



**COMMITTEE ON BOUNDARY DISPUTES AND ON WAYS AND MEANS
COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 17
June 8, 2026**

RE: WRITTEN EXPLANATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF ALBUERA IN COMPLIANCE WITH PROVINCIAL RESOLUTION NO. 2026-842 RELATIVE TO THE INSTALLATION OF THE "WELCOME PANAN-AWAN PEAK – MUNICIPALITY OF ALBUERA" SIGNAGE

I. ANTECEDENTS

On May 5, 2026, the Sangguniang Panlalawigan adopted Provincial Resolution No. 2026-842 entitled:

“A Resolution Directing the Strict Maintenance of the Status Quo Ante in the Disputed Area Involving the Municipality of Albuera, the Municipality of Burauen, and the City of Baybay, Requiring the Removal of a Signage Asserting Territorial Jurisdiction, Requiring the Municipal Government of Albuera to Explain the Installation Thereof, and for Other Purposes.”

Pursuant thereto, the Municipal Government of Albuera submitted a Written Explanation dated May 26, 2026, which was endorsed through Sangguniang Bayan Resolution No. 2026-131.

The matter was thereafter referred to the Committee on Boundary Disputes for evaluation and recommendation.

II. SUMMARY OF THE EXPLANATION

In its Written Explanation, the Municipal Government of Albuera contends that:

1. The pending boundary dispute before the Sangguniang Panlalawigan concerns the territory involving MBM 27 and adjoining areas;
2. The Panan-awan Peak signage is allegedly located outside the disputed territory subject of the pending case;
3. The signage is allegedly situated near MBM 28 and MBM 29, which Albuera claims have historically been recognized as part of its territorial jurisdiction;
4. The location was validated using official maps from NAMRIA and DENR;
5. The installation was allegedly undertaken in good faith and without intent to alter the status quo in the area presently under litigation; and
6. A joint technical verification and ocular inspection involving the concerned local government units, NAMRIA, and DENR-LMB is requested.

III. ISSUES

The Committee resolves the following issues:

1. Whether the Written Explanation substantially complies with Provincial Resolution No. 2026-842;
2. Whether the Committee may presently determine that the Panan-awan Peak signage is located within or outside the disputed territory;
3. Whether technical verification is necessary prior to the resolution of the issue concerning the continued existence or removal of the signage.

IV. DISCUSSION

The Committee finds that the Municipal Government of Albuera has substantially complied with Provincial Resolution No. 2026-842 by submitting its Written Explanation together with supporting documents.

The Committee likewise notes that the explanation raises factual and technical matters which cannot be conclusively resolved from the pleadings and documents presently submitted.

While the Municipal Government of Burauen asserts that the area is within Barangay Villa Corazon and therefore forms part of its territorial jurisdiction, the Municipal Government of Albuera contends that the signage is located outside the disputed territory and within an area historically recognized as belonging to Albuera.

The Committee observes that neither party has yet presented an independent technical determination by NAMRIA or DENR-LMB specifically identifying the precise location of the signage relative to MBM 27, MBM 28, MBM 29, and the territorial boundaries presently under consideration.

The Committee further finds that the map and technical references cited by the Municipal Government of Albuera require validation and interpretation by competent technical agencies before the Committee may properly determine their evidentiary value.

Accordingly, the Committee finds that it would be premature to make a definitive ruling on the issue of territorial jurisdiction over the specific site where the signage is presently located.

The Committee further finds merit in the request for a joint ocular inspection and technical verification to establish the precise location of the signage and its relationship to the disputed territory.

V. FINDINGS

After evaluation of the records, the Committee finds that:

1. The Municipal Government of Albuera has substantially complied with Provincial Resolution No. 2026-842 by submitting its Written Explanation and supporting documents;
2. The explanation raises substantial factual and technical issues concerning the location of the signage relative to the disputed territory;
3. The present records are insufficient to conclusively establish whether the signage is located within or outside the area affected by the pending boundary dispute;
4. Independent technical verification by competent government agencies is necessary before a definitive determination may be made;
5. The preservation of the status quo ante remains necessary pending final determination of the boundary dispute and the completion of technical verification.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

WHEREFORE, premises considered, the Committee respectfully recommends that the Sangguniang Panlalawigan:

1. TAKE COGNIZANCE of the Written Explanation submitted by the Municipal Government of Albuera and consider the same as substantial compliance with Provincial Resolution No. 2026-842;

2. MAINTAIN the directive preserving the status quo ante pending final determination of the boundary dispute;
3. HOLD IN ABEYANCE the implementation of the directive concerning the removal of the Panan-awan Peak signage until after the completion of an independent technical verification;
4. DIRECT the immediate conduct of a joint ocular inspection and technical verification of MBM 27, MBM 28, MBM 29, Panan-awan Peak, and adjoining areas, with the participation of:
 - a. The Municipality of Albuera;
 - b. The Municipality of Burauen;
 - c. The City of Baybay;
 - d. NAMRIA;
 - e. DENR-LMB; and
 - f. Other concerned government agencies as may be necessary;
5. REQUIRE the submission of a joint technical report indicating:
 - a. The exact coordinates of the signage;
 - b. The exact locations of MBM 27, MBM 28, and MBM 29;
 - c. The relationship of the signage to the disputed territory; and
 - d. Such other findings as may assist the Sangguniang Panlalawigan in resolving the controversy;
6. DIRECT all parties to refrain from installing additional signages, markers, structures, improvements, or other manifestations of territorial jurisdiction within the disputed area and adjoining areas pending final determination of the matter.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED.

ATTY. MILDRED JOY P. QUE
CHAIRMAN

ATTY. RONNAN CHRISTIAN M. REPOSAR
VICE CHAIRMAN

ATTY. CARLO P. LORETO
MEMBER

HON. ALAN P. ANG
MEMBER

HON. ELMER FREDERICO N. CODILLA
MEMBER