 212 in 1988 and is presently the subject of legislative measures seeking its declaration as the Palompon Protected Landscape;

WHEREAS, the Cambadbad Upland Farmers Association (CUFA) is a duly organized People's Organization located in Barangay Cambadbad, Municipality of Matag-ob, Province of Leyte, and is the holder-beneficiary of a Community-Based Forest Management Agreement (CBFMA) covering an area of approximately 355.5 hectares;

WHEREAS, a substantial portion of the association's area falls within the area proposed for declaration as the Palompon Protected Landscape; and WHEREAS, such declaration may significantly affect the association's tenurial rights, livelihood activities, resource-use practices, and the long-term security of tenure of its member-beneficiaries;

WHEREAS, the proposed declaration of the PWFR as the Palompon Protected Landscape will directly affect the existing CBFMA area of CUFA and may result in restrictions on land use, resource utilization, agroforestry development, and other livelihood activities presently enjoyed by its member-beneficiaries;

WHEREAS, the Association and its members have, for many years, actively protected, rehabilitated, managed, and sustainably utilized the forest resources within the CBFMA area in support of the government's Community-Based Forest Management Program;

WHEREAS, the Association is composed of 234 member-families, all of whom directly depend upon the CBFMA area for their livelihood, food security, agroforestry activities, and economic well-being, and therefore stand to be adversely affected by the proposed protected area declaration;

WHEREAS, the members of the Association have expressed concern that the proposed protected area declaration may diminish their tenure security and limit the exercise of rights and privileges granted under their existing CBFMA, despite their long-standing commitment to forest protection and sustainable resource management;

WHEREAS, the results of the Protected Area Suitability Assessment (PASA) indicate that the Palompon Watershed Forest Reserve obtained a rating of 47.5% in 2022 and 38% in

2025, which was subsequently adjusted to 51% pursuant to a Biodiversity Management Bureau Memorandum dated 25 February 2026, still below the 80% suitability criterion prescribed under DENR-BMB Technical Bulletin No. 2016-04 for recommendation as a protected area;

WHEREAS, available records indicate that only 26.2% of the proposed protected area comprises forest lands while 73.8% or approximately 4,172.19 hectares consist of Alienable and Disposable (A&D) lands, including areas occupied, cultivated, and utilized by local communities and organized People's Organizations;

WHEREAS, the Association believes that the declaration of the area as a Protected Landscape despite the foregoing circumstances may adversely affect established communities, existing tenurial arrangements, local investments, and sustainable livelihood activities within the watershed;

WHEREAS, while the Association fully supports environmental conservation, watershed protection, biodiversity preservation, and sustainable resource management, it maintains that such objectives must be balanced with the protection of existing rights, socio-economic welfare, and livelihood of local communities directly affected by the proposal;

NOW, THEREFORE, on motion duly made and seconded;

BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to formally express the opposition of the Cambadbad Upland Farmers Association (CUFA) to the proposed declaration of the Palompon Watershed Forest Reserve as the Palompon Protected Landscape;

RESOLVED FURTHER, to respectfully urge the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), concerned legislators, and other relevant government agencies to carefully consider the potential impacts of the proposed declaration of the Palompon Watershed Forest Reserve as the Palompon Protected Landscape on the tenure rights, livelihood, socio-economic welfare, and sustainable resource management activities of the member-beneficiaries of the Cambadbad Upland Farmers Association (CUFA);

RESOLVED FURTHER, to request that the rights, interests, tenure security, existing investments, and livelihoods of the beneficiaries of the Cambadbad Upland Farmers Association be fully recognized, protected, and considered in any decision regarding the proposed establishment of the Palompon Protected Landscape;

RESOLVED FURTHER, to respectfully request the DENR, BMB, and concerned policymakers to withhold further action on the proposed declaration of the Palompon Watershed Forest Reserve as the Palompon Protected Landscape until all affected People's Organizations, local communities, and stakeholders have been adequately consulted and their rights, interests, and welfare fully taken into consideration;

RESOLVED FINALLY, that copies of this Resolution be furnished to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), House of Representatives, Senate of the Philippines, Provincial Government of Leyte, Municipal Government of Matag-ob, and all other concerned agencies and offices for their information and appropriate action.

