Item No.: 21

Date: NOV 10 2026

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF LEYTE
PROVINCIAL LAND USE COMMITTEE
2nd Floor, Leyte Provincial Government Complex, Brgy. Guindapunan, Palo, Leyte 6501

Sangguniang Panlalawigan
Province of Leyte
RECEIVED
Date: NOV 03 2026
By: 3:30 pm

November 03, 2026

THE HONORABLE MEMBERS
The Sangguniang Panlalawigan
Province of Leyte
Palo, West Bypass Road, Palo, Leyte

Thru: Hon. LEONARDO M. JAVIER, JR.
Vice Governor and Presiding Officer

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

Greetings! This pertains to the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) and Zoning Ordinance (ZO) of Bato, Leyte for Calendar Years 2026-2037, which your good office endorsed to the Provincial Planning and Development Office (PPDO) for review by the Provincial Land Use Committee (PLUC).

In this connection, the PLUC deliberated on the aforementioned CLUP and ZO on October 13, 2026 at the 3rd Floor, Balay Lungsod, Bato, Leyte. As a result thereof, I wish to respectfully furnish the august body with a copy of PLUC Resolution 2026-01, Series of 2026, endorsing the 2026-2037 Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) and its Zoning Ordinance (ZO) of Bato, Leyte to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP) of the Province of Leyte for approval/appropriate action.

Please be guided that the endorsement is subject to the compliance of the Municipal Technical Working Group (MTWG) tasked with the preparation of the CLUP with the comments and recommendations raised by the PLUC during its review and deliberation.

Very truly yours,

AGNES C. RAFON
Officer-in-Charge, Provincial Planning and Development Coordinator
Chairperson, Provincial Land Use Committee

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF LEYTE
PROVINCIAL LAND USE COMMITTEE
2nd Floor, Leyte Provincial Government Complex,Palo West Bypass Road, Palo, Leyte Email Address: plucleyte2@gmail.com

EXCERPTS FROM THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MEETING OF THE PROVINCIAL LAND USE COMMITTEE (PLUC) OF THE PROVINCE OF LEYTE HELD ON OCTOBER 13, 2026 AT THE 3RD FLOOR, BALAY LUNGSOD, BATO, LEYTE

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-01
Series of 2026

RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN (CLUP) AND ITS ZONING ORDINANCE (ZO) OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF BATO, LEYTE FOR CALENDAR YEARS 2026 TO 2037 TO THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN (SP) OF THE PROVINCE OF LEYTE FOR APPROVAL/APPROPRIATE ACTION PENDING COMPLIANCE AND SUBMISSION OF ALL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PROVINCIAL LAND USE COMMITTEE (PLUC) BY THE MUNICIPAL TECHNICAL WORKING (MTWG) INVOLVED IN THE CLUP PREPARATION

WHEREAS, Section 20 (a) of Republic Act (RA) 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, provides that Local Government Units (LGUs) shall, in conformity with existing laws, continue to prepare their respective Comprehensive Land Use Plans (CLUPs) enacted through Zoning Ordinances (ZOs) which shall be the primary and dominant bases for future use of land resources;

WHEREAS, Section 2 (b) of Executive Order No. 72, issued by President Fidel V. Ramos on March 25, 1993, mandates the Provincial Land Use Committee (PLUC) to assist the Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP) in reviewing the CLUPs of component cities and municipalities;

WHEREAS, the municipality of Bato, Leyte has prepared its CLUP and ZO for Calendar Years (CY) 2026 to 2037;

WHEREAS, the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) Regional Office VIII, reviewed the said Plan and its supporting documents to determine its completeness in accordance with DHSUD Memorandum Circular 2021-005 on the Revised Review and Approval Processes of Comprehensive Land Use Plans and Zoning Ordinances of Highly Urbanized Cities (HUCs), Independent Component Cities (ICCs), Component Cities and Municipalities (CCMs) and Metro Manila Cities and Municipalities (MMCMs) issued on August 06, 2021;

WHEREAS, the CLUP and Zoning Ordinance of the municipality of Bato, Leyte was forwarded by the DHSUD Regional Office to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP) of the Province of Leyte on September 16, 2026, and the same was endorsed to the Provincial Land Use Committee (PLUC) on the same date for review;

WHEREAS, on October 13, 2026, the PLUC convened to deliberate the draft CLUP and ZO of the municipality of Bato, Leyte, wherein the members of the PLUC reviewed and presented the following comments and recommendations on the said draft CLUP and ZO, to wit:

1. Ensure that the national roads are reflected in the Proposed Land Use Map;

2. In the conversion of agricultural areas to non-agricultural areas, please provide an inventory of agricultural areas to be converted to non-agricultural use;

3. Since the LGU has identified poultry and livestock production as one of the drivers of economic growth, specify in the Zoning Ordinance (ZO) the parameters and regulatory standards governing the establishment and operation of backyard farming;

4. Ensure that corresponding narratives and descriptions accompany all tables and figures to facilitate interpretation and provide context for the data presented;

5. Ensure that all data tables and figures include proper source citations;

6. Please refer to the attached sheets for the detailed comments and recommendations of the PLUC.

WHEREFORE, on motion of Ms. Rose Angeli M. Medrina of DHSUD VIII, and unanimously seconded by the members of the Provincial Land Use Committee (PLUC);

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to endorse the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) and its Zoning Ordinance (ZO) of the Municipality of Bato, Leyte, for Calendar Years 2026 to 2037 to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP) of the Province of Leyte for approval/appropriate action pending compliance and submission of all recommendations of the Provincial Land Use Committee (PLUC) by the Municipal Technical Working Group (MTWG) involved in the CLUP preparation;

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

WE HEREBY CERTIFY to the correctness of the foregoing resolution.

MA. LEA A. BATEO
Village Director
SOS Children's Village Tacloban, Inc.

By:

JENEROSO M. ORBITA
Philanthropy and Partnerships Officer

JOHANNES Y. DORADO
Provincial Director
Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)
Province of Leyte

By:

RENNA SHIENA B. ACEBO
Local Government Operations Officer VII

CRISTIE Y. REYES, EnP
Regional Director
Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD)
Region VIII

By:

ROSE ANGELI M. MEDRINA
Housing and Homesite Regulation Officer IV

FAUSTINO V. GAYAS, JR.
Provincial Director
Department of Trade and Industry
Province of Leyte

By:

DIANA M. QUIZA
Senior Trade and Industry Specialist

ENGR. LYNDEL P. JABINES
OIC-District Engineer
5th Leyte Engineering District
Department of Public Works and
Highways RO VIII
Brgy. Hipusngo, Baybay City, Leyte

By:

ENGR. HERSON D. ALCUINO
Engineer II

ENGR. ARVIN M. MONGE
PDRRM Officer
Provincial Disaster Risk and
and Management Office
Province of Leyte

By:

GLORNA VANESSA D. VILLASIN
Local Disaster Risk and Management
Officer II

ENGR. MARIA LOURDES B. NADERA
Assistant Department Head
Office of the Provincial Agriculture
Province of Leyte

By:

DR. ALMA MAÑAGO
Extension Division Chief

Attested by:

AGNES C. RAFON
Chairperson, Provincial Land Use Committee and
Officer-in-Charge, Provincial Planning and Development Coordinator

LGU Name: Bato **Province:** Leyte **Region:** VIII
LGU Contact Person: Dianne Buzon **Position:** MPDC **Contact Details:** 09461579548
Planning Period of Submitted Plan: 2026-2037

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY (DHSUD)	VOLUME	COMMENTS/FINDINGS	RECOMMENDATIONS
Parameters a. Checks whether LGU clearly identified its functional role and whether the proposed land use plan and development strategies are consistent with its vision. b. Evaluates if the plan is in harmony with the land use plans of adjacent cities and municipalities, and takes into account existing and potential conflicting land uses, and shared climate and disaster risks, with other municipalities. c. Evaluates the CLUP if it is in accordance with the development policies of the Region and Province. d. Evaluates if the land/space requirements for basic services and facilities are identified, quantified and properly delineated. e. Evaluates if the locations of different land uses are suitable, properly allocated, and delineated, such as forest and coastal/marine ecosystems, including required easements along inland water, coastal and marine bodies; and buffer areas to reduce land use conflicts and risks. f. Evaluates if proposed socio-cultural and other infrastructure support facilities are adequate and supportive of the city's/municipality's functional role and development thrust. g. Checks if sites for socialized housing are identified and properly delineated pursuant to R.A. 7279 (Urban Development and Housing Act of 1992). h. Checks if inventory of potential lands for housing (housing sub-sector table) are identified and properly delineated	General Comments <u>Volume 1</u> The Comprehensive Land Use Plan	1. Forest, Agriculture, and Water Uses not distinguished as to production and protection. 2. No tabulation of land area allocation per barangay in the existing and proposed land use map. 1. In the Land Classification Map, there is an area classified as Island. (Page 36) 2. In the SAFDZ Map, standard classification description not used (Page 41) 3. For Municipal Waters discussion, no Water Protection areas presented. 4. No discussion and maps on internal and external linkages.	1. Distinguish protection and production in both tables and maps. 2. Provide tabulation per barangay. 1. Under Public Land Act, land classifications are only Timberland, Alienable and Disposable, and Mineral lands. Provide proper land classification for the mentioned island. 2. Use prescribed description per published data ((1- Strategic Crop Sub-Development Zone; 2 - Strategic Livestock Sub-Development Zone). 3. Classify mangrove areas and other Marine Protected Areas under Water Protection uses. 4. Please discuss on access routes to and from the municipality to its nearby town and nearest urban centers. Provide map showing

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RESPONSIBLE AGENCY (DHSUD)	VOLUME	COMMENTS/FINDINGS	RECOMMENDATIONS
pursuant to R.A. 7279 (Urban Development and Housing Act of 1992). i. Checks if the locality has other programs and projects to address the squatting problems. j. Checks consistency with and compliance to MC 54 (...Reclassification of Agricultural Lands to Non-agricultural Uses). k. Checks whether the land use plan is translated into the requisite Zoning Ordinance with clear zone boundaries. l. Checks integration/mainstreaming of biodiversity, heritage conservation, ancestral domain and green growth in the CLUP and ZO. m. Checks integration/mainstreaming of climate change and disaster risk reduction and management in the CLUP and ZO by ascertaining that the following key elements are present: • Hazard profiling (e.g. flood, storm surge, landslide, severe wind, ground shaking, liquefaction, ground rupture, tsunami and volcanic hazards, among others) including analysis of climate and hazard data and information (e.g. projections, maps, tables, and discussion) from official sources; • Identification of decision and or priority areas in need of intervention based on its risks (high or moderate) on the population, urban and built-up areas, critical facilities, lifeline utilities, production areas, and natural resources/ecosystems; • Identification of climate adaptation/risk mitigation strategies and measures of programs and projects; and • Land use policies and zoning regulations that will lessen and manage the risks and vulnerabilities on existing land uses and proposed developments.		5. The role of the municipality based on higher level plans (PDPFP, and EVRDP) were not presented. 6. Highlights of the analyses on Social Services, Utilities were not discussed. 7. Objectives were stated broadly. 8. No Structure Plan map presented. 9. Production and protection areas were not distinguished for Agriculture and Water Use areas. 10. Comparing the existing and proposed land use maps, the declared land areas in the tabulations do not commensurate the extent of reclassified areas.	transportation linkages as well. 5. Present the role of the municipality based on the PDPFP and EVRDP if applicable. 6. Present highlights of the results of analyses of these sectors from Volume 3. These establishes the premise of the proposed land use plan. 7. Apply the SMART principle in stating the plan's objectives. 8. Include Structure Plan Map. It should bear among others, the development thrusts and spatial strategies, growth nodes, linkages, and development directions aligned with the vision. Refer to your strategies. 9. Distinguish protection and production areas both in the maps and tabulations. 10. Please double check on the maps and reconcile.

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RESPONSIBLE AGENCY (DHSUD)	VOLUME	COMMENTS/FINDINGS	RECOMMENDATIONS
n. Evaluates the CLUP vis-à-vis approved agency related policies, plans and programs.		11. In the proposed land use tabulation, there is an observed increase in Urban Use accounted at 116.6284 ha and reduction in Ricelands (protected agriculture) of 431.74 ha.	11. Though the increase in Urban Areas is within the limits of the LGUs reclassification, the decrease in Protected Agriculture areas is prohibited under Section 20 of the LGC and MC54. Moreover, the increase in urban use areas should ideally be equal to the decrease in agriculture areas. Please reconcile tables and maps.
		12. In the Land Use Area tabulation, there is an observed decrease in forest areas.	12. Forests/Timberland cannot be reclassified to other uses per CA141 or the Public Land Act unless there is a law amending the same. Please rectify maps and tables.
		13. In Barangay Bagong Bayan and Dawahon, there is a proposed agri-industrial located adjacent to proposed residential uses.	13. Provide buffer areas as these two are conflicting uses. For Brgy. Dawahon, the proposed agri-industrial use are within water areas. Please rectify.
		14. In Barangays Daanlungsod and Dolhothere, there are proposed urban uses encroaching mangrove areas.	14. Mangrove areas are protected and are not for urban uses. Please rectify and provide buffer.
		15. In Brgy. Domagocdoc, there is a proposed tourism use encroaching the river.	15. This is not compliant with PD 1067 or the Water Code of the Philippines. If this is just an activity, reflect it as an

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RESPONSIBLE AGENCY (DHSUD)	VOLUME	COMMENTS/FINDINGS	RECOMMENDATIONS
			overlay zone in the Zoning Map.
		16. In Brgy. Tinago, there is a proposed reclamation reflected as Parks and Open Space.	16. Since this is already in the water boundary, reflect it as reclamation and integrate the proposed uses within it. Please rectify maps and tabulations.
		17. Tabulations of area allocation per barangay were not presented.	17. Please provide land use area matrices per barangay.
		18. No CCA-DRR policies presented.	18. As part of mainstreaming the CDRA, provide policies that will enable implementation of the said plan.
	Volume 2: Zoning Ordinance	1. There are terminologies defined, zone classifications and regulations that were presented but are not applicable to the municipality.	1. Omit the zones not applicable to the municipality (eg. - 1, R-2, R-3, Civil Reservation, Military Reservation, NIPAS, etc).
		2. Recommendations from Volume 1 items 11-18.	2. Incorporate changes in the proposed land use to the zoning ordinance.
		3. Fees and fines for the implementation of the ZO not incorporated.	3. Incorporate the applicable fees and fines.
		4. No overlay zone maps and regulations.	4. Provide overlay maps and regulations.

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RESPONSIBLE AGENCY (DHSUD)	VOLUME	COMMENTS/FINDINGS	RECOMMENDATIONS
	Volume 3: Sectoral and Special Areas Studies	1. There is no Land Classification Map attached in the sector studies. 2. Some data needs in matrices were left empty (eg. SO-10, SO-31, among others). 3. No integration of the Local Shelter Plan.	1. Attach Land Classification Map from DENR. 2. Please do not leave data rows empty. Indicate if no data or omit if not applicable. 3. Comply with requirements of DO 2022-005.
	CDRA	1. Exposure and Risk maps not presented. 2. Some parts of the Exposure Data Base were not presented. 3. No Major Decision Area (MDA) maps and table with interventions.	1. Include the maps in the document. 2. Present the whole exposure database tables. 3. Please comply.

Prepared by:

ROSE ANGELI M. MEDRINA
HHRO IV, ELUPDD

Reviewed by:

ANNA MARIE CAMILLE L. BANTACULO, EnP.
Division Chief, ELUPDD

Noted by:

CRISTIE Y. REYES, EnP.
Regional Director

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
Province of Leyte

Summary of Populated Details for the PLUC Form

LGU Name: BATO (Note: Adapted for the municipality's review context)
Province: Leyte
Region: VIII
Planning Period: 2026–2037

Table of Comments and Findings

Responsible Agency (Office)	Volume & Page	Comments / Findings	Remarks / Recommendations
DILG / Local Planning & Development Office (LPDO)	Volume 1 & Zoning Ordinance	**Parameter 1 (Alignment with National Policies):** The plan successfully incorporates a Risk-Informed Planning and Decision-Making (RPS) and risk lens. Terminologies appropriately reflect Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) frameworks.	**COMPLIANT.** Maintain consistency in risk-informed language across all sector volumes and implementation matrices.
Zoning Office / Municipal Engineering Office	Volume 2 & Zoning Ordinance	**Parameter 2 (Institutional Capacity & Structure):** While the Zoning Ordinance outlines responsibilities, there is a notable staffing gap in the Zoning Office. Explicit roles for the Building Official and Environment and Natural Resources Office (ENRO) need strengthening.	**FOR ACTION.** Establish a dedicated, fully-staffed Zoning Office and institutionalize digital GIS-based monitoring for faster clearance tracking and compliance enforcement.
LGU / Sangguniang Bayan Secretariat	Zoning Ordinance (General Provisions)	**Parameter 3 (Consistency with the Local Government Code):** Administrative mechanisms are generally aligned with LGC mandates, public consultations, and communication planning.	**FOR ENHANCEMENT.** Formally designate and institutionalize the specific team or committee tasked with overarching CLUP/ZO implementation and monitoring.

Other Comments & General Observations

CLUP Packaging: The submitted documents are exceptionally well-packaged, setting a commendable benchmark for local development planning. Good presentation and document structure significantly aid the review process.

Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E): M&E mechanisms outlined for priority Programs, Projects, and Activities (PPAs) in Volume 2 should be directly anchored into the core enforcement provisions of the Zoning Ordinance.

Prepared by:

RENNA SHIENA B. ACEBO
LGOO VI

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF LEYTE
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION & MANAGEMENT OFFICE

October 16, 2026

PROVINCE OF LEYTE
PROVINCIAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICE
PALO, LEYTE
RECEIVED
BY:
DATE: 10-26-26 TIME: 3:16 PM

HON. BRYAN NILE A. GERTOS
Municipal Mayor
Bato, Leyte

Dear Mayor Gertos,

Greetings!

The Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office, as one of the member of the Provincial Land Use Committee (PLUC) has duly reviewed the **draft Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) CY 2026-2037** of the **Municipality of Bato, Leyte on October 13, 2026** held at 3rd Floor Municipal Building, Bato, Leyte.

Based on the assessment in the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) criteria, the following observation and recommendations are hereby provided:

Item	Areas to consider
Risk Assessment	➢ Provide a brief but concise narrative that explains the purpose, content or sources, and structure of the generated exposure database. ➢ Provide information on population/census database.
Hazard Maps	➢ Indicate the tool used in generating the hazard map (e.g. QGIS/ArcGIS) ➢ The reference source does not specify the year from which the data were obtained. Indicate the year of the source for verification and validation purposes.

We hope that the aforementioned observation and recommendations will be given due consideration.

Thank you very much.

