



Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF LEYTE
Provincial Capitol
Tacloban City

-oOo-

PROVINCIAL LEGAL OFFICE

Item No.: 14
Date: 18 2026 AUG

Sangguniang Panlalawigan
Province of Leyte
RECEIVED

2nd INDORSEMENT
July 13, 2026

Date: AUG 11 2026
By: 

Respectfully returned to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Leyte, through SP Secretary, the attached Ordinance No. 5 of the Sangguniang Bayan of MacArthur, Leyte.

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

- Ordinance No. 5 entitled: "Anti-Topless or half naked in public places Ordinance of MacArthur, 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)(ii)¹. Hence, we recommend 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 ((a) The sangguniang bayan, as the legislative body of the municipality, shall enact ordinances, approve resolutions and appropriate funds for the general welfare of the municipality and its inhabitants pursuant to Section 16 of this Code and in the proper exercise of the corporate powers of the municipality as provided for under Section 22 of this Code

(ii) Maintain peace and order by enacting measures to prevent and suppress lawlessness, disorder, riot, violence, rebellion or sedition and impose penalties for the violation of said ordinances;

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF LEYTE
Palo, Leyte
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PROVINCE OF LEYTE
LEGAL OFFICE
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By: 
Date: 7/8/26 Time: 2:18

OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN

1ST INDORSEMENT
08 July 2026

The Provincial Legal Office is respectfully requested to review and submit recommendations on the herein enclosed **Municipal Ordinance No. 05, series of 2026 of the Municipality of MacArthur, Leyte**, entitled: **An Ordinance prohibiting the act of being topless or half-naked in public places.**


FLORINDA JILL S. UYVICO
Secretary to the Sanggunian

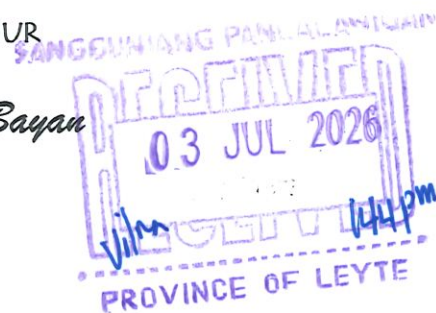
SP Sec



Republic of the Philippines
Province of Leyte
MUNICIPALITY OF MACARTHUR

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Office of the Sangguniang Bayan



ENDORSEMENT
July 3, 2026

Respectfully submitting to the Honorable Provincial Board for consideration and approval the herein Municipal Ordinance No. 05, Series of 2026 entitled AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING THE ACT OF BEING TOPLESS OR HALF-NAKED IN PUBLIC PLACES.


MARIE STEPHANIE DE LA CRUZ- PULGA
Secretary to the Sanggunian

Public Service Above Self



Republic of the Philippines
Province of Leyte
MUNICIPALITY OF MACARTHUR
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Municipal Ordinance No. 05
Series of 2026

AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING THE
ACT OF BEING TOPLESS OR HALF-
NAKED IN PUBLIC PLACES



Republic of the Philippines
Province of Leyte
MUNICIPALITY OF MACARTHUR

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Office of the Sangguniang Bayan

CERTIFICATE OF POSTING

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that Municipal Ordinance No. 05, Series of 2026 of the Sangguniang Bayan of MacArthur, Leyte, duly enacted on 08 June 2026 and approved last 30 June 2026 has been posted since 02 July 2026 at the bulletin board of the Legislative Building, at Poblacion Public Market, and at Palale I Outpost pursuant to Section 511 of R.A. 7160.

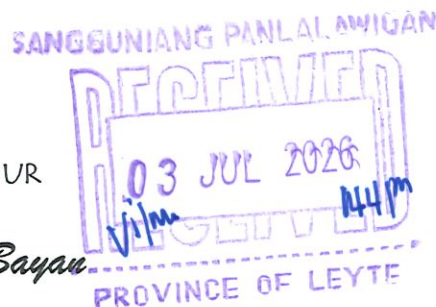

MARIE STEPHANIE DE LA CRUZ- PULGA
Secretary to the Sanggunian

Public Service Above Self



Republic of the Philippines
Province of Leyte
MUNICIPALITY OF MACARTHUR

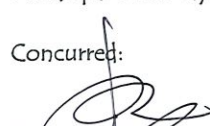
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Office of the Sangguniang Bayan

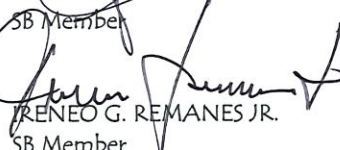


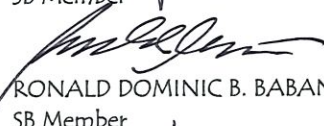
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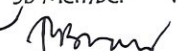

