

Item No.: 34  
Date: 19 2026 MAY



Republic of the Philippines  
**PROVINCE OF LEYTE**  
Provincial Capitol  
Tacloban City

-oOo-

**PROVINCIAL LEGAL OFFICE**

PROVINCE OF LEYTE  
LEGAL OFFICE  
**RELEASED**  
By: [Signature]  
Date: 5.8.26 Time: 9m  
Sangguniang Panlalawigan  
Province of Leyte  
**RECEIVED**  
Date: MAY 08 2026  
By: [Signature]

**2<sup>nd</sup> INDORSEMENT**  
May 4, 2026

Respectfully returned to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Leyte, through SP Secretary, the attached Ordinance No. 2026-02 of the Sangguniang Bayan of Albuera, Leyte.

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

- Ordinance No. 2026-02 entitled: **“Mahjong Regulation Ordinance of Albuera, Leyte.”**

**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)(v)<sup>1</sup> of the Local Government Code of 1991 (R.A 7160). 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 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*

<sup>1</sup> (v) Enact ordinances intended to prevent, suppress and impose appropriate penalties for habitual drunkenness in public places, vagrancy, mendicancy, prostitution, establishment and maintenance of houses of ill repute, gambling and other prohibited games of chance, fraudulent devices and ways to obtain money or property, drug addiction, maintenance of drug dens, drug pushing, juvenile delinquency, the printing, distribution or exhibition of obscene or pornographic materials or publications, and such other activities inimical to the welfare and morals of the inhabitants of the municipality;

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Palo, Leyte  
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**OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN**

**1<sup>ST</sup> INDORSEMENT**  
28 April 2026

PROVINCIAL LEGAL OFFICE  
**RECEIVED**  
By: *[Signature]*  
Date: *4.28.26* Time: *3:24*

The Provincial Legal Office is respectfully requested to review and submit recommendations on the herein enclosed **Ordinance No. 2026-02** of the **Municipality of Albuera, Leyte**, entitled: **An Ordinance regulating the game of Mahjong as a major parlor game in the Municipality of Albuera, Leyte.**

*[Signature]*  
**FLORINDA JILL S. UYVICO**  
Secretary to the Sangguniang



Republic of the Philippines  
PROVINCE OF LEYTE  
Municipality of Albuera

## OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN SECRETARIAT

### TRANSMITTAL

April 21, 2026

**Hon. Leonardo Javier, Jr.**  
Vice-Governor  
Province of Leyte  
Palo, Leyte

Thru: Florinda Jill S. Uyvico  
Secretary to the Sanggunian  
Province of Leyte

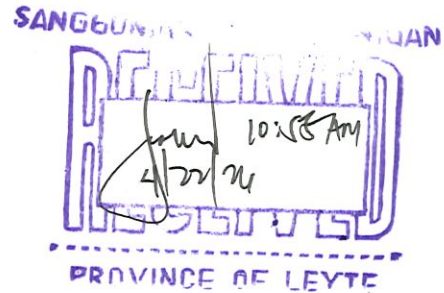
**Dear Vice Governor Javier:**

Respectfully transmitting herein **Municipal Ordinance No. 2026-02**, "An Ordinance Regulating the Game of Mahjong as Major Parlor Game in the Municipality of Albuera, Leyte."

Please acknowledge receipt hereof.

Very truly yours,

  
**PAMELA M. BOHOLST, MPA**  
Secretary to the Sangguniang Bayan I





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PROVINCE OF LEYTE  
Municipality of Albuera


## OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

### CERTIFICATION

#### TO THE CONCERNED:

**THIS IS TO CERTIFY** that **Municipal Ordinance No. 2026-02, "An Ordinance Regulating the Same of Mahjong as Major Parlor Game in the Municipality Albuera, Leyte,"** has been posted in the bulletin board of the Sangguniang Bayan of Albuera, Leyte on April 13, 2026 and shall remain posted until a period of two (2) consecutive weeks thereof.

**ISSUED** this 13<sup>th</sup> day of April 2026 at Albuera, Leyte, Philippines.

  
**PAMELA M. BOHOLST, MPA**  
Secretary to the Sangguniang Bayan I



Republic of the Philippines  
PROVINCE OF LEYTE  
Municipality of Albuera

OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 37<sup>TH</sup> REGULAR SESSION OF THE 12<sup>TH</sup> SANGGUNIANG BAYAN  
HELD AT THE SESSION HALL ON MARCH 30, 2026

MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 2026-02

AN ORDINANCE REGULATING THE GAME OF MAHJONG AS A MAJOR  
PARLOR GAME IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ALBUERA, LEYTE