APPROVED this 21th day of October 2026 at Barangay Cambadbad, Matag-ob, Leyte.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

MUNES P. P194460
Secretary, Cambadbad Upland Farmers Association

ATTESTED BY:

FE V. SOSMEÑA BENJAMEN PIAGAO MARGIE DELOSA Bonifacia Berg

Jocelyn Muñez

APPROVED BY:

SALVADOR DECIO
President, Cambadbad Upland Farmers Association

RESOLUTION NO. 01
Series of 2026

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE OPPOSITION OF THE MATAG-OB COMMUNITY WORKER'S ASSOCIATION (MACOWA) TO HOUSE BILL NO. 4065, SUPPORTING THE DISESTABLISHMENT OF THE PALOMPON WATERSHED FOREST RESERVE (PWFR) FOR FAILURE TO SATISFY THE PROTECTED AREA SUITABILITY ASSESSMENT (PASA) STANDARDS AND CRITERIA PRESCRIBED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DENR) REGION VIII, AND URGING THE PROTECTION OF THE TENURIAL RIGHTS, LIVELIHOODS, AND TENURE SECURITY OF CBFMA BENEFICIARIES.

WHEREAS, Barangay Cambadbad and Malazarte is among the barangays situated within the coverage of the Palompon Watershed Forest Reserve (PWFR), which was established through Proclamation No. 212 in 1988 and is presently the subject of legislative measures seeking its declaration as the Palompon Protected Landscape;

WHEREAS, the Matag-ob Community Worker's Association (MACOWA) is a duly organized People's Organization located in Barangay Cambadbad, Malazarte, and Mansalip, Municipality of Matag-ob, Province of Leyte, and is the holder-beneficiary of a Community-Based Forest Management Agreement (CBFMA) covering an area of approximately 297.3427 hectares;

WHEREAS, a substantial portion of the association's area falls within the area proposed for declaration as the Palompon Protected Landscape; and

WHEREAS, such declaration may significantly affect the association's tenurial rights, livelihood activities, resource-use practices, and the long-term security of tenure of its member-beneficiaries;

WHEREAS, the proposed declaration of the PWFR as the Palompon Protected Landscape will directly affect the existing CBFMA area of MACOWA and may result in restrictions on land use, resource utilization, agroforestry development, and other livelihood activities presently enjoyed by its member-beneficiaries;

WHEREAS, the Association and its members have, for many years, actively protected, rehabilitated, managed, and sustainably utilized the forest resources within the CBFMA area in support of the government's Community-Based Forest Management Program;

WHEREAS, the Association is composed of 23 member-families, all of whom directly depend upon the CBFMA area for their livelihood, food security, agroforestry activities, and economic well-being, and therefore stand to be adversely affected by the proposed protected area declaration;

WHEREAS, the members of the Association have expressed concern that the proposed protected area declaration may diminish their tenure security and limit the exercise of

rights and privileges granted under their existing CBFMA, despite their long-standing commitment to forest protection and sustainable resource management;

WHEREAS, the results of the Protected Area Suitability Assessment (PASA) indicate that the Palompon Watershed Forest Reserve obtained a rating of 47.5% in 2022 and 38% in 2025, which was subsequently adjusted to 51% pursuant to a Biodiversity Management Bureau Memorandum dated 25 February 2026, still below the 80% suitability criterion prescribed under DENR-BMB Technical Bulletin No. 2016-04 for recommendation as a protected area;

WHEREAS, available records indicate that only 26.2% of the proposed protected area comprises forest lands while 73.8% or approximately 4,172.19 hectares consist of Alienable and Disposable (A&D) lands, including areas occupied, cultivated, and utilized by local communities and organized People's Organizations;

WHEREAS, the Association believes that the declaration of the area as a Protected Landscape despite the foregoing circumstances may adversely affect established communities, existing tenurial arrangements, local investments, and sustainable livelihood activities within the watershed;

WHEREAS, while the Association fully supports environmental conservation, watershed protection, biodiversity preservation, and sustainable resource management, it maintains that such objectives must be balanced with the protection of existing rights, socio-economic welfare, and livelihood of local communities directly affected by the proposal;

NOW, THEREFORE, on motion duly made and seconded;

BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to formally express the opposition of the Matag-ob Community Worker's Association (MACOWA) to the proposed declaration of the Palompon Watershed Forest Reserve as the Palompon Protected Landscape;

RESOLVED FURTHER, to respectfully urge the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), concerned legislators, and other relevant government agencies to carefully consider the potential impacts of the proposed declaration of the Palompon Watershed Forest Reserve as the Palompon Protected Landscape on the tenure rights, livelihood, socio-economic welfare, and sustainable resource management activities of the member-beneficiaries of the Matag-ob Community Worker's Association (MACOWA);

RESOLVED FURTHER, to request that the rights, interests, tenure security, existing investments, and livelihoods of the beneficiaries of the Matag-ob Community Worker's Association (MACOWA) be fully recognized, protected, and considered in any decision regarding the proposed establishment of the Palompon Protected Landscape;

RESOLVED FURTHER, to respectfully request the DENR, BMB, and concerned policymakers to withhold further action on the proposed declaration of the Palompon Watershed Forest Reserve as the Palompon Protected Landscape until all affected People's Organizations, local communities, and stakeholders have been adequately consulted and their rights, interests, and welfare fully taken into consideration;

RESOLVED FINALLY, that copies of this Resolution be furnished to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), House of Representatives, Senate of the Philippines, Provincial Government of Leyte, Municipal Government of Matag-ob, and all other concerned agencies and offices for their information and appropriate action.