JESUS A. BARANDA
Municipal Vice Mayor

Concurred:


RAUL E. MUNDALA
SB Member


IRENEO G. REMANES JR.
SB Member


RONALD DOMINIC B. BABANTE
SB Member


TRINA C. BURAWIS
SB Member

JONATHAN T. BARQUIN
SB Member (Absent)


VICTORIANO T. LAZAR
SB Member

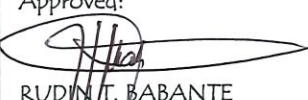

XANDRIX P. PANTIN
SB Member

GWENDOLYN M. BERISO
SB Member (Absent)


JOSE A. BARANDA
Ex-Officio Member
President, Liga ng mga Barangay


RALPH MARTIN P. EGOS
Ex-Officio Member
SKF President

Approved:


RUDIN T. BABANTE
Municipal Mayor

Date Approved: JUNE 30, 2026

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 47TH REGULAR SESSION OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN OF MACARTHUR, LEYTE HELD ON 08 JUNE 2026 AT THE MUNICIPAL SESSION HALL.

PRESENT:

Honorable Jesus A. Baranda	Vice Mayor, Presiding
Honorable Raul E. Mundala	SB Member
Honorable Ireneo G. Remanes Jr.	SB Member
Honorable Ronald Dominic B. Babante	SB Member
Honorable Trina C. Burawis	SB Member
Honorable Victoriano T. Lazar	SB Member
Honorable Xandrix P. Pantin	SB Member
Honorable Jose A. Baranda	Ex-Officio Member
Honorable Ralph Martin P. Egos	Ex-Officio Member
	SKF President
	President, Liga ng mga Barangay

ABSENT:

Honorable Jonathan T. Barquin	SB Member
Honorable Gwendolyn M. Beriso	SB Member

MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 05
Series of 2026

AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING THE ACT OF BEING TOPLESS OR
HALF-NAKED IN PUBLIC PLACES

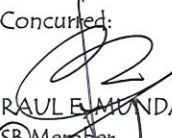
SPONSORED BY : Honorable Ireneo G. Remanes Jr.

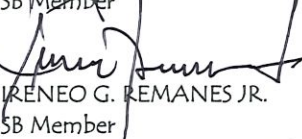
WHEREAS, Section 16 of Local Government Code of 1991 states that every local government unit (LGU) shall exercise the powers expressly granted, those necessarily implied therefrom, as well as powers necessary, appropriate, or incidental for its efficient and effective governance, and those essential to the promotion of the general welfare. Within their respective territorial jurisdictions, LGUs shall maintain peace and order, protect life, liberty and property, promote the general welfare and preserve the comfort and convenience of their inhabitants;

Attested:

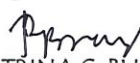

JESUS A. BARANDA
Municipal Vice Mayor

Concurred:

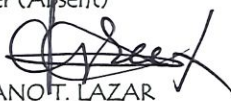

RAUL E. MUNDALA
SB Member


IRENEO G. REMANES JR.
SB Member


RONALD DOMINIC B. BABANTE
SB Member


TRINA C. BURAWIS
SB Member

JONATHAN T. BARQUIN
SB Member (Absent)


VICTORIANO T. LAZAR
SB Member


XANDRIX P. PANTIN
SB Member

GWENDOLYN M. BERISO
SB Member (Absent)


JOSE A. BARANDA
Ex-Officio Member
President, Liga ng mga Barangay


RALPH MARTIN P. EGOS
Ex-Officio Member
SKF President

Approved:


RUDIN T. BABANTE
Municipal Mayor

Date Approved: JUNE 30, 2024

WHEREAS, one of the objectives of the Safer Municipalities initiative is to make communities safer, wherein people may freely go about their daily lives without fear of being harmed;

WHEREAS, there is a need to regulate conduct in public places to maintain public order, prevent disturbances, and promote community welfare.

WHEREFORE, on motion of Honorable Ireneo G. Remanes Jr., duly seconded by Honorable Trina C. Burawis, Honorable Jose A. Baranda, Honorable Ralph Martin P. Egos and Honorable Raul E. Mundala, be it

Ordained by the Sangguniang Bayan of the Municipality of MacArthur, Leyte that:

SECTION 1. Title of the Ordinance. This ordinance shall be known as the Anti- Topless or Half-Naked in Public Places Ordinance of the Municipality of MacArthur, Leyte.

