



Republic of the Philippines
 PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR
 Municipality of Molave



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY TO THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 40th REGULAR SESSION OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN (12th MUNICIPAL COUNCIL UNDER THE LGC OF 1991) OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF MOLAVE, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR HELD AT THE SB SESSION HALL ON APRIL 15, 2026 AT 9:05 A.M.

Officers/Members	Position	Present	Absent	Remarks
Hon. Monalisa J. Glepa	Mun. Vice Mayor	✓		P.O.
Hon. Desiderio L. Jabello	SB Member		✓	
Hon. Cornelio R. Salinas	SB Member	✓		
Hon. Illuwil D. Orbita	SB Member	✓		
Hon. Joel M. Geromo	SB Member	✓		
Hon. Jonathan S. Uy	SB Member	✓		
Hon. Jacosalem A. Perong, Jr.	SB Member	✓		
Hon. Leonila J. Bermejo	SB Member	✓		
Hon. Welie R. Cabasag	SB Member	✓		
Hon. Earl Louise A. Glepa, LNB Pres.	Ex-Officio Member	✓		
Hon. Charina A. Jordan, SKF Pres.	Ex-Officio Member	✓		

MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 12th-40-2026

AN ORDINANCE REGULATING THE PRACTICE, OPERATION AND REGISTRATION OF FAITH HEALERS, HILOTS, HERBALIST AND OTHER TRADITIONAL AND ALTERNATIVE HEALING PRACTITIONERS WITHIN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MOLAVE AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Sangguniang Bayan of Molave, Zamboanga del Sur, in session duly assembled, that:

SECTION 1. TITLE. This Ordinance shall be known as the "Traditional and Alternative Healing Practitioners Regulation Ordinance of the Municipality of Molave."

SECTION 2. RATIONALE AND POLICY. It is hereby declared the policy of the Municipality of Molave to:

- Recognize, respect, and preserve traditional and alternative healing practices as part of the cultural heritage, indigenous knowledge systems, and community-based health support;
- Safeguard/Protect public health, safety, and welfare by ensuring practitioners are identified, registered, and regulated;
- Promote responsible practice, transparency, accountability, and coordination with appropriate health authorities in order to protect the public from unsafe, misleading, or fraudulent healing activities while allowing legitimate traditional practices to continue under reasonable standards;
- Ensure compliance with national laws including R.A. No. 8423 (TAMA of 1997) and FDA regulations.

Nothing in this ordinance shall be construed to regulate purely religious or spiritual prayer activities conducted without compensation, fee, donation or material consideration, in order to safeguard freedom of religion.

SECTION 3. COVERAGE. This Ordinance shall apply to all individuals, partnerships, associations, or groups, engaged in faith healing, hilot, herbal medicine preparation or dispensing, spiritual or energy cleansing, or any other traditional or alternative healing activity conducted within the territorial jurisdiction of the Municipality of Molave, whether rendered gratuitously or for compensation, donation, or any form of consideration.

SECTION 4. DEFINITION OF TERMS. For the purpose of this Ordinance, the following terms shall mean:

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 This is a **system-generated Certified True Copy** and **does not require a manually affixed signature.**

