

Consistent with the policies declared under the Tourism Act of 2009, the Batanes Responsible Tourism Act, and the National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009, as amended, the Province recognizes that cultural heritage and tourism development must uphold local identity, indigenous traditions, and community-based cultural expressions.

The Province further recognizes that the cogon-roofed tricycles of Batanes, inspired by the Ivatan *vahay* and previously recognized under Provincial Ordinance No. 290, Series of 2019, have evolved into iconic visual representations of Ivatan culture and sustainable tourism identity. As such, there is a need to formally adopt a distinct local name that reflects both cultural pride and functional transport identity.

SECTION 3. DEFINITION OF TERMS. – For purposes of this Ordinance, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

- a. *Ivatan Vernacular House (Vahay)* – refers to the traditional stone house architecture of Batanes known for its thick stone walls and cogon roofing designed to withstand harsh weather conditions.
- b. *Tricycle* - a motorized three-wheeled utility vehicle consisting of a motorcycle fitted with an attached passenger cab or sidecar and acts as the "vehicle of the masses" and provides crucial, door-to-door transportation for short to moderate distances throughout towns, in tour destinations, and in the barangays.
- c. *Vahaycycle* – refers to the locally designed tricycle operating in the different municipalities in Batanes characterized by a roof structure made of cogon or similarly indigenous materials inspired by the traditional Ivatan *vahay* or stone house architecture.

SECTION 4. ADOPTION OF THE NAME "VAHAYCYCLE." – The Province of Batanes hereby adopts the term "**Vahaycycle**" as the official cultural name and identity of the uniquely designed Batanes tricycle bearing Ivatan-inspired roofing architecture.

The term "Vahaycycle" is derived from the words "vaháy," the Ivatan term for house, and "cycle," pertaining to the motorized tricycle used for local transport.

SECTION 5. CULTURAL RECOGNITION AND PROMOTION. – The Provincial Government through the Provincial Heritage and Tourism Office (PHTO) shall promote the use of the term "Vahaycycle" in official tourism materials, local cultural programs, transport-related promotions, festivals, signages, and other appropriate government communications in order to strengthen the cultural branding and identity of Batanes.

SECTION 6. COORDINATION WITH MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS AND TRANSPORT GROUPS. – The Provincial Government of Batanes, through the PHTO, may coordinate with municipal local government units, tricycle operators and drivers associations, tourism stakeholders, and cultural workers for the appropriate adoption, recognition, and promotion of the "Vahaycycle" identity.

SECTION 7. CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE. – The adoption of the term "Vahaycycle" recognizes the ingenuity of Ivatan communities in integrating culture into everyday life and public transport. Similar to how various localities in the Philippines have developed distinct identities for their local transport systems such as "habal-habal," "motorela," "bao-bao," and other locally recognized transport names, Batanes likewise affirms its own culturally rooted transport identity.

SECTION 8. IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES. – The Provincial Heritage and Tourism Office, in coordination with the Provincial Information Officer and concerned agencies, shall formulate guidelines and promotional strategies necessary for the effective dissemination and implementation of this Ordinance.

SECTION 9. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. – If any provision of this Ordinance is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 10. REPEALING CLAUSE. – All ordinances, resolutions, rules, and regulations inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 11. EFFECTIVITY. – This Ordinance shall take effect upon approval and compliance with the publication requirements provided by law.

ENACTED, this 3rd day of August 2026 on motion of Honorable Anastacia B. Viola duly seconded by Honorable Benny D. Fajardo and Honorable Josephine C. Castillo.

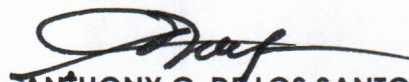
Voting on the foregoing Ordinance are as follows:

Ayes: SP Members Nicolas, Viola, Castillo, Fajardo, Hostallero, Gonzales, Peralta, Labrador, Mernelo, and Cabrejas.

Nays: None

Absent: SP Members Ablat and Hidalgo

I certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate copy of the Ordinance which was duly enacted by the 12th Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Batanes during its 56th Regular Session held on August 3, 2026.


ANTHONY C. DE LOS SANTOS

Secretary to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan

ATTESTED AND CERTIFIED
TO BE DULY ENACTED:


JONATHAN ENRIQUE V. NANUD, JR.
Vice Governor/ Regular Presiding Officer

APPROVED:


RONALD P. AGUTO, JR.
Governor

Date: 8-06-26

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY TO THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN
RECEIVED
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