ENGR. ARVIN M. MONGE
PLUC Member/Provincial DRRM Officer

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

LGU Name: BATO **Province:** Leyte **Region:** VIII

LGU Contact Person: Engr. Rizalina M. Buzon **Position:** Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator **Contact Details:** 0923-1761-631

Planning Period of Submitted Plan: 2026-2037

	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY: DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY	VOLUME	COMMENTS/FINDINGS	REMARKS/RECOMMENDATIONS
No.	***Parameters:***			
1	a. Checks if Special Economic Zones identified by PEZA are delineated in the plan		No identified Special Economic Zones in the area.	
2	b. Evaluates if the proposed industrial sites are suitable for industrial development such as not within prime agricultural area, Environmentally Critical Areas, Key Biodiversity Areas and Critical Habitats, etc.	**Vol. 1 p. 61 Map 56 Proposed Land Use Map**	**Compliant.** In Map 56 Proposed Land Use Map, proposed industrial site is surrounded with buffer area to protect the agricultural lands	
3	c. Checks if proposed industrial sites are not located in high-risk areas for climate and disaster risk. For medium-risk areas, check if appropriate mitigation and/or adaptation measures shall be provided for industries to be located in the area.	**all volumes**	**Compliant.** Appropriate mitigation and/or adaptation measures were considered in the proposed commercial and industrial areas.	
4	d. Checks if the Small and Medium Enterprise Development Plan, Investment Priority Program sites are identified quantified and delineated in the CLUP.		LGU has no Small and Medium Enterprise Development Plan and Investment Priority Program yet.	MSME Development sites and investment priority areas identified in the CLUP must be reflected in the LGU's MSME Development Plan and Investment Priority Plan, if any. CLUP must be aligned with all other plans designed or to be designed by the LGU.
5	e. Checks if the requisite utilities and facilities are adequate and are climate- and disaster-resilient.	**All volumes**	**Compliant.** Climate and disaster resilient measures were considered by the LGU	
6	f. Evaluates the CLUP vis-à-vis approved agency's land use-related policies, plans and programs.	**all volumes**	**Compliant.** The LGU's proposed land use as indicated in the Draft CLUP fully supports economic development, investment promotion, and business efficiency. Identified commercial and industrial sites are found to be conducive to business and investment. Likewise, appropriate mitigation and/or adaptation measures were considered in the proposed commercial and	
	Other Comments:			
7		**Vol. 3 Sectoral stud**	Good point: LGU used the most recent available data. (2024-2025)	
8		**Vol. 1 pages 50- 5**	Tables/figures/illustrations were shown, however, discussion after each illustration is lacking.	The LGU may consider inserting a short discussion after each table/figure/illustration for better understanding of the reader.
9		**All volumes**	Some tables and figures presented have no data sources.	Always indicate the data source and if available, the year data was taken in all tables or illustrations presented
10		**Vol. 1 page 113, The Economic Sector**	*" The milling industries are not only found within in the poblacion of this municipality but it is also expanded in barangay areas. "*	May consider revising the phrase to: *"Milling industries are located not only within the municipality's poblacion but also in the barangay areas."*
11		**Vol. 1 page 114**	*"Factors such as the lack of infrastructure are not considered a weakness as this is something that may be improved and developed by the municipality."*	May consider revising the phrase to: *"The lack of infrastructure is not considered a structural weakness, as the municipality can actively develop and improve it."*

Reviewed by:

DIANA M. QUIZA
STIDS/OIC-Chief, Business Dev't. Division
DTI-Leyte

PROVINCE OF LEYTE
Office of the Provincial Agriculture

LGU Name: BATO **Province:** LEYTE **Region:** VIII

LGU Contact Person: Engr. Rizalina M. Buzon **Position:** MPDC **Contact Details:**

Planning Period of Submitted Plan: 2026-2037

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY (Please Input Name of Office)	VOLUME & PAGE	COMMENTS/FINDINGS	REMARKS/RECOMMENDATIONS
Parameters: Office of the Provincial Agriculturist	**Executive Summary page 48**	If there is a proposed conversion of existing agricultural areas and pasture areas to non-agricultural areas it would be appropriate to include it's location, area in hectares, existing land use and irrigation status.	Include area and location of the proposed land conversion. Include also the livestock population if the pasture area is to be converted to determine whether the remaining pasture area will be sufficient to support the existing livestock.
Other Comments:	**Executive Summary page 47**	Since poultry and livestock accounts for a huge increase in profit and production and one of your development focus, maybe you can identify the specific location and area of production not just Bato uplands as mentioned.	Identify production location. Set specific rules and regulations in establishing a farm may it be a backyard or commercial farming through Municipal ordinance and others.

Reviewed by:

ALMA A. MAÑAGO, DVM
ExtensioN Division Chief

PROVINCE OF LEYTE
PROVINCIAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICE
PALO LEYTE
RECEIVED
BY:
DATE: 09-16-26 TIME: 1:13 PM

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

OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN

1ST INDORSEMENT
16 September 2026

The Provincial Land Use Committee (PLUC) is respectfully requested to review and submit recommendations on the herein enclosed **Final Draft Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) and Zoning Ordinance (ZO) for the planning period 2026-2037 of Dato, Leyte, as endorsed by the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD), Regional Office 8.**

FLORINDA JILL S. UYVICO
Secretary to the Sanggunian

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN

MUNICIPALITY OF BATO, LEYTE
2026-2037

I. Vision

"A technology-driven business hub in Leyte with empowered and God-loving Batohanons, living in a self-sustaining, disaster-resilient, and ecologically-balanced environment advocating good governance."

The Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) 2026–2037 translates this vision into the spatial development framework of the Municipality of Bato. It provides the basis for guiding the location, intensity, and direction of future development while ensuring that settlement expansion, economic activities, infrastructure investments, environmental protection, and disaster-risk reduction are integrated within the municipality's finite land and water resources.

The vision recognizes Bato's aspiration to strengthen its position as a **technology-driven business hub in Leyte**, while ensuring that economic progress contributes to improved quality of life, resilient communities, ecological integrity, and responsive governance. This development direction is likewise reflected in the municipality's Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP) 2026–2031, which emphasizes technology, business development, inclusive governance, sustainable livelihood, disaster resilience, ecological stewardship, and digital transformation.

II. Brief Situationer

Land Area Geographic Location, Political Subdivision (Territorial Jurisdiction) and Barangay Subdivisions

The Municipality of Bato is located in the southwestern part of the province of Leyte. It is a coastal town. It is bounded on the north by the Municipality of Hilongos; on the east by the Municipality of Bontoc, Southern Leyte; on the south by the Municipality of Matalom; and on the west by the Canigao Channel. The Municipality of Bato is approximately 157 kilometers southwest of Leyte's capital, Tacloban City, and 27 kilometers away from Southern Leyte's capital, Maasin City. Bato has a land area of 7,472.60 hectares, including the island barangay. Bato is located at geographical coordinates 10°20' N latitude and 124°47' E longitude.

Bato is geographically situated along the western shoreline of Leyte, making it accessible by sea transport from the island provinces of Cebu and Bohol. Bato's town proper is located at the intersection of two national highways, which link the municipality to other neighboring towns.

The land area of the Municipality of Bato is approximately 7,472.60 hectares. It is composed of 32 barangays, six (6) of which are coastal barangays, namely Dolho, Iniguihan, Kalangaman, Tinago, Ponong, and Daanlungsod. The Poblacion barangays are Bagongbayan, Iniguihan, Kalangaman, Guerrero, and Tinago. Situated approximately 8 nautical miles west of the mainland is the island barangay of Dawahon, with a total land area of 28.12 hectares and a population of 3,153 based on the 2024 demographic data. The six coastal barangays have a combined population of 13,147, while the five Poblacion barangays have a combined population of 7,439. The remaining barangays have a combined

population of 26,128. Overall, the Municipality of Bato has a total population of 39,275 distributed among its 32 barangays, based on the 2024 demographic data.

Surface Drainage

The Municipality has three natural drainages, namely: Baha-baha River, Ogayon River and Can-idlang River. (Refer to Surface Drainage Map). Baha-baha River passess through Barangays Ponong and Tinago while Can-idlang River traverses Barangays Dolho, Daanlungsod and Iniguihan. Ogayon River passess through Barangays Alegria, Tugas, Alejos, Tabunok and Bagongbayan and drains to Can-idlang both Baha-baha and Can-idlang Rivers drain into the open sea.

Watershed

Bato has a bigger watershed area. It stretched from Barangay Domagocdoc going to Barangay Tabunok. It passes through Barangays Domagocdoc, Marcelo, Amagos, Liberty, San Agustin, Tagaytay, Naga, Alejos and Tabunok then to Bangkerohan River.

Watershed at Barangays Alegria, Tugas and Alejos funnelled the rain. It's run off goes to Ugayon Creek. It has small tributaries but still it will help rice farmers in Barangays Tugas, Alejos, Bagongbayan, Tabunok and Guerrero. It then confluences with Camotes Sea whose delta is between Barangays Dolho and Iniguihan.

The watershed area contributing run off for Tugawihan River covers of Barangays Osmena, Anahawan, San Agustin and Bago then merges to Bangkerohan River. This watershed is a contributor to irrigation and domestic uses in those barangays.

Mangrove Forest

Mangroves are mainly found as narrow band of area along the riverbanks and landward area on the shores of Bato, Leyte. The major mangrove generally includes Avicennia alba (mayapi), Sonneratia alba (pagatpat), Rhizophora sp. (bakhaw), Cereops tagal (tungog) and Aegeceras comiculatum (saging-saging). As a result of the Participatory Coastal Resource Assessment conducted by VSU in 2005, the estimated mangrove cover with good condition is around 10% only of the total mangrove area. This habitat is under critical threat and may be lost in the near future with the conversion of mangrove areas for development such as the GK Housing Site now St. Ambrose Ancop Canada.

Mangrove areas can be found in Barangays Daanlungsod, Dolho, Iniguihan, Tinago and Ponong. Barangay officials in Barangay Dawahon are on the move of mangrove plantation to protect their marine habitat

Conservation Areas and Other Special Interest Areas

Protected Areas (NIPAS and non-NIPAS) both terrestrial and marine

There are no NIPAS areas officially in the Municipality of Bato, under (RA 7586 NIPAS Act 1992). Promotion of marine friendly economic activities shall be undertaken while taking into account the critical ecological balance within.

Sand and gravel extraction from beaches shall be prohibited as stipulated in Batas Pambansa 263 R.A. 8550 prohibited the hunting, gathering, slaughtering and possessing of endangered flora and fauna.

Prime Agricultural Land (NPAAAD)

All irrigated land, irrigable lands already covered by irrigation projects with firm funding commitments and lands with existing or having potential for growing high value crops so delineated within the SAFDZ shall not be converted.

In the provision of areas for urban expansion, other strategies and all other possible alternatives should be explored first before considering possible land conversion. Other strategies shall include: 1) infilling of vacant lots; 2) increasing density; 3) renewal/redevelopment and 4) reclamation.

Only houses made of light materials within rice lands, irrigated and irrigable areas shall be allowed to remain; however, no expansion/improvements shall be permitted. A monitoring team at the barangay level shall be created to prevent the construction of houses with light materials which do not require building permits. In non-irrigable areas, locational permits are required for construction of all houses.

Bato has an extensive rice land covering nearly 979 hectares. Out of this vast area, 575 hectares are served by various forms of irrigation. The remaining 404 are rain fed but they are potentially irrigable. These lands therefore, fall within the identified network of protected areas for development. Sec. 9 of the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (RA 8435) prohibits conversion of such lands into non-agricultural use. The said law however, allows conversion on a case-to-case basis.

Fish Sanctuaries

There are two established Fish sanctuaries/Marine Protected Areas (MPA) and one Artificial Reef Complex in Bato, Leyte. The Island of Dawahon was the proposed Fish Sanctuary in 1991. After five years from the date of its approval, it was given to the Barangay Dawahon as stipulated in Municipal Ordinance No. 1991-06. At present, works are underway to rehabilitate the Dawahon Fish sanctuary and to amend its management plan based on the approved guidelines for establishment of fish sanctuaries.

In 2005, coastal resource assessment was conducted to determine seagrass and coral status surrounding Dawahon Island and the adjacent areas. The Tomakin fish sanctuary located in Barangay Ponong was later organized and established in 2005. The establishment was in collaboration with the municipality of Matalom where the recommended area is located at the boundary involving the two municipalities. The 2015 Participatory Coastal Resource Assessment (PCRA) remains the most recent formal evaluation of the area's reef fish diversity and population

Climate and Disaster Risk Assessment (CDRA)-Social Sectors

CLIMATE AND DISASTER RISK ASSESSMENT (CDRA) (SOCIAL SECTORS)					
CATEGORY	EXPOSURE UNIT	CLIMATE IMPACT	DIRECT IMPACT	INDIRECT IMPACT	ADAPTATION OPTIONS
Anthropegene Systeme	Health	Temperature Rise Prolonged Dry season More Concentrated Rainfall Increased Intensity of Cyclones Sea level rise	Floods Storm surges Typhoons Landslides	Loss of investment Destroyed health facilities Further disadvantage to remote areas	Early warning systems Consider Climate Change predictions Cyclone and flood resistant buildings
Anthropegene Systeme	Education	Temperature rise Prolonged dry season More concentrated rainfall Increased intensity of cyclones Sea level rise	Floods Storm surge Typhoons Landslides	Loss of investment Destroyed educational facilities Further disadvantage to remote areas	Early warning system Consider Climate Change predictions Cyclone and flood resistant buildings
Anthropegene Systeme	Housing	Concentrated rainfall Increased intensity of cyclones Sea level rise	Floods Storm surges Typhoons Landslides	Loss investments Loss of shelters/abode	Early warning systems Consider Climate Change predictions Cyclone and flood resistant buildings

Climate and Disaster Risk Assessment (CDRA)-Economic Sectors

CLIMATE AND DISASTER RISK ASSESSMENT (CDRA) (ECONOMIC SECTORS)					
CATEGORY	EXPOSURE UNIT	CLIMATE STIMULI	DIRECT IMPACT	INDIRECT IMPACT	ADAPTATION OPTIONS
Ecosystem Services	Environment	Temperature rise Prolonged dry season More Concentrated rainfall Sea level rise	Destroyed Ecosystem	Insecurity about seasons Migration into cities Conflict: Human/animals	Early warning system Consider Climate Change predictions
Ecosystem Services	Agriculture	Temperature rise Prolonged dry season More Concentrated rainfall Sea level rise	Lower yields/fewer foodstuffs after flood higher yields	Insecurity about seasons, Food insecurity, Migration into cities, Conflict: human/animals	Diversification of crops, Erosion control, Water Cisterns, Small scale irrigation

Climate and Disaster Risk Assessment (CDRA)-Infrastructure and Utilities Sectors

CLIMATE AND DISASTER RISK ASSESSMENT (CDRA) (INFRASTRUCTURE AND UTILITIES SECTORS)					
CATEGORY	EXPOSURE UNIT	CLIMATE STIMULI	DIRECT IMPACT	INDIRECT IMPACT	ADAPTATION OPTIONS
Ecosystem Services	Water	Temperature rise Prolonged dry season More concentrated rainfall Sea level rise	Drying up of water sources Flooding of water sources Pollution of water sources	Lack/scarcity of potable water sources	Early warning systems Consider Climate Change predictions Water Cisterns
Anthropegene Systeme	Power	Concentrated rainfall Increased intensity of cyclones Sea level rise	Floods Storm surges Typhoons Landslide	Loss of investment Destroyed power utilities Further disadvantage to remote areas	Early warning systems Consider Climate Change Predictions Cyclone and flood resistant buildings
Anthropegene Systeme	Infrastructure	Concentrated rainfall Increased intensity of cyclones Sea level rise	Floods Storm surges Typhoons Landslides	Loss of investment Destroyed roads Further disadvantage to remote areas	Early warning system Consider Climate Change predictions Cyclone and flood resistant buildings

Climate and Disaster Risk Assessment (CDRA) - Land Use Plan

CLIMATE AND DISASTER RISK ASSESSMENT (CDRA) (LAND USE PLAN)					
CATEGORY	EXPOSURE UNIT	CLIMATE STIMULI	DIRECT IMPACT	INDIRECT IMPACT	ADAPTATION OPTIONS
Anthropegene Systeme	Land Use Plan	Concentrated rainfall, Increased intensity of cyclones, Sea level rise	Floods, storm surges, typhoons, Landslides	Loss of investments, Destroyed roads, further disadvantage to remote areas, Destroyed infrastructure	Early warning systems, consider climate change forecasts, Cyclone and flood resistant buildings
Anthropegene Systeme	Land Use Plan	Geologic Foundation	The Municipality of Bato, Leyte is resting on various soils. On the mountains: limestones, clay, sand and sedimentary rocks. The poblacion is silty sand and gravel.	Due to its material deposits of silt, erosion is inevitable	Regular desilting of esteros and creeks are important
Anthrogene Systeme	Land Use Plan	Flooding	Due to siltation of riverbed, and large roots and debris carried by the floods, overflowing of water happens in Barangays Daanlungsod, Guerrero and Iniguihan. Due to heavy discharge, there is backwater. The effect is worse. Water is spread in Barangays Bagongbayan,Tinago and Kalangaman	Debris are scattered all over. Drainage canals are clogged, silt are left on the grounds. Flies fed on dirt. Mosquitoes could start breeding again. Health hazards are made.	River rechanneling, strict implementation of solid waste management law, immediate cleaning and disposal of wastes

CLIMATE AND DISASTER RISK ASSESSMENT (CDRA) (LAND USE PLAN)					
Anthrogene Systeme	Land Use Plan	Saltwater Intrusion/ Storm Surge	Barangays Ponong, Tinago, Iniguihan and Dolho are coastal barangays and they are more vulnerable to storm surges. Considering the influx of people from mountain barangays, water demand is high. Also salt water intrusion is expected in the future.	Damage to properties, infrastructure and loss of lives. Loss of investments. Further disadvantage to Internally Displaced Persons	Early warning systems Consider Climate Change Predictions Cyclone and flood resistant buildings. Evacuation Plan, Evacuation Center
Anthrogene Systeme	Land Use Plan	High Susceptibility to Flooding	Barangays Guerrero, Tabunok, Dolho and Daanglungsod are highly susceptible to flooding. These barangays are located along Ugayon River. Ugayon River is heavily silted and its banks are habitat for Nipa Palms and Mangrooves. At the influx of flashfloods, water will overflow at the banks and will eventually flow to the households of said barangays.		Rechanneling and disilting are the best options for these scenarios. Nipa plants and some mangroves which are growing along the river banks should be removed. Residents at the area should strictly observe not throwing trash and garbage at the river. Flow of water shall be efficient. A bridge downstream should be corrected. The widths of the bridge from its abutments are narrower than the river itself. Therefore river discharge can't be contained simultaneously at the bridge's span.

CLIMATE AND DISASTER RISK ASSESSMENT (CDRA) (LAND USE PLAN)					
Anthrogene Systeme	Land Use Plan	Low Susceptibility to Flooding	Due to flooding at adjacent barangays, Barangays Bagongbayan, Tinago, Kalangaman and Iniguihan will be suffering the indirect impact. Being a flat and flood plain area, water overflowing from adjacent barangays will inundate these barangays. Esteros, drainage canals will be full of silt, debris and other wastes which are disease carriers will be present in these areas.		

ANALYSIS

Health

The Climate Stimuli for Health are temperature rise, prolonged dry season, more concentrated rainfall, increased intensity of cyclone and Sea level rise. As a result there will be Floods, Storm surges, Typhoons, Landslides and Loss of investments, Destroyed health facilities and further disadvantage to remote areas. The Adaptive options are: Early warning systems, Consider Climate Change predictions and Cyclone and flood resistant buildings.

Education

The Climate Stimuli for Education are: temperature rise, prolonged dry season, more concentrated rainfall, increased intensity of cyclones and Sea level rise. As a result there will be Floods, Storm surges, Typhoons, Landslides and Loss of investments, Destroyed educational facilities and further disadvantage to remote areas. The Adaptive options are Early warning systems; consider Climate Change predictions and Cyclone and flood resistant buildings.

Housing

The Climate stimuli for Housing are concentrated rainfall, increased intensity of cyclones and sea level rise. As a result there will be Floods, Storm surges, Typhoons, Landslides and Loss of shelter/abode. The Adaptive options are Early warning systems; consider Climate Change predictions, cyclone and flood resistant buildings.

Environment

The Climate Stimuli for Environment are: temperature rise, prolonged dry season, more concentrated rainfall and sea level rise. The result is destruction of the ecosystem and insecurity about seasons, migration into cities and conflict between human and animals. The adaptive options are early warning systems and consider Climate Change predictions.

Agriculture

The Climate Stimuli for Agriculture are: temperature rise, prolonged dry season, more concentrated rainfall, and sea level rise. As a result, there will be lower yields/fewer foodstuffs, after floods higher yields and insecurity about seasons, food insecurity, migration into cities, and conflict between human and animals. The Adaptive options are diversification of crops, erosion control, putting up water cisterns and small scale irrigation.

Water

The Climate Stimuli for Water are temperature rise, prolonged dry season, more concentrated rainfall and sea level rise. As a result, there will be drying up of water sources; flooding of water sources; pollution of water sources and lack/scarcity of potable water sources. The adaptive options are early warning systems; consider Climate Change predictions and putting up water cisterns.

Power

The Climate Stimuli for Power are concentrated rainfall, increased intensity of cyclones and sea level rise. As a result there will be floods, storm surges,

typhoons, landslides and loss of investments, destroyed power utilities and further disadvantage to remote area. The adaptive options are early warning systems; consider Climate Change prediction and cyclone and flood resistant buildings.

Infrastructure

The Climate stimuli for Infrastructure are: concentrated rainfall, increased intensity of cyclones and sea level rise. As a result there will be floods, storm surges, typhoons, landslides and loss of investments, destroyed reads and further disadvantage to remote areas. The Adaptive options are early warning systems consider Climate Change predictions, cyclone and flood resistant buildings.

Land Use Plan

The Climate Stimuli for Land Use plan are concentrated rainfall, increased intensity of cyclones and sea level rise. As a result there will be floods, storm surges, typhoons, landslides and loss of investments, destroyed roads, and further disadvantage to remote areas and destroyed infrastructure. The Adaptive options are early warning systems; consider Climate Change predictions and cyclone and flood resistant buildings.

The Details or specifics of the CDRA per sector such as the area of coverage, specific location in the city, intensity and magnitude shall be tackled in the sector concerned in order to come up with a more or less realistic scenario of the climate and disaster risks of the sector. This in turn shall help in coming up with a more meaningful and realistic CLUP as far as Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction Management in concerned.

Vulnerability Assessment

The hazards in the Municipality of Bato based on assessment conducted by MGB, DENR, as shown on the hazard map of Bato, Leyte are:

1. Flood
   In the municipality of Bato, Leyte, flood prone areas are Barangays of Daanlungsod, Tabunok, Naga, Tagaytay, Dolho, Guerrero, Iniguihan, Bagongbayan, Alejos, Kalangaman, Tinago, Ponong, Bago, Anahawan, Mabini, Tugas, Buli, Sto. Nino, Liberty and Amagos. The total population affected barangays would be 13,375 persons in which majority of them come from persons with special needs who are also highly susceptible to flooding. Different impacts/effect, possible implications when unresolved and possible interventions or policy options are determined.

2. Storm Surge
   This type of hazard only affects the areas located along the shoreline of Bato. The barangays that could be affected are Dolho, Iniguihan, Kalangaman, Tinago, Ponong and Dawahon Island. In terms of crop loss, Barangay Dawahon could incur big production loss of seaweeds, due to the susceptibility of this commodity to big waves. Just like in flood prone areas, mostly the highly susceptible sectors are the persons with special needs.

3. Accidents
   For the purpose of this planning, the type of accident referred to is vehicular accidents on highways. The accidents usually happen in Barangays of Daanlungsod, Iniguihan, Kalangaman, Tinago, Ponong, Bagongbayan,

Guerrero, Alejos, Tagaytay, Anahawan, Osmena and Bago during peak hours and school days as well. School children are highly susceptible to this hazard.

4. Sea Accidents
   Usually coastal barangays affected are: Barangays Dawahon, Dolho, Iniguihan, Kalangaman, Tinago & Ponong.

5. Landslide due to Rain
   Although the action of gravity is the primary driving force for a landslide to occur, there are other contributing factors affecting the original slope stability. Typically, pre-conditional factors build up specific sub-surface conditions that make the area/slope prone to failure, whereas the actual landslide often requires a trigger before being released.

6. Rain Induced Landslide
   Barangays affected are Tabunok, Naga, Tagaytay, Mabini, Bago, Anahawan, Himamaa, Rivilla, Katipunan, Plaridel, Osmena, Cebuana, Sto. Nino, Buli, Liberty, Imelda, Amagos, Domagocdoc, Marcelo, San Agustin, Alegria, Alejos, Tugas, Tinago and Ponong. Residents building houses on landslide prone areas are advised to transfer their dwellings in safe areas.

7. Fire Hazards
   In this municipality of Bato, Leyte congested areas are usually prone to fire accidents such as in Barangay Dawahon, Iniguihan, Kalangaman, Tinago, Dolho, Ponong and other areas in the poblacion barangay.

8. Groundshaking
   The whole municipality of Bato, Leyte is prone to ground shaking as experienced by the entire constituents from the past earthquakes.

9. Health Related Hazards
   The whole municipality of Bato, Leyte is prone to all health related hazards.

10. Tropical cyclone
    The entire municipality of Bato has experienced several tropical storms or tropical cyclones throughout the year because of its geographic location. Some of its typhoon causes rivers to overflow thus there will be flooding; landslides and storm surge are some of the effects of tropical cyclone.

11. Drought
    Aside from the 2015–2016 drought, Bato experienced another dry spell during the 2023–2024 El Niño, one of the strongest on record, which left Leyte province, including Southern Leyte, under prolonged below-normal rainfall. Local crop production, particularly rice and other rain-fed crops, was affected by the extended dry conditions.

DEMOGRAPHY

Household Population by Urban and Rural Barangay and Average Household Size, Year 2024

Barangay	Population	Number of Household	Average Household Size
Urban			
Bagongbayan	926	246	4
Guerrero	763	208	4
Iniguihan	1,871	400	5
Kalanggaman	1,427	333	4
Tinago	2,452	580	4
Sub-Total	**7,439**	**1,767**	**4**
Rural			
Alegria	1,335	322	4
Alejos	1,647	388	4
Amagos	718	166	4
Anahawan	1,988	484	4
Bago	1,093	249	4
Buli	1,153	293	4
Cebuana	251	66	4
Daanlungsod	1,328	330	4
Dawahon	3,153	701	4
Dolho	3,717	732	5
Domagocdoc	286	69	4
Himama-a	630	176	4
Imelda	420	101	4
Katipunan	478	109	4
Liberty	503	130	4
Mabini	356	101	4
Marcelo	438	92	5
Naga	604	149	4
Osmena	1,155	287	4
Plaridel	432	112	4
Ponong	2,352	494	5
Rivilla	379	88	4
Santo Nino	379	90	4
San Agustin	447	123	4
Tabunok	3,405	746	5
Tagaytay	1,289	310	4
Tugas	1,900	440	4
Sub-Total	**31,836**	**7,348**	**4**
Total	**39,275**	**9,115**	**4**

Source: CMBS 2024

List of Barangays with Corresponding Land Area (hectares; square kilometers) and Distance per Barangay

Barangay	Land Area (Hectares)	Land Area (sq. km.)	Distance from Town Proper (km)
1. Alegria	363.80	3.6380	5.20
2. Alejos	401.32	4.0132	2.00
3. Amagos	299.04	2.9904	6.10
4. Anahawan	625.53	6.2553	10.00
5. Bago	538.34	5.3834	7.00
6. Bagongbayan	22.37	0.2237	w/in
7. Buli	611.90	6.1190	13.00
8. Cebuana	189.21	1.8921	12.00
9. Daanlungsod	56.87	0.5687	2.00
10. Dawahon	28.12	0.2812	18.00
11. Dolho	46.46	0.4646	1.00
12. Domagocdoc	70.03	0.7003	6.50
13. Guerrero	10.30	0.1030	w/in
14. Himamaa	430.99	4.3099	9.80
15. Imelda	153.88	1.5388	14.40
16. Iniguihan	16.48	0.1648	w/in
17. Kalangaman	13.39	0.1339	w/in
18. Katipunan	234.52	2.3452	12.50
19. Liberty	463.52	4.6352	9.80
20. Mabini	57.34	0.5734	6.40
21. Marcelo	180.76	1.8076	5.50
22. Naga	188.98	1.8898	4.40
23. Osmeña	414.74	4.1474	14.00
24. Plaridel	154.86	1.5486	13.00
25. Ponong	163.38	1.6338	1.70
26. Rivilla	119.19	1.1919	11.00
27. San Agustin	216.66	2.1666	5.00
28. Sto. Niño	242.38	2.4238	13.00
29. Tabunok	268.76	2.6876	2.10
30. Tagaytay	224.71	2.2471	3.30
31. Tinago	34.41	0.3441	w/in
32. Tugas	413.38	4.1338	2.20
33. Bato Versus Matalom	216.98	2.1698	—

Source: NAMRIA, DENR-RO8, LGU-Bato, 2024

. Population Density by Barangay, Year 2024

Barangay	Population	Gross Area (ha)	Population Density (Gross Barangay Area)
Urban			
Bagongbayan	926	22.3700	41
Guerreo	763	10.3000	74
Iniguihan	1,871	16.4800	114
Kalanggaman	1,427	13.3900	107
Tinago	2,452	34.4100	71
Subtotal	7,439	96.9500	77
Rural			
Alegria	1,335	363.8000	4
Alejos	1,647	401.3200	4
Amagos	718	299.0400	2
Anahawan	1,988	625.5300	3
Bago	1,093	538.3400	2
Buli	1,153	611.9000	2
Cebuana	251	189.2100	1
Daanlungsod	1,328	56.8700	23
Dawahon	3,153	28.1200	112
Dolho	3,717	46.4600	80
Domagocdoc	286	70.0300	4
Himama-a	630	430.9900	1
Imelda	420	153.8800	3
Katipunan	478	234.5200	2
Liberty	503	463.5200	1
Mabini	356	57.3400	6
Marcelo	438	180.7600	2
Naga	604	188.9800	3
Osmena	1,155	414.7400	3
Plaridel	432	154.8600	3
Ponong	2,352	163.3800	14
Rivilla	379	119.1900	3
Santo Nino	379	242.3800	2
San Agustin	447	216.6600	2
Tabunok	3,405	268.7600	13
Tagaytay	1,289	224.7100	6
Tugas	1,900	413.3800	5
Bato versus Matalom		216.9800	0
Subtotal	31836	7376	4
Total	**39,275.00**	**7,472.60**	**81.05**

Source: Municipal Planning Development Office

Literacy Rate

Table DE-8 shows the literacy rate of the population 10 years old and over in the Municipality of Bato in 2024. Of the 32,640 persons in this age group, 32,037 or 98 percent are literate, while only 603 or 2 percent are classified as illiterate.

Literacy rates are equally high among males and females at 98 percent. There are 16,077 literate males and 15,960 literate females, indicating minimal gender difference in literacy.

The high literacy rate reflects a generally favorable educational condition in the municipality. Nevertheless, the remaining 603 illiterate persons should continue to be considered in literacy, alternative learning, and other educational programs, particularly in areas where access to educational services may be limited.

Indicator	Municipal					
	Male		Female		Both Sex	
	No.	Rate %	No.	Rate %	No.	Rate %
Literate	16,077	98	15,960	98	32,037	98
Illiterate	337	2	266	2	603	2
Total (Population >10yr)	**16,414**		**16,226**		**32,640**	

Source: CBMS 2024

Population by Religious Affiliation, Year 2024

Religious Affiliation	No. of People	% of Total Population
Catholics	36,679	93.39%
Iglesia ni Cristo	112	0.29%
Muslims	474	1.21%
Communities of the Philippines	295	0.75%
Association of Baptist Churches	398	1.01%
Christ Gaith Fellowship Phil. Inc	253	0.64%
Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints	185	0.47%
Assemblies of the Born Inc.	375	0.95%
Jehovah's Witness	138	0.35%
Jesus Is Lord	40	0.10%
Pentecostal Churh of God Asia	54	0.14%
Seventh Day Adventist	127	0.32%
United Church of Christ in the Philippines	83	0.21%
Other	62	0.16%
Total	39,275	100%

Source: CBMS 2024

Labor Force

Employment Status

Table DE-12 presents the population aged 15 years and over by sex and employment status in 2024. Of the 28,356 persons aged 15 years and over, 10,879 or 38.4 percent are reported as employed, while 17,477 or 61.6 percent are reported as unemployed.

A significant difference is observed between males and females. Among males, 7,561 or 53.3 percent are employed, compared with only 3,318 or 23.4 percent among females. Correspondingly, the reported unemployment proportion is higher among females at 76.6 percent compared with 46.7 percent among males.

The figures indicate a substantial gender difference in reported employment participation, particularly among women. This highlights the need to strengthen local livelihood, skills development, entrepreneurship, and employment opportunities that are accessible to both men and women during the planning period.

Labor Force Population by Sex and Employment Status, Year 2024

Sex	Municipal				
	Population 15 Yrs and Over	Employed	%	Unemployed	%
Male	14,199	7,561	53.3	6,638	46.7
Female	14,157	3,318	23.4	10,839	76.6
Both Sexes	28,356	10,879	38.4	17,477	61.6

SOCIAL SECTOR

1. EDUCATION SECTOR

The Municipality of Bato has an established educational system serving learners from early childhood to tertiary level. The existing school network includes public and private elementary and secondary schools as well as tertiary education facilities. The sectoral assessment shows, however, that the utilization of classrooms and teachers is uneven among schools. Some schools, particularly in the Bato West elementary schools, experience higher student-classroom ratios even though the municipality as a whole may appear to have sufficient classroom inventory. Teacher distribution is likewise uneven, indicating the need to rationalize deployment and provide additional personnel where actual enrollment and school-level demand warrant.

Enrollment trends show fluctuations at the elementary level and an overall decline in Junior High School enrollment during the historical period, while Senior High School and tertiary enrollment have generally increased. These trends indicate changing demand for educational facilities, specialized instruction, technical-vocational education, career preparation, scholarship assistance, and linkages with higher education and training institutions.

The school-going population is projected to increase from 15,396 in 2024 to approximately 16,406 by 2037. The secondary school-age population will remain the largest school-age group, reaching about 5,484 by the end of the planning period, followed by the elementary, pre-school, and tertiary age groups. This projected growth will continue to generate demand for classrooms, teachers, equipment, learning facilities, and education-support services.

Another major concern is the exposure of several school facilities to natural hazards. Some schools are also used as evacuation centers, which means that damage to these facilities may disrupt both education and emergency-response functions. School-specific hazard and structural assessment, retrofitting, emergency utilities, safe evacuation arrangements, and relocation where risk cannot be adequately reduced should therefore form part of future education planning.

2. HEALTH AND SANITATION SECTOR

The Municipal Health Office and the local health-facility network provide primary health care, maternal and child health, preventive services, disease surveillance, sanitation, and other basic health services to the population of Bato. Available health records show continuing demand for these services. The municipality recorded 371 births and 195 deaths in 2024, while infant mortality remained low, with no reported infant deaths during the year. The available health database, however, contains gaps in several indicators, making strengthened health-information management important for future planning.

Communicable diseases remain an important public-health concern. Dengue cases increased sharply from 23 cases in 2023 to 371 cases in 2024, while upper respiratory tract infections and pneumonia continue to contribute significantly to morbidity. At the same time, cardiovascular and other non-communicable diseases remain major causes of illness and death, requiring sustained screening, prevention, treatment, and healthy-lifestyle programs.

Nutrition also remains a concern. In 2024, 452 children or 15.8 percent of those assessed were recorded as stunted, while overweight and obesity were also reported. This reflects the presence of a double burden of malnutrition and

emphasizes the importance of First 1,000 Days interventions, growth monitoring, nutrition education, and targeted nutrition programs.

Sanitation conditions likewise require continuing attention. Of the 9,863 households represented in the 2025 sanitation inventory, 8,327 or 84.4 percent had access to listed sanitary toilet facilities, while 1,536 households or 15.6 percent had no toilet facility or were reported to be using open areas. The largest reported sanitation gaps occur in several barangays, indicating the need to expand sanitary toilet access, strengthen Zero Open Defecation initiatives, improve sanitation education, and provide appropriate wastewater and septage management.

The municipality presently has an identified network of primary health facilities consisting of two Municipal Health Centers and six barangay-level health centers. Based on the planning standard used in Volume III, the projected requirement remains at eight health facilities throughout the 2026–2037 period. This does not, however, mean that the existing system is fully adequate, because accessibility, personnel, equipment, physical condition, service capacity, and hazard exposure must also be considered. Several facilities have medium or high susceptibility to particular hazards and therefore require strengthening of resilience and operational capacity.

3. HOUSING SECTOR

The housing situation of Bato has generally improved in terms of the overall housing backlog, but issues of adequacy, tenure security, informal settlement, and hazard exposure remain. The municipality recorded 9,155 households and 9,155 occupied housing units in 2024. The close numerical relationship between households and occupied units does not necessarily indicate that all housing needs have been met because housing adequacy also depends on structural condition, occupancy arrangement, affordability, tenure, access to basic services, and location.

A total housing backlog of 253 units remained in 2024, composed of doubled-up households, unacceptable housing units, and makeshift or improvised dwellings. Although this represents an improvement from the higher backlog recorded in previous censal years, inadequate and makeshift housing continues to require targeted upgrading, shelter assistance, and relocation where necessary.

Informal settlement is another major concern. Volume III identifies 585 informal settler households distributed across 23 barangays, including settlements located in foreshore, mangrove, and agricultural areas. Only about 47 percent of occupied residential lots are owned, even though around 90 percent of households own their housing units, indicating continuing tenure insecurity. Existing housing and resettlement sites are also exposed to flooding, landslides, tropical cyclones, and storm surge.

Potential housing lands totaling 19.73 hectares have been identified in Barangays Ponong and Tugas. These sites may provide opportunities for future residential and socialized housing, but their development remains subject to land suitability, hazard assessment, agricultural land protection and conversion requirements, infrastructure availability, accessibility, tenure, and consistency with the updated CLUP and zoning framework.

Future demand due to household formation will continue during the planning period, reaching approximately 618 housing units by 2037. The municipality should therefore pursue a phased housing program that addresses the remaining backlog, housing upgrading, tenure security, relocation, and future

household growth while ensuring access to basic services and disaster-resilient locations.

4. SOCIAL WELFARE SECTOR

The Municipality of Bato maintains a decentralized social welfare system that serves children, senior citizens, persons with disabilities, solo parents, women, and other vulnerable groups. Its facilities consist largely of Day Care or Child Development Centers, supported by other social welfare facilities including the Senior Citizen Center in Barangay Iniguihan. Several Child Development Centers are exposed to flooding and/or tsunami hazards despite generally being in good physical condition, requiring disaster-resilient upgrading and strengthened emergency preparedness.

The number of social welfare clientele increased from 3,752 in 2022 to 5,187 in 2024, before slightly declining to 5,034 in 2025. Senior citizens remain the largest clientele group, with 3,672 served in 2025, indicating sustained demand for elderly-focused assistance, accessible facilities, and community-based services. Persons with disabilities also remain a significant sector, with 1,077 registered clientele in 2025.

Other vulnerable groups include solo parents, children in need of special protection, and women in especially difficult circumstances. In 2025, the municipality recorded 281 solo parents, three children in need of special protection, and one woman in especially difficult circumstances. These figures represent reported or served clientele and should not be interpreted as the total population experiencing vulnerability.

The Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) provides coverage in all 32 barangays, while the Sustainable Livelihood Program operates only in selected barangays. Future social welfare planning should therefore sustain broad social protection coverage, improve beneficiary databases and registries, expand accessible facilities, and strengthen livelihood and support programs based on validated needs.

5. PROTECTIVE SERVICES SECTOR

The Municipality of Bato is served by police, traffic management, fire protection, and municipal jail services. Existing facilities provide an established protective-service network, but personnel, equipment, and facility requirements will need to be strengthened as population and service demands increase.

The PNP Headquarters in Barangay Iniguihan has 33 personnel, while the BFP Headquarters has 14 personnel, one fire truck, one ambulance, and other firefighting equipment. The limited number of major response vehicles may constrain simultaneous or geographically dispersed emergency operations.

The Municipal Jail is in poor physical condition, occupies approximately 20 square meters, has two personnel, and has no dedicated listed vehicle. Rehabilitation, upgrading, expansion, or provision of a more appropriate custodial facility should therefore be pursued in accordance with applicable standards.

Fire incidents increased from one case in 2023 to eight cases in 2024, with electrical ignition, including overloading, arcing, and wiring-related causes, frequently identified. This highlights the importance of fire prevention, electrical safety inspections, community education, barangay preparedness, and improved emergency-response capability.

Projected requirements indicate that by 2037 Bato will require approximately 42 police personnel, 21 fire personnel, and eight jail personnel. Personnel augmentation should be complemented by improvements in facilities, mobility, communication, equipment, training, and disaster-response capacity.

6. SPORTS AND RECREATION SECTOR

The Municipality of Bato has a diverse network of sports and recreational facilities distributed throughout its barangays. Facilities include basketball courts, barangay and municipal gymnasiums, badminton and table-tennis facilities, volleyball, sepak takraw, pickleball, lawn tennis, futsal, baseball and softball areas, track-and-field facilities, parks, swimming facilities, and other recreational establishments. These facilities support organized sports, youth development, physical fitness, leisure, and community activities.

Although many facilities are reported to be in good condition, several are classified as fair or poor and require rehabilitation and regular maintenance. Future investments should therefore prioritize improvement and maintenance of existing facilities in addition to providing new recreational infrastructure where justified.

Hazard exposure is an important planning issue. Several sports and recreational facilities are located in areas with high susceptibility to flooding, tropical cyclones, landslides, and tsunami. Some gymnasiums and multipurpose facilities are also used as evacuation centers, making their structural safety and continued operation during emergencies particularly important.

Proposed recreational facilities in Osmeña and Dawahon likewise have high to very high hazard susceptibility. Site-suitability and hazard assessments should therefore be completed before development, and appropriate mitigation and disaster-resilient design should be incorporated into future sports and recreation projects.

ECONOMIC SECTOR

1. AGRICULTURE SECTOR

The Municipality of Bato remains predominantly agricultural, with crop production, livestock and poultry raising, fisheries, and aquaculture continuing to support the livelihood of many households. The municipality has a substantial agricultural labor force composed of farmers, crop growers, orchard farmers, livestock raisers, poultry growers, and farm workers. Agricultural production therefore remains an important component of the local economy and food-supply system.

