



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN OF LEYTE
PROVINCIAL CAPITOL, PALO, LEYTE



BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE REPORT No. 5, Series of 2026
17 March 2026

Administrative Case No. BRC-SP-2024-003

MARVIN T. MARTICIO

Complainant,

-versus-

HON. ANGEL ARAS SIA, JR.

Municipal Mayor, La Paz, Leyte

Respondent.

I. PREFATORY STATEMENT

This is a Committee Report submitted by the **Blue Ribbon Committee of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Leyte**, pursuant to its mandate to investigate complaints involving alleged misconduct of elective municipal officials, relative to the administrative complaint filed by **Marvin T. Marticio** against **Hon. Angel Aras Sia, Jr.**, Municipal Mayor of La Paz, Leyte, for **Grave Misconduct and Neglect of Duty**.

The complaint was indorsed to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan by the **Office of the Ombudsman (Visayas)** for appropriate action and disposition.

II. NATURE OF THE CASE

The complaint charges respondent Mayor **Angel Aras Sia, Jr.** with **Grave Misconduct and Neglect of Duty**, allegedly in violation of:

- **Section 5(a), Republic Act No. 6713** (Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees); and
- Relevant provisions of **Republic Act No. 7160** (Local Government Code of 1991).

The alleged administrative liability arises from respondent's supposed failure to act on a letter dated **8 January 2024**, concerning a land dispute and an alleged violent incident involving barangay officials in **Barangay Pansud, La Paz, Leyte**.

III. FACTUAL ANTECEDENTS

Based on the pleadings, judicial affidavits, documentary evidence, and admissions on record, the Committee finds the following facts to be established:

1. On **6 January 2024**, complainant **Marvin T. Marticio** and his sons allegedly discovered that a parcel of land claimed by his daughter, **Emy De Paz Marticio**, was being fenced by

- Punong Barangay Eleuterio Magayones** and other individuals, resulting in a confrontation.
2. On **8 January 2024**, a letter was sent by **Atty. Jerome A. Tenebro**, purportedly on behalf of Emy De Paz Marticio, to respondent Mayor, requesting intervention regarding the incident.
 3. Records show that respondent Mayor **acted upon receipt of the letter** by calling for mediation meetings on **10 January 2024**, **12 January 2024**, and **16 January 2024**.
 4. The mediation meetings were attended by the complainant and municipal officials, but **Punong Barangay Magayones failed to appear**, allegedly due to illness.
 5. During the **16 January 2024** meeting, complainant informed respondent Mayor that a criminal case had already been filed against Punong Barangay Magayones, prompting respondent to discontinue mediation to avoid interference with judicial proceedings.
 6. Complainant thereafter filed:
 - o an administrative complaint before the **Office of the Ombudsman (Visayas)**; and
 - o a subsequent complaint before the **Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Leyte**, involving substantially the same parties, facts, and causes of action.

IV. SUMMARY OF PLEADINGS AND EVIDENCE

For the Complainant:

- Complaint-Affidavit;
- Letter dated 8 January 2024;
- Police blotter entries;
- Photographs and video recordings of the alleged incident;
- Judicial affidavits of Marvin T. Marticio and Raymart P. Marticio;
- Tax Declaration and Extrajudicial Settlement of Estate with Sale.

For the Respondent:

- Verified Answer;
- Judicial Affidavit of Hon. Angel Aras Sia, Jr.;
- Judicial Affidavits of Michael Y. Rapada and Froilan R. Pundavela;
- Documentary evidence showing mediation efforts.

V. ISSUES FOR RESOLUTION

The Committee resolved to determine the following issues:

1. **Whether respondent Mayor violated Section 5(a) of Republic Act No. 6713;**
2. **Whether respondent is guilty of Grave Misconduct;**
3. **Whether respondent is liable for Neglect of Duty;**
4. **Whether the filing of multiple complaints constitutes forum shopping.**

VI. COMMITTEE FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

A. On the Alleged Violation of R.A. No. 6713

Section 5(a) of R.A. No. 6713 requires public officials to **act promptly on letters and requests.**

The evidence on record shows that respondent Mayor **acted within two (2) days** from receipt of the letter by initiating mediation proceedings. The law does not require that the response be exclusively in writing, nor does it mandate resolution of the dispute itself.

The Committee finds that respondent substantially complied with the law.

B. On the Charge of Grave Misconduct

Grave misconduct requires a showing of:

- Corruption;
- Clear intent to violate the law; or
- Willful disregard of established rules.

No evidence was presented to prove that respondent:

- Acted with corrupt motive;
- Had any agreement with the barangay officials involved; or
- Deliberately refused to act on the complaint.

The charge of Grave Misconduct is not supported by substantial evidence.

C. On the Charge of Neglect of Duty

Neglect of duty must be **gross, flagrant, or palpable** to warrant administrative liability.

The Committee finds that respondent:

- Took prompt action;
- Convened mediation meetings;
- Exercised restraint once the matter became subject of judicial proceedings.

These actions negate any finding of neglect of duty.

D. On Forum Shopping

The Committee notes that complainant filed **substantially identical administrative complaints** before two separate fora, accompanied by certifications of non-forum shopping.

While this circumstance casts doubt on the credibility of the complaint, the Committee finds it unnecessary to rule conclusively on this issue, given the clear lack of merit of the complaint on substantive grounds.

VII. CONCLUSION

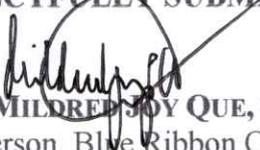
The evidence on record fails to establish, by substantial evidence, that respondent **Hon. Angel Aras Sia, Jr.** committed **Grave Misconduct** or **Neglect of Duty**.

On the contrary, the records demonstrate that respondent **acted promptly, in good faith, and within the bounds of his authority**, consistent with ethical and administrative standards.

VIII. RECOMMENDATION

WHEREFORE, the Blue Ribbon Committee hereby **RECOMMENDS** to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Leyte the **DISMISSAL** of the administrative complaint filed by **Marvin T. Marticio** against **Hon. Angel Aras Sia, Jr.**, for **lack of merit**.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED.


ATTY. MILDRED JOY QUE, CPA
Chairperson, Blue Ribbon Committee
Sangguniang Panlalawigan, Province of Leyte

With our concurrence:


HON. ATTY. RONNAN CHRISTIAN M. REPOSAR
Vice- Chairperson


HON. ALAN P. ANG
Member


HON. ATTY. CARLO P. LORETO
Member


HON. FLAVIANO C. CENTINO, JR.
Member

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PROVINCE OF LEYTE
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ADMINISTRATIVE CASE NO. BRC-SP-2024-003

MARVIN T. MARTICIO
Complainant,

— versus —

HON. ANGEL ARAS SIA, JR.
Municipal Mayor
Municipality of La Paz, Leyte
Respondent.

DECISION

I. ANTECEDENTS

This is an administrative complaint for **Grave Misconduct and Neglect of Duty** filed by **Marvin T. Marticio** against **Hon. Angel Aras Sia, Jr.**, Municipal Mayor of La Paz, Leyte.

The complaint arose from an incident on **06 January 2024** involving the fencing of a parcel of land in Barangay Pansud, La Paz, Leyte, allegedly owned by complainant's daughter, **Emy De Paz Marticio**, and purportedly undertaken by barangay officials led by Punong Barangay Eleuterio Magayones.

On **08 January 2024**, a letter was sent to respondent Mayor, through counsel, requesting action on the incident. Complainant alleges that respondent failed to respond within the period required under **Section 5(a) of Republic Act No. 6713**, thereby committing grave misconduct and neglect of duty.

The complaint was initially filed before the **Office of the Ombudsman (Visayas)** and was later indorsed to the **Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Leyte**, where a substantially similar complaint was also filed.

The case was referred to the **Blue Ribbon Committee**, which conducted proceedings, received pleadings and judicial affidavits, and thereafter submitted a Committee Report recommending dismissal of the complaint.

II. ISSUES

The issues for resolution are:

- Whether respondent violated Section 5(a) of Republic Act No. 6713;**
- Whether respondent is administratively liable for Grave Misconduct;**
- Whether respondent is administratively liable for Neglect of Duty.**

III. DISCUSSION

A. On the Alleged Violation of Section 5(a), R.A. No. 6713

Section 5(a) of Republic Act No. 6713 mandates public officials to *act promptly* on letters, communications, and requests sent by the public.

The records clearly establish that respondent Mayor received the letter dated 08 January 2024 and initiated action within two (2) days, by calling and conducting mediation meetings on 10 January 2024, 12 January 2024, and 16 January 2024.

Contrary to complainant's assertion, the law does not require that the response be exclusively in written form, nor does it require the public official to resolve the dispute itself. What the law demands is prompt and reasonable action, which respondent satisfactorily demonstrated.

Accordingly, the charge of violation of Section 5(a), R.A. No. 6713 cannot prosper.

B. On the Charge of Grave Misconduct

Grave misconduct, to be administratively punishable, must be attended by corruption, clear intent to violate the law, or flagrant disregard of established rules.

In this case, complainant failed to present substantial evidence showing that respondent:

- Acted with corrupt motive;
- Had any agreement or collusion with the barangay officials involved; or
- Willfully refused or deliberately failed to act on the complaint.

On the contrary, respondent's actions show good faith, prudence, and restraint, particularly when he discontinued mediation upon learning that a criminal case had already been filed, so as not to interfere with judicial proceedings.

Absent proof of corrupt intent or willful wrongdoing, grave misconduct cannot be imputed.

C. On the Charge of Neglect of Duty

Neglect of duty must be gross, flagrant, or palpable, amounting to a refusal or failure to perform an official duty.

Here, the respondent:

- Promptly acted on the complaint;
- Initiated mediation efforts despite the matter involving a private land dispute;
- Exercised sound discretion by refraining from further action once the matter became sub judice.

These acts negate any claim of neglect, much less gross neglect of duty.

IV. FINDINGS

The Sangguniang Panlalawigan finds that:

- Respondent acted promptly and in good faith;

- There is **no substantial evidence** of grave misconduct or neglect of duty;
 - The complaint is **bereft of merit** and rests on conjectures and misapprehensions of the law
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V. DISPOSITIVE PORTION

WHEREFORE, premises considered, the administrative complaint for **Grave Misconduct and Neglect of Duty** filed by **Marvin T. Marticio** against **Hon. Angel Aras Sia, Jr., Municipal Mayor of La Paz, Leyte**, is hereby **DISMISSED** for lack of merit.

Let copies of this Decision be furnished to:

- **The Office of the Ombudsman (Visayas);**
- **The Department of the Interior and Local Government;**
- All parties concerned, for their information and guidance.

SO ORDERED.