SECTION 2. Coverage. This Ordinance shall be applicable to all persons within the territorial jurisdiction of the Municipality of MacArthur, Leyte.

SECTION 3. Prohibited Acts. It shall be unlawful for any persons to go about topless or half-naked in public places within the territorial jurisdiction of the Municipality of MacArthur, Leyte.

SECTION 4. Penalties. The following penalties shall be imposed for violation of this Ordinance:

VIOLATION	PENALTY
First (1 st)	Php 500.00 Fine
Second (2 nd)	Php 1,000.00 Fine
Third (3 rd) and Succeeding Violations	Php 2,500.00 Fine or Imprisonment for a period not exceeding six (6) months, or both at the discretion of the court

SECTION 5. Repealing Clause. All ordinances or resolutions or parts thereof inconsistent with this ordinance are hereby deemed repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6. Effectivity Clause. This Ordinance shall take effect after the approval of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan and the requirement of posting prescribed by RA 7160 is complied with.

ENACTED by the Sangguniang Bayan in session assembled on June 8, 2026, at the Municipal Session Hall, Legislative Building, MacArthur, Leyte, Philippines.

I HEREBY CERTIFY to the correctness of the foregoing ordinance.


MARIE STEPHANIE DE LA CRUZ- PULGA
Secretary to the Sanggunian

Public Service Above Self



Republic of the Philippines
Province of Leyte
MUNICIPALITY OF MACARTHUR

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Office of the Sangguniang Bayan

Minutes of the Public Hearing of the Committee on Rules, Public Order and Security on Grievances last Monday, May 07, 2026, at ABC Hall.

PRESENT:

Honorable Ireneo G. Remanes Jr.	Chairman
Honorable Raul E. Mundala	Co-Chairman
Honorable Ronald Dominic B. Babante	Member
Honorable Jonathan T. Barquin	Member

ABSENT:

NONE

CALL TO ORDER:

The Public Hearing was called to order at 10:32 in the morning.

AGENDA:

Review and discuss on the MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 04 SERIES OF 2026, MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO.05 SERIES OF 2026 AND MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 06 SERIES OF 2026.

The Secretary to the Sanggunian, formally read the proposed ordinances, beginning with the *Municipal Ordinance No. 04, Series of 2026. An Ordinance Banning Drinking of Liquor and Intoxicating Beverages in Public Areas.*

The Punong Barangay of Romualdez MacArthur, Leyte, Hon. Bede Mundala raised a concern regarding Section 3 of Municipal Ordinance No. 04, which states:

"It shall be unlawful for any person to drink liquor or intoxicating beverages in public streets, roads, sidewalks, and similar public places except when explicitly authorized by the Municipal Mayor"

Hon. Bede Mundala emphasized the phrase "similar public places" and requested clarification as to what specific areas are covered by the term. He pointed out many people visit beaches usually bring alcoholic beverages with them.

Hon. Jonathan Barquin explained that the area extending 30 meters from the beach lot toward the seashore is considered a public place. He further clarified that once a person steps beyond the private beach lot or private resort area and enters the 30-meter shoreline easement, such area is already deemed public property.

Hon. Raul Mundala added that drinking near public beaches should not be allowed as part of the Municipality's effort to protect the environment and prevent pollution of the ocean. He also clarified the provision *"explicitly authorized by the Municipal Mayor"*, citing fiestas and other municipal celebrations where stall or establishments are granted permits or authorization by the mayor as examples of exemptions to the ordinance.

Hon. Bede Mundala further clarified his concern, asking whether individuals who bring alcoholic beverages to the beach would automatically be prohibited from doing so, and who would be responsible for enforcing or implementing the ordinance. He emphasized that the ordinance should be crafted for the benefit and welfare of the people of the Municipality of MacArthur. He also noted that Kuya's Beach Resort is a private establishment operating with permits issued by the Municipality and expressed concern that beachgoers in public areas should not be unnecessarily prohibited from bringing beverages or alcoholic drinks.

In response, Hon. Raul Mundala stated that allowing drinking in public places primarily benefits individuals rather than promoting the general welfare of the people. Therefore, persons consuming alcoholic beverages in public places may be subject to penalties for violations of the ordinance.

Hon. Bede Mundala then raised another example, citing San Juan celebrations and similar occasions where many people may potentially violate the ordinance. He stressed the importance of carefully scrutinizing the measure to ensure that the ordinance is reasonable, balanced, and not overly restrictive in its implementation.