Rice remains one of the principal agricultural commodities, while coconut, corn, banana, vegetables, root crops, fruit trees, livestock, and poultry are also produced in different barangays. The municipality likewise has production areas devoted to fisheries and aquaculture, particularly in coastal and island communities. Volume III indicates that Bato is currently capable of producing the volume required to meet the projected municipal food-intake requirements under the standards applied in the sectoral study.

The agricultural sector, however, is exposed to tropical cyclones, flooding, drought, increasing temperatures, and other climate-related stresses. These conditions may affect crop yields, livestock production, fisheries, and the stability of rural livelihoods. Agricultural land is also subject to pressure from competing land uses as urban, commercial, residential, and infrastructure development expands.

Future agricultural development should therefore emphasize the protection of strategic agricultural lands, particularly irrigated and irrigable areas, while promoting climate-resilient crops, diversified production, improved irrigation, mechanization, post-harvest facilities, farm-to-market roads, agricultural extension, and access to markets and financing. The continuing growth of Bato's population will also increase the demand for cereals, vegetables, fruits, meat, fish, poultry, and other food products throughout the 2026–2037 planning period.

Fisheries and aquaculture remain closely linked with the agricultural economy because of Bato's location along productive municipal waters. Sustainable fisheries management, protection of marine habitats, aquaculture support, enforcement against illegal fishing, provision of post-harvest facilities, and livelihood diversification should therefore complement land-based agricultural development.

2. FORESTRY SECTOR

The forest and upland areas of Bato provide both productive and environmental functions. The forest areas identified in the sectoral study are generally classified as production forest rather than protection forest, while forest-dependent households obtain livelihood and other benefits from timber and non-timber forest resources.

The sector, however, faces several concerns. Forest areas are highly susceptible to landslides, and eroded areas, damaged trees, degradation of naturally occurring flora and fauna, and encroachment of residential structures into forest and mangrove areas have been identified. Increasing dependence on forest resources may further contribute to forest degradation if extraction and settlement expansion are not properly regulated.

Future forest management should therefore focus on reforestation, anti-slash-and-burn campaigns, planting of fruit-bearing and wood-producing trees, regulation of cutting and harvesting, protection of critical slopes and waterways, and control of settlement encroachment. Agroforestry and other sustainable forest-production activities may be encouraged in suitable areas to provide livelihood opportunities while maintaining ecological functions.

Forest management should also consider disaster-risk reduction. Maintaining vegetation cover in upland and steep areas contributes to slope stability, watershed protection, reduced erosion, and regulation of runoff. Thus, forestry development should be integrated with watershed management, biodiversity conservation, and land-use controls.

3. COMMERCE AND TRADE SECTOR

Commerce and trade are among the most important components of Bato's local economy and are central to the municipality's long-term development thrust. Commercial activities are concentrated primarily in the poblacion and along major transport corridors, particularly in Iniguihan, Kalangaman, Tinago, Bagongbayan, and Guerrero, while additional commercial areas have emerged in Daanlungsod, Alejos, Dolho, Tabunok, Anahawan, and Ponong.

The total recorded commercial area increased from 7.3903 hectares in 2023 to 12.6983 hectares in 2024, representing an increase of about 71.82 percent. This indicates a significant expansion of commercial land use within the municipality.

Formal business activity remains predominantly service- and trade-oriented. In 2024, the tertiary sector accounted for the largest share of business permits, with 692 permits, of which 472 or about 68 percent were for wholesale and retail trade. Hotels and restaurants accounted for 99 permits, while real estate, renting, and business activities accounted for 46. The secondary and primary sectors accounted for considerably fewer permits.

Commerce and trade generated substantial local employment. In 2024, identified business and trade activities employed 939 persons, with wholesale and retail trade accounting for 708 employees or approximately 75.40 percent of the total. Banking and finance employed 137 persons, while real estate and construction, services, and other businesses accounted for the remainder. The recorded businesses generated combined revenue of approximately ₱4.125 million, with wholesale and retail trade contributing the largest share.

The sector remains primarily oriented toward the local market. Future commercial development should therefore strengthen Bato's function as a trading and service center by improving market facilities, transport terminals, port connectivity, digital infrastructure, business services, and linkages with agricultural and fisheries production. New commercial development should be directed toward suitable and accessible areas while considering infrastructure capacity, surrounding land uses, traffic conditions, and hazard exposure.

4. INDUSTRY SECTOR

Industrial development in Bato remains relatively small-scale and consists mainly of light and medium industrial activities. Existing industries include rice mills, welding shops, furniture shops, hollow-block makers, sand and gravel activities, and Pryce Gases, Inc. These establishments are distributed across several barangays, including Tinago, Alejos, Buli, Tagaytay, Tabunok, Ponong, Osmeña,

Liberty, Daanlungsod, Anahawan, Tugas, Bagongbayan, Kalanggaman, and Himamaa.

The number of industrial establishments fluctuated from 32 in 2020 to 29 in 2024. Despite the decline in the number of establishments, industrial employment increased from 67 workers in 2020 to 110 workers in 2024, indicating that the sector has become a growing source of employment. Reported industrial revenue reached ₱239,689.18 in 2024, after peaking at ₱261,150.70 in 2023.

Industrial activities remain closely linked with the local agricultural, construction, and service sectors. Rice mills process locally and provincially sourced palay, furniture shops use wood sourced within Leyte, welding shops obtain steel primarily from Cebu, and sand-and-gravel activities utilize locally available materials. Most finished products are marketed locally, indicating that the current industrial sector mainly supports local production and consumption rather than external markets.

Natural hazards must also be considered in future industrial development. Several existing establishments are located in areas with high susceptibility to flooding or tsunami, particularly in parts of Daanlungsod, Tinago, Tabunok, Buli, Tagaytay, Ponong, Kalanggaman, and Bagongbayan. Future industrial sites should therefore be located in safer and more compatible areas and should comply with environmental, safety, infrastructure, and zoning requirements.

The sectoral study projects that industrial land requirements may reach approximately 33.48 hectares for light industries and 104.63 hectares for medium industries by 2037. This indicates the need to identify and reserve suitable industrial and agro-industrial locations that can support employment-generating and value-adding activities without creating conflict with residential and environmentally sensitive areas.

5. TOURISM SECTOR

The Municipality of Bato possesses a variety of natural, coastal and marine, recreational, cultural, and event-based tourism resources. Existing attractions include Baywalk Park in Kalangaman, Gunhuban Falls in Buli, Layog Falls and Aguinay Cave in Alegria, Domagocdoc–Imelda Spring, Tuod Sandbar in Dawahon, and the Danajon Double Barrier Reef. These resources provide opportunities for nature-based, coastal and marine, recreational, and community tourism.

Accessibility to tourism sites varies considerably. Baywalk Park, Gunhuban Falls, lodging facilities, and conference venues are generally accessible through paved roads in good condition. In contrast, Layog Falls, Aguinay Cave, and Domagocdoc Spring are accessed through unpaved roads in poor condition, while Tuod Sandbar and the Danajon Double Barrier Reef are accessed primarily by water. These accessibility limitations affect the utilization and further development of some tourism destinations.

Tourism-support services are available within the municipality, including pension and lodging houses, restaurants and food establishments, conference and function halls, financial institutions, health services, shopping establishments, and passenger transport services. However, these facilities remain distributed among different establishments and largely cater to the local market. Accommodation capacity remains relatively limited, suggesting that increased tourism activity will require corresponding improvements in visitor facilities and services.

Local cultural events further strengthen Bato's tourism potential. The Batobalani Festival, Fluvial Parade, and Foundation Day/Barbeque Festival promote local culture and identity while generating opportunities for visitor attraction, community participation, and economic activity.

Several tourism sites, however, are exposed to flooding, tropical cyclones, landslides, and tsunami hazards, while some attractions are located within forestlands and environmentally sensitive coastal or marine areas. Tourism development must therefore be risk-informed and environmentally sustainable. Future interventions should improve access, transport, visitor facilities, accommodation, safety measures, and destination management while protecting natural resources and applying appropriate carrying-capacity and hazard considerations

INFRASTRUCTURE SECTOR

1. TRANSPORTATION SECTOR

The transportation system of the Municipality of Bato is composed of national, provincial, municipal, barangay, farm-to-market, private and access roads, together with bridges, spillways, terminals, and sea transport facilities. These provide mobility within the municipality and connect Bato with neighboring municipalities and major urban centers in Leyte and Southern Leyte.

Most major bridges are concrete structures with a reported load capacity of 15 tons and are generally in good physical condition. However, some smaller crossings such as the Naga Spillway and Amagos II Hanging Bridge are reported to be in fair condition. Several structures, including Baha-baha Bridge, Ogayon Bridges I and II, Ligoan Bridge, Can-idlang Bridge, Dolho Bridge, Naga Hanging Bridge, Naga Spillway, Mabini Spillway, and Amagos II Hanging Bridge, are highly susceptible to flooding, while several coastal bridges also have high tsunami susceptibility. These conditions emphasize the need for regular structural assessment, maintenance, and disaster-resilient upgrading of critical crossings.

Land and water transportation terminals are concentrated primarily in Barangays Iniguihan and Kalangaman. Existing facilities serve buses, jeepneys, V-hires, tricycles, motorcycles, cargo vehicles, and sea transport. The Iniguihan seaport terminal includes a terminal building, waiting area, comfort room, lighting, television, and canteen facilities. The terminals, however, are exposed to varying hazard levels, with several facilities identified as highly susceptible to flooding and tsunami.

Public transportation includes buses, V-hires, multicabs or minibuses, and tricycles. Buses and V-hires connect Bato with Tacloban, Ormoc, Maasin, Sogod, Hilongos, Inopacan, Matalom, and destinations outside Leyte, while tricycles mainly serve the poblacion and nearby barangays. The existing network therefore supports both local mobility and Bato's wider regional linkages.

Sea transport remains important to Bato's intermodal connectivity. Existing port facilities in Barangay Iniguihan include a pier with RoRo ramp, passenger terminal, ticketing office, lighthouse, comfort room, and cargo-truck terminal. These facilities are reported as being in good condition and serve daily trips, although the present condition and adequacy of the port facilities should be periodically updated and validated.

Road safety remains a concern. Recorded road accidents from 2020 to 2024 occurred along several sections of the National Highway, with all identified incidents attributed to reckless driving. Tagaytay and Daanlungsod recorded the highest totals in the available data. This highlights the continuing need for traffic-law enforcement, warning and directional signs, road-safety education, and appropriate engineering measures.

The municipality should continue improving and completing road links, farm-to-market roads, drainage, slope protection, bridges and spillways, while ensuring that major transport corridors remain accessible during emergencies. Future transport development should also support the municipality's role as a trading and service center by strengthening the road-terminal-port system.

2. POWER SECTOR

The Municipality of Bato is served primarily by LEYECO IV, with electricity reaching most households and supporting residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, and public uses. Household electrification improved to approximately 92 percent in 2024, with 8,209 households served out of 8,925 reported households. Several barangays have attained full or near-full coverage, although significant gaps remain in some interior and remote communities.

Barangay Dawahon remains the most significant service gap because it is an off-grid island barangay and had no households served by the regular distribution system in 2024. Other barangays such as Imelda, Domagocdoc, Naga, Himamaa, Katipunan, and Marcelo also recorded lower levels of coverage compared with the municipal average. These areas should be prioritized for line expansion, household connections, and technically feasible off-grid or renewable-energy solutions.

Electricity demand has continued to rise. Total power connections increased from 7,262 in 2022 to 7,528 in 2024, while reported electricity consumption increased from approximately 4.71 million kWh to 5.92 million kWh over the same period. Residential users remain the dominant consumers, followed by commercial, public, industrial, and other low-voltage uses.

The power transmission and distribution network includes NGCP steel-tower pylons and older NOPOCOR wood-post facilities. The latter are particularly susceptible to tropical cyclones, which may result in power interruptions affecting households, businesses, public facilities, and emergency operations. Preventive maintenance, vegetation management, structural upgrading, and disaster-resilient power infrastructure are therefore important.

Future demand is projected to increase substantially, with total electricity requirements estimated to rise from approximately 6.85 million kWh in 2026 to 13.27 million kWh by 2036. The municipality should therefore coordinate system expansion and capacity improvements with the concerned power agencies while integrating future power requirements into land-use and infrastructure planning.

3. WATER SUPPLY SECTOR

The municipality is served by a combination of Level I, Level II, and Level III water systems, together with other sources such as rainwater and water peddlers. Water facilities are distributed among the barangays, although the level and reliability of service vary.

Most barangays presently indicate adequate reported water supply relative to estimated requirements. However, significant gaps remain in some areas. Barangay Dawahon has no reported conventional water supply despite a 2024 water requirement of about 220,710 liters per day, projected to increase to approximately 235,200 liters per day by 2037. Barangay Ponong likewise records a current deficit of about 14,700 liters per day, with projected demand reaching approximately 175,420 liters per day by 2037.

At the municipal level, the 2024 population of 39,275 has an estimated requirement of about 2.749 million liters per day, increasing to approximately 2.930 million liters per day by 2037. This rising demand requires continued expansion of distribution systems, protection of existing sources, improvement of storage and treatment, and prioritization of underserved barangays.

Surface-water resources include the Manlilinao, Bangkerohan, Baha-Baha, Ogayon, Tugawehan, Tubig Daku, and Can-idlang Rivers. These water bodies have different classifications and require continuing protection and monitoring to prevent pollution and degradation and to sustain their intended uses.

Several water facilities are also exposed to flooding and landslide hazards. Future investments should therefore provide safe and resilient facilities, alternative sources, adequate storage, and improved system redundancy, particularly for communities that may become isolated during disasters.

4. INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY SECTOR

Bato has an established communication network composed of postal services, cellular networks, cable television, and telecommunications facilities. Major communication facilities are concentrated in barangays such as Tinago, Osmeña, Kalangaman, Iniguihan, Alejos, Tagaytay, and Bagongbayan.

Cellular services are supported by Globe, Smart, Sun, and DITO facilities. Additional cell sites installed in Tagaytay, Alejos, and Bagongbayan during 2020–2021 have expanded telecommunications infrastructure beyond the earlier sites in Tinago and Osmeña, contributing to wider coverage.

Despite this expansion, communication infrastructure remains concentrated in selected barangays, and the available inventory does not provide detailed information on internet coverage, signal strength, broadband speed, or household connectivity in every barangay. This limits the municipality's ability to accurately identify underserved areas and determine future ICT requirements.

Communication facilities are also exposed to natural hazards. Cellular and cable television facilities are particularly susceptible to tropical cyclones, while some facilities have moderate tsunami susceptibility. Damage to these systems during disasters may disrupt emergency communication and public information. The municipality should therefore support the expansion of ICT infrastructure toward underserved and growth areas while promoting resilient facilities, backup communication systems, and regular maintenance.

ECOSYSTEM SECTOR

1. FOREST ECOSYSTEM

The forest ecosystem of Bato is relatively limited in area but remains important for timber production, agroforestry, pasture grazing, watershed protection, biodiversity, and disaster-risk reduction. Forestland areas are found in Alejos, Buli, Domagocdoc, Imelda, Liberty, Marcelo, and the Bato–Matalom boundary area. Based on the 2024 DENR inventory, these forest areas total approximately 271.65 hectares, with Barangay Imelda having the largest identified forest area at 138.61 hectares.

The forestlands support both naturally occurring and planted tree species, including Tugas, Narra, Ipil-ipil, Tipolo, Tubog, Acacia mangium, Gmelina, Lawaan, and other species. However, forest areas are highly susceptible to landslides and are affected by erosion, damaged vegetation, habitat degradation, slash-and-burn practices, and the encroachment of residential structures into forest and mangrove areas.

The continued degradation of forest cover may reduce the availability of forest products, weaken watershed protection, increase soil erosion and landslide risk, and diminish habitat for wildlife. Future forest management should therefore prioritize reforestation, protection of existing vegetation, regulation of tree cutting, control of settlement encroachment, and promotion of agroforestry and sustainable forest production.

The sectoral study also recommends maintaining tree buffers and promoting site-appropriate agroforestry, high-value crops, and industrial tree plantations in suitable production zones. Biodiversity conservation should be mainstreamed in forestland and alienable and disposable lands where important habitats occur.

2. COASTAL AND MARINE ECOSYSTEM

Bato's coastal and marine ecosystem is one of the municipality's most important natural assets. Its municipal waters form part of the Canigao Channel and Camotes Sea, while the municipality is associated with the Danajon Bank Double Barrier Reef, providing extensive fishing grounds and supporting Bato's traditional role as a fishing community and fish-trading center.

The marine environment supports coral reefs, seagrass beds, mangroves, fish, shellfish, crustaceans, sea urchins, and other marine organisms. Particularly rich marine biodiversity is reported around Dawahon Island, where coral communities and associated marine species provide breeding and feeding grounds for economically important fisheries resources.

The condition of these resources, however, varies. Coral reefs and seagrass beds in Dawahon and Ponong range from good to poor condition, while mangrove resources are generally reported to be in poor condition. These ecosystems are also exposed to tropical cyclones, tsunami, storm surge, and El Niño-related stress.

Illegal and destructive fishing, including blasting, trawling, use of compressors, coral and sand extraction, and inappropriate harvesting of seagrass, continue to threaten marine habitats. Residential encroachment and other developments near sensitive marine areas further increase pressure on these ecosystems.

Future coastal and marine management should strengthen marine sanctuaries, regulate fisheries and aquaculture, rehabilitate mangroves, coral reefs and seagrass beds, strictly enforce laws against destructive fishing and habitat extraction, and control development in environmentally sensitive and hazard-prone coastal areas.

3. BIODIVERSITY

Despite Bato's relatively small forestland area, the municipality still supports a variety of terrestrial and marine wildlife. Recorded terrestrial fauna include locally identified monitor lizards, sailfin lizards, wild civets, reticulated pythons, macaques, birds, frogs, and numerous insects. These species contribute to ecosystem functions such as pest control, food webs, and seed dispersal.

The municipality also possesses significant marine biodiversity, particularly around Dawahon Island. Coral communities support crabs, shrimps, sea urchins, shells, fishes, and other associated organisms, making these areas important breeding and feeding grounds for marine resources.

Threats to biodiversity include habitat conversion, overexploitation, hunting, pollution, illegal fishing, climate hazards, and invasive alien species. These pressures may reduce natural species populations and ecosystem services, decrease food security, and increase disaster risks. The biodiversity analysis recommends stronger enforcement, preventive monitoring, control of habitat conversion, regulation of resource extraction, pollution management, and protection of upstream and coastal natural habitats.

The sectoral study identifies Domagocdoc River and Dawahon Island as key biodiversity areas containing threatened resources. The wild civet locally known as Milo in Domagocdoc is identified as critically threatened in the local assessment, while the coral reefs and seagrass resources of Dawahon are likewise listed as critical due to destructive fishing and habitat degradation.

EXISTING LAND USE

The prevailing land use pattern of Bato remains predominantly agricultural, complemented by rolling terrain and mountainous areas that support forest and forest-related uses. Of the municipality's total land area of 7,472.60 hectares, agricultural land accounts for 6,901.467 hectares, or 92.36% of the total land area, composed mainly of mixed crops, riceland, corn land, and solar dryers.

The urban use area occupies 496.144 hectares, or 6.64% of the total land area, and remains spread out in small patches throughout the municipality, with the largest concentration found in the plains of the Poblacion. Of the total urban use area, 310.678 hectares are devoted to residential housing, while 16.290 hectares are allocated for socialized housing, largely in Barangays Iniguihan, Daanlungsod, Alejos, Sto. Niño, Tagaytay, and Tugas. A concentration of settlement comparable in density to the Poblacion is also found in Barangay Dawahon, an island barangay, while other notable concentrations of built-up areas occur in Barangays Dolho, Daanlungsod, and Tabunok. These barangays lie on relatively level terrain, with Dolho fronting the coastline, while the other two are situated along the national highway and the provincial road, respectively.

The remaining urban land uses consist of 27.210 hectares of commercial area, 0.613 hectare of industrial area, 24.223 hectares of institutional area, 5.403 hectares of parks and recreation area, 105.594 hectares of infrastructure and utilities, and 6.133 hectares of agro-industrial/industrial use.

Among agricultural uses, mixed crops occupy the largest share at 6,152.792 hectares, favored by the predominance of clay soils across much of the municipality's land area, which is well suited to a variety of crops. Riceland is the second largest agricultural use at 728.580 hectares and dominates the plain terrain, while corn land occupies 13.700 hectares. Solar dryers, covering 6.395 hectares, are concentrated in Barangay Dawahon, an island barangay, where they are used to dry the community's main product, seaweed.

