



Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF LEYTE
Provincial Capitol
Tacloban City

-oOo-

PROVINCIAL LEGAL OFFICE

Item No.: 47

Date: 03 2026 FEB

PROVINCE OF LEYTE
LEGAL OFFICE

RELEASED

By: [Signature]
Date: 2.2.24 Time: [Signature]

2nd INDORSEMENT

February 2, 2026

Respectfully returned to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Leyte, through the SP Secretary, the attached Ordinance No. 2025-07 of the Sangguniang Bayan of Tabango, Leyte.

Issues/concerns for review/recommendation/legal opinion is/are as follows:

- Ordinance No. 2025-07 entitled: **“Kimud Shoal Marine Protected Area and Aquatic/Eco-Tourism Site Ordinance -Sanctuary of the Thresher Shark – Leyte’s Living Treasure Within the Shoal.”**

REVIEW/RECOMMENDATION/LEGAL OPINION:

This office is of the opinion that the subject Ordinance is generally in accordance with its power under Section 447(a)(1)(vii)¹ of the Local Government Code of 1991 (R.A 7160) in consonance with RA 9147². Hence, we recommend for the declaration of its validity.

We hope to have assisted you with this request. Please note that the opinion rendered by this Office are based on the facts available and may vary or change when additional facts and documents are presented or changed. This opinion is likewise without prejudice to the opinions rendered by higher and competent authorities and/or the courts.

ATTY. JOSE RAYMUND A. ACOL

Provincial Legal Officer ✕

¹(vi) *Protect the environment and impose appropriate penalties for acts which endanger the environment, such as dynamite fishing and other forms of destructive fishing, illegal logging and smuggling of logs, smuggling of natural resources products and of endangered species of flora and fauna, slash and burn farming, and such other activities which result in pollution, acceleration of eutrophication of rivers and lakes, or of ecological imbalance;*

² *Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act*

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

PROVINCE OF LEYTE
LEGAL OFFICE
RECEIVED
By: ART. EMMAN
Date: 1-23-26 Time: 2:40PM

OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN

1ST INDORSEMENT
23 January 2026

The Provincial Legal Office is respectfully requested to review and submit recommendations on the herein enclosed **Municipal Ordinance No. 2025-07 of the Municipality of Tabango, Leyte, entitled: An Ordinance declaring Kimud Shoal, located within the municipal waters of Tabango, Leyte as a marine protected area and designated aquatic and eco-tourism site – sanctuary of the thresher shark, Leyte's living treasure within the shoal – providing for its management, protection, conservation, and sustainable use; prescribing guidelines for tourism operations; imposing fees; and for other purposes.**


FLORINDA JILL S. UYVICO
Secretary to the Sanggunian



MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE

NO. 2025 - 07

**AN ORDINANCE DECLARING KIMUD SHOAL,
LOCATED WITHIN THE MUNICIPAL WATERS
OF TABANGO, LEYTE, AS A MARINE
PROTECTED AREA AND DESIGNATED AQUATIC
AND ECO-TOURISM SITE — SANCTUARY OF
THE THRESHER SHARK, LEYTE'S LIVING
TREASURE WITHIN THE SHOAL — PROVIDING
FOR ITS MANAGEMENT, PROTECTION,
CONSERVATION, AND SUSTAINABLE USE;
PRESCRIBING GUIDELINES FOR TOURISM
OPERATIONS; IMPOSING FEES; AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES**



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PROVINCE OF LEYTE
MUNICIPALITY OF TABANGO

-000-

OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN SECRETARY

January 21, 2026

Sangguniang Panlalawigan
Province of Leyte

RECEIVED

JAN 22 2026

Date: _____
By:

HON. LEONARDO M. JAVIER, JR.
Vice Governor/Presiding Officer
Sangguniang Panlalawigan
Province of Leyte
Provincial Government Complex
West Bypass Road, Brgy. Guindapunan
Palo, Leyte
Thru: Florinda Jill S. Uyvico
SP Secretary

Subject: Transmittal of Municipal Ordinance No. 2025-07 of the Municipality of Tabango, Leyte for Review

Dear Vice Governor Javier,

Respectfully transmitting herewith for review and consideration, Municipal Ordinance No. 2025-07, entitled:

“AN ORDINANCE DECLARING KIMUD SHOAL, LOCATED WITHIN THE MUNICIPAL WATERS OF TABANGO, LEYTE, AS A MARINE PROTECTED AREA AND DESIGNATED AQUATIC AND ECO-TOURISM SITE — SANCTUARY OF THE THRESHER SHARK, LEYTE’S LIVING TREASURE WITHIN THE SHOAL — PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT, PROTECTION, CONSERVATION, AND SUSTAINABLE USE; PRESCRIBING GUIDELINES FOR TOURISM OPERATIONS; IMPOSING FEES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

We anticipate the favorable consideration of this matter.

Thank you for your continued support and prompt attention.

Very truly yours,

VALENTINO A. CODERA
Secretary to the Sangguniang Bayan

+639088960539

vcodera@gmail.com

www.tabango-leyte.gov.ph



Hon. MA. CORAZON E. REMANDABAN
Municipal Mayor

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 23RD REGULAR SESSION OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN OF TABANGO (2025-2028) HELD AT THE SB SESSION HALL, MUNICIPALITY OF TABANGO, PROVINCE OF LEYTE, ON DECEMBER 17, 2025.

MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 2025-07

Series of 2025

Sangguniang Panlalawigan
Province of Leyte

RECEIVED

Date: JAN 22 2026
By: [Signature]

Hon. BERNARD JONATHAN M. REMANDABAN
Municipal Vice Mayor
Presiding Officer

Authored by:
Hon. Louine N. Uy

Hon. JOSE WELSON G. VOSOTROS
SB Member

AN ORDINANCE DECLARING KIMUD SHOAL, LOCATED WITHIN THE MUNICIPAL WATERS OF TABANGO, LEYTE, AS A MARINE PROTECTED AREA AND DESIGNATED AQUATIC AND ECO-TOURISM SITE — SANCTUARY OF THE THRESHER SHARK, LEYTE'S LIVING TREASURE WITHIN THE SHOAL — PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT, PROTECTION, CONSERVATION, AND SUSTAINABLE USE; PRESCRIBING GUIDELINES FOR TOURISM OPERATIONS; IMPOSING FEES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Hon. ELIAS M. LEQUIN, JR
SB Member

Hon. RICHARD V. MERONTOS
SB Member

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, provides that local government units shall share with the national government the responsibility for the management and maintenance of ecological balance within their territorial jurisdiction, and are mandated to protect the environment and impose appropriate fees for environmental services;

Hon. RICHE O. OCUBILLO
SB Member

Hon. DANILO V. DILIDILI
SB Member

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 7586, otherwise known as the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act of 1992, as amended by Republic Act No. 11038 or the Expanded NIPAS Act of 2018, provides for the establishment and management of a comprehensive system of integrated protected areas to conserve and protect the country's rich biodiversity;

Hon. JOEL M. MAJAIT
SB Member

Hon. MELCHOR M. AROFO, JR
SB Member

WHEREAS, the Kimud Shoal, an underwater seamount approximately 13 kilometers off the coast of Tabango, Leyte, and southeast of Monad Shoal on Malapascua Island, possesses a unique flattish reef top starting at around 12 to 16 meters before sloping down to more than 200 meters, hosting diverse marine ecosystems and species;

Hon. JOEL ERME E. ROBLES
SB Member

WHEREAS, the rich biodiversity and unique geological features of Kimud Shoal provide vital habitat to marine species, notably the endangered Thresher Shark, making it ecologically significant and globally unique;

(Absent)
Hon. LOUINE N. UY
Ex-Officio Member
LnB President

WHEREAS, the shoal has become a destination for responsible aquatic tourism, offering a natural platform to promote environmental awareness, sustainable marine interaction, and conservation-based livelihood initiatives;

Hon. MICAH D. BERNAL
Ex-Officio Member
SK Federation President

WHEREAS, safeguarding Kimud Shoal aligns with the Philippines' commitment under the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) and supports local, national, and global mandates for marine conservation and climate resilience;

VALENTINO A. CODERA
Secretary to the Sanggunian

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Tabango recognizes the imperative to enact localized policy that ensures regulated tourism, conservation education, protection of endangered species, and community benefit-sharing;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it enacted by the Sangguniang Bayan of Tabango, Leyte, in session assembled, that:

SECTION 1: TITLE. This ordinance shall be known as the “Kimud Shoal Marine Protected Area and Aquatic/Eco-Tourism Site Ordinance — Sanctuary of the Thresher Shark — Leyte’s Living Treasure Within the Shoal.”

SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY. It is hereby declared the policy of the Municipality of Tabango, Leyte, to promote the protection, conservation, and sustainable management of its coastal and marine resources, particularly the biologically rich and ecologically significant Kimud Shoal, located within its municipal waters.

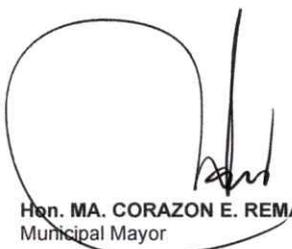
In pursuit of this policy, Kimud Shoal is hereby established as a Marine Protected Area and Aquatic/Eco-Tourism Site, to serve as a model of balanced marine conservation and responsible tourism, ensuring the long-term viability of its coral reef ecosystems and the protection of its iconic marine species, most notably the thresher shark (*Alopias pelagicus*).

The Municipality recognizes Kimud Shoal as the “Sanctuary of the Thresher Shark — Leyte’s Living Treasure Within the Shoal”, and commits to implementing science-based, community-supported, and enforcement-ready measures to safeguard its ecological integrity while promoting inclusive and sustainable tourism.

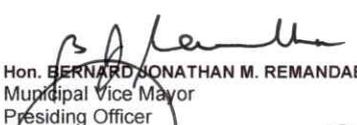
The LGU of Tabango affirms its commitment to uphold the principles of ecosystem-based management, inclusive governance, and climate resilience, ensuring that Kimud Shoal remains a thriving marine habitat and a model for sustainable coastal tourism.

SECTION 3. OBJECTIVES. This Ordinance shall pursue the following objectives:

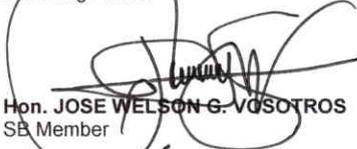
1. To formally establish Kimud Shoal as a Marine Protected Area and a designated Aquatic and Eco-Tourism Site within the municipal waters of Tabango, Leyte, in recognition of its ecological significance and tourism potential.
2. To protect and conserve the natural habitat of the thresher shark (*Alopias pelagicus*) and other marine species, and to preserve the integrity of coral reef ecosystems through science-based and community-supported conservation measures.
3. To regulate tourism activities within Kimud Shoal to ensure responsible marine wildlife interactions, diver safety, and minimal ecological disturbance.
4. To implement a sustainable management framework that includes monitoring, enforcement, stakeholder coordination, and adaptive conservation strategies.
5. To prescribe operational guidelines for dive shop operators, guests, and support personnel, including pre-dive documentation, observation protocols, and on-site verification procedures.
6. To impose environmental and mooring fees as a mechanism to support conservation efforts, fund enforcement operations, and enable benefit-sharing with local communities.
7. To promote Kimud Shoal as the “Sanctuary of the Thresher Shark — Leyte’s Living Treasure Within the Shoal,” and to position Tabango as a model for sustainable marine tourism and biodiversity protection.



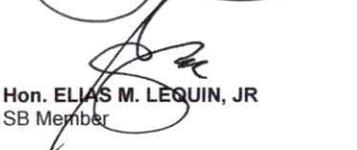
Hon. MA. CORAZON E. REMANDABAN
Municipal Mayor



Hon. BERNARD SONATHAN M. REMANDABAN
Municipal Vice Mayor
Presiding Officer



Hon. JOSE WELSON G. VOSOTROS
SB Member



Hon. ELIAS M. LEQUIN, JR
SB Member



Hon. RICHARD V. MERONTOS
SB Member



Hon. RICHE O. OCUBILLO
SB Member



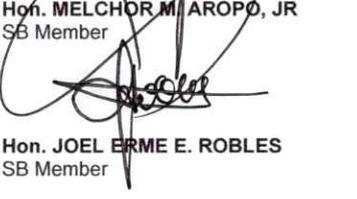
Hon. DANILO V. DILIDILI
SB Member



Hon. JOEL M. MAJAIT
SB Member



Hon. MELCHOR M. AROPO, JR
SB Member



Hon. JOEL ERME E. ROBLES
SB Member

(Absent)
Hon. LOUINE N. UY
Ex-Officio Member
LnB President



Hon. MICAH D. BERNAL
Ex-Officio Member
SK Federation President



VALENTINO A. CODERA
Secretary to the Sanggunian

SECTION 4. DEFINITION OF TERMS. For purposes of this Ordinance, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

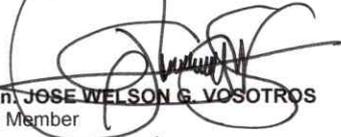
- 1) Kimud Shoal – A submerged seamount located within the municipal waters of Tabango, Leyte, recognized for its ecological significance, coral reef systems, and regular sightings of thresher sharks (*Alopias pelagicus*).
- 2) Marine Protected Area (MPA) – A clearly defined geographical space managed through legal or other effective means to achieve long-term conservation of nature, associated ecosystem services, and cultural values.
- 3) Aquatic and Eco-Tourism Site – A designated marine area that supports sustainable tourism activities such as scuba diving, wildlife interaction, and reef appreciation, while ensuring minimal ecological impact and promoting conservation awareness.
- 4) Thresher Shark Interaction Protocols – A set of guidelines regulating diver behavior and operational conduct during underwater encounters with thresher sharks, designed to minimize stress and disturbance to the species.
- 5) Passenger/Boat Manifest – refers to the official list mandated by the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) to be accomplished by every vessel prior to departure, indicating the names of all passengers, divers, crew members, and other persons on board a vessel bound for Kimud Shoal. The manifest shall be prepared and submitted by the Dive Shop Operator, Charterer, or Vessel Owner in compliance with PCG regulations, and shall serve as the basis for verifying the number of guests for purposes of Environmental Fee assessment, safety monitoring, and enforcement of this Ordinance.
- 6) Environmental Fee – A mandatory charge imposed on each dive guest to support marine conservation, enforcement, and community benefit-sharing programs.
- 7) Free Diving Skin Diving/Snorkeling – Underwater and surface activities conducted without the use of scuba equipment, typically involving breath-hold techniques. These activities are strictly prohibited within the boundaries of Kimud Shoal.
- 8) Bantay Dagat – A community-based coastal law enforcement group authorized to assist in the protection of marine resources and enforcement of local fisheries and environmental laws.
- 9) Thresher Shark/s - a large mackerel shark belonging to the genus *Alopias*, distinguished by its extremely long, whip-like upper tail fin, which it uses to stun and herd schooling fish.
- 10) Dive Boat – Any watercraft or sea vessel, regardless of size, utilized for transporting divers or facilitating SCUBA diving operations in Kimud Shoal (no accommodation on board), and possessing valid permits and certifications issued by appropriate authorities (e.g., MARINA, PCG, LGU).
- 11) Dive Operators – Any individuals or corporation that conducts SCUBA diving activities within Kimud Shoal, regardless of their origin, residence, or principal business location, whether they are a Dive Center, Dive Resort, Liveaboard Dive Boat.
- 12) Dive Pro – A certified, renewed, and active dive professional (at least a divemaster) who is authorized to lead and guide SCUBA diving activities in Kimud Shoal.
- 13) Dive Instructor - refers to a professional diver who is duly certified by a recognized international or national scuba diving training organization and authorized to conduct formal scuba diving instruction, training, and certification programs. A Dive Instructor is qualified to teach theoretical



Hon. MA. CORAZON E. REMANDABAN
Municipal Mayor



Hon. BERNARD JONATHAN M. REMANDABAN
Municipal Vice Mayor
Presiding Officer



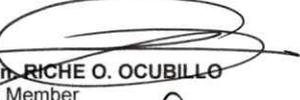
Hon. JOSE WELSON G. VOSOTROS
SB Member



Hon. ELIAS M. LEQUIN, JR
SB Member



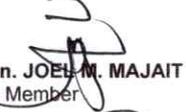
Hon. RICHARD V. MERONTOS
SB Member



Hon. RICHE O. OCUBILLO
SB Member



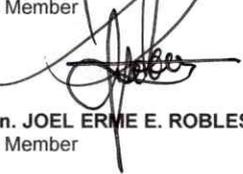
Hon. DANILO V. DLIDILI
SB Member



Hon. JOEL M. MAJAIT
SB Member

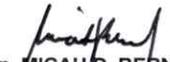


Hon. MELCHOR M. KROGO, JR
SB Member

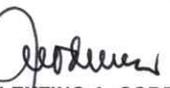


Hon. JOEL ERME E. ROBLES
SB Member

(Absent)
Hon. LOUINE N. UY
Ex-Officio Member
LnB President



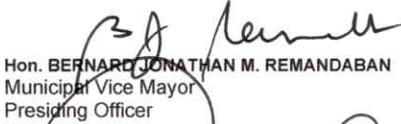
Hon. MICAH D. BERNAL
Ex-Officio Member
SK Federation President



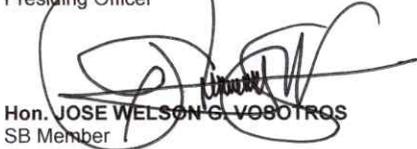
VALENTINO A. CODERA
Secretary to the Sanggunian



Hon. MA. CORAZON E. REMANDABAN
Municipal Mayor



Hon. BERNARD JONATHAN M. REMANDABAN
Municipal Vice Mayor
Presiding Officer



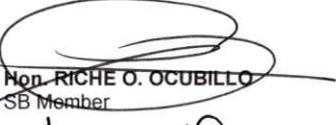
Hon. JOSE WELSON G. VOBOTROS
SB Member



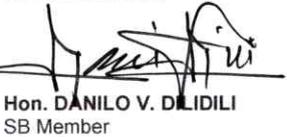
Hon. ELIAS M. LEQUIN, JR
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SB Member



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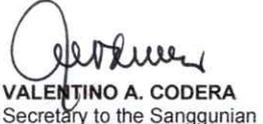


Hon. JOEL ERME E. ROBLES
SB Member

(Absent)
Hon. LOUINE N. UY
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LnB President



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SK Federation President



VALENTINO A. CODERA
Secretary to the Sanggunian

and practical aspects of diving, supervise training dives, evaluate student performance, and issue certifications in accordance with the standards of their accrediting organization.

- 14) Diver – A certified and qualified diving guest or tourist who is conducting SCUBA dives in Kimud Shoal and has been vetted by their dive operator for proper diving etiquette prior to the activity may it be recreational and/or technical diving.
- 15) Green Fins – An international environmental initiative that promotes sustainable diving and snorkeling practices by providing guidelines, training, and a code of conduct to minimize the marine impact of dive operators and divers.
- 16) Liveaboard Dive Boat – A liveaboard dive boat is a vessel designed to provide multi-day diving trips where guests eat, sleep, and dive from the same boat, allowing access to remote dive sites that are not reachable by day trips.
- 17) Marine Enforcement Officers – refers to duly designated personnel of the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Tabango, Barangay Tugas, and the Bantay Dagat, who are authorized to enforce the provisions of this Ordinance and other applicable laws within the Kimud Shoal Marine-Protected Area and Aquatic Tourism Site.
- 18) Wildlife Observation – refers to the passive, non-intrusive viewing of marine species in their natural habitat, conducted in a manner that avoids physical contact, feeding, chasing, or disturbance. Wildlife observation shall be limited to visual appreciation and documentation (such as photography or videography) that does not alter the behavior of the animals or compromise their ecological integrity.
- 19) Local Dive Shop Operators/Association – refers to duly recognized dive shop operators or associations that are physically based and legally operating within the territorial jurisdiction of Tabango, Leyte.
- 20) Local Dive Professionals - refers to any individual who is duly certified by a recognized international or national scuba diving training organization and who is permanently residing in, or officially based within, the Municipality of Tabango or its immediate vicinity. A Local Dive Professional shall include dive instructors, divemasters, or guides who are authorized to conduct, supervise, or assist in recreational or technical diving activities at Kimud Shoal.

SECTION 5. DECLARATION AS A MARINE PROTECTED AREA (MPA) AND AQUATIC AND ECO- TOURISM SITE. The Kimud Shoal, located approximately thirteen (13) kilometers off the coast of Barangay Tugas, Municipality of Tabango, Leyte, and situated southeast of Monad Shoal near Malapascua Island, is hereby declared a **Marine Protected Area (MPA)** and a designated **Aquatic and Eco-Tourism Site** within the municipal waters of Tabango.

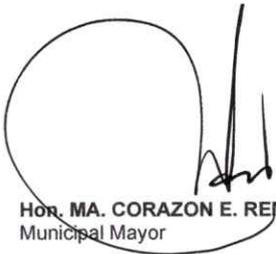
Kimud Shoal is a submerged seamount characterized by a flattish reef top beginning at depths of twelve (12) to sixteen (16) meters, sloping down to depths exceeding two hundred (200) meters. It is recognized as a critical habitat for thresher sharks (*Alopias pelagicus*), along with other pelagic species, and serves as a unique ecological and recreational site.

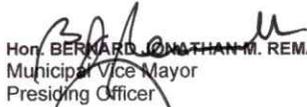
In recognition of its biological richness, tourism potential, and conservation value, the Municipality of Tabango hereby adopts and promotes Kimud Shoal as the:

“Sanctuary of the Thresher Shark — Leyte’s Living Treasure Within the Shoal”

This declaration shall serve as the foundation for the implementation of protective measures, sustainable tourism operations, and community-based stewardship, in accordance with the provisions of this Ordinance.

The picture appearing herein provides the location and visual representation of Kimud Shoal, and shall form part of the official documentation of this Ordinance.

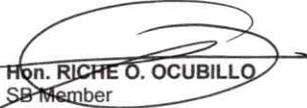

Hon. MA. CORAZON E. REMANDABAN
 Municipal Mayor


Hon. BERNARD L. MATHAN M. REMANDABAN
 Municipal Vice Mayor
 Presiding Officer


Hon. JOSE WELSONG VOSOTROS
 SB Member


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 SB Member

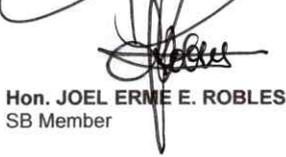

Hon. RICHARD V. MERONTOS
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Hon. DANILO V. DILIDILI
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(Absent)
Hon. LOUINE N. UY
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Hon. MICAH D. BERMAL
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 SK Federation President

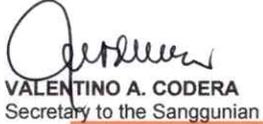

VALENTINO A. CODERA
 Secretary to the Sanggunian



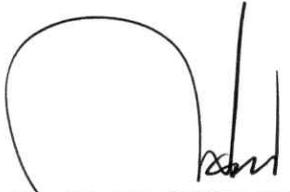
Figure 1.
 (Source: Google Maps)

Figure 2.
 (Source: Courtesy of BlueNomads.org)

SECTION 6. PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION MEASURES. To ensure the long-term sustainability of the Kimud Shoal Marine-Protected Area and Aquatic/Eco-Tourism Site, all activities within its boundaries shall be conducted in a manner that upholds the principles of marine biodiversity conservation, ecological protection, and responsible tourism.

Any action that harms, disturbs, or destroys the marine environment is strictly prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to:

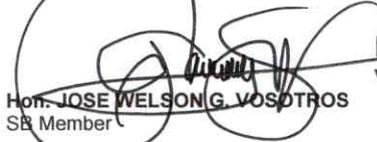
1. Taking or damaging corals, shells, marine plants, or animals, whether alive or dead, unless part of approved scientific research.
2. Fishing of any kind—recreational, artisanal, or commercial—is not allowed, unless authorized for scientific purposes by the Kimud Shoal Operations Unit (KSOU) and national agencies like BFAR or DENR.
3. Anchoring on coral reefs or sensitive areas, including the use of anchors, chains, or mooring lines, can cause damage.
4. Releasing any kind of waste or pollutants, such as trash, fuel, chemicals, sewage, or hazardous substances from boats or dive gear.
5. Feeding marine animals, unless part of a research or rehabilitation program approved by KSOU and relevant agencies.
6. Possessing, selling, or transporting marine products illegally taken from Kimud Shoal, including live or dead specimens, coral, shells, or fish.