Hon. Jesus Baranda explained that the ordinance is intended to regulate drinking in specific public areas, particularly along the MacArthur Highway proper and other urban areas, where the provisions of the ordinance are deemed necessary to be strictly implemented.

The Secretary to the Sanggunian clarified that these ordinances were endorsed by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), and that no provisions had been added or removed from the original copy. She emphasized that the draft ordinance was

presented to the attendees specifically to gather recommendations and comments. She further stated that the Section 3 appears to raise several concerns, particularly regarding the definition and coverage of public places. As Barangay Chairpersons, she requested their recommendations to the Sanggunian so that the provision may be reviewed and possibly amended to arrive at a version acceptable to all parties, subject to further deliberation by the committee.

The Punong Barangay of San Pedro MacArthur, Leyte, Hon. Rey Belleza shared that only two private beach resorts remain operational in their area. He expressed concern that prohibiting individuals from bringing alcoholic beverages to the beach may negatively affect resort operations. He added that the determination of whether violations should be issued should be left to the discretion of the Barangay Chairman, especially in cases where the individuals involved are not causing harm or disturbance to other people.

Hon. Dominic Babante stated that the legal basis of the ordinance includes the promotion of peace and order, public safety, the protection of minors, and the prevention of public disturbances. He clarified that the ordinance does not aim to prohibit the consumption of alcoholic beverages altogether, but rather to promote responsible drinking. He emphasized the importance of accountability within each barangay, particularly in coastal areas, to ensure the safety of the children and the general public and to prevent disturbances. He further noted that many road accidents are liquor-related, and that the ordinance seeks to encourage individuals to become responsible drinkers.

The Punong Barangay of Maya MacArthur, Leyte, Hon. Pepito Guimalan, raised a concern regarding occasions such as weddings and baptisms, specifically whether permission or authorization from the Municipal Mayor would still be required for the temporary use of barangay roads, or if such matters would already fall under the discretion of the barangay.

Hon. Raul Mundala responded that once the ordinance is approved, the barangays may adopt and implement it accordingly. He further explained that the phrase *"explicitly authorized by the Municipal Mayor"* may be amended to *"explicitly authorized by the Barangay Chairman"* to provide barangays with greater authority in handling such matters within their jurisdiction.

The Secretary to the Sanggunian, expressed her opinion that separate barangay ordinances may not always be necessary when a municipal ordinance already exists. She explained that municipal ordinances are intended to guide and govern implementation at the barangay level. She added that if there is no existing municipal ordinance, barangays may enact their own ordinances. However, when a municipal ordinance is already in effect, barangays are generally expected to follow and implement it without the need to create a separate ordinance, as doing so may become redundant. Nevertheless, she clarified that barangays may still enact their own ordinances if they identify gaps or provisions that need to be strengthened to better suit their local circumstances, provided that such ordinances adopt the provisions of the municipal ordinance with additional provisions deemed necessary by the barangay.

Hon. Dominic Babante added that the ordinance is intended for the welfare and protection of the public. He emphasized that implementation may vary on a case-to-case basis depending on the circumstances within each barangay. He then asked the representatives of the different barangays to express their primary concerns and whether they were agreeable to the proposed ordinance or if certain compromise would be necessary to make it more applicable within their respective barangays.

The Secretary to the Sanggunian then reminded everyone that the committee remains open to receiving recommendations and suggestions from all barangays regarding the proposed ordinance.

The Punong Barangay of Tuyo, MacArthur, Leyte, Hon. Nicky Matol, recommended that individuals should still be allowed to consume alcoholic beverages at the beach for leisure and enjoyment, provided that they do not cause public disturbance or create problems within the community.

The Secretary to the Sanggunian with the authority of the Committee Chair recommended devolving certain provisions under Section 3 to the barangays. Specifically, instead of the phrase *"explicitly authorized by the Municipal Mayor"*, it was proposed that the provision be revised to read "authorized by the Barangay Chairman". In line with this, each barangay shall organize its own task force or committee to serve as the implementing body for the ordinance, ensuring that enforcement measures are responsive to the specific needs and conditions of their respective communities. It was emphasized that the implementing mechanisms must be aligned with the three related ordinances, recognizing that barangays have varying circumstances and priorities. For instance, lower barangays are concerned with beach areas, while upper barangays primarily manage public places and inland areas.

It was further proposed that an additional provision be incorporated under *Section 4, entitled "Implementing Agency"*, stating that the Municipal Government grants authority to the barangays to formulate their own internal rules, procedures and guidelines for the implementation of Municipal Ordinance No. 04, Series of 2026. Consequently, each barangay shall establish its own task force and develop its respective operational rules and implