

March 5, 2008

**HON. RONALD S. LOBRIDO**  
Vice Mayor  
La Libertad Municipal Hall  
6213 Negros Oriental

Dear Vice Mayor Lobrido:

This has reference to your letter dated February 19, 2008, requesting legal opinion on the following concerns –

- the propriety or legality of Resolution No. 1 dated January 10, 2008, of the Liga ng mga Barangay of La Libertad authorizing each of the punong barangay member thereof to represent the liga chapter in every session of the sangguniang bayan of La Libertad in accordance with the schedule prepared and attached to said resolution; and
- who can issue travel order for members of the sangguniang bayan , the SB secretary and other personnel of the sanggunia.

As regards Resolution No. 1 dated January 10, 2008, passed and approved by the Liga ng mga Barangay La Libertad chapter, it is irregular and contrary to the provisions of the Local Government Code of 1991 and of the Liga ng mga Barangay Constitution and By-Laws. Both provide for the purpose of the organization of the Liga ng mga Barangay which is to determine the representation of the Liga in the sanggunians to ventilate, articulate and crystallize issues affecting barangay government administration and to secure solutions to said issues. Moreover, the Local Government Code of 1991 and the Liga ng mga Barangay Constitution and By-Laws provide that the duly elected presidents of the liga at the municipal, city and provincial levels shall serve as ex-officio members of the sangguniang bayan, sangguniang panlungsod and sangguniang panlalawigan, respectively. And among the powers and duties of the chapter president of the liga is to represent the liga chapter in cases where such representation is needed. Hence, it is only the duly elected President of the Liga ng mga Barangay municipal chapter who can represent the barangays in the sangguniang bayan.

On who can issue travel order for members of the sanggunian, the SB secretary and other sanggunian personnel, it bears to emphasize that official trips of municipal officials and employees outside of the municipality for a period not exceeding thirty (30) days have to be authorized by the municipal mayor per Section 444(b)(1)(xv) of the Local Government Code of 1991. Since the members of the sangguniang bayan and the SB secretary are included in the enumeration of the officials of the municipal government, their official travels outside of the municipality are likewise subject to the prior authorization of the mayor.

Truly yours,

**PEDRO A. NOVAL, JR.**  
Regional Director