Hon. MA. CORAZON E. REMANDABAN
Municipal Mayor



Hon. BERNARD JONATHAN M. REMANDABAN
Municipal Vice Mayor
Presiding Officer



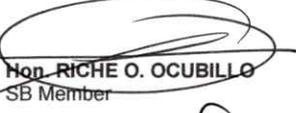
Hon. JOSE WELSON G. VOSOTROS
SB Member



Hon. ELIAS M. LEQUIN, JR
SB Member



Hon. RICHARD V. MERONTOS
SB Member



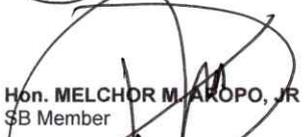
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Hon. DANILO V. DELIDILI
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Hon. JOEL M. MAJAIT
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Hon. MELCHOR M. AROPO, JR
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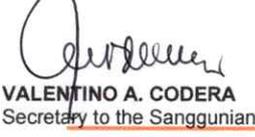


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SB Member

(Absent)
Hon. LOUINE N. UY
Ex-Officio Member
LnB President



Hon. MICAH D. BERNAL
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SK Federation President



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7. Using destructive fishing methods, such as dynamite, cyanide, muro-ami, trawling, or other banned techniques under national law.
8. Poor diving, snorkeling, standing, or kicking corals, grabbing marine life, or behaving recklessly underwater.
9. Littering or leaving gear and personal items behind, including improper disposal of any waste.
10. Open water dive training courses.

All dive operators, boat crews, and guests are required to report any violations or damage to the KSOU or MENRO. Dive shops must help educate guests about conservation rules and include environmental briefings in their pre-dive orientation.

The Kimud Shoal Operations Unit, together with MENRO, Bantay Dagat, and other authorized groups, shall monitor compliance with these rules. Violators will be penalized as stated in Section 30 of this Ordinance.

The LGU shall prioritize community-based enforcement, capacity-building for local stewards, and regular ecological assessments to ensure that conservation measures remain responsive, science-based, and inclusive.

SECTION 7. COMPLIANCE WITH THE GREEN FINS CODE OF CONDUCT.

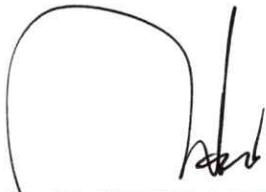
All dive shop operators, charterers, owners of vessels, divers, and other individuals engaging in aquatic tourism activities within Kimud Shoal shall be required to strictly comply with the Green Fins Code of Conduct.

The Green Fins Code of Conduct outlines internationally recognized environmental safety standards and responsible diving practices aimed at minimizing ecological impact, protecting coral reefs, and promoting sustainable marine tourism.

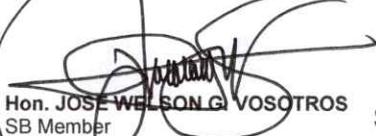
SECTION 8. THRESHER SHARK OBSERVATION GUIDELINES. All individuals engaging in diving activities shall observe the following specific guidelines for their protection, the safety of marine wildlife, and the integrity of the tourism experiences:

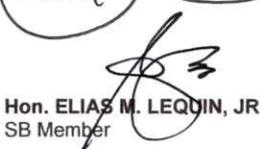
- a) Maintain a respectful distance of at least 5 meters from the shark at all times, notwithstanding the movement of the shark. Do not chase, corner, or attempt to touch them.
- b) Avoid sudden movements or loud noises that may disturb or agitate the sharks.
- c) Refrain from using any lights or flash photography during the interaction, as it may disorient or stress the sharks.
- d) Dive Pros must ensure that divers are properly briefed on thresher shark etiquette and safety protocols prior to entering the water.
- e) Ensure that dive operations are led by experienced and certified divemasters who are knowledgeable about thresher sharks and skilled in managing underwater interaction.
- f) Thresher shark interaction dives at Kimud Shoal shall be conducted only during the designated period of 6:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. Dive operators and guest divers are strictly prohibited from conducting thresher shark dives outside of the specified hours.
- g) Be mindful of the diving equipment and keep hoses and other gear securely fastened to minimize the risk of entanglement or accidental contact with the sharks.
- h) Open Water Divers with less than 50 dives must be supervised by a dive instructor with a 4:1 ratio or by a certified Divemaster with a 3:1 or 2:1 ratio when diving at Kimud Shoal.

- i) Ratios can be increased by a maximum of 2 additional divers with 1 additional certified dive Professional or Divemaster trainee.
- j) Discovery dives and Open Water training dives shall not be permitted at Kimud Shoal.
- k) All Open Water Divers shall be required to complete a buoyancy control workshop prior to engaging in any dive at Kimud Shoal.
- l) Advanced Open Water (AOW) Divers with fewer than fifty (50) logged dives, and without prior experience with the accredited dive shop, shall likewise be required to complete the buoyancy control workshop before diving at Kimud Shoal.
- m) The use of selfie sticks shall be limited to a maximum length of one and one-half (1.5) meters.
- n) The carrying of reef hooks, metal sticks, pointers, or similar devices shall be strictly prohibited.
- o) The wearing of gloves during dives at Kimud Shoal shall be strictly prohibited.


 Hon. MA. CORAZON E. REMANDABAN
 Municipal Mayor


 Hon. BERNARD JONATHAN M. REMANDABAN
 Municipal Vice Mayor
 Presiding Officer


 Hon. JOSE WELSON G. VOSOTROS
 SB Member

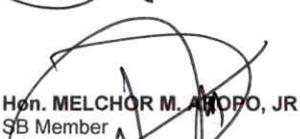

 Hon. ELIAS M. LEQUIN, JR
 SB Member

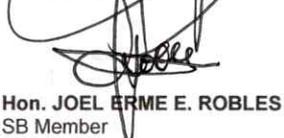

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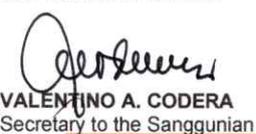

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 SB Member


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 SB Member


 Hon. JOEL ERME E. ROBLES
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(Absent)
 Hon. LOUINE N. UY
 Ex-Officio Member
 LnB President


 Hon. MICAH D. BERNAL
 Ex-Officio Member
 SK Federation President


 VALENTINO A. CODERA
 Secretary to the Sanggunian

SECTION 9. DIVE SESSION DURATION AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS. To ensure the ecological integrity of the Kimud Shoal Marine-Protected Area and Aquatic Tourism Zone, and to maintain safe, ethical, and high-quality thresher shark interactions, each dive session shall be limited to a maximum duration of sixty (60) minutes for recreational divers. Technical divers may be allowed extended durations, subject to compliance with established safety protocols, including but not limited to safety stops and pre-dive preparations.

SECTION 10. PROHIBITION OF FREE DIVING AND SNORKELING ACTIVITIES. To safeguard the environmental stability of the Kimud Shoal Marine-Protected Area and Aquatic Tourism Site, and to ensure full compliance with established marine wildlife interaction protocols, the conduct of free diving, skin diving, snorkeling, and any form of unguided underwater activity shall be strictly prohibited within its designated boundaries.

No individual shall be permitted to engage in such activities, irrespective of intent, duration, or depth. These practices pose substantial risks to marine biodiversity, particularly to thresher sharks (*Alopias pelagicus*), and may result in unregulated human-wildlife interactions, physical disturbance to coral reef habitats, and breaches of conservation and safety standards.

Violators shall be immediately removed from the site, and corresponding fines shall be imposed as prescribed in the penalty section of this Ordinance.

SECTION 11. PROHIBITION OF FISHING ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE MPA. To preserve the ecological integrity of the Kimud Shoal Marine-Protected Area and Aquatic Tourism Site, and to ensure the sustainability of marine wildlife interactions and coral reef ecosystems, all forms of fishing activities within the designated boundaries of the MPA are hereby strictly prohibited.

The official boundaries of the MPA shall be clearly delineated using GPS coordinates to be determined by the Kimud Shoal Operations Unit (KSOU) and visibly marked by surface buoys or other visual indicators, to be installed and maintained by the Local Government Unit (LGU) in coordination with the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO) and Bantay Dagat.