Forest and forest-related land uses cover 70.289 hectares, or 0.94% of the total land area, composed of agro-forestry, wood plantation, and inland fishpond. Agro-forestry accounts for the largest share at 65.449 hectares. Wood plantation, found in Barangay Alejos, covers 2.000 hectares, while inland fishpond, located in Barangay Daanlungsod, covers 2.840 hectares.

Other land-use categories cover a combined 4.700 hectares, or 0.06% of the total land area, consisting of agri-tourism area (2.340 hectares) and cemetery/memorial parks (2.360 hectares), the latter found in Barangays Ponong, Himama-a, Anahawan, and Sto. Niño.

EXISTING URBAN LAND USE

The total urban area of Bato covers 496.144 hectares, or about 6.64% of the total municipal land area of 7,472.60 hectares. The rural area accounts for the remaining 93.36%, and is predominantly agricultural in character.

Within the total urban use area, residential use is the predominant land use, constituting 310.678 hectares or 62.62% of the urban area. This is followed by infrastructure and utilities at 105.594 hectares (21.28%), commercial area at 27.210 hectares (5.48%), institutional area at 24.223 hectares (4.88%), socialized housing at 16.290 hectares (3.28%), agro-industrial/industrial area at 6.133 hectares

(1.24%), parks and recreation at 5.403 hectares (1.09%), and industrial area at 0.613 hectare (0.12%).

The Poblacion of Bato serves as the municipality's principal urban center, where residential, commercial, institutional, recreational, and public-service activities are concentrated. The Bato Baywalk continues to serve as a leisure and gathering place for local residents and visitors from nearby municipalities, while other public facilities are located within and around the public market, including the wet and dry market, transportation facilities, and the port terminal. The public market is strategically located near the shoreline and at the intersection of two national highways, making it an important commercial and activity center of the municipality. Most commercial establishments are concentrated inside the public market area, in its immediate vicinity, and along both sides of these two national highways.

Most existing urban land uses are accessible through the existing road network; however, some residential areas still require road extensions and improvements. Traffic congestion occurs particularly during the day along the commercial area, due to the encroachment of commercial establishments onto the road right-of-way. This condition indicates the need for improved traffic management and stricter regulation of commercial activities, along with the provision of adequate parking, loading areas, and pedestrian spaces.

Informal settlements are present in government-owned and foreshore land, occupying approximately 48.7297 hectares, or 0.145% of the total municipal land area. These are found in Barangays Dolho, Iniguihan, Kalanggaman, Tinago, and Ponong. The presence of settlements in these areas raises concerns relating to land tenure, access to basic services, environmental management, and exposure to coastal hazards, and calls for appropriate housing, resettlement, and land management interventions.

The Poblacion is bounded by the Ogayon River on the north, the Baha-baha River on the south, rice paddy on the east, and the shoreline on the west. The banks of these two rivers support mangroves and swamp land, which provide important environmental functions. The areas along the riverbanks may be developed into public parks connecting the different public places of the Poblacion, subject to environmental protection, easement, and flood-management requirements. Most buildings at the center of the Poblacion are two-storey structures at moderate density.

The municipality's coastal and water areas remain an important component of its existing land-use structure. Aside from the 48.7297 hectares of foreshore land, the 2025 inventory identifies 7 hectares of fish sanctuary, located in Barangays Ponong and Tinago; 7.0407 hectares of reclamation area; 20.8535 hectares of mangroves; 1 hectare of seagrass beds; 3 hectares of sandbar; 97.147 hectares of rivers and creeks; 239 hectares of aquaculture; 7.12 hectares of tourism area; 33,190.31 hectares of municipal fishing grounds; and 0.7041 hectare of port area.

Existing Land Use, Year 2025

Existing Land Use Area, Distribution and Percent to Total
Municipality of Bato
Year 2025

7,472.60

Land Use Category	Sub-Category	Area (ha)	% to Total
Urban Use Area	Residential	310.678	4.16
	Commercial	27.210	0.36
	Industrial	0.613	0.01
	Institutional	24.223	0.32
	Socialized Housing	16.290	0.22
	Parks & Recreation	5.403	0.07
	Infrastructure and Utilities	105.594	1.41
	Agro- Industrial/Industrial	6.133	0.08
Agriculture	Mixed Crops	6,152.792	82.34
	Riceland	728.580	9.75
	Corn land	13.700	0.18
	Solar Dryers	6.395	0.09
Forest and Forest Land	Inland Fishpond	2.840	0.04
	Wood Plantation	2.000	0.03
	Agro- Forestry	65.449	0.88
Other Categories	Agri- Tourism	2.340	0.03
	Cementery/ Memorial Parks	2.360	0.03
TOTAL LAND AREA		**7,472.600**	**100.00**
Water Area	Foreshore Land	48.7297	0.145
	Fish Sanctuary	7	0.021
	Reclaimation Area	7.0407	0.021
	Mangroves	20.8535	0.062
	Seagrass Beds	1	0.003
	Sand bar	3	0.009
	Aquaculture	239	0.711
	Tourism	7.12	0.021
	Municipal Fishing	33,190.31	98.716
	Rivers & Creeks	97.147	0.289
	Port	0.7041	0.002
TOTAL WATER AREA		**33621.91**	**100**

THE ECONOMIC STRUCTURE

The Municipality of Bato is primarily an agricultural area. The Municipality's major agricultural product is commercial crops. There are also marine and fishery products being grown for local consumption and export purposes; however, the biggest breakout in the agriculture sector is poultry and livestock which have shown a huge increase in profit and production.

Since Bato's goal for this planning period is to become the commercial and trade center in this part of the province, then more development should be focused on its commerce and industry sector. At present, commercial establishments are mostly small-scale retail stores and most are only catering to the local market. In order to improve Bato's commerce and industry, more support facilities and infrastructure should be provided to existing and aspiring entrepreneurs. The milling industries are not only found within in the poblacion of this municipality but it is also expanded in barangay areas.

One pressing concern is the lack of support to industries and facilities for agricultural products. It has been observed that trading is limited to the local market. There is no regional trading and there are very few products coming in from neighboring towns. There is vast export market just waiting to be tapped and this market should be thoroughly explored and utilized in order to help boost Bato's economy. Rather than focusing on moving products and services within the municipality and in order to truly become a trade and commercial center, we should start searching for wider market outside of Bato, and start studying the supply and demand situation in neighboring towns and provinces.

REVENUE AND EMPLOYMENT SOURCES

As mentioned in the previous section, agriculture is the municipality's main source of employment. As per 2015 PSA census, 30.28% of the municipality's working age population is engaged in farming, forestry and fisheries while 19.54% are laborers and unskilled workers. Another 10.86% of the municipality's working population is working in trade and related works and around 14.03% are involved in government, military, management occupations and other blue collar jobs. Other major occupations in the municipality are clerical jobs, technicians and associated professionals, service workers, market sales workers, machine operators and assemblers which have 25.29% of municipality's working age population.

As for revenue, the biggest share from the municipality's income is from economic enterprises. These are income from port and market activities. The port is managed and developed by the munipality. Having a port contributed so much to the economic activity of the

municipality because passengers from neighboring towns and provinces will visit and pass by our town in going to Cebu and Bohol. Having a port, it makes our town a gateway to Cebu and Bohol from Luzon and Mindanao.

Another bigger portion of the revenue is from market income. Although Bato's market is mostly concentrated locally and commercial establishments are mostly involved in retail business but it contributed a bigger part of the municipality's income. The biggest number of sales in the market comes from dry market vendors and fish vendors while another very profitable trade is cattle and livestock. This is also the reason why financial institutions are proliferating in our town. Another major source of revenue utilizes the municipality's marine resources such as fishing and seaweeds farming. There is no major industry in Bato; only small industries involved in rice and corn mill, furniture and welding. There are other industries like sand and gravel but since it is a provincial imposition, the municipality has only 10% share of the revenue.

PRIORITY ISSUES AND CONCERNS

Identifying the weaknesses and advantages of the Municipality of Bato, as compared to its neighboring towns, is very important in defining the appropriate functional role of the municipality.

Weaknesses are defined as conditions that hinder the growth of the municipality. These are inherent aspects, which are beyond the control of the municipality, that block or slow down development. Factors such as the lack of infrastructure are not considered a weakness as this is something that may be improved and developed by the municipality. National Government and NGOs can also be tapped to finance or provide us financial asssitance for various infrastructure projects of the municipality.

Advantages are natural and inherent aspects of the municipality that are better compared to those of other municipalitiess or are absent from other municipalities. These are natural factors that can contribute to the rapid growth and development of the municipality.

The table below is the summary of the municipality's priority issues and concerns ranked accordingly. Although it has been mentioned earlier that infrastructure projects are not considered as weakness but it is still mentioned hereunder to view the various infrastructure needs of the municipality so with its other problems and issues. Possible interventions are also stated so with the responsible departments concern

Priority Issues and Concerns.

RANK	PROBLEM/ISSUES	POSSIBLE INTERVENTIONS	RESPONSIBILITY CENTER
1	Various settlements in foreshoreland, mangroove and forest areas in Barangays Dolho, Daanlungsod, Iniguihan, Ponong, Kalangaman, Dawahon, Osmeña & Plaridel	1. Strict implementation of Zoning Ordinance 2. Identify suitable relocation sites for informal settlers	MENRO, MPDO, MEO, BARANGAY OFFICIALS, DENR
2	Constructed institutional (school, barangay hall, health center, recreational center) structures in high risk or critical areas (flood, landslide, storm surge) in Barangay Dawahon, Daanlungsod, Dolho, Iniguihan, Kalangaman, Tinago, Tabunok, Ponong, Marcelo, Domagocdoc, Rivilla.	Relocation to safe grounds	LGU, DILG, BARANGAY OFFICIALS, MDRRMO
3	Congested public cemetery	Expansion of existing public cemetery in suitable areas	LGU, Church, Private Investors
4	Industrial & Agro-industrial structures constructed near residential houses	Strict implementation of Zoning Ordinance	LGU, MPDO, MENRO, MEO, DENR
5	Traffic Congestion at commercial area	1. Road widening 2. Construction of diversion road	DPWH, DILG, MEO
6	Shallow seabed at wharf	1. Port Expansion/extension 2. Dredging	LGU, DILG, DPWH, PPA

7	Inadequate docking area	Port Expansion/extension	LGU, DILG, DPWH, PPA
8	Hanging bridge in Barangay Naga, temporary bridge in Liberty, absence of bridge in Barangay Mabini & Himamaa Sitio Biasong, Marcelo, Anahawan Sitio Dapdap, Amagos II & Cebuana	Construction, improvement and rehabilitation of barangay roads and bridges	DPWH, LGU, BARANGAY
9	Unpaved barangay roads in Barangay Imelda, Liberty, Bago, Himama, Alegria, Amagos, Marcelo, Tugas, Mabini, Guerrero, Tabunok Sitio Puthaw & Paliwad-on, Buli Sitio Talisayan & Tugas	Construction of barangay roads	LGU, DPWH, DILG
10	Barangay Iniguihan is high risk to flooding	Construction of flood control dike in Barangay Iniguihan	LGU, DPWH, DILG
11	Day care centers has no space for children playground	Construction of children's playground in all day care centers	M/BLGU, DSWD
12	No parking space for clients and personnel at RHU	Provision of parking space at RHU	LGU-MEO, DOH
13	No Animal Bite Center	Construction of Animal Bite Center	LGU-MEO, DOH
14	No Nutrition Center	Construction of Nutrition Center	LGU-MEO, DOH

WEAKNESSES

Poor Soil Condition

Majority of the municipal land area has poor soil condition. A huge part of the municipal land is composed of Maasin Clay, which is not conducive to the growing of cash crops. Hence, there is very small area which is suitable for agricultural production. Due to Bato's soil composition, less crops are produced which equates to less income for farmers and for the municipality.

Due to these weaknesses, the municipality has considered venturing into other means of land use for areas with poor soil composition in order to maximize income generation for farmers, promote organic farming to our farmers to enhance our production in agriculture.

Presence of Informal Settlements

Informal settlers are occupying foreshorelands in Barangays Daanlungsod, Iniguihan, Dolho, Kalangaman, Tinago, Ponong and Dawahon. Majority of these squatters have chosen to settle in the urban area of the municipality.

There are approximately 535 families living in squatter areas. This is very large squatter population considering that Bato is a predominantly rural municipality. The presence of these informal settlers hinders the growth to prime lands.

The LGU should prepare a relocation project for these informal settlers to be relocated to permanent housing sites, with utilities, and should be included in the development plan.

Depleting Marine Resources

While people and fisherfolk already have better awareness about marine conservation, there are still some who do not care for the preservation of marine life. The wanton and illegal means of extracting marine resources during the past years have resulted to the destruction of marine life and the depleting trend of the said resources.

No Natural Harbor

Bato's coast has no natural harbor where ships and sea vessels can take refuge during typhoons and monsoon surges. This is also true to Maasin, Hilongos and other ports along the western coast of Leyte.

This can be mitigated with adequate port infrastructure that will include protection and shelter of vessels from typhoons or any bad weather at sea, but investment cost for this type of infrastructure will be extremely high.

I. COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE and COMPETITIVE EDGE

Proximity to Cebu and Bohol

Other than the Port of Bato, the neighboring ports of Maasin and Hilongos are also close to Cebu, however, Bato is the closest municipality to Ubay, Bohol and this is the big advantage against other neighboring towns.

This advantage could play a great part in the development of Bato. Bato-Ubay trip would only take 2-3 hours compared to the Ubay-Hilongos route which woud take 3-4hours.

Bato's close proximity to Ubay, Bohol is the main reason for the rapid growth and development of the Port of Bato although it was established much later than the Ports of Maasin and Hilongos.

Added to this advantage is the better institutional set-up of the port management, which is directly managed by the municipality and not by the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA). The municipality has the mandate to improve and expand the port and the municipality can formulate and implement more efficient port operations to attract more shipping operators.

Located at the Center of the Nautical Highway

Bato and its port are located at the center of the Nautical Highway. One of the routes of the Central Nautical Highway is Bato where it is one of the jump-off points. This is particularly due to its proximity to Bohol.

One of the central nautical highway routes is the Davao-GenSan-Cagayan de Oro-Bohol-Leyte-Samar-Southern Luzon-NCR route. Land travelers and cargoes from General Santos, Bukidnon and Northern Davao City take this route as this is the shortest way to Manila. On his route, Bohol-Leyte link is actually the Ubay-Bato link and this is already happening at present. Manila-based passenger buses going to and from Tagbilaran City are using the Ubay-Bohol route ferry boats. For few years now, it has been loading the passenger buses plying Manila to Tagbilaran-Manila. Passengers and cargoes from Mindanao can take this route via the Cagayan de Oro-Tagbilaran ferry.

Aside from this, the Bato-Mahaplag national highway is not only the nautical highway link to Tacloban but also the main access to Southern Leyte. Bato is, therefore, the coolest access by the interior and "pacific towns of Southern Leyte to Bohol and Cebu and not Maasin or Hilongos which is still 7 kilometers further.

This is the single biggest advantage of Bato which must be harnessed and utilized to its maximum potential.

Less Hazard Areas

Compared to other towns in the province, Bato is relatively safer from natural calamities. First of all, there are no fault lines located in the municipality making it less susceptible to strong earthquakes. Secondly, Bato is no longer within the typhoon belt since most typhoons coming into the country pass by Northern Luzon.

Except for the typhical flood prone and eroded areas, Bato has no wide and serious hazard zones

FUNCTIONAL ROLE OF THE MUNICIPALITY

INTRODUCTION

Functional role defines the economic development direction of the municipality. Municipalities have to focus on a specific development direction because it can't sustain multiple development strategies. Similarly, it must focus on a specific development thrust for land use because it cannot rationalize land use with diverse and multiple development thrusts. The municipality musts focus on developing one specific sector and all the other sectors shall be used in supporting and enhancing the sustainability of the thrusts.

FUNCTIONAL ROLE OF BATO

Bato can easily become the trade center of southwestern Leyte. With its direct and close access to the large markets of Cebu and Bohol, Bato can be the "bagsakan" of agricultural products needed by Metro Cebu and Northern Bohol from Southern Leyte.

The sea port is Bato's biggest advantage. Its daily trips to and from Bohol and Cebu can enhance its trading activities so that it can become the delivery and pick-up point of products from either side of Cebu, Bohol and South of Leyte.

THE COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN

VISION, MISSION, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

VISION

A technology-driven business hub in Leyte with empowered and God-loving Batohanons, living in self-sustaining, disaster-resilient, and ecologically-balanced environment advocating good governance.

MISSION

To foster a technology-driven and business-friendly environment in Leyte by empowering God-loving Batohanons through inclusive governance, sustainable livelihood programs, disaster-resilience initiatives, and ecological stewardship – ensuring a balanced, progressive, and self-reliant community for present and future generations.

GOALS

- To empower Batohanons through equitable access to quality education, healthcare, and sports development, and by strengthening peace and order services to ensure a safe and better quality of life for all.
- To enhance community well-being by improving the standard of living, generating sustainable employment opportunities, and promoting inclusive and resilient economic growth through the adoption of modern and appropriate technologies.
- To develop and sustain durable, disaster-resilient, and inclusive infrastructure that enhances connectivity, safeguards communities, and supports sustainable economic growth.
- To make Bato, Leyte environmentally sound by protecting natural resources and building climate resilience.
- To uphold good governance and accountable leadership by delivering efficient public services and ensuring financial stability through prudent fiscal management and sustainable resource use, fostering inclusive growth and community empowerment.

OBJECTIVES

- To ensure sustainable land use through the strict implementation of the Municipal Zoning Ordinance.
- To expand and optimize land use for commercial and economic activities through strategic development initiatives, and to provide enough commercial land space in the business district areas to promote economic growth.
- To ensure the timely formulation and updating of all regulatory local plans, including the CLUP, in compliance with statutory requirements.
- To identify and profile informal settler families and address makeshift housing through sustained housing assistance and relocation programs.
- To complete and maintain a resilient and well-connected road network, improving connectivity and reducing travel time between key economic zones.
- To provide adequate, safe, and sustainable water supply for all Batohanons.

- To rehabilitate damaged infrastructure and develop sustainable, disaster-resilient, climate-adaptive, and cost-efficient infrastructure systems in accordance with resilient design standards.
- To construct and operationalize key institutional and public service facilities, including a fully functional and properly designed motorpool facility.
- To enhance energy efficiency, road safety, and security.
- To develop and improve irrigation systems and modernize the agricultural sector through infrastructure development, mechanization, and technology adoption.
- To strengthen the enforcement of no-build zones, easement regulations, and environmental protection policies in hazard-prone and ecologically sensitive areas, and to reduce water pollution.
- To strictly implement the Municipal Fishery Ordinance and ensure the establishment, protection, and sustainable management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).
- To create an enabling environment that attracts investments in fisheries development, aquaculture, and related coastal enterprises.
- To increase the planting and survival of native, endemic, and climate-resilient tree species to enhance forest cover and biodiversity, and strengthen collaboration in preventing illegal tree cutting activities.
- To ensure the preservation and sustainable management of cultural and heritage resources.
- To improve and upgrade tourism facilities, amenities, and support infrastructure, including basic tourism infrastructure in identified eco-tourism sites such as sandbars.
- To ensure the development and maintenance of environmentally sound, safe, and sustainable final waste disposal facilities.
- To fully institutionalize Comprehensive Disaster Risk Assessment (CDRA) in local governance and integrate it into development planning processes.

DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

Infrastructure Development

- Construct or rehabilitate farm-to-market roads
- Complete and maintain a resilient, well-connected road network, including the north and south diversion roads
- Construction of the reclamation project (Barangays Iniguihan, Kalangaman, Tinago)
- Rehabilitate damaged infrastructure and develop sustainable, disaster-resilient, climate-adaptive infrastructure systems
- Upgrade road network, mini-bridges, and spillways
- Develop and promote tourist attractions, including basic tourism infrastructure in identified eco-tourism sites such as sandbars
- Provide adequate, safe, and sustainable water supply for all Batohanons
- Maintain drainage canals/waterways
- Introduce solar-powered electricity in the island barangay
- Establish a fully functional and properly designed motorpool facility for LGU vehicles and equipment

- Construct and operationalize key institutional and public service facilities
- Enhance energy efficiency, road safety, and security

Economic Enhancement

- Provide livelihood assistance
- Increase production of agricultural crops and livestock
- Additional subsidy for farmers; enhance farmers' access to credit facilities and financial support
- Conduct skills training; capacitate the local workforce through skills upgrading and sustainable livelihood opportunities
- Create an ideal environment for investors, including in fisheries development, aquaculture, and coastal enterprises
- Provide adequate support to the agricultural sector; develop and improve irrigation systems and modernize the sector through infrastructure, mechanization, and technology adoption
- Create livelihood programs and projects
- Introduce mini-markets in strategic barangays to decongest the market area
- Institutionalize and strengthen the Public Employment Service Office (PESO) as the central employment facilitation hub
- Revitalize and strengthen the coconut industry

Human Resource Development

- Conduct moral recovery and transformation program
- Encourage youth participation; develop competent and socially responsible youth volunteers through leadership and civic-oriented training
- Encourage and promote reading of good books for knowledge growth
- Establish political will for strong leadership
- Improve human resource management efficiency through digitalization of HR systems, and strengthen workforce planning and capacity-building

Improved Social Services

- Improve healthcare and promotion of a healthy lifestyle
- Improve health and dental facilities; achieve universal health coverage through 100% PhilHealth enrollment and functional health centers in all barangays
- Implementation of MDRRMPs and BDRRMPs
- Improve fire protection and police services; strengthen fire prevention, emergency response, and law enforcement visibility
- Recognition and support of senior citizens

- Strengthen local school board; identify learners at risk of dropping out and improve reading and numeracy competencies
- Identify and profile informal settler families and provide housing assistance and relocation programs
- Establish a fully operational Persons with Disability Affairs Office (PDAO)

Environmental Protection and Conservation

- Plant trees and mangroves; increase planting and survival of native, endemic, and climate-resilient tree species to enhance forest cover and biodiversity
- Adaptation of lifestyle
- Clean and green projects
- Restoration of forest and mangrove areas
- Implementation of the Solid Waste Management Plan; establish and sustain an efficient, compliant SWM system with strengthened community participation, and ensure environmentally sound, safe, and sustainable final waste disposal facilities
- Wildlife protection
- Strengthen enforcement of no-build zones, easements, and environmental protection policies in hazard-prone and ecologically sensitive areas; reduce water pollution
- Establish, protect, and sustainably manage Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) under strict implementation of the Municipal Fishery Ordinance
- Fully institutionalize Comprehensive Disaster Risk Assessment (CDRA) in local governance and integrate it into development planning processes

Formulation and Implementation of Laws and Policies

- Formulation of Investments Code
- Strict implementation of fishery laws
- Intensify drug-free campaign
- Improve tax collection
- Transparency
- Strictly impose ordinances, rules, and regulations; ensure sustainable land use through strict implementation of the Municipal Zoning Ordinance
- Enact business-friendly policies
- Periodic review of Vision/Mission statement
- Ensure timely formulation and updating of all regulatory local plans, including the CLUP itself, in compliance with statutory requirements

DEVELOPMENT THRUST

INTRODUCTION

Establishing the development thrust is very important in determining the future of the municipality. This delves into the various land use alternatives and from there, understanding what are the best development options for the municipality. The purpose of establishing a development thrust is to establish a preferred land use alternative based on the sectoral studies and focused solely on the land use element.

DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT AND STRUCTURE PLAN TEXT AND MAP

Bato's development thrust shall be on Intensified Commerce and Trade since it is consistent with its functional role as an aspiring trade center in southwestern Leyte. Bato is the most logical municipality to be the center of trade and commerce in the southern part of Leyte since it has the basic requirement, which is the transmodal (land and sea) transport system. It is also the closest point to Bohol and Cebu and has direct access to the interior and eastern towns of Leyte and Southern Leyte. Furthermore, it is located at the crossroad of the west coast and interior of Leyte Island, making it very accessible to many to and from many towns.

Disaster-free and climate change adaptive is also one of the municipality's developmental thrusts. Since the municipality is located along the coastal area, foreshore land settlements, residential and socialized housing located in coastal barangays will be transferred to safe areas in socialized housing in upland barangays.

Residential and industrial areas located in urban barangays will be converted into commercial area but residential area will be based on actual use. Some residential areas will be converted into commercial areas, still based on actual use. There will be no increase in commercial areas in Barangays Iniguihan, Kalangaman and Tinago since these barangays have high density. The municipality's public market is located in Barangays Iniguihan and Kalangaman and extending until Barangay Tinago, thus the reason of its denseness. Furthermore, the municipality is currently having an expansion along the coastal area; a reclamation project is still ongoing in Barangays Tinago, Iniguihan and Kalangaman which will be a proposed commercial, recreational, infrastructure and utilities (bus terminal) areas. Total area of the reclamation project in Barangay Iniguihan is 3.13 hectares, in Barangay Kalangaman is 5.25 hectares, and Barangay Tinago is 13.5 hectares. To answer the increasing number of commuters going in and out of the municipality, a diversion road will be constructed. The north diversion road will start in Barangay Daanlungsod and will end up in Barangay Bagongbayan going to the east, Municipality of Bontoc and for the south diversion road will be in Barangay Tinago ending in Barangay Bagongbayan going to the east. Diversion road in the north area is about 1.1km and in the south is 1.6km.

Some of the pasture land, agricultural land (production) and residential land in rural barangays located along national highways will be converted into commercial, agro-industrial and industrial area. Agro-industrial and industrial spaces located in urban area will be converted into commercial area and these agro-industrial structures will be relocated either in Barangay Alejos, Tagaytay, Anahawan, Daanlungsod, Ponong or in any other barangays except in urban barangays.

Institutional areas will remain in most part of the urban and rural barangays. Parks and recreation in the urban area will be developed and expanded in the reclaimed area located in Barangay Kalangaman, Tinago and Iniguihan. Parks and recreation area in all other barangays in urban and rural areas would still be the same.

Tourism industry in the municipality is still trying its best to boost. With the attitude of the Batohanons towards exploring some potential tourism areas in the municipality, it will be easy for our town to develop what has been visited by local tourists.

STRUCTURAL PLAN

As of the moment, trade in Bato only uitilizes the local market. The municipality has failed to maximize the use of its strategic location and has not utilized the various export markets that are available. Commerce and trade in the municipality should expand outside of the local market and focus on inter-municipal, inter-provincial and intermodal trading.

Bato will be designed to become the "bagsakan" of their products headed to Bohol and Cebu. A bagsakan center will be built at the heart of the commercial area.

Barangays Bagongbayan, Guerrero, Kalangaman, Iniguihan and Tinago will be developed to become a commercial area in the municipality. Currently, commercial area is located in Barangay Iniguihan and Kalangaman which is along the coastal area. To protect them from flooding and storm surge, a flood control dike will be constructed in Barangay Iniguihan and a reclamation project along the foreshore land in Barangays Iniguihan, Kalangaman and Tinago will be developed and constructed.

Socialized housing will be developed to relocate residential structures erected along foreshore land in Barangay Dolho, Daanlungsod, Iniguihan, Kalangaman, Tinago and Ponong so as to protect those households from storm surge, flood, fire or any other calamities. These areas are also highly populated where social and economic problems usually encountered.

Agro-industrial will be relocated outside the urban area most probably along national and provincial highways.

a. Inter-municipal- Trade to be done between Bato and municipalities from the eastern part of Leyte, the pacific municipalities of Southern Leyte, Panaon island municipalities and the rest of Southern Leyte. These municipalities shall use Bato as the trade center of Bohol and Cebu. Bato will be designed to become the "bagsakan" of their products headed to Bohol and Cebu.

b. Inter-provincial-Bato shall become Leyte's trade center in the southwest. Market research should be done on the needs of Leyte, Southern Leyte, Bohol and Cebu. The result of this research shall become the ground and basis for trade programs between these provinces.

c. Inter-regional- Bato should have a significant role in the trade, commerce and market exchange between region 8 and region 7. This role can extend to Region 10 with Bohol and Bato as the link from Region 10 to Region 8.

d. Intermodal- Bato has the best advantage being the closest link and having the shortest travel time by land and sea between Southern Leyte, south half of Leyte, Cebu, Bohol and Northern Mindanao.

Economic Development

As a trade center, Bato should also identify product/s for export to other provinces or regions. Having less productive uplands for crops, Bato uplands should be utilized for livestock production and development instead. Together with marine products, livestock is another potential export product of Bato. Livestock products could overtake marine products as the leading export products of Bato since there is high demand of livestock through Bohol's tourism centers and Metro Cebu's large market.

Since livestock production has the highest potential for development, the municipality should focus the agricultural department's budget and efforts on livestock production. The LGU should try to establish credit or lending facilities to livestock producers and also encourage NGOs and private organizations to provide assistance. The LGU's Economic Enterprise should also set up a market for livestock.

Another product of Bato that has high potential for export is antique and bamboo furniture. We have very good and high quality of these products that we can compete globally. Although other municipalities are having these products but since we have top quality and designs, we can contend from them.

Tourism Development

Although the municipality's development thrust is targeted towards commercial and trade development, the municipality should also consider tourism development to support the goals of being a trade center.

The municipality has natural attractions like Gunhuban falls and river, Aguingay Cave, Layog Falls, Domagocdoc River, Imelda Spring, Tumpag falls and Tuod sandbar. All these natural resources are yet to be developed. Although Gunhuban falls has already received funding from Department of Tourism (DOT) but the municipality still has to put up more funds or request more funds from National Government or NGOs to develop these natural attractions. These potential tourist attractions also need more promotions to attract local and foreign tourists.

An example of a very successful adventure tourism program is that of the Eco Adventure Tour in Danao, Bohol which has utilized its mountains, rivers and caves for activities like zipline, the plunge, cable car rides, river tubing, river rafting, caving and rapellin. Ecotourism and adventure parks are all the rage these days and Bato can take advantage of this trend. Another example of an eco-adventure tourism program is that of the nearby Agas-Agas Adventure Park in the municipality of Sogod which offers activities like zipline and bungee jumping. Having this facility in Sogod is actually an advantage because Bato could complement this with activities like craving or spelunking, river trekking and swimming at waterfalls.

Infrastructure Development

In order to support the municipality's endeavors of becoming a trade center and tourism, there are several facilities and infrastructure that must either be constructed or improved.

First of all, sea port expansion should be undertaken for the RoRo's, fastcrafts and passenger boats. This expansion should also be one of the priority projects in order to accommodate more sea vessels and increase the influx of sea travelers passing through Bato.

Secondly, a larger bus terminal should be constructed in replacement of the existing one in order to accommodate, mainly, the Manila and Mindanao buses. This bus terminal shall also cater to provincial buses, vans and jeepneys.

Third, a diversion road on the northern and southern part of the national highway will be constructed to decongest the influx of commuters in coming in and out of the municipality. Both north and south will meet at the east in Barangay Bagongbayan going to Bontoc, Southern Leyte.

A "Bagsakan Center" should be constructed for the inter-municipal trading. Furthermore, on tourism, a Pasalubong Center and pension houses should be encouraged among investors to cater the local and foreign tourists.

As for sports and adventure tourism, the municipality should consider putting up adventure tourism structures to entice more tourists and adventure enthusiasts to visit the municipality.

THE LAND USE PLAN

PROPOSED LAND USE

The following are the distribution of specific utilization in the whole municipality:

Built–up Areas/Urban Use Area

This refers to the residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, parks and recreations, socialized housing, infrastructure and utilities, agro-industrial, and greenbelt/open space areas. It is expected that 590.696 hectares would be the designated as urban use area. It has an increase of 19.06% from the present area covered of 496.144 hectares. Expansion in most barangays would be along the developed areas, reclaimed area and would encroach upon the agricultural lands (production) and or other categories such as pasture lands. The rural barangays have central settlements necessary to support agricultural activities. A Greenbelt/Open Space category, previously unallocated, is newly introduced under this plan at 1.462 hectares to provide buffer and open space within the urban use area.

Socialized Housing Area

Proposed socialized housing areas are in Barangays Daanlungsod and Alejos. The total area proposed for socialized housing is 16.29 hectares, an increase of 10.887 hectares from the existing 5.403 hectares, intended for underprivileged and displaced households. The municipality has a core shelter project which now exists in Barangay Tugas.

Agricultural Area

In the agricultural area, these include mixed crops and riceland. This area will be distributed in various barangays with a total proposed area of 6,790.835 hectares. Agricultural lands are devoted to all types of agricultural land uses such as:

a. Rice and corn lands/lands intensively used for the cultivation of rice and corn whether irrigated or non-irrigated.
b. Land planted to permanent crops (coconut, abaca, banana, fruit tree, etc.)
c. Land devoted to upland crops/orchards like vineyards, root crops, large-scale vegetables cultivation, etc.
d. Livestock farms
e. Solar dryer (seaweeds)/land devoted to seaweed drying facilities in support of coastal aquaculture, comprising 6.395 hectares, unchanged from the existing area.

Forest and Forest Land

This refers to production forests. These areas are the inland fishpond, agro-forestry, and fuel wood plantation. This is proposed to comprise a total area of 84.0154 hectares, an increase from the existing 70.289 hectares. Agro-forestry is proposed to expand to 77.646 hectares, up from 65.449 hectares at present. Inland fishpond located in Barangay Daanlungsod, included in the productive forestland, is proposed to increase to 4.3694 hectares from 2.84 hectares. Also included in the forest land is the fuel wood plantation, which remains unchanged at 2 hectares.

Other Categories

These land use are areas that has other uses like agri-tourism and cemetery/memorial parks. This is proposed to comprise a total land area of 7.0537 hectares, an increase from the existing 4.70 hectares, composed of agri-tourism (proposed at 3.6619 hectares, up from 2.34 hectares) and cemetery/memorial parks (proposed at 3.3918 hectares, up from 2.36 hectares). Adequate resources are reserved for future use of the municipality like the pasture land. Pasture land will be used for the municipality's future expansions for agricultural, residential, commercial, institutional, socialized housing, industrial or agro-industrial parks and recreation and any other land use categories since these areas are grasslands and shrubs. Pasture lands distributed along urban and rural areas will be utilized. Other categories are distributed to:

a. Eco-tourism (falls, spring, river)
b. Cemetery/memorial parks

Eco-tourism Area

Identified potential tourism areas such as Gunhuban Falls at the junction of Barangays Buli and Sto. Niño, Tumpag falls in sitio Cabasan, Osmena, Danajon reefs with an area of more or less 2,350 hectares from Canigao Island to the province of Cebu and Bohol, Layog Falls in sitio Layog Barangay Alegria, Domagocdoc River and Imelda spring, Himamaa Rivers and creeks, Aguingay cave in Alegria and Man-made lagoon in Kalangaman. Tuod sand bar which can be found near Barangay Dawahon with an area of 5.11 hectares is best potential for diving and snorkling given an appropriate funding. All of these shall be preserved,

maintained and developed with appropriate legislative measures. No settlements are allowed within the vicinity of these areas.

Cemeteries/Memorial Park

Cemeteries in Bato are in need of immediate expansion since these are at full capacity, especially the Catholic Cemeteries in Barangays Ponong, Sto Niño, Himamaa and Anahawan. Adjacent lands should be annexed to accommodate the growing number of burials in the next ten years. Private cemeteries/memorial parks should be developed inorder to accommodate future burials.

Agro-Industrial Area

Agro-industrial operations in the urban area will be consolidated outside of the urban-core to ensure minimal effects on the urban population. The identified agro-industrial areas are Barangay Alejos, Himamaa, Osmena, Tagaytay, Tugas and Anahawan or barangays along national highway. Agro-industrial in Barangay Ponong and Tabunok will also be relocated to give way to residential and agricultural spaces. This will offer isolation while providing easy access to existing agricultural lands. Existing agricultural land in the area will act as a natural buffer between the medium industrial zone and surrounding land uses.

A total of 21.455 hectares of agro-industrial area, an increase of 15.322 hectares from the existing 6.133 hectares, is distributed in Alejos, Himamaa, Osmeña, Ponong, Tagaytay, Tugas and Anahawan, as delineated, and will accommodate growth and encourage relocation of hazardous industrial establishments from the urban core.

This location is mainly to accommodate industrial enterprises that were transferred from the urban area and also for those who are planning to engage in dealing with non-pollutive/non-hazardous manufacturing/processing. Light industrial land uses scattered throughout the urban landscape will also be relocated in rural areas. Although necessary to the local economy, industries are often hazardous to residents on adjacent properties. It is necessary to consolidate agro-industrial establishments at a safe distance from residential areas so as to minimize the negative effects of their operations. The best location for agri-industrial zone is outside of the town proper.

The industrial area in these barangays offers adequate area which is strategically ideal for industrial development. The area is of sufficient distance from existing residential and institutional land uses, which will ensure the safety of the urban community. Positioned along the national highway and provincial highway, the agro-industrial zone will support daily trade and services without generating additional traffic flow within the urban core.

Foreshore lands/Settlements

The most of the foreshore lands in the municipality already has structures or is used as residential for informal settlers, covering a total of 48.7297 hectares, unchanged from the existing area. This can be seen in Barangays Dolho, Iniguihan, Kalangaman, Tinago and Ponong. Although there are still foreshores area that is used for beaches in Barangays Dolho and Ponong.

Fishery Refuge/Sanctuary, Seagrass beds, Sand bar, Aquaculture and Municipal Fishing

Fish sanctuary can be found along the waters of Barangay Ponong, covering a total area of 7 hectares. Seagrass beds and sand bar can be found in Barangay Dawahon, comprising 1 hectare and 3 hectares, respectively. The municipal and barangay officials are trying their best to protect these areas from illegal fishing and the extraction of white sand for commercial purposes. Aquaculture can be found in Barangays Kalangaman and Tinago, with a total area of 239 hectares. Municipal fishing grounds of the municipality extend into the waters of Hilongos and Matalom. It is umbrella-shaped with a total area of 33,190.31 hectares, and it is where the double barrier reef can be found.

Mangrove

This type of land use includes aquatic land, i.e areas occupied by fishpond and fishpens, aside from the mangrove areas/swamplands which are covered with wet spongy wetlands usually with tropical maritime trees. This zone has a total area of 20.8535 hectares.

Port, Wharf

The municipality through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to and between the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) managed and operated by the municipality as is declared as one of the Economic Enterprises. It has a total port area of 0.7041 hectares, inclusive of its wharf facility.

Rivers and Creeks

The municipality is surrounded by rivers and creeks. It is also a means to bind between barangays and municipalities. It has a total area of 97.147 hectares throughout the municipality.

Reclamation Area

The reclamation area, situated within the vicinity of Barangay Iniguihan, comprises a total of 7.0407 hectares, unchanged from the existing area. This is intended to support the expansion of transportation, commercial, institutional and recreational spaces, consistent with the municipality's aspiration to become a trade and transport hub in the southwestern part of the province.

Water-based Tourism Area

Water-based tourism areas, unchanged from the existing area, total 7.12 hectares. These cover identified sites within municipal waters such as the Danajon Bank double barrier reef off Barangay Dawahon and the Tuod sand bar, which support diving, snorkeling and other marine-based tourism activities, subject to appropriate legislative measures and permits.

Solid Waste Disposal Site

The municipality's former final disposal site in Barangay Ponong shall be converted into an Eco-Park with an existing operational Central Material Recovery Facility which equipment to process solid waste prior to final disposal in a Category I Sanitary Landfill located in Barangay Tagaytay. The Local Government also proposes for the established and operational of a thermal decomposition technology thru pyrolysis. For the planning period, the existing 1.6 hectare for the establishment and operation of a Cat. I SLF and 1.13 hectares for Eco-Park site is just sufficient to cater the needs in the implementation of proper solid waste

management in consonance to the provisions of RA. 9003. The municipality plan to acquire additional facility to cater the increasing needs of the community.

Mining/Quarrying/Sand and Gravel

Adequate resources are reserved for future use of the municipality in the extraction of sand and gravel in Barangay Amagos, Liberty, Marcelo and San Agustin in pursuing and implementing infrastructure plans in the CLUP. The mineral reserve in Barangay Bago, which noted as a rich source of bentonite, is allocated with more or less 30 hectares.

Buffer Strips/Easement Zone

All lands of rivers, creeks and streams and the shores of the seas throughout their length shall have the following buffer zones:

- Three (3) meters in urban areas
- Twenty (20) meters in agricultural areas
- Forty (40) meters in forest areas

Table below shows the comparative table for the Existing Land Uses and Proposed Land Use Year 2025.

Existing and Proposed Land Use, Year 2025

Land Use Category	Existing	Proposed	Increase / Decrease
Urban Use Area			
Residential	310.678	304.682	-5.996
Commercial	27.210	78.722	51.512
Industrial	0.613	0.62538	0.012
Institutional	24.223	39.4598	15.237
Socialized Housing	16.290	16.487	0.197
Parks & Recreation	5.403	16.29	10.887
Infrastructure and Utilities	105.594	111.5131	5.919
Agro-Industrial	6.133	21.455	15.322
Greenbelt/ Open Space	0.000	1.462	1.462
Agriculture			
Mixed Crops	6,152.792	6,473.90	321.11
Riceland	728.580	296.84	-431.74
Corn land	13.700	13.7	0.00
Solar Dryer (Seaweeds)	6.395	6.395	0.00
Forest & Forest Land			
Inland Fishpond	2.84	4.3694	1.5294
Agro-forestry	65.449	77.646	12.197
Fuel Wood Plantation	2	2	0
Other Categories			
Agri- Tourism	2.34	3.6619	1.3219
Cemetery/ Memorial Parks	2.36	3.3918	1.0318
TOTAL LAND AREA	**7,472.600**	**7472.60**	
Water Area			
Foreshore Land	48.7297	48.7297	0
Fish Sanctuary	7	7	0
Reclaimation Area	7.0407	7.0407	0
Mangroves	20.8535	20.8535	0
Seagrass Beds	1	1	0
Sand bar	3	3	0
Aquaculture	239	239	0
Tourism	7.12	7.12	0
Municipal Fishing	33,190.31	33,190.31	0
Rivers & Creeks	97.147	97.147	0
Port	0.7041	0.7041	0
TOTAL WATER AREA	33621.908	33621.908	0

Source: Primary Survey, DENR, 2024

PROPOSED URBAN LAND USE

Residential Area

It is being proposed that a total of 30.6658 hectares additional land requirements be used for the expansion of residential areas to the vacant and suitable areas for residential purpose in the urban area. The expansion is towards the north east and south of the present urban barangays. The total proposed residential area would be 66.3102 hectares. The residential expansion in the urban area covers part of Iniguihan, Guerrero, Bagongbayan, Kalangaman and Tinago. This urban-core figure is distinct from the municipality-wide residential total in Table PR 1, which reflects a net decrease of 5.996 hectares (from 310.678 to 304.682 hectares), as some existing residential areas in outlying barangays are reclassified into other land use categories under this plan.

The physical constraint (irrigated agricultural lands, existing built-up areas, rivers, creeks and ocean waters) surrounding Bato's urban core has left few residential expansion possibilities. Under-utilized lands within the urban area will be used to their greatest potential to avoid any disturbance of farmlands, wetlands, rivers, creeks and beachfront.

The areas identified in the urban area are feasible expansion possibilities for residential development or are most suitable because they are adjacent to existing residential development or are most suitable because they are adjacent to existing residential land area within close proximity to public schools. The existing street grid can be easily integrated into the expansion areas.

Buffer Zones of at least 5 meters should protect all rivers and wetlands from encroachment of residential development in the urban area.

Commercial Area

Bato has established itself as a force in the inter-regional trading market. Assessor's information indicates that commercial property (1st class desirability) in Bato has shown a significant value increase which may be attributed to the high profile location of Bato's commercial district at the intersection of two national highways. It is important that growth opportunities are utilized and controlled. General commercial zones should be concentrated and expanded along high profile areas (e.g. major transportation networks, public centers, and government buildings) while maintaining a visual cohesiveness with other commercial areas.

National sources suggest at least 3% of total municipal urban areas should be dedicated for commercial use and the Municipality of Bato is using the same percentage as proposed. With this in mind, Bato should imply modest and controlled expansion of the existing commercial center. This plan focuses on the five barangays in the urban area namely: Barangays Iniguihan, Kalangaman, Guerrero, Tinago and Bagongbayan as the center for commercial expansion; the intersection of the two National Highways (Jose Rizal Street and Juan Luna Street) being the center. From this location, commercial units should spread outward along national highway corridors going to north, south and east of the municipality.

Reclamation as a means of physically expanding the local commercial area and properties within the existing commercial core should be utilized to capacity.

Industrial/Agro-industrial

Industrial and agro-industrial currently constructed in the urban area will be relocated to the rural areas that are outside the town proper to protect the greater populace from hazards brought about by these industries. These areas will be converted into commercial spaces to answer the growing demands of commercial spaces towards the attainment of the vision to become a trade center in the southwestern part of the province.

Along the national highway going east outside the urban area of the municipality will become the industrial zone. Mixed crop can also be converted into an industrial/agro-industrial land provided it is located at a safe distance away from residential houses so as to ensure their health safety requirements. This is also to prevent traffic congestion in the urban core in the next ten years.

Institutional

Currently, the public schools that need a reserve area for expansion of their school sites are Bato National High School and Saint Teresa's School of Bato. The area for institutional use will be an additional 15.237 hectares, for a total proposed institutional area of 39.4598 hectares, up from the existing 24.223 hectares, for the planning period. All public schools, churches and government buildings should be built to capacity before additional land is considered for general institution zone expansion.

Parks and Recreation

Bato has public parks named as Bato Baywalk located at Barangay Kalangaman near seashore. It has estimated area of 5.25 hectares. A park in Bato's urban core will enhance the aesthetic appeal of the town and ultimately fuel the local economy. Most importantly, it will promote the well- being and town-pride of Batohanon's by providing a venue for exercise, public gatherings and social events.

The site adjacent to the central marketplace and the mouth of Can-idlang River is Barangay Iniguihan. It will be reclaimed for additional institutional and commercial spaces. A park at the adjacent of this location will create a mutually beneficial relationship between the park and the adjacent commercial and institutional or terminal area. Visitors to the park will generate greater commercial activity in the market place and shoppers, will in turn, visit the park and ensure its use. A simple footbridge could easily connect the park and commercial area with the beaches of Barangay Dolho.

The suggested location in Barangay Iniguihan is currently occupied by informal settler families, including members of the Sama-Badjao community, who live in unsanitary and dangerous conditions and lack a permanent settlement area within the municipality. If left unaddressed, the situation will continue to worsen while a solution becomes less obtainable.

This proposal suggests a relocation effort, which will provide alternative site(s) for families currently residing in the squatter area. To minimize hardship, the relocation site must provide basic amenities such as fresh water supply, functional sanitary waste facilities, and access to transportation. Socialized housing should provide alternatives for evacuated families. Relocation should not be

initiated unless a sustainable relocation site as identified in accordance with Urban Development and Housing Act or of the National Housing Authority.

Another park and recreational area proposed is located in Barangay Kalangaman and Tinago, which are foreshore lands near the schools and the church. Overall, the parks and recreation zone is proposed to have a total area of 16.487 hectares, a modest increase of 0.197 hectares from the existing 16.290 hectares, which already accounts for developed sites such as the 5.25-hectare Bato Baywalk.

Transportation/Utilities

Bato's ability to utilize its location as a transportation hub in the reclamation area in Iniguihan is essential for the economic progress of the municipality. The objectives shoud be to encourage trade among travelers using the terminal area. Adjacent to the central marketplace, the terminal is ideal for promoting economic growth. The present location of the terminal is optimal for channeling traffic way from interior residential roads.

The construction of north-south By-Pass road which traverses from Barangay Ponong, Tugas, Alejos, Tabunok, and Daanlungsod will decongest the commercial area to cater the increasing influx of commuters.

The sea port will also require expansion and improvement as future trade and commuter flows increase. Improvement should be conducted incrementally as needed.

Designated residential expansion and improvement areas display the continuation of the existing urban road grid. New roads should remain "small scale" as to accommodate only light vehicular traffic flow. The total area for infrastructure and utilities is proposed to increase by 5.919 hectares, from 105.594 hectares to 111.5131 hectares, by the end of the planning period. A reclamation project in Barangay Iniguihan will be utilized for transportation/utilities and commercial spaces.

Buffer Strips/Easement

Open space should be preserved in Bato as a means of protecting natural environment from development. Open spaces zones have been established along beaches and rivers as environment safeguards. All beaches within the municipality should be preserved as open space. Swampland along Ogayon and Baha-Baha Rivers will be protected by 5 meters open space buffer zones in which no development occur.

Agricultural area

The agricultural zones in the urban area are rice paddies and mixed crops comprising an area of 21.6739 hectares in Barangays Tinago, Guerrero and Bagongbayan. Rice paddies are for protection and mixed crops are for production.

LAND AND WATER USE POLICIES

PROTECTED AREAS

NIPAS

There are no NIPAS areas officially, declared in the Municipality of Bato, under RA 7586 (NIPAS Act 1992). Promotion of marine friendly economic activities shall be undertaken while taking into account the critical ecological balance within.

Sand and gravel extraction from beaches shall be prohibited as stipulated R.A. 8550 prohibited the hunting, gathering, slaughtering and possessing of endangered flora and fauna.

NON-NIPAS

a. Buffer and easements along rivers and tributaries

All banks of rivers and stream and the shores of the seas throughout the entire length shall have the following buffer zones.

- Three (3) meters in urban areas
- Twenty (20) meters in agricultural areas
- Forty (40) meters in forest areas

These buffer zones shall be subject to the easement of public use in the interest of recreation, navigation, floatage, fishing and salvage. No person is allowed to stay in this zone for longer than what is necessary for recreation, navigation, floatage, fishing and salvage. (Philippines Water Code, Article 51).

Rivers covered under this policy shall be at least five (5) metters in width (bank to bank) in urban areas and 20 meters in width (bank to bank) in rural areas. Mitigation devices in the zoning ordinance shall cover all existing structure and settlements RA 8550.

b. Areas above 50% are considered very steep slopes and declared as protected areas.

Absolutely, no cutting of trees is allowed in these areas, however, planting of permanent trees including fruit trees, cacao and coffee is allowed. djoining areas to very steep slopes are declared buffer zones regardless of the slope within 100 meters from the edge of the protected area.

Areas with 18-30% slope contour for farming and perennial crops are allowed within 100 meters from the edge of the protected forest. For moderately eroded areas, improved farming practices are recommended.

Slash houses or dwellings shall be prohibited as stipulated in the provision of PD 705. No houses or dwellings shall be allowed to remain on the condition that no improvements, repairs or expansions shall be made. Barangay level monitoring will be established and the LGU will pass an ordinance to this effect. A certain percentage of the fines will be given as incentives to the barangay.

All occupants are required to plant trees and regulated cutting of trees for production purposes, under the production forest law, will be allowed. Likewise, planting of perennial crops will be allowed except for highly soil depleting crops such as corn and cassava.

To prevent erosion, contour farming is encouraged. Cash crops and vegetables are allowed to be planted in these contour farms. If no contour farms are established, only forest trees are allowed to be planted.

c. Severely eroded areas

Planted of trees is allowed in all eroded areas. Planting of fruit trees and perennial crops are allowed in moderately eroded areas while only forest trees are allowed to be planted in severely eroded areas.

d. Watershed

At present there are five identified major headwaters of existing sources of domestic water supply and agricultural purposes and they are located in Barangays Osmeña, Domagocdoc, Buli, Sto Nino and Himamaa. A buffer zone of no less than 500 meters radius or 1000 meters in diameter for each identified headwater is set. These areas are strictly not allowed for settlements. Only regulated cutting of trees is allowed in these areas, especially those which are classified A&D areas. Planting of fruit trees is encouraged within the buffer zone. Only permanent trees are allowed planted within the core area.

The municipality will establish a council to be responsible for the protection and conservation of forest resources and shall recommend for a pragmatic planting and cutting scheme for areas within the 500 meter radius but outside the core area (100 meters from the center).

For headwaters with classified A&D lands, use of such shall be subject to the regulations set in the CLUP. The municipality shall exercise the power of eminent domain over areas within the first 100 meters radius from the center. The next 400-meter radius shall be under regulated use as set in the zoning ordinance. Livestock-raising and settlements are prohibited in these areas.

Formulation of a community-based watershed development management plan is directed. Titling of lands within the buffer zone is strictly not allowed. For lands already titled, use of such by the owners shall be subject to regulations provided in the zoning ordinance.

A regulation for cutting of coconut trees is provided under the National Coconut Preservation Act or RA 8048.

e. Waterfalls, Caves, Rivers and Springs

An identified waterfall at the junction of Barangay Sto Niño and Buli has been declared as a municipal park and identified as a potential tourism site. No settlements are allowed within the 200 meters radius of these areas.

The Municipality has several natural wonders; to name a few is the Layog falls in Sitio Layog, Barangay Alegria, river and spring located in Barangay Domagocdoc and Imelda, Tumpag falls in Barangay Osmeña, Tugawihan River in

Barangay Himamaa. Springs can also be found in Barangay Osmeña: Ahag and Bun-ot Springs.

The cave in Sitio Aguingay is also identified as a potential tourism site. The site should be coordinated with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), concerned barangay and the LGU prior to development. Permit to develop and manage these sites for tourism purposes shall be given only to community based groups in partnership with the municipality.

f. Mangrove Areas

No settlements are permitted within the mangroves areas, however, if there are already existing settlements, such are allowed to remain under the condition that no improvements and expansions shall be made. All occupants are requested to plant mangroves where they are. Cutting is allowed in the mangrove areas as long as it conforms to the community-based mangroves management are permitted. Likewise, mangrove reforestation is highly required.

No conversion of mangroves into fishponds or for any other purposes is permitted. Mangrove area suitable for fishery operations shall not be disposed or alienated as stipulated in Sec. 45 of RA 8550. The law (RA 8550) requires that 25%-40% of foreshore lands, bays, or fishing grounds should be set aside for the conservation of mangroves to strengthen the habitat and spawning ground of fish. The question is where this strict protection zone is or should be located.

For the purpose of preparing a management plan for this area the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council (FARMC) shall conduct a detailed survey and zoning of the mangrove forest to determine, among others, the following:

- Strict protection zones which may be based on known habitat and/or spawning grounds of migratory species of fish and the requirements for restoration of biodiversity of the mangrove forest.
- Define migration paths of the migratory fish species such as river mouths and estuaries, which should be kept open and unobstructed. (See 56, RA 8550).
- Navigation lanes that likewise must be left unobstructed at all times. (Sec. 55, RA 8550)
- Abandoned, undeveloped fishponds covered by fishery lease agreements, which could be restored and reverted to their original state as mangrove forests. (See 49, RA 8550).
- Restoration zones, which may be assisted to regenerate in order to either, intensify their productive value or revert them to strict protection zones
- Multiple use zones, which could be developed or intensified for fisheries, forestry products processing and recreation.

g. Coral Reefs

Identified Danajon Bank Double Barrier Reef where Barangay Dawahon sits in. This area is identified as a potential tourism site. A Municipal Ordinance has been issued prohibiting the extraction of corals in these areas. Likewise,

provisions on coral reefs in R.A. 8550 shall be enforced. A Municipal Resolution provides for the establishment of marine sanctuaries in these areas.

An inventory of all existing coral reefs shall be made to determine the percentage of coral cover. The inventory shall contain the description and location of each, such That distribution of zones for strict protection and restoration or rehabilitation shall be determined and policies set.

Civil Reservations

a. Cemeteries and Memorial Parks

The LGU shall undertake expansion of the existing municipal cemetery. Improvements of the existing cemetery shall include vertical expansion and provision of segregated burial areas (including a pauper's burial area for those who cannot afford). Private cemeteries already existing shall be allowed to continue operations but no more expansions will be allowed. No applications for private burial grounds shall be approved. Operation of private memorial parks shall be allowed in accordance with zoning policies.

b. Parks and Playgrounds

A municipal park shall be established within the portion of reclamation area located in Barangay Kalangaman. Reclamation is needed to increase the required area for development. Parks and children's playground is needed at the Poblacion and the proposed site is in Kalangaman, adjoining schools and church.

Network of Protected Areas for Agriculture and Agro-industrial Development (NPAAD)

All irrigated lands, irrigable lands already covered by irrigation projects with firm funding commitments and lands with existing or having potential for growing high value crops so delineated within the SAFDZ shall not be converted.

In the provision of areas for urban expansion, other strategies and all other possible alternatives should be explored first before considering possible land conversion. Other strategies shall include 1) Infilling of vacant lots, 2) increasing density, 3) renewal/redevelopment and 4) reclamation.

Only houses made of light materials within rice lands, irrigated and irrigable areas shall be allowed to remain, however; no expansion/improvements shall be permitted. A monitoring team at the barangay level shall be created to prevent the construction of houses with light materials which do not require building permits. In non –irrigable areas, locational permits are required for construction of all houses.

Table PR 1 shows a marked decline in riceland area, from 728.580 hectares to 296.84 hectares under the proposed 2025 land use, a reduction of 431.74 hectares, even as Mixed Crops area expanded from 6,152.792 to 6,473.90 hectares over the same period. This shift is largely attributed to the impact of climate change on the municipality's farming areas: rain-fed ricelands, which depend on consistent rainfall, have become increasingly unreliable for rice production due to more erratic weather patterns, prompting farmers to convert these areas to mixed crops that are more resilient to variable water supply. Rising costs of farm inputs for rice

production, such as fertilizer, seed, and irrigation-related expenses, have likewise made rice farming less economically viable for some farmers, further encouraging the shift. A portion of the affected ricelands has also been converted into vegetable production, which offers a shorter cropping cycle and better returns under current market and climate conditions. Sec. 9 of the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (RA 8435) prohibits conversion of such lands into non-agricultural use, although the law allows conversion on a case-to-case basis. Note: the remaining riceland, particularly areas under irrigation, continues to fall within the identified network of protected areas for agricultural development, and an updated irrigation survey is recommended to establish the current irrigated versus rain-fed breakdown to guide future conversion decisions.

This CLUP shall be made as the basis for determining whether the conversion is justified in accordance with the planned extension of the built up areas in each of the designated growth centers, or whether the intended use conforms to the zoning ordinance.

All existing mixed crops within the planned extension of the poblacion barangays are deemed reclassified into residential, commercial, institutional or parks and recreation upon adoption of this CLUP. Property owners within the planned urban expansion area may convert their lots without need for a conversion eligibility certificate. Converted lots are subject to penalties for premature conversion Pursuant to Sec. 9 of RA 8435 (3,000 per hectare) and/or tax on idle lands in accordance with Sec. 236 of RA 7160 (5% of the assessed value), whichever is higher.

Conversion of rice lands outside the poblacion expansion may be allowed within 20 meters from the right of way of existing roads, provided that only non-irrigated areas shall be converted. These are found mainly along the Tabunok Provincial Raod, Tugas Provincial Road, Poblacion to Anahawan National Highway, Poblacion to Ponong and along the barangay roads with rice lands.

All existing irrigated rice lands and those that will be put under irrigation shall be non- negotiable for conversion to urban uses.

Coconut Preservation Areas

Estimates derived by the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) in a Coconut Production Survey, show a total of about 1,818 hectares planted with coconut, or 25% of the total land area. Out of 1,818 hectares planted, 1,393 hectares are bearing and 425 are non-bearing. The total number of trees are 150,879 in which, 115,636 are bearing and 35,243 are non-bearing. The survey recorded a total copra production of 1,989 metric tons as of the year 1997. The PCA office in Bato, however, reported a much lower area and that correspond also to the lowest production among other municipalities of southerwestern Leyte. On the other hand, Bato tops them all in terms of the number of trees being cut every year.

This is indicative of the diminishing importance of the coconut industry in Bato. Be that as it may, the coconut industry is still one of the major income generators of the town and of the country. The coconut industry is important enough that it is deemed in national interest to regulate indiscriminate cutting of coconut trees and promote a sustained replanting program. This statement of national policy is embodied in the Coconut Preservation Act of 1995 (RA 8048).

Among other things, the law prohibits the cutting of coconut trees except in the following cases:

a) When the tree is sixty (60) years old

b) When the tree is no longer economically productive

c) When the tree is disease- infested

d) When the tree is damage by typhoon or lighting

e) When the coconut land is converted into other agricultural uses provided that the trees have become senescent and economically unproductive or the coconut farm is not adaptable to sound management practices on account of location, topography, drainage and other conditions;

f) When the coconut land shall have been converted into non-agricultural uses in accordance with law; and

g) When the tree could cause hazard to life and property.

According to the law, only the above conditions valid grounds for the grant of a permit to cut shall be granted unless the applicant has already planted the equivalent number of coconut trees intended to be cut. Such replanting however shall not apply to areas already designated for industrial, commercial or residential use or converted into other agricultural uses.

Pursuant to these policies the following areas shall be retained under coconut as dominant land use:

a) All existing coconut lands along the coast to serve also as wind break in barangay Ponong, Dolho except with a margin of 20 meters from the right of way of existing or future roads which areas can be converted to urban uses.

b) All existing coconut lands along the banks of rivers to help also in banks stabilization particularly in barangays traversed by rivers or creeks.

c) All undulating to rolling hills in barangays that are currently devoted to coconut. Coconut farmers in these areas shall not only replant coconut but are encouraged to interplant them with any suitable upland crops like fruits and vegetables, or undertake livestock production.

d) All existing coconut lands in the flat alluvial plains sporadically located in Barangays Tabunok, Alejos, Tugas, Tagaytay, Naga, Mabini, Anahawan, San Agustin, Sto. Niño and Buli. Coconut

farmers in these barangays are encouraged to interplant their coconut with food or cash crops and where expanded irrigation coverage was

e) Plants convert to rice cultivation.

f) Coconut lands with shrubs as associated land use found along Anahawan River and Bangkerohan River and all other rivers, except those falling within alienable and shall no longer be replanted with coconuts. The existing coconut trees shall serve as nurse trees to encourage the growing of forest tree species.

Beachfronts and Municipal Waters

Bato has a total of 3.4 kilometers from the north coast to the south. In the north, it has 1.9 kilometers from the boundary of Hilongos to the old municipal boundary monument and 1.5 km on the south coast to the boundary of Matalom. The Beach Code of Bato shall be adopted in this CLUP covering the northern and southern coastal zone.

The municipal waters of Bato, as defined in RA 7160 Sec. 14 or in RA 8550 Sec. 4 (58), have variable extent. On the nearest island of Bohol and the island of Dawahon, the limit of municipal waters is halfway between these islands. The widest channel is between the islands of Bohol and the Camotes Sea. The narrowest channel is between Matalom and Hilongos of Canigao Channel. In Canigao Channel, the delineation is a bit more complicated because of the coastline of the adjoining municipality. Existing laws do not provide any guidelines on how to delineat the boundary between adjacent LGUs in a concave configuration of coastline. The proposed solution is where the overlap in the projected claims of the two adjacent LGUs is divided equally between them. For purposes of managing and regulating activities within their respective municipal waters, the municipalities concerned namely: Bien Unido, Bohol, Hilongos and Matalom; shall execute an agreement establishing the boundary line and providing the necessary markers for the proper guidance of the fisherfolk.

Other points of agreement shall include all forms of illegal fishing within the municipal waters. In the case of Canigao Channel, there shall be no commercial fishing rights to be granted within Bato municipal waters except the right of passage.

The zoning study to be done by the FARMC shall extend to the coral reefs and sea grass beds on the coastal zones. Based on the findings of detailed studies, a sanctuary may eventually be declared in any part of the coastal zone.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Infrastructure to Support Spatial Strategies

Reclamation project shall be undertaken, construction of roads within the reclamation area. The new location of the Transport Terminal shall be in the reclamation area. Likewise the construction of new public market building or bagsakan center will be in the adjacent area of the existing wet market site of Iniguihan to accommodate transient vendors during market day. The existing public market will be improved or expanded with separate provisions for wet and dry sections.

All public markets in the two centers shall not permit construction of dwellings within the market area. Stall leases must provide their own garbage receptacles in three different colors as mandated by waste segregation ordinance. They are responsible for cleaning their surroundings. Fines will be imposed for those who fail to segregate their garbage and clean their surroundings.

The improvement of the Port of Bato shall be completed.

The construction of diversion road on the north and south going to the east will decongest the commercial area along national highway. 10-wheeler trucks and private vehicles can use this road.

The improvement of slaughterhouse will be done in the next planning period. Implementation of existing policy on stocking at the slaughterhouse shall be stamped with the inspection seal.

All commercial meats for sale shall pass the meat inspection. In support of these policies, the meat inspector shall undergo the required seminar at the National Meat Inspection Commission or a designated livestock staff will undergo seminars and trainings.

A Diagnostic Center with updated equipment and laboratory facilities shall be maintained and improved in the Main Health Center. To sustain this clinic, just and reasonable fees for services and supplies shall be collected. The TB DOTS center will also be maintained and improved for patients with lung problems. Improvement of existing health stations shall be undertaken.

Existing educational institutions of higher learning (technical or skills) shall be established with rates socialized and shall give preference to Bato residents.

Infrastructure to Enhance Conservation and Environmental Protection

Following the closure of the final disposal site in Barangay Ponong, the area shall be converted into an eco-park and an orchard will be established so that health and security of the people are not put to risk. Waste segregation at the household level shall be practiced. In support to this, color-coding of waste receptacles shall be implemented. Guidelines regarding Waste Segregation and Disposal System shall be strictly imposed and followed. To ensure that proper waste segregation is done, a municipal segregation is done; a municipal segregation area shall be provided. Biodegradable waste materials will be shredded then will go to vermiculture. Residual waste with no potential for diversion will be temporarily stored in Residual Containment Area (RCA). Wastes that are recyclable will be recycled. Hazardous waste will be placed in burial and placental pit.

At the household level, compost pits are encouraged for biodegradable wastes. Public awareness campaigns on proper waste management and segregation shall be done.

At present, there are five existing cemeteries in the municipality, two located in Ponong and another three located in Anahawan, Sto. Niño, Himamaa respectively.

Rehabilitation of existing canals as well as construction of the same in the Poblacion and adjacent barangays shall be undertaken. Limited agricultural activities shall be imposed near the perimeter of the canal. Ornamentals and vegetables are allowed to be planted within the perimeter canal with exceptions to deep-rooted varieties. Construction of houses and other structures along the canal is strictly prohibited. For those already existing, they shall be allowed to remain if found not detrimental to the canal and on condition that no improvements shall be made. Buffer zones shall be set in active river bends. Signs and markers shall be placed in strategic areas to inform the public. All Bato residents are urged to practice water conservation measures. Reforestration in areas with slopes shall be undertaken. Limited agricultural activities shall be imposed in these areas.

Infrastructure in Support Production Activities

Construction of cold storage facilities, fish processing plant and other processing plant within reclamation area near the public market with proper waste disposal and treatment facilities for waste shall be allowed. The municipality shall encourage private investments in Bato with preference to local investors. Tax holidays and incentives shall be given to investors.

Industries shall conform to environmental compliance requirements such as ECC, CNC, EIA and EIS and all other requirements as may be formulated by the local government. Construction of warehouses for dry products will be encouraged. A warehouse product-processing complex shall be allowed in upper barangays for the processing of products such as coconut, abaca, flour and other value added products.

PRODUCTION

Production Forestry Area

Production forests are those areas that are planted with forest trees, fruit trees, coffee, abaca, and rattan for production purposes. Barangays with production forests include Barangays Liberty, Buli, Marcelo, Domagocdoc and Imelda. All possible areas for production forest shall be identified and declared. These areas shall be closed to new settlements but existing settlers are allowed to remain on the condition that no improvements and increase in area shall be made. Present occupants are given first priority regarding management of these production forests. Community-based management plans are encouraged. Areas above 50% are considered protected forest and zero utilization of wood products is enforced.

Communal Forest

The LGU, under Sec. 17 of IRA 7160, may request the DENR to grant the municipality authority to manage not more than 5,000 hectares of communal forest for domestic use. Location of this area shall be determined pending declaration and identification.

Correct management of communal forest shall provide for planting of ten (10) trees for every tree cut. Management shall also include regulations to maintain vegetation cover even when cutting or harvesting is allowed. For firewood, only cutting of branches and twigs is allowed. No cutting of trunks is permitted. For poles, a minimum of 0.25- meter diameter and at least 8 years old are prescribed.

Planting of forest trees for household/domestic purposes may be allowed but under strict regulations for harvesting. Planting of fruit trees and medicinal plants is also encouraged.

Delineation of areas for production forest shall be done to identify potential areas for communal forest. Communal forest areas in each barangay shall be identified and the LGU shall ensure that all barangay shall each have designated areas for communal forest. In cases where a barangay has none, the LGU may, upon acceptance by the barangay-concerned assign an area for particular barangay with communal forest. Communal forests awarded or assigned to each barangay may become the CBFMA of that barangay.

A municipal Forest Protection Committee (MFPC) or any organization or body sanctioned by the LGU shall be monitor and regulate activities within these areas in accordance with CBFMA. The body shall coordinate with existing forest guards.

An Environment and Natural Resources Office shall be created and the designation and hiring of corresponding personnel and budget appropriation shall be initiated by the LGU.

Agricultural Area

a. Permanent Crop Area

Maintain existing area planted to perennial crops. Identify and enumerate permanent crops. Policies under this section are covered under RA 8435 and NPAAAD.

Conversion of lands planted to permanent crops to non-agricultural use is not allowed. Conversion of one crop use to another, however, is allowed on condition that it will give more economic benefit to the farmer and subject existing national laws and regulations.

b. Seasonal Crop Area

Strictly no conversion for irrigated riceland and potentially irrigable areas

c. Livestock and Pasture Area

Existing livestock and pasture areas are located in Barangays Ponong, Himamaa, Osmeña, Buli, Tugas, Tabunok, Amagos, Alejos, and Anahawan. Livestock owning 10 heads and above shall provide their own pasture areas or pasture their livestock only in identified pasture areas. Those with 10 heads and below may choose to do any of the following: pasture is own areas, tether, cut and carry, introduce feeds or make own arrangements with owners of pasture areas.

Inland and Brackish Fishery Area

Strengthen the Municipal Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Management Council (MFARMC) and the Barangay Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Management Council (BFARMC) as policy-making bodies.

Sections 16-25 of RA 8550 on Municipal Fisheries shall be applied to this section. Any construction which will obstruct the tree navigation in any streams, rivers, lakes or bays flowing through or adjoining the fish pens, fish cages, fish traps and fish ponds or impede the flow of the tide to and from the area shall not be allowed as provided in Section 55 of RA 8550.

Fish cages and fish pens shall not exceed 10 % of the surface area of rivers and lakes and in no case shall they obstruct navigational lanes.

Construction of fish cages and fish pens shall not be allowed in river mouths and estuaries identified as migration paths of migratory fish species within a distance of 30 meters.

All fish pens and fishponds shall be registered with the LGU in consultation with the DA. The LGU shall be prescribed the minimum standards for such facilities in consultation with the DA. Annual inventory of all registered fishponds and fish pens, whether public or private, shall also be undertaken by the DA. Permit to operate such facilities shall be issued by the LGU in consultation with the DA.

Owners and operators are required to submit annual reports to the DA specifiying types of fishes and volume of production, pursuant to RA 8550.

Marine Fishery Area

The LGU shall maintain a registry of all municipal fisher folk who are fishing in municipal waters for the purpose of limiting entry and monitoring fishing activities and determining priorities among them.

Honorarium and other benefits, including insurances, shall be allocated to active fish wardens. The LGU and barangays shall equally share the cost.

Demarcation and delineation of municipal waters for the adjoining municipalities shall be conducted.

All fisheries-related activities in municipal waters shall be utilized by municipal fisher folk and their cooperatives, organizations that are listed in the registry of municipal fisher folk.

The LGU shall permit small scale commercial fishing vessels to operate within the 10.1-15 km area from the shoreline in municipal waters only to vessels owned and operated by Bato residents who are registered municipal fisher folks. Permit shall be given under the following conditions:

1.) No commercial fishing in municipal waters within 15 km.
2.) Fishing activities shall utilize methods and gears determined to be consistent with national policies set by DA,
3.) Prior consultation through public hearing with the MFARMC has been conducted,
4.) Applicant vessel as well as ship owner, employer, captain and crew have been certified by the appropriate agency as not having violated the fisheries code, environmental laws and related laws.

Periodic conduct of Fisheries Resources Ecological Assessment (FREA) shall be encouraged.

Mineral Land and Quarry Sites

Ban on voluminous extraction of sand and gravel for commercial and industrial maybe allowed with corresponding permits and licenses and shall conform to the DENR Administrative Order No. 30. Local residents may be allowed to extract sand and gravel for local use only. Mineral reserves in Barangay Bago and Daanlungsod shall be preserved.

Adequate resources are reserved for the future use of the municipality in pursuing and implementing infrastructure plans as stated in this CLUP.

Recreational and Tourism Area

Private investors are allowed or given permit to operate in the municipality in conformity with CLUP and zoning policies. Preference is given to community-based investors.

Recreation areas shall be established and maintained where appropriate and available. Identified tourism areas shall be duly preserved, maintain and developed with appropriate legislative measures.

Public access to foreshore lands shall be insured with the declaration of 20 meters from the highest tide as salvage zone. To provide public access, perpendicular roads will be constructed from highway to the foreshore or access roads along the seawall will be built.

Industrial and Commercial Area

Industries shall be classified into cottage, medium and large (as determined by the Department of Trade and Industry). Commercial and industrial development shall conform to the CLUP and zoning guidelines.

Settlements

Any construction along the roads shall not be allowed within the ten (10) meters as right of way of the municipal roads. If the structures exists, for municipal roads, it shall be demolished at the expense of the owners but they will be given due notice. For National and Provincial roads, existing structures will be subject to DPWH rules and regulations.

For national roads, succeeding constructions shall require a building permit from the LGU (Office of the Building Official). Construction along roads and the pavements is not allowed below the 5 meters from the pavement. A depth of 30 meters or approximately 2 houses from the 5-meter buffer shall be allowed for construction of houses. Strict imposition of this policy is recommended especially adjoining irrigated agricultural areas. Policies under this section are subject to DPWH regulations on national roads.

A maximum of five-storey height for buildings is allowed.

A buffer of 3 meters in urban areas and 20 meters in rural areas from any river control, sea wall and flood control structure is imposed. No construction of any kind shall be permitted on these areas or over the public structure itself. If private structures exist, recommendation for removal shall be made when public or

health safety requires. Removal shall be the expense of the owner. A grace period of 6 months shall be given.

All existing houses shall be maintained in their location, however, if destroyed by natural calamities, intentional or manmade causes shall comply with present policy. All succeeding structures shall secure a building permit and locational clearance from the building official.

Operation of piggeries and poultries within residential areas are subject to the following requirements: septic tanks should be provided regardless of the number of heads, regular access to source of water, provision of pig pens and flushing with water at least twice a day for piggeries. Operation is limited to a maximum of 5 heads for hogs and 50 heads for chicken. In no case shall the septic tank drain directly to the rivers and lakes. These requirements are subject to regular monitoring of health sanitation by the sanitary inspector. Activation of the health board is recommended for the formulation of detailed requirements.

Planting of tall trees proven to be risky for the general public during natural calamities and which would exceed 20 feet in height within the areas directly under the electrical transmission main and lateral lines shall be prohibited. Existing trees exceeding 20 feet in height shall be trimmed down to a maximum height of 20 feet. Settlements are not allowed within the 50-57 meter easement from the transmission lines.

F. MAJOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

This section contains the list of priority programs and projects for the Municipality of Bato for planning year 2026-2037. These investments were identified through a workshop conducted before the preparation of the CLUP, attended by participants from different departments and sectors of the local government and the private sector. Other than the programs and projects identified during the workshop, some priority projects were also added based on the sectoral analysis that was conducted. The priority projects identified were clustered into 5 strategic directions, namely: Institutional/Administrative that includes Formulation and Implementation of Laws and Policies; Improved Social Services, Economic Enhancement, Infrastructure Development and Environmental Protection and Conservation.

PRIORITY PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS
2026-2037

INSTITUTIONAL/ADMINISTRATIVE

Astig SERVE Program (Service Efficiency & Responsive Virtual Engine)
Financial Stability and Resource Management Program
We are P.R.I.M.E Program (Professional Resources & Innovation for Municipal Employees)
BRYAN (Barangay Readiness Yields Action and Nurturing) Program

SOCIAL

Education

Project TATA (Touching for Aid the Helpless Through Active giving of School Needs)
Provision of Educational materials for literacy and numeracy development
Provision of Honorarium for tutors
Construction of ALS Building with equipment and amenities for administrative support

Health and Sanitation

Nutrition Program
Under Five Clinic Program
National Immunization Program
Emerging and Re-Emerging Infectious Disease (EREID) Control Program
Environmental Health Sanitation Program
Rabies Control Program
Mental Health Program
Construction of Brgy. Tugas Health Center
Zero Open Defecation (ZOD) Program
Garantisadong Pambata Program
Newborn Screening
Universal Health Care Program
Non-Communicable Disease Program
Adolescent Health & Sexuality Program

Housing

Core Shelter Assistance Program (CSAP)
Skills training for beneficiaries of CSAP
Development of relocation site
Enactment of an Ordinance Allocating Annual Funds for the Core Shelter Assistance Program (CSAP)

Social Welfare

Provision of child-friendly and gender-friendly spaces/amenities in evacuation centers
Construction of OSCA Office (Phase 2)
Construction/rehabilitation of Child Development Centers (CDCs)
Development of Social Welfare Information System (SWIS)
ICT equipment provision for SWIS

Protective Services

Procurement of 2 units of water pump for Brgy. Dawahon
Implementation of Fire Safety Inspection System (FSIS)/Online Application
Organization of Barangay Fire Brigade

Procurement of 1 additional unit firetruck with bigger tank capacity
Implementation of Oplan Ligtas na Pamayanan Program (OLP) in remaining targeted Town Proper barangays
Conduct of quarterly fire safety lectures and drills
Functional and accredited Community-Based Drug Rehabilitation Program (CBDRP)
Phase 2 Construction of Balay Silangan

Sports and Recreation
Construction of Teen Center facility
Construction of Multi-Purpose Gym, Brgy. Marcelo
Rehabilitation of Multi-Purpose Hall, Brgy. Domagocdoc
Construction of Brgy. Himama-a Multi-purpose Hall
Build Multi-purpose Centers with WASH and solar backup

Youth Development
ASTIG Young Movers Congress

ECONOMIC

Agriculture and Fishery
Livestock Development Program
Tilapia Dispersal Program
Establishment of BRYANihan Techno Demo Farm
Establishment of TATA Program (Economic Sector)
Conduct of training on climate-smart technology
Rehabilitation of Brgy. Dawahon Mini Port

Forestry
Project NILE (Nurturing Indigenous Landscapes and Ecosystems)
Creation of a Special Task Force on Anti-Illegal Logging Operations and Enforcement
Conduct of annual river water quality monitoring

Industry, Commerce and Trade
Bato Business-Friendly Hub Development Program
Rehabilitation of Bato Municipal Slaughterhouse
Conduct information drive and facilitate access to credit facility
Conduct hands-on training on iTax
Resource mobilization with partners (NGOs, private sector)

Tourism
Construction of facilities (comfort rooms) at tourist sites
Construction of Pasalubong Center
Conduct an environmental impact study on Tuod Sandbar

Labor and Employment
Project ASTIG (Assisting Seekers Through Training, Information, and Guidance)

INFRASTRUCTURE

Transportation
Concreting of Portion of Brgy. Mabini Farm-to-Market Road
Concreting of Portion of Brgy. Alegria FMR
Concreting of Portion of Brgy. Rivilla FMR w/ riprap rehabilitation
Concreting of Portion of Brgy. Domagocdoc Pathway
Concreting of Portion of Brgy. Naga Pathway

Concreting of Portion of Sitio Amagos 2, Brgy. Amagos Pathway
Concreting of Portion of Brgy. Road, Brgy. Katipunan Proper
Concreting of Portion of Brgy. Road, Brgy. Plaridel
Concreting of Portion of Pathway, Sitio Buli 2, Brgy. Imelda
Concreting of Portion of Brgy. Road, Sitio Gawad & Lawis, Brgy. Iniguihan
Concreting of Portion of Brgy. Road, Brgy. San Agustin
Concreting of Portion of Brgy. Road, Sitio Panog & Talisayan, Brgy. Buli
Concreting of Portion of Pathway, Sitio Guwa-on, Brgy. Liberty
Concreting of Access Road to Superhealth Center, Bato Reclamation Area, Brgy. Iniguihan
Formulation of Flood Control Masterplan (river dikes, rainwater catchments)
Construction of Bato drainage system
Construction of flood protection dike along a portion of Bangkerohan River

Power

Procurement and installation of Solar Street Lighting (Brgy. Cebuana, Tagaytay, Iniguihan, Tabunok, & Osmeña)

Water

Construction of Water System Level II, Brgy. Plaridel
Construction of Level II Water Supply System, Brgy. Amagos
Construction of Level II Water Supply System, Brgy. Cebuana
Procurement and installation of additional pipelines for Brgy. Sto. Niño Level II Water System

Environmental Management

Establishment and operation of a Category 1 Sanitary Landfill, complete with amenities and equipment
Erection of "No Build Zone" markings
Conduct of Regular IEC on solid waste segregation and ordinance enforcement
Purchase of solid waste alternative technologies (Asher pyrolysis unit, plastic melter with molds)
"Basura ko Nasa litro" project