- a. **Traditional and Alternative Healing Practitioner** – Any individual engaged in non-conventional healing methods rooted in indigenous knowledge, cultural traditions, or alternative medical systems; provided, that such practice shall not include acts constituting the practice of medicine unless duly licensed under existing laws.
- b. **Faith Healer** – A person who claims to cure, alleviate, or manage illness through prayer, spiritual intervention, ritual, or supernatural means without the use of conventional medical procedures.
- c. **Hilot** – A traditional practitioner who applies massage, bone-setting, and other indigenous physical manipulation techniques for therapeutic purposes.
- d. **Herbalist** – A person who utilizes medicinal plants, herbs, and natural substances for healing or treatment.
- e. **Herbal medicine** - Finished, labeled medicinal products containing active ingredients from plant parts or preparations intended for therapeutic use and duly registered or approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), formerly Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD).
- f. **Alternative health care modalities** – Other forms of non-allopathic healing methods, whether indigenous or imported, including but not limited to naturopathy, homeopathy, nutritional therapy, tuina massage, osteopathy, anthroposophic medicine, and similar systems.
- g. **Philippine traditional healers** – The relatively old, highly respected people with profound knowledge of traditional remedies. A person with knowledge in indigenous and/or Philippine belief systems, oral traditional medicine of the indigenous cultural communities/indigenous peoples (ICC/IPS) and/or other ethno-linguistic groups in the Philippines.
- h. **Registration** – The official recording and recognition of a practitioner's identity, scope of services, and compliance with municipal requirements.
- i. **Municipal Health Office (MHO)** – the office providing technical assistance, guidance and supervision on public health and safety standards related to healing practices.
- j. **Business Permit and Licensing Office (BPLO)** – The Municipal Office for processing permits, registration, and maintain official records of practitioners.
- k. **Sanitary Inspector** – the duly authorized personnel tasked to inspect premises and ensure adherence to sanitation and public health standards.
- l. **Philippine Institute of Traditional and Alternative Health Care (PITACH)**- A government-owned and controlled corporation attached to the Department of Health created under Republic Act No. 8423 or the Traditional and Alternative Medicine Act (TAMA) of 1997.
- m. **Food and Drug Administration (FDA)** – The national regulatory agency responsible for ensuring the safety, efficacy, and quality of drugs, herbal medicines, and health products.
- n. **Premises** – any physical location, establishment, or area where the practitioner conducts healing activities of consults clients.

SECTION 5. ACCREDITATION AND REGISTRATION.

- a. **Mandatory Registration** – No person shall engage in traditional or alternative healing practice within the Municipality without first securing a Certificate of Registration from the Municipal Government for local monitoring and regulatory purposes.

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- b. National Agency Compliance. – Practitioners shall comply with applicable requirements of the Philippines Institute of Traditional and Alternative Health Care (PITAHC) whenever their healing modality falls within recognized or regulated by said agency consistent with Republic Act. No. 8423 (TAMA of 1997).
- c. Herbal Medicine Registration- Practitioners who prepare, sell, dispense, or distribute herbal medicines or plant-based products must present proof of valid Food and Drug Administration (FDA) registration, notification, or clearance. (exception: If Hilots only performs massage, unless the Hilot prepares, sells and dispenses herbal products)
- d. Business Permit Requirement. – Practitioners operating a fixed clinic, stall, office, or place of healing for compensation shall secure a Mayor's Permit / Business Permit from the Business Permits and Licensing Office (BPLO) annually.
- e. Documentary Requirements- applicants shall submit the following:
 - Duly accomplished application form provided by the Municipal Health Office;
 - Valid government-issued identification card;
 - Barangay Clearance from the barangay where the practice is located;
 - Community Tax Certificate (CTC);
 - Description of scope of services;
 - Health and Sanitary Clearance issued by the Sanitary Inspector after inspection of the premises;
 - Philippine Institute of Traditional and Alternative Health Care (PITAHC) Accreditation, if required nationally;
 - Proof of FDA registration for herbal medicines
 - Mayor's Permit from BPLO (Revised Revenue Ordinance No. 11th-15-2022 Article A. Section 2E.04. Administrative Provisions).
- f. Evaluation and Issuance – The Municipal Health Office (MHO) evaluates applications and coordinates with BPLO and the Sanitary Inspector before recommending to the Municipal Mayor, who shall issue a Certificate of Registration valid for one (1) year.
- g. Validity and Renewal - Registration is renewable annually subject to continued compliance.

SECTION 6. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF PRACTITIONERS. All accredited practitioners shall:

- a. Conduct their practice in a professional and responsible manner, avoiding actions that may harm the client physically, mentally, or spiritually.
- b. Refrain from diagnosing or prescribing medicines reserved for licensed medical professionals;
- c. Clearly disclose that services are traditional or alternative in nature;
- d. Respect the dignity, privacy, and consent of clients;
- e. Maintain cleanliness and sanitation of the premises at all times, including proper disposal of waste materials.
- f. Refrain from making false, exaggerated, or misleading claims regarding their services or guarantees of cure;
- g. Ensure the invasive procedures or treatments are safe and hygienic, adhering to accepted health standards;
- h. Encourage clients to consult licensed medical professionals when appropriate, particularly in cases of serious illness;
- i. Keep a simple record of clients and treatments provided, to be presented during inspections;
- j. Display the Certificate of Registration in a conspicuous place in the premises.
- k. Comply with all applicable municipal, provincial and national law, rules, and regulations;

- l. Coordinate with the Municipal Health Office when necessary, especially in cases involving serious medical conditions.

SECTION 7. INSPECTION, MONITORING, AND COMPLIANCE.

1. The Municipal Health Office (MHO), in coordination with the Business Permit and Licensing Office (BPLO), Sanitary Inspector, Philippine National Police (PNP), and concerned Barangay Officials, shall conduct regular and, when necessary, unannounced inspections of premises and activities of practitioners to ensure compliance with this Ordinance and other applicable health and safety laws.
2. The Molave PNP shall aid in the enforcement of lawful orders, closure directives, seizure of prohibited products, and maintenance of peace and order during inspection or enforcement operations when requested by the MHO or BPLO.
3. Barangay Officials, particularly the Punong Barangay and Barangay Health Workers, shall assist in community monitoring, verification of residency, reporting of unregistered practitioners, and dissemination of information regarding registered and compliant practitioners within their jurisdiction.
4. Practitioners shall fully cooperate with authorized inspections and shall provide access to records, premises, and relevant documents when required by authorized personnel.
5. Any non-compliance identified during inspection shall require corrective action within a period prescribed by the MHO or BPLO. Failure to comply shall constitute a violation subject to penalties under this Ordinance.

SECTION 8. PROHIBITED ACTS. The following are prohibited:

- a. Operating without registration or expired registration;
- b. Selling unregistered or unsafe herbal products;
- c. Misrepresenting oneself as a licensed medical practitioner;
- d. Performing hazardous, invasive, or unsafe procedures;
- e. Refusing lawful inspections;
- f. Advertising or promoting services with fraudulent claims;
- g. Engaging in practices that pose imminent risk to public health;
- h. Exploiting minors, elderly, or vulnerable persons;
- i. Operating without a valid Business Permit when required; and
- j. Operating without a Sanitary Permit or refusing authorized personnel.

SECTION 9. PENALTIES. Any violation of this Ordinance shall, after due process, be penalized depending on the nature and gravity of the offense, as follows:

- First Violation: Fine of ₱1,000.00 and written warning;
- Second Violation: Fine of ₱1,500.00 and suspension of permit for up to sixty (60) days;
- Third Violation: Fine of ₱2,500.00, cancellation of permit, and disqualification from re-application for one (1) year, without prejudice to other legal actions.

In addition to fines, the BPLO may recommend closure or suspension of business operations for repeated non-compliance with permit and sanitation requirements.

Any continued violation beyond the third offense may be reported to higher authorities for further legal action under existing laws.

SECTION 10. APPEAL PROCEDURE. Any aggrieved party may appeal the decision of the implementing office to the Office of the Municipal Mayor within fifteen (15) days from receipt of the notice, without prejudice to further remedies available under existing applicable laws.

SECTION 11. PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION.

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The Municipal Health Office (MHO), in coordination with the BPLO and other relevant offices, shall:

1. Conduct regular seminars, trainings, and workshops for traditional practitioners to promote safe and ethical practices.
2. Disseminate information to the public regarding registered practitioners and the importance of seeking licensed medical consultation when necessary.
3. Encourage collaboration between traditional practitioners and formal healthcare providers for improved public health outcomes.

SECTION 12. IMPLEMENTING OFFICE. The Business Permit and Licensing Officer (BPLO), in coordination with the Municipal Health Office (MHO), Sanitary Inspector, and other concerned municipal offices, shall implement and enforce this Ordinance. They shall maintain a complete registry of all registered practitioners.

The Implementing Offices may request assistance from the Molave Philippine National Police (PNP) and concerned Barangay Officials for enforcement, monitoring, information dissemination, and maintenance of public order in relation to the implementation of this Ordinance.

SECTION 13. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. If any provision of this Ordinance is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 14. REPEALING CLAUSE. All prior ordinances or regulations inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SECTION 15. EFFECTIVITY. This Ordinance shall take effect after posting in at least three (3) conspicuous public places within the Municipality of Molave in accordance with Republic Act No. 7160.

ENACTED, this 15th day of April, 2026 at Molave, Zamboanga del Sur.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

JUNARD C. SAYSON
A.O. V/O.I.C.

ATTESTED AND DULY CERTIFIED:

MONALISA J. GLEPA, RN
Mun. Vice Mayor/ Presiding Officer

APPROVED:

CYRIL REO. A. GLEPA, M.D.
Municipal Mayor

Date

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