No fishing activity shall be permitted within a 500-meter radius of the MPA, under any circumstance, except for scientific research or LGU-authorized conservation undertakings, which must be supported by prior written approval from both the Municipal Mayor and the MENRO. The 500-meter radius fishing

prohibition shall be delineated using GPS coordinates to be determined by the Kimud Shoal Operations Unit.

SECTION 12. DEPUTIZATION OF MARINE ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.

The Local Government Unit of Tabango may designate and deputize competent personnel to act as Marine Enforcement Officers for the purpose of enforcing the provisions of this Ordinance.

Deputized Marine Enforcement Officers shall be authorized to perform the following functions within the Kimud Shoal Marine Protected Area and Aquatic/Eco-Tourism Site:

- 1) Conduct regular patrols within the Kimud Shoal MPA and its buffer zones to deter and detect violations.
- 2) Board and inspect vessels, dive boats, and other watercraft operating within the MPA to verify compliance with the Thresher Shark Interaction Guidelines, including manifests and permits.
- 3) Apprehend individuals or groups engaged in prohibited activities such as fishing, coral damage, or non-compliance with dive protocols.
- 4) Seize fishing gear, reef hooks, metal sticks, or other prohibited equipment found in violation of this Ordinance.
- 5) Work in close coordination with the Kimud Shoal Operations Unit, the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO), the Philippine National Police (PNP), and other enforcement agencies for joint operations.
- 6) Prepare and submit regular enforcement and incident reports to the Municipal Mayor, KSOU, and MENRO, for monitoring and policy evaluation.
- 7) Provide immediate assistance in cases of maritime accidents, diver distress, or environmental hazards within the MPA.
- 8) Perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Kimud Shoal Operations Unit in furtherance of marine protection and tourism management.

Deputized personnel shall undergo appropriate training and orientation on marine ecology, tourism safety, enforcement protocols, and the Thresher Shark Interaction Guidelines. They shall operate under the supervision of the Kimud Shoal Operations Unit (KSOU). Their authority shall be recognized through the formal issuance of deputization orders by the Municipal Mayor, and they shall be provided with the necessary diving equipment and gear to effectively perform underwater inspections, monitoring, and enforcement duties in accordance with this Ordinance.

SECTION 13. DEPUTIZATION OF PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERS.

To strengthen enforcement and promote shared stewardship of the Kimud Shoal Marine Protected Area and Aquatic/Eco-Tourism Site, the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Tabango may deputize qualified individuals from private sector organizations, including but not limited to dive shop associations, marine conservation groups, tourism cooperatives, and accredited non-government organizations (NGOs), to serve as Community-Based Marine Enforcement Partners.

Deputized private sector partners shall assist the LGU in:

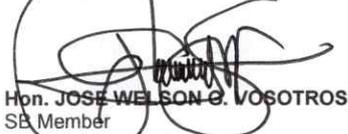
- 1) Monitoring tourism activities and reporting violations of this Ordinance.
- 2) Educating guests and crew on conservation protocols and responsible diving practices.



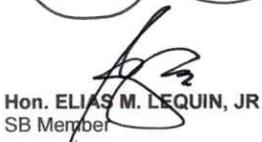
Hon. MA. CORAZON E. REMANDABAN
Municipal Mayor



Hon. BERNARD JONATHAN M. REMANDABAN
Municipal Vice Mayor
Presiding Officer



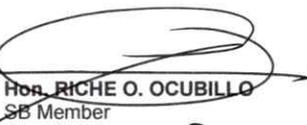
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SB Member



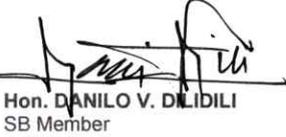
Hon. ELIAS M. LEQUIN, JR
SB Member



Hon. RICHARD V. MERONTOS
SB Member



Hon. RICHE O. OCUBILLO
SB Member



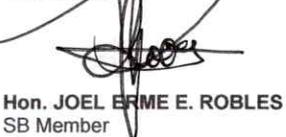
Hon. DANILO V. DILIDILI
SB Member



Hon. JOEL M. MAJAIT
SB Member



Hon. MELCHOR M. AROPO, JR
SB Member

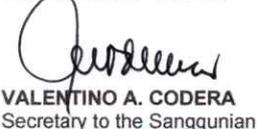


Hon. JOEL ERME E. ROBLES
SB Member

(Absent)
Hon. LOUINE N. UY
Ex-Officio Member
LnB President



Hon. MICAH D. BERNAL
Ex-Officio Member
SK Federation President



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Secretary to the Sanggunian

- 3) Participating in joint patrols, ecological assessments, and enforcement briefings.
- 4) Supporting documentation, evidence gathering, and coordination with KSOU, MENRO, and Bantay Dagat.

Deputization of private sector partners shall be formalized through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the LGU and the partner organization, subject to:

- 1) Submission of organizational profile and list of nominated personnel.
- 2) Screening and approval by the KSOU.

Deputized individuals shall be issued official identification cards and shall carry out their duties with integrity, professionalism, and respect for local laws. They shall not exercise police powers, but may recommend citations, assist in incident documentation, and serve as resource persons during investigations.

All deputized partners shall be subject to LGU oversight. Any misconduct, negligence, or abuse of authority shall result in revocation of deputization, termination of the MOA, and possible legal sanctions.

The LGU may provide recognition, logistical support, or incentive mechanisms to deputized partners who demonstrate consistent compliance, active participation, and exemplary performance in marine protection and tourism regulation.

SECTION 14. CREATION OF THE KIMOD SHOAL OPERATIONS UNIT.

There is hereby created a Kimud Shoal Operation Unit (KSOU), which shall be responsible for the day-to-day management, protection, and enforcement of this Ordinance within the Kimud Shoal Marine Protected Area and Aquatic Tourism Zone.

SECTION 15. COMPOSITION OF THE KIMOD SHOAL OPERATIONS UNIT (KSOU). The KSOU shall be composed of the following:

- KSOU Head – Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Officer (MENRO).
- Assistant Head – Municipal Agriculturist
- Members:
 - A representative from the Municipal Tourism Office.
 - A representative from the Sangguniang Bayan (Committee on Environment).
 - A representative from the Sangguniang Bayan (Committee on Tourism)
 - A representative from the Local PNP
 - A representative from the Barangay Council of Tugas.
 - A representative from the Municipal Treasurer's Office
 - A representative from the Local Dive Operators/Association
 - A representative from the Local Dive Professionals

SECTION 16. FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE KSOU. The KSOU shall have the following functions and responsibilities:

- Implement the provisions of this Ordinance and all rules and regulations on the management of Kimud Shoal.
- Conduct regular monitoring and surveillance of Kimud Shoal to prevent illegal activities and ensure compliance with environmental standards.
- Develop and implement an Annual Management Plan for Kimud Shoal, including conservation programs, tourism development strategies, and infrastructure maintenance.

Hon. MA. CORAZON E. REMANDABAN
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Presiding Officer

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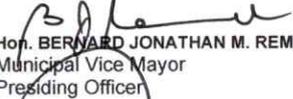
Hon. JOEL ERME E. ROBLES
SB Member

(Absent)
Hon. LOUINE N. UY
Ex-Officio Member
LnB President

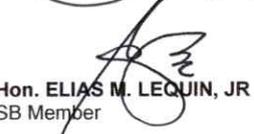
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SK Federation President

VALENTINO A. CODERA
Secretary to the Sanggunian

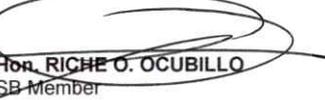

Hon. MA. CORAZON E. REMANDABAN
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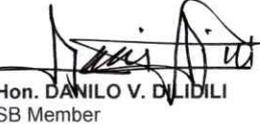

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Presiding Officer

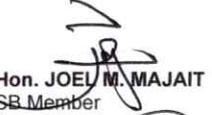

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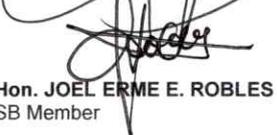

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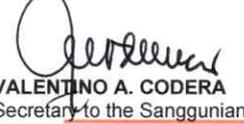

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Secretary to the Sanggunian

- Coordinate with national government agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders for the effective management and protection of Kimud Shoal.
- Recommend to the Sangguniang Bayan policy adjustments or amendments to this Ordinance as needed.
- Prepare and submit regular reports to the Municipal Mayor and Sangguniang Bayan on the status and activities of Kimud Shoal.
- Issue additional guidelines, rules, and procedures necessary for the protection of the Marine-Protected Area (MPA) and the sustainable development of tourism activities at Kimud Shoal.
- Require dive shop operators, charterers, or vessel owners to submit such documents, records, or reports as may be deemed necessary for monitoring, compliance, and enforcement of this Ordinance.