Authored by: HON. ROMEO M. JUNCO

Introduced by: HON. ANDRES E. TUDIO

Sponsored by: COMMITTEE ON GAMES AND AMUSEMENTS

- HON. ALBERTO C. SUMALJAG
- HON. BERNARD JOEY D. MESTULA
- HON. ROBERTO C. COLASITO

**WHEREAS**, the game of mahjong, while a traditional and culturally significant pastime, has been associated with gambling activities that may lead to social and economic harm when unregulated;

**WHEREAS**, the Municipal Government of Albuera, Leyte recognizes the need to balance cultural preservation with public order, morality, and the prevention of illegal gambling;

**WHEREAS**, Section 16 of Republic Act No. 7160 (Local Government Code of 1991) empowers local government units to regulate games and amusements within their jurisdiction;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it ordained by the Sangguniang Bayan of Albuera, Leyte, in session duly assembled, that:

SECTION 1. TITLE

This Ordinance shall be known as the "Mahjong Regulation Ordinance of Albuera, Leyte".

SECTION 2. DEFINITION OF TERMS

The following terms when used in this ordinance shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them in this Section, to wit:

- MAHJONG** - a game of Chinese origin usually played by four (4) persons with 144 tiles that are drawn and discarded until one player secures a winning hand;
- PERMITTEE** - a person who is given a permit to host a Mahjong game. One permit per residential house only regardless of how many households are living in the residence.

SECTION 3. MAHJONG AREA

There shall be established/assigned a specific mahjong area within the premises of the permittee's residential property, be it a designated room inside the house or a separate structure detached from the house but still within the premises of the residential lot, where the Mahjong game is conducted. The Mahjong area shall be exclusively designed/designated as the area for playing Mahjong, which should have access to a comfort room for proper sanitation and should have proper ventilation and a cozy ambiance.

SECTION 4. MAHJONG GAME TIME

Mahjong Game shall be allowed within the following hours of play:

ALBERTO C. SUMALJAG

ROBERTO C. COLASITO

ROMEO M. JUNCO

ANDRES E. TUDIO

DELLANE E. BASTISTIS

BERNARD JOEY D. MESTULA

PAMELA M. BOHOLST

ROLAN E. ESPINOSA

MARIEL E. MARINAY

CARL KEVIN E. BASTISTIS

ROLANDO M. EBICAS, JR.

JOIE B. YBANEZ

RODOLFO S. BILBAO, JR.

- a. **During Ordinary Days** – 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
- b. **Holidays and weekends** – the whole day

**SECTION 5. TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

The following terms and conditions shall be strictly observed by the Mahjong Permittee, to wit:

- 5.1 Only one (1) set of Mahjong table is allowed for every permit holder;
- 5.2 The Permittee shall ensure that no betting/gambling is allowed during any Mahjong game and that his/her place will not be made a gambling den;
- 5.3 The Permittee shall provide Mahjong chips to be used by the players during a Mahjong game;
- 5.4 Permit shall is non-transferrable;
- 5.5 Mahjong game shall not be played in the open for public view;
- 5.6 Smoking and drinking alcoholic drinks and liquors in the mahjong area are strictly prohibited at all times; and
- 5.7 An inspection shall be conducted by the Inspection Team prior to the issuance of a Permit to Operate.

**SECTION 6. PERMIT FEE**

A Permit to Operate shall be issued upon payment of a Permit Fee in the amount of Two Thousand Pesos (Php. 2,000.00) per Mahjong table per annum from the Permittee. The First Issuance shall be on the date the Permit is secured, provided however, that the next issuance of permit shall be renewed on or before January 20 of every year.

No person shall own, maintain, or operate any Mahjong Area in which persons are permitted to play Mahjong without first having obtained a permit.

The permit shall be non-transmissible.

**SECTION 7. PUBLIC DISTURBANCE**

The Permittee shall ensure that the operation of Mahjong shall not cause public disturbance.

**SECTION 8. PROHIBITIONS**

The following prohibitions shall be observed during Mahjong game, to wit:

- 8.1 No minors shall be allowed to play, observe or view during a Mahjong game at any time;
- 8.2 No betting/gambling is allowed during any Mahjong game.

**SECTION 9. EXEMPTIONS**

The playing of Mahjong during wakes shall be exempt from the enforcement of this Ordinance, provided that no betting/gambling shall be done by the players.

**SECTION 10. PENAL PROVISION**

Any person/s found violating any provision of this Ordinance shall be penalized as follows:

- a. **FIRST OFFENCE** – a fine of One Thousand Pesos (Php 1,000.00);
- b. **SECOND OFFENCE** – a fine of Two Thousand Pesos (Php 2,000.00); and
- c. **THIRD OFFENCE** – a fine of Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php 2,500.00) and cancelation of permit and perpetual disqualification to apply for a Mahjong Permit.

**SECTION 11. ENFORCING OFFICERS**

The PNP, in coordination with the Barangay Officials and Barangay Tanods, are directed to strictly enforce this Ordinance.

ALBERTO D. SUMALJAG

ROBERTO C. COLASITO

ROMFON M. JUMBO

ANDRES G. TUDID

BERNARD JOEY D. MESTULA

PAMELA M. BOHOLST

ROLAN E. ESPINOSA

MARIEL E. MARINAY

CARL KILVINE B. BATTISTIS

ROLANDO M. EBCAS, JR.

JOSE B. YEBAÑEZ

RODOLFO S. PILBAO, JR.

The PNP shall be authorized to issue Citation Tickets to violators. It shall also be their duty to file the corresponding case against any violator in the proper court of law.

**SECTION 12. INSPECTION TEAM**

There shall be created an Inspection Team to be composed of the following:

- Chairman** : PNP
- Vice-Chairman** : BPLO
- Members** : Punong Barangay of the area where the Permittee resides  
MENRO  
Sanitary Inspector  
Municipal Engineer

**SECTION 13. DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE INSPECTION TEAM**

The following shall be the duties and functions of the Inspection Team created for the purpose of implementing this Ordinance:

- 13.1** Conduct inspection of Mahjong area/room;
- 13.2** Ensure the provisions stated in Section 3 of this Ordinance are strictly followed; and
- 13.3** Shall issue a Certificate of Compliance pursuant to Section 3 of this Ordinance.

**SECTION 14. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE**

If any provision of this Ordinance is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

**SECTION 15. REPEALING CLAUSE**

All ordinances, executive orders, or regulations inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 16. EFFECTIVITY**

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its approval.

**APPROVED.**

**ENACTED BY THE 12<sup>th</sup> SANGGUNIANG BAYAN OF ALBUERA, LEYTE DURING ITS 37<sup>th</sup> REGULAR SESSION HELD ON MARCH 30, 2026 AT THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN SESSION HALL, ALBUERA, LEYTE.**


**ATTESTED AND CERTIFIED TO BE DULY ADOPTED:**

  
**CARL KEVIN E. BATISTIS**  
SB Member I

  
**ALBERTO C. SUMALJAG**  
SB Member I

  
**ROLANDO M. EBCAS, JR.**  
SB Member I

  
**ROMEO M. JUNCO**  
SB Member I

  
**JOJE B. YBAÑEZ**  
SB Member I

  
**ANDRES C. TUDIO**  
SB Member I

  
**RODOLFO S. BILBAO, JR.**  
SB Member

  
**DELIA E. BATISTIS**  
LnB President/Ex-Officio Member

  
**ROBERTO C. COLASITO**  
SB Member I

  
**BERNARD JOEY D. MESTULA**  
PPSK President/Ex-Officio Member

**I HEREBY CERTIFY** that this is a true and accurate copy of the ordinance duly enacted by the 12<sup>TH</sup> Sangguniang Bayan of Albuera, Leyte on its 37<sup>th</sup> Regular Session on March 30, 2026 at the Sangguniang Bayan Session Hall.



**PAMELA M. BOHOLST, MPA**  
Secretary to the Sangguniang Bayan I



**MARIEL E. MARINAY**  
Municipal Vice Mayor I/Presiding Officer

APPROVED:



**ROLAN E. ESPINOSA**  
Municipal Mayor

Date: 08 APR 2026



Republic of the Philippines  
PROVINCE OF LEYTE  
Municipality of Albuera

**OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN**  
**ATTENDANCE SHEET**

37th REGULAR SESSION  
of the 12th Sangguniang Bayan

SB Session Hall  
Venue

March 30, 2026

No.	Name & Designation	Signature
1	Hon. MARIEL E. MARINAY Mun. Vice Mayor / Presiding Officer	
2	Hon. CARL KEVIN E. BATISTIS SB Member	
3	Hon. ROLANDO M. EBCAS JR. SB Member	
4	Hon. JOJE B. YBAÑEZ SB Member	
5	Hon. RODOLFO S. BILBAO JR. SB Member	
6	Hon. ALBERTO C. SUMALJAG SB Member	
7	Hon. ROBERTO C. COLASITO SB Member	
8	Hon. ROMEO M. JUNCO SB Member	
9	Hon. ANDRES C. TUDIO SB Member	
10	Hon. DELIA E. BATISTIS ABC President, Ex-Officio	
11	Hon. BERNARD JOEY D. MESTULA SK Federation President, Ex-Officio	

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that those who have affixed their signatures above, have actually attended the 37th Regular Session of the 12th Sangguniang Bayan of Albuera, Leyte, held at the SB Session Hall on March 30, 2026

**PAMELA M. BOHOLST**  
Secretary to the Sanggunian Bayan