APPROVED this ___ day of _____ 2026 at Matag-ob, Leyte.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

ELSIE SURALTA

Secretary, Matag-ob Community Worker's Association (MACOWA)

ATTESTED BY:

DIANE C. ARCITE | RENATO A. IGNACIO | ROGELIO AVILA | ESTRELLA SURALTA

APPROVED BY:

PAUL PEDRANO

President, Matag-ob Community Worker's Association (MACOWA)

SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

I HEREBY CERTIFY that this is a true and accurate copy of the resolution duly adopted by the Sangguniang Bayan of Matag-ob, Leyte on November 02, 2026.

MIA S. ENCIENZO
Temporary SB Secretary

ATTESTED:

HON. ARTEMIO T. ALMOROTO
Senior SB Member

HON. JOEL N. DENOY
SB Member

HON. EVANGELINE C. CARNO
SB Member

HON. RICARDO L. GIVA
SB Member

HON. RODOLFO N. SUÑIR
SB Member

HON. LUZ M. BOLDERO
SB Member

HON. JOSE B. YAP
SB Member

HON. EDUARDO I. TOLEDO
SB Member

HON. JOEL G. TACOY
Ex-Officio Member, LNB President

HON. AIYANNA PATRICE M. LAURENTE
Ex-Officio Member, SK Fed. Pres.

HON. ROMEO N. ALBARIDA
Municipal Vice-Mayor
Presiding Officer

EXCERPTS FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 71st REGULAR SESSION OF THE 12th SANGGUNIANG BAYAN OF MATAG-OB, LEYTE HELD AT THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION HALL ON NOVEMBER 02, 2026.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-269
Proponent: Honorable Eduardo I. Toledo

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE STRONG OPPOSITION OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN OF MATAG-OB, LEYTE, TO HOUSE BILL NO. 4065, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PROPOSED "PALOMPON PROTECTED LANDSCAPE ACT," SUPPORTING THE OFFICIAL POSITION OF THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT, AND RECOGNIZING THE SENTIMENTS AND RESOLUTIONS OF BARANGAYS CANDELARIA, CAMBADBAD, MALAZARTE, STA. ROSA, AND MASABA

WHEREAS, House Bill No. 4065, introduced by Representative Richard I. Gomez, seeks to declare certain parcels of land within the Municipalities of Palompon, Matag-ob, and Villaba, Province of Leyte, as a protected area under the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS), to be known as the Palompon Protected Landscape;

WHEREAS, while the Municipality of Matag-ob fully recognizes the importance of environmental protection, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable natural resource management, it has expressed its strong opposition to House Bill No. 4065 in its present form due to unresolved technical, legal, environmental, and socioeconomic concerns affecting the Municipality and its residents;

WHEREAS, the Municipal Government has submitted its Position Paper opposing the proposed legislation, citing, among others, the need for complete and transparent technical assessments, verified boundaries and land classifications, consideration of existing land uses and community interests, and meaningful consultations with the affected local government units and residents;

SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

I HEREBY CERTIFY that this is a true and accurate copy of the resolution duly adopted by the Sangguniang Bayan of Matag-ob, Leyte on November 02, 2026.

MIA S. ENCIENZO
Temporary SB Secretary

ATTESTED:

HON. ARTEMIO T. ALMOROTO
Senior SB Member

HON. JOEL N. DENOY
SB Member

HON. EVANGELINE C. CARNO
SB Member

HON. RICARDO L. GIVA
SB Member

HON. RODOLFO N. SUÑIR
SB Member

HON. LUZ M. BOLDERO
SB Member

HON. JOSE B. YAP
SB Member

HON. EDUARDO I. TOLEDO
SB Member

HON. JOEL G. TACOY
Ex-Officio Member, LNB President

HON. AIYANNA PATRICE M. LAURENTE
Ex-Officio Member, SK Fed. Pres.

HON. ROMEO N. ALBARIDA
Municipal Vice-Mayor
Presiding Officer

WHEREAS, residents of Barangays Candelaria, Cambadbad, Malazarte, Sta. Rosa, and Masaba have participated in their respective barangay assemblies during which House Bill No. 4065 and its possible implications were explained and discussed, thereby providing opportunities for the affected communities to express their views, concerns, and sentiments;

WHEREAS, the said barangays have likewise adopted their respective Barangay Resolutions concerning House Bill No. 4065, reflecting the positions and concerns raised at the community level, which deserve due recognition and consideration in the legislative deliberations on the proposed measure;

WHEREAS, the Sangguniang Bayan recognizes the importance of respecting the voices of affected communities, particularly on matters involving land use, livelihood, property interests, access to natural resources, and the future development of their respective barangays;

WHEREAS, the designation of a protected landscape carries significant implications for land management and the exercise of existing rights, making it essential that the proposed legislation be supported by sufficient technical justification, accurate territorial information, and genuine participation by the affected local government units and communities;

WHEREAS, the Municipality has existing environmental protection measures and local policies intended to promote sustainable resource management, which should be duly considered before introducing additional statutory restrictions and management arrangements;

WHEREAS, the Sangguniang Bayan finds it necessary to formally express its support for the Municipal Government's Position Paper and affirm that any legislative action affecting the Municipality must give due weight to the concerns and welfare of its residents;

SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

I HEREBY CERTIFY that this is a true and accurate copy of the resolution duly adopted by the Sangguniang Bayan of Matag-ob, Leyte on November 02, 2026.

MIA S. ENCIENZO
Temporary SB Secretary

ATTESTED:

HON. ARTEMIO T. ALMOROTO
Senior SB Member

HON. JOEL N. DENOY
SB Member

HON. EVANGELINE C. CARNO
SB Member

HON. RICARDO L. GIVA
SB Member

HON. RODOLFO N. SUÑIR
SB Member

HON. LUZ M. BOLDERO
SB Member

HON. JOSEL. YAP
SB Member

HON. EDUARDO I. TOLEDO
SB Member

HON. JOEL G. TACOY
Ex-Officio Member, LNB President

HON. AIYANNA PATRICE M. LAURENTE
Ex-Officio Member, SK Fed. Pres.

HON. ROMEO N. ALBARIDA
Municipal Vice-Mayor
Presiding Officer

NOW, THEREFORE, on motion of Honorable Eduardo I. Toledo, with the unanimous accord of all other members present, be it:

BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby RESOLVED, by the Sangguniang Bayan of Matag-ob, Leyte, in session assembled, to:

1. EXPRESS ITS STRONG OPPOSITION to House Bill No. 4065 in its present form and formally support and adopt the position of the Municipal Government of Matag-ob, as set forth in its official Position Paper submitted to the House of Representatives;

2. RECOGNIZE AND ACKNOWLEDGE the sentiments, concerns, and positions expressed by the residents of Barangays Candelaria, Cambadbad, Malazarte, Sta. Rosa, and Masaba during their respective barangay assemblies, as well as the Barangay Resolutions adopted in connection with House Bill No. 4065, and request that these be given due consideration in the congressional deliberations;

3. URGE the House of Representatives, through its Committee on Natural Resources, to disapprove House Bill No. 4065 in its present form or, in the alternative, defer favorable action pending the completion and disclosure of the necessary technical assessments, verification of boundaries and land classifications, and meaningful consultations with the affected local government units and communities; and

4. REQUEST that the Municipality of Matag-ob and its affected barangays be afforded meaningful participation in all subsequent technical reviews, consultations, boundary-validation activities, and legislative proceedings concerning the proposed protected landscape.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that this Resolution be incorporated as an annex to the Municipality of Matag-ob's official Position Paper on House Bill No. 4065, to formally convey to the House Committee on Natural Resources the Sangguniang Bayan's

opposition to the proposed measure, its support for the Municipal Government's position, and its recognition of the sentiments and resolutions of the affected barangays.

Carried Unanimously.

ADOPTED this 2nd day of November, 2026.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that this is a true and accurate copy of the resolution duly adopted by the Sangguniang Bayan of Matag-ob, Leyte on November 2, 2026.

MIA S. ENCIENZO
Temporary SB Secretary

ATTESTED AND CERTIFIED AS DULY ADOPTED:

HONORABLE ROMEO N. ALBARIDA
Municipal Vice-Mayor
Presiding Officer

ATTESTED:

HON. ARTEMIO T. ALMOROTO
Senior SB Member

HON. JOEL N. DENOY
SB Member

HON. EVANGELINE C. GARNO
SB Member

HON. RICARDO L. GIVA
SB Member

HON. RODOLFO N. SUÑIR
SB Member

HON. LUZ M. BOLDERO
SB Member

HON. JOSE B. YAP
SB Member

HON. EDUARDO I. TOLEDO
SB Member

HON. JOEL C. TACOY
Ex-Officio Member, LNB President

HON. ALYANNA PATRICE M. LAURENTE
Ex-Officio Member, SK Fed. Pres.

HON. ROMEO N. ALBARIDA
Municipal Vice-Mayor
Presiding Officer