The KSOU shall maintain regular coordination with the Tourism Offices of neighboring municipalities where dive operators are based, to ensure harmonized implementation of conservation, tourism management, and enforcement policies for Kimud Shoal.

SECTION 17. IMPOSITION OF ENVIRONMENTAL FEES AND MAYOR'S PERMIT. All Dive Shop Operators/Charterers/Owners of ships, barges, boats, yachts, and other similar sea vessels, tourists, and guests are required to pay the corresponding fees:

- Environmental Fee (For Recreational Divers, Tourists/Guests) 300.00 per diver/day
- Mayor's Permit 500.00/annum

Dive Shop Operators shall be responsible for the payment of the Environmental Fees corresponding to the number of guests booked for diving activities at Kimud Shoal. This obligation shall apply regardless of whether the fee is separately itemized or embedded in the dive package.

The number of guests shall be confirmed through the Passenger/Boat Manifest, verified by the Philippine Coastguard and submitted daily to the personnel in charge on site at Kimud Shoal.

All Dive shop operators or any vessels engaged in recreational business are required to secure a Mayor's Permit before they can undertake diving activities in the Kimud Shoal.

SECTION 18. EXCEPTION. Government-owned vessels and divers from BFAR/DENR are not subject to the imposition of environmental fees and other charges.

SECTION 19. MODE OF COLLECTION/PAYMENT OF FEES. The payment of environmental fees for diving and related activities at Kimud Shoal shall be effected exclusively through a ticketing system established by the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Tabango.

All payments shall be made in cash, with the corresponding ticket issued immediately by the authorized collection officer/personnel. Each ticket shall serve as the official proof of payment and shall be required to be presented at the dive site (Kimud Shoal).

All tickets shall be serially numbered, recorded, and monitored by the Municipal Treasurer's Office in coordination with the Kimud Shoal Operations

Unit (KSOU), and shall serve as the basis for environmental fee verification, audit compliance, and enforcement of this Ordinance. All issued environmental fee tickets shall be consolidated every 15th and 30th day of the month, and the corresponding official government receipts shall be issued by the Municipal Treasurer's Office for auditing and accountability purposes.

SECTION 20. MANDATORY SUBMISSION OF PASSENGER/BOAT MANIFEST AT THE DIVE SITE. To facilitate accurate monitoring, verification of payments, and collection of tourism-related data, all dive shop operators, charterers, or vessel owners conducting dive activities at Kimud Shoal shall be mandated to furnish the Personnel assigned at the Kimud Shoal a copy of the Passenger/Boat Manifest during their scheduled dive activity.

The Passenger/Boat Manifest shall be accomplished in compliance with Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) regulations.

Failure to furnish a duly certified Passenger/Boat Manifest at the dive site shall result in the automatic deferment of the scheduled dive activity until compliance is made.

All manifests submitted shall serve as the basis for verifying the number of guests for purposes of environmental fee assessment, safety monitoring, and enforcement of this Ordinance.

SECTION 21. ON-SITE VERIFICATION. The Office of the Municipal Treasurer, in coordination with the Office of the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Officer (MENRO), shall deploy or assign designated personnel/collectors to the Kimud Shoal dive site. Said personnel shall be responsible for conducting on-site verification through the Passenger/Boat Manifest submitted by dive shop operators, charterers, or vessel owners. Verification shall ensure that the number of guest divers indicated in the manifest conforms with the number of environmental tickets presented.

Failure of dive shop operators, charterers, or vessel owners to present a duly accomplished Passenger/Boat Manifest or corresponding environmental tickets shall result in the deferment of the scheduled dive activity until compliance is made.

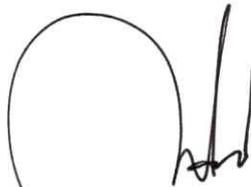
SECTION 22. PROMOTION AND MARKETING OF KIMUD SHOAL. To support the development of Kimud Shoal as a premier Marine-Protected Area and Aquatic/Eco-Tourism Site, the Municipal Tourism Office shall be responsible for its promotion, marketing, and public engagement.

The Municipal Tourism Office shall formulate and implement a marketing and promotion plan for Kimud Shoal, which may include:

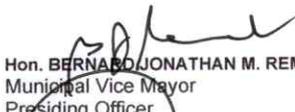
- Digital campaigns via social media and the municipal website
- Print materials such as brochures, posters, and travel guides
- Participation in regional and national tourism expos
- Collaboration with travel agencies, dive associations, and influencers
- Partnership with other municipalities, through its Tourism office, for joint promotional activities targeting both local and international audiences

All promotional materials shall reflect the environmental significance, cultural value, and community benefits of Kimud Shoal. Messaging shall emphasize responsible tourism, marine conservation, and local stakeholder involvement.

SECTION 23. REVENUE UTILIZATION AND SHARING. The fees collected by the municipal government through the Office of the Municipal Treasurer shall



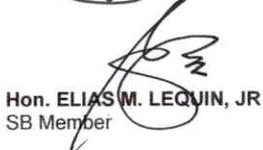
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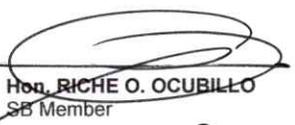
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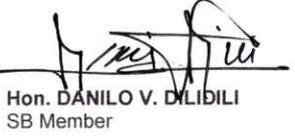
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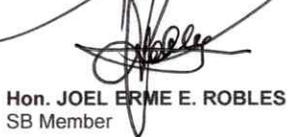
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SB Member



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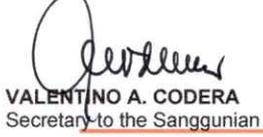


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(Absent)
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Ex-Officio Member
SK Federation President



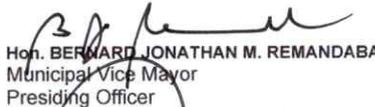
VALENTINO A. CODERA
Secretary to the Sanggunian

be used for the MPA management, conservation, and enforcement activities, and will be apportioned as follows:

- a. 10% shall accrue to the barangay general fund of Barangay Tugas, with priority allocation for the maintenance and operation of Kimud Shoal, including support for barangay-level enforcement, monitoring, and community participation in conservation activities;
- b. 60% shall accrue to the municipal government general fund;
- c. 30% shall accrue to a trust fund dedicated to the management of the MPA.



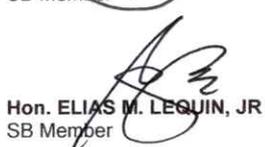
Hon. MA. CORAZON E. REMANDABAN
Municipal Mayor



Hon. BERNARD JONATHAN M. REMANDABAN
Municipal Vice Mayor
Presiding Officer



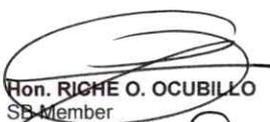
Hon. JOSE WILSON G. VOSOTROS
SB Member



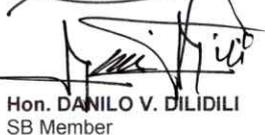
Hon. ELIAS M. LEGUIN, JR
SB Member



Hon. RICHARD V. MERONTOS
SB Member



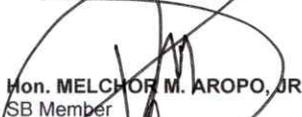
Hon. RICHE O. OCUBILLO
SB Member



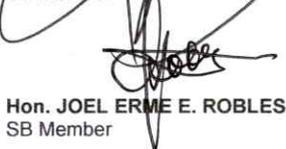
Hon. DANILO V. DILIDILI
SB Member



Hon. JOEL M. MAJAIT
SB Member



Hon. MELCHOR M. AROPO, JR
SB Member

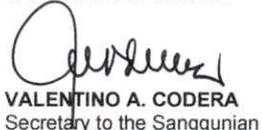


Hon. JOEL ERME E. ROBLES
SB Member

(Absent)
Hon. LOUINE N. UY
Ex-Officio Member
LnB President



Hon. MICAH D. BERNAL
Ex-Officio Member
SK Federation President



VALENTINO A. CODERA
Secretary to the Sanggunian

To ensure transparency and proper fund management, the Local Government Unit of Tabango shall open a separate Trust Fund Account for the 30% share allocated to MPA management. All disbursements from the trust fund shall be based on approved work and financial plans endorsed by the Kimud Shoal Operations Unit, and shall be used solely for activities that directly support the protection and sustainable use of the marine-protected area and other tourism-related activities.

