



EXCERPTS FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 12th REGULAR SESSION OF THE 12th COUNCIL HELD AT SB SESSION HALL, LEGISLATIVE BUILDING, BARANGAY GADGARON, MATNOG, SORSOGON ON SEPTEMBER 15, 2025 AT 2:00 IN THE AFTERNOON.

Present:	Honorable Emilio G. Ubaldo, III	Municipal Vice Mayor (Presiding Officer)
	Honorable Osmundo L. Garay	Municipal Councilor
	Honorable Edward Ruel G. Barlin, Jr.	-do-
	Honorable Mercy G. Gata	-do-
	Honorable Junnar O. Garcia	-do-
	Honorable Antonio S. Bilazon	-do-
	Honorable Joseph Alan G. Gacis	-do-
	Honorable Celema L. Morata	ABC President
	Honorable Justin John H. Lagadia	SKMF President
Absent:	Honorable Celerina Cecil H. Ubaldo	Municipal Councilor
	Honorable Leopoldo Y. Sabado, Jr.	-do-

MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 2025-12

IMPOSING AN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PARTICIPATORY (EMP) FEE TO ALL TRAVELLERS PASSING THROUGH THE MUNICIPALITY OF MATNOG, SORSOGON, AND BOUND TO VISAYAS AND MINDANAO.

Author: Honorable Junnar O. Garcia

WHEREAS, Section 16, Article II of the Constitution likewise provides that "the State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with rhythm and harmony;"

WHEREAS, Section 16 of the Local Government Code states that local government units shall ensure and support, among other things, the preservation and enrichment of culture, promote health and safety, enhance the right of the people to a balanced ecology, encourage and support the development of appropriate and self-reliant scientific and technological capabilities, improve public morals, enhance economic prosperity and social justice, promote full employment among their residents, maintain peace and order, and preserve the comfort and convenience of their inhabitants;"

WHEREAS, Section 129 of the Local Government Code states that "each local government unit shall exercise its power to create its own sources of revenue and to levy taxes, fees, and charges subject to the provisions herein, consistent with the basic policy of local autonomy. Such taxes, fees, and charges shall accrue exclusively to the local government units;"

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Matnog where the Port of Matnog is located, hosts on a daily basis multitudes of travelers intending to cross the San Bernardino Strait to reach their respective destinations in the Visayas and Mindanao, and serves as a stop-off point for these transients while they process fees and secure tickets and other related documents necessary for their sea travel;

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Matnog likewise hosts these travelers for longer periods whenever there is a prevailing "no-sail policy" issued by the Philippine Coast Guard;

WHEREAS, there have been previous reports and sightings of trash and other waste being dumped unto the municipal waters of Matnog, Sorsogon, from ferryboats or ships or barges utilizing Matnog port;

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Matnog bears the additional responsibility in managing, collecting, and properly disposing any trash, waste, and other pollutants left behind by travelers passing through the municipality and bound to the Visayas and Mindanao, as part of its commitment to maintain a clean and healthy environment and a balanced ecology for its people;

WHEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, AS IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED by the 12th Sangguniang Bayan of Matnog in session assembled that:

SECTION 1. Title. This ordinance shall be known as the "**Environmental Management Participatory (EMP) Fee Ordinance of 2025.**"

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. It is hereby declared the policy of the Municipality of Matnog, Sorsogon, to provide and sustain a clean and healthy environment and a balanced ecology for its residents and visitors, and enact measures that shall protect and conserve the land and marine environments and resources of the municipality. To this end, the Municipality of Matnog shall establish additional sources of funding which shall be applied to finance measures that shall improve and promote environmental management and protection within the municipality. The Municipality of Matnog shall further secure contributory fees from all persons covered by this ordinance for the management, collection, and proper disposal of trash, waste, and other pollutants left behind by travelers passing through the municipality and bound to the Visayas and Mindanao.

SECTION 3. Coverage. This ordinance shall cover all travelers passing through the territory of the Municipality of Matnog and bound to Visayas and Mindanao, which shall include passengers, drivers, and other travelers on board public or private vehicles plying the said route. The provisions of this ordinance shall not be applied to passengers, drivers, and other travelers on board public or private vehicles passing through the Municipality from the Visayas and Mindanao and travelling towards the opposite direction.

SECTION 4. Definition of Terms. As used in this ordinance, the following terms are hereby defined:

- (a) **Environment** – shall refer to the air, water, land, and all surroundings whether natural or artificial, in or on which people and other living things live and move about;
- (b) **Environmental Management** – involves policies, programs, and processes that minimize humanity's impact on its surroundings, with the principal aim of protecting the natural environment, preserving forms of life, and ensuring sustainability for future generations.
- (c) **Environmental Management Participatory (EMP) Fee** – shall refer to a small amount to be collected by the Municipality of Matnog from travelers covered by this ordinance for the purpose of contributing to local government funds applied to finance measures that shall improve and promote environmental management and protection within the municipality.

SECTION 5. Imposition. All travelers passing through the territory of the Municipality of Matnog and bound to Visayas and Mindanao shall be required to pay the Environmental Management Participatory Fee in the amount of Ten Pesos (PHP10.00) per person, subject to the provisions of Section 6 of this ordinance.

SECTION 6. Exceptions. The following are exempted from payment of the Environmental Management Participatory (EMP) Fee:

- (a) Bona fide residents of Sorsogon, upon presentation of a valid identification card showing their residential information;
- (b) Children below twelve years of age and senior citizens who are seventy-five years old and above are likewise exempted from this ordinance upon presentation of a valid identification card showing their age or birthdate, or when, in the case of children, the applicability of this exception is clearly shown by their physical features; and,
- (c) Members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police who are on active duty and are travelling in their respective official capacities, upon showing of relevant valid identification card.

SECTION 7. Collection. The Office of the Municipal Treasurer shall be charged with the proper collection of the EMP fee from covered persons and the same shall be collected in the same manner as the user's fee and quarantine fee of the Municipality are being collected.

SECTION 8. Utilization of Funds. The collected funds shall accrue to a trust fund to be created for under the name of the Municipality, which shall be allocated and used exclusively for environmental protection and management programs and projects, and other social services:

- a. The proper collection, segregation, management, and disposal of waste from travellers and visitors;
- b. Provision of public restrooms for travellers and visitors;
- c. Procurement and maintenance of waste collection tools, transportation vehicles, processing machinery, and other like articles and equipment;
- d. Maintenance of a municipal dump site;
- e. Conduct of clean-up drives in the Municipality;
- f. Capacity-building and information-dissemination activities; and,
- g. Deployment of additional manpower for environmental protection and management programs and projects.

SECTION 9. Prohibition. The willful and unreasonable refusal to pay the EMP fee to the proper authorities of the Municipality of Matnog by persons covered by this ordinance is hereby prohibited and declared punishable. Unjustified failure on the part of the local officials charged with the collection of the EMP fee to collect the same from persons covered by this ordinance shall likewise be punishable.

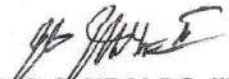
SECTION 10. Penalty. Any person who shall violate Section 8 of this ordinance shall be made to pay the fine of Two Thousand Pesos (PHP2,000.00). Any local official of the Municipality of Matnog who violates Section 8 of this ordinance shall also be held administratively liable.

SECTION 11. Separability Clause. Any provision of this ordinance declared by a court of competent authority to be invalid shall not affect those not so declared and shall continue to be valid and enforceable.


SECTION 12. Repealing Clause. Any other existing ordinance contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SECTION 13. Effectivity. This ordinance shall take effect upon its approval and compliance with the mandatory posting and publication requirements prescribed under Republic Act No. 7160.


I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.


EMILIO G. UBALDO, III
Municipal Vice Mayor/Presiding Officer

ATTESTED BY:


JOSEPHINE G. BAUTISTA
SB Secretary

APPROVED BY:


ROBERT A. LEE-RODRIGUEZA
Municipal Mayor



DATE APPROVED: 09 | 22 | 25