SECTION 24. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION. The boundaries of the MPA shall be established by putting up buoys or markers for the proper guidance of the fisherfolk and/or the navigating public in accordance with generally accepted maritime standards.

The Municipal Government of Tabango shall provide the personnel and other authorized personnel with appropriate sea transport, safety gear or paraphernalia, and other supplies and equipment necessary for the verification and monitoring activities.

SECTION 25. CIRCULARS AND OTHER ISSUANCES. Circulars and other issuances issued by other national government agencies prohibiting or regulating the use of our coastal water where the MPA is located are hereby adopted under this ordinance. Any violation under such laws, regulations, or issuances shall be penalized in accordance therewith.

SECTION 26. FUNDS. An initial amount of FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (₱500,000.00) is hereby appropriated for the immediate implementation of this Ordinance. Thereafter, the appropriation for implementing the Ordinance shall be a regular item in the annual appropriations of the Municipality.

SECTION 27. REVIEW AND AMENDMENT. This ordinance shall be subject to periodic review and amendment as necessary to ensure its effectiveness.

SECTION 28. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Ordinance shall be found to be unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions thereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 29. REPEALING CLAUSE. All ordinances, rules, and regulations, or any part or provision thereof, in conflict with or inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 30. PENAL CLAUSE. Any person who violates any provision of this Ordinance shall be subject to the following penalties:

- o First Offense – a fine of ₱1,000.00
- o Second Offense – a fine of ₱1,500.00
- o Third and succeeding offenses – a fine of ₱2,500.00, or imprisonment of up to six (6) months, or both, at the discretion of the court

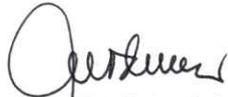
In addition, the dive shop operator shall be held liable and penalized in the same manner for violations committed by their crew members or guests.

SECTION 32. EFFECTIVITY. This ordinance shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its posting.

ENACTED AND APPROVED this 17th day of December 2025 by the Sangguniang Bayan, this Municipality, with the following votes:

AYES – 9 NAYS – 0

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE AND ACCURATE COPY OF THE ORDINANCE DULY ENACTED BY THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN OF TABANGO ON DECEMBER 17, 2025.


VALENTINO A. CODERA
Secretary to the Sangguniang Bayan

ATTESTED AND CERTIFIED AS DULY ENACTED:


BERNARD JONATHAN M. REMANABAN
Presiding Officer/Municipal Vice Mayor

APPROVED:

MA. CORAZON E. REMANDABAN
Municipal Mayor

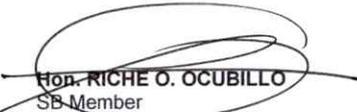
20 JAN 2026
Date

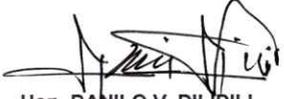



Hon. JOSE WILSON G. VOSDTROS
SB Member

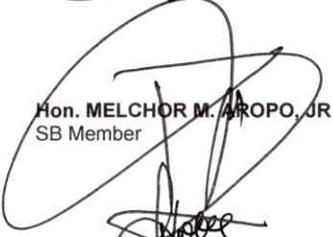

Hon. ELIAS M. LEQUIN, JR.
SB Member


Hon. RICHARD V. MERONTOS
SB Member


Hon. RICHE O. OCUBILLO
SB Member


Hon. DANILO V. DILIDILI
SB Member


Hon. JOEL M. MAJAIT
SB Member


Hon. MELCHOR M. AROPO, JR.
SB Member


Hon. JOEL ERME E. ROBLES
SB Member

(Absent)
Hon. LOUINE N. UY
Ex-Officio Member
LnB President


Hon. MICAH D. BERNAL
Ex-Officio Member
SK Federation President



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PROVINCE OF LEYTE
MUNICIPALITY OF TABANGO

-000-

OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN SECRETARY

Certificate of Posting

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that Municipal Ordinance No. 2025-07, entitled: "AN ORDINANCE DECLARING KIMUD SHOAL, LOCATED WITHIN THE MUNICIPAL WATERS OF TABANGO, LEYTE, AS A MARINE PROTECTED AREA AND DESIGNATED AQUATIC AND ECO-TOURISM SITE — SANCTUARY OF THE THRESHER SHARK, LEYTE'S LIVING TREASURE WITHIN THE SHOAL — PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT, PROTECTION, CONSERVATION, AND SUSTAINABLE USE; PRESCRIBING GUIDELINES FOR TOURISM OPERATIONS; IMPOSING FEES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES," was posted on the bulletin board of the Municipal Hall and at the Land Transport Terminal on January 21, 2026, and was to remain posted for three (3) consecutive weeks.

THIS CERTIFIES FURTHER that the foregoing Municipal Ordinance has yet to be published in the newspaper of general circulation and posted on the bulletin boards of the different barangays of this municipality.

THIS CERTIFICATION is issued in compliance with Article 114 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 7160.

ISSUED this 21st day of January 2026 at the Sangguniang Bayan of the Municipality of Tabango, Province of Leyte.

VALENTINO A. CODERA
Secretary to the Sangguniang Bayan

NOTED:

BERNARD JONATHAN M. REMANDABAN
Municipal Vice Mayor/Presiding Officer

+639088960539

vcodera@gmail.com

www.tabango-leyte.gov.ph



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PROVINCE OF LEYTE
MUNICIPALITY OF TABANGO

-000-

OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN SECRETARY

Certificate of Public Hearing

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that Municipal Ordinance No. 2025-07, entitled:
"AN ORDINANCE DECLARING KIMUD SHOAL, LOCATED WITHIN THE MUNICIPAL WATERS OF TABANGO, LEYTE, AS A MARINE PROTECTED AREA AND DESIGNATED AQUATIC AND ECO-TOURISM SITE — SANCTUARY OF THE THRESHER SHARK, LEYTE'S LIVING TREASURE WITHIN THE SHOAL — PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT, PROTECTION, CONSERVATION, AND SUSTAINABLE USE; PRESCRIBING GUIDELINES FOR TOURISM OPERATIONS; IMPOSING FEES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,"

underwent a formal public hearing on October 29, 2025, at the SB Session Hall, Municipal Building, Tabango, Leyte.

THIS CERTIFICATION is issued in compliance with R.A. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991.

ISSUED this 20th day of January 2026 at the Municipality of Tabango, Province of Leyte.

VALENTINO A. CODERA
Secretary to the Sangguniang Bayan

NOTED:

BERNARD JONATHAN M. REMANDABAN
Municipal Vice Mayor/Presiding Officer

+639088960539

vcodera@gmail.com

www.tabango-leyte.gov.ph



MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, ECOLOGY AND ENERGY, THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM, COMMERCE, TRADE AND INDUSTRY, AND THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, APPROPRIATION, WAYS AND MEANS HELD AT THE SB SESSION HALL, MUNICIPALITY OF TABANGO, LEYTE, ON OCTOBER 29, 2025.

Present: [Refer to the attached Attendance Sheet]

The public hearing started with a short prayer followed by the playing of the Philippine National Anthem. The public hearing started at around 9:29 in the morning.

The public hearing was called to present the proposed ordinance, "AN ORDINANCE DECLARING KIMUD SHOAL, LOCATED WITHIN THE MUNICIPAL WATERS OF TABANGO, LEYTE, AS A MARINE PROTECTED AREA AND DESIGNATED AQUATIC AND ECO-TOURISM SITE — SANCTUARY OF THE THRESHER SHARK, LEYTE'S LIVING TREASURE BENEATH THE SHOAL — PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT, PROTECTION, CONSERVATION, AND SUSTAINABLE USE; PRESCRIBING GUIDELINES FOR TOURISM OPERATIONS; IMPOSING FEES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES," authored by the Honorable Louine N. Uy, Chairman, Committee on Environmental Protection, Ecology, and Energy, for comments, suggestions, and or recommendations. The presentation was made through a multimedia presentation.

The following are the suggestions and recommendations:

Section/Provision	Suggestion/Recommendation
Section 5	1. To provide for the actual or estimated size of the reef top.
Section 6	1. Free diving and snorkeling should not be allowed in the Kimud Shoal.
Section 7	1. All dive professionals should be required to undergo the Green Fins dive guide course, an online course. 2. Include in the ordinance that dive pros should be required or at least encouraged to complete an e-class on diving.
Section 8 (h)	1. To adopt the standard 4:1 ratio of dive guests and divemaster or pro. 2. For every 4 advanced certified dive guests, they shall be accompanied by 1 certified dive master or higher, to ensure adequate supervision, safety, and compliance with the interaction protocols. 3. It was also suggested that for less experienced dive guests, a 3:1 or 2:1 ratio may be adopted. 4. To look into the Thresher Shark Research and Conservation Project for additional information. 5. Discovery dives and open water training courses at the Kimud Shoal should be prohibited.
Section 9	1. To have a limit of a minimum of 45 minutes and a maximum of 1 hour. 2. Suggested not to use the word "interaction", but instead "observation". 3. To come up with a win-win provision under Section 9, the committee requested the assistance of the stakeholders from Malapascua to submit a proposal to the committee for the latter's consideration.
Section 10	1. To include "snorkeling" in the prohibition.
Section 11	1. Hire fishermen as bantay dagat personnel. 2. To define the area to which fishing is prohibited to avoid ambiguity in the implementation of the ordinance.

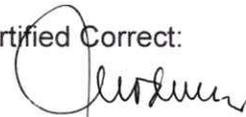
	3. To prohibit fishing within an area of more than 200 meters radius from the Kimud Shoal, and it should be delineated by a GPS coordinate.
Section 15	1. Separate Local Dive Professional and Local Dive Operators/Association
	2. If possible, include the Tourism Office of Daabantayan as part of the unit.
Section 17	1. If possible to waive the payment of the Mayor's permit fee. 2. Define the word "mooring fee" to avoid confusion. 3. Provide a flat annual rate for the mooring fee. 4. Identify strategic areas for the installation of the mooring lines. 5. The ₱300.00 environmental fee collection, if possible, per day and not per dive. 6. Dive guides must be registered with the LGU.
Section 19	1. It was suggested to apply the ticketing system in the collection of environmental fees.
Section 20	1. A Passenger/Boat Manifest should be required instead of a Pre-Dive Guest List.

The Committee Chair on Environmental Protection encouraged the dive shop operators present that if they still have some suggestions/recommendations pertaining to the proposed ordinance, they can submit a written proposal so that it can be included during the deliberations of the joint committees. He assured that all suggestions and or recommendations will be taken into consideration for the refinement of the proposed Kimud ordinance.

On behalf of the Sangguniang Bayan of Tabango, the Committee on Environmental Protection, Ecology and Energy, the Committee on Tourism, Commerce, Trade and Industry, and the Committee on Finance, Appropriation, Ways and Means, extends its gratitude to all the visitors, particularly the dive shop operators of Malapascua, who attended the public hearing.

The public hearing adjourned at around 12:20 in the afternoon.

Certified Correct:

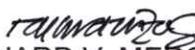


VALENTINO A. CODERA
Secretary to the Sanggunian

Attested:



LOUINE N. UY
Chairman, Committee on Environmental Protection, Ecology & Energy
Chairman, Committee on Tourism, Commerce Trade & Industry



RICHARD V. MERONTOS

Chairman, Committee on Finance, Appropriation, Ways & Means
Member, Committee on Tourism, Commerce Trade & Industry
Member, Committee on Environmental Protection, Ecology & Energy



Office of the Sangguniang Bayan

PUBLIC HEARING ATTENDANCE

Committee on Environmental Protection, Ecology, and Energy
 Committee on Tourism, Trade Commerce and Industry
 Committee on Finance, Appropriations, Ways and Means

Date: October 30, 2025
 Time: 9:00 am

Subject: "AN ORDINANCE DECLARING KIMUD SHOAL, LOCATED WITHIN THE MUNICIPAL WATERS OF TABANGO, LEYTE, AS A MARINE PROTECTED AREA AND A DESIGNATED AQUATIC AND ECO-TOURISM SITE - SANCTUARY OF THE THRESHER SHARK, LEYTE'S LIVING TREASURE BENEATH THE SHOAL - PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT, PROTECTION, CONSERVATION, AND SUSTAINABLE USE; PRESCRIBING GUIDELINES FOR TOURISM OPERATIONS; IMPOSING ENVIRONMENTAL AND MOORING FEES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

No.	Name	Designation/Office	Signature
1.	NELYN P. ALCANTARA	KACAPANG / KLUK TUGAS	
2.	Janelle D. Benillo	MTD DIVESHIP MALAPASCUA	
3.	Roxann L. Monterde	Stamps Garden Dive Resort Malapascua	
4.	RAFFA A. LOBERAS	MALAPASCUA EXOTIC ISLAND ONE RESORT	
5.	Jawit D. Haulon	Blue Water Divers (BWR)	
6.	NORBERTO P. ITABOLE	MAO - OTC	
7.	Ritchell Campay	OWNER - Kokoy's Malapascua Dive Resort	
8.	LONDSAP, MARTIN KWL	LMDR - INSTRUCTOR	
9.	Mansah J. Anukin	LMDR. instructor	
10.	BALT CONJE	THE SHARKTAIL RESORT	
11.	CASTILLO BENITO	DAMBANTAYAN TOURISM	
12.	Jack Ewart	Atlas Divers	
13.	Alix Nazion	FRENCH / JOE Diverso	
14.	Paula Alcoseba	Malapascua Scuba Eco Adventures	
15.	JEMOME P. HANOPOL	DAN'S DIVE MALAPASCUA	
16.	Remil R. PUNAS	Kokoy's Diving Shop	
17.	Tonny M. Orongan	Dive Nation	
18.	DANILO BAXQUIR	LONAD	
19.	RON A. COSTEN	MEMRO LGU TABANGO	
20.	ROGER P. DIONGZON	OIC - MPDC	
21.	VER PHILLIP C. PELAYO	MUN. ENGINEER	
22.	JEFFREY A. LORA	MLEGO - DILE	
23.	Catherine B. Abadines	JMBO	
24.	Lorna Atibula	MAECO	
25.	RICHO OCUBIWO	SB	
26.	ISABEL I. WINGAMAYA	LGU - CAMAMPOR	



Republic of the Philippines
 Province of Leyte
 Municipality of Tabango

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Office of the Sangguniang Bayan

27	Jaw Cagas	Barter dagat	
28.	JOHN ROY S. BUAS	MAO/BAHAY DAGAT	
29.	JAL Cuervo	MMO	
30.	JOE M. HORASOS	MEMBER COUNCIL	
31.	SHARON JOHANNIA B. ANCAJAS	BLGU - POBLACION	
32.	MILAN R. BERNAL	JO MEMBER	
33.	TEDDULFO A. MARTINO JR.	P.B. BRGY. POB.	
34.	Jerry D. Moneal	PRO STA ROSA	
35.	DON-DON AROPO	SB MEMBER	
36.	Francisco O. Zafra Jr	OMM/OVM	
37.	Bernard Jonathan Remandaban	OVM	
38.	Marisah J. Anulitin	instructor - Assistan manager	
39.	LOVISA M. MARTIN	INSTRUCTOR	
40.	VINCE MAYAMANEZ	OMM	
41.	ESTEBAN P. BUTAD	BRGY. COUNCILOR Brgy. Tugos	
42.	DANILO V. DILIDIL	SB-MEMBER LGU-TABANGO	
43.	ELIAS N. LEQUIN Jr.	SB-MEMBER	
44.	JESUYNELA MACQUEZ	GUEST - MALAPASCUA	
45.	MATT REED	GUEST	
46.	RENIE CASTILLO	DAAMBANTAYAN TOURISM	
47.	Ronny M. Orongan	Malapascua	
48.	Christine O. Abegan	SB - VMO	
49.	DEXTER S. DEXTERO	MMO	
50.	KIMEL T. MORANA JR	TNP	
51.	Richard Merontus	SB-Member	
52.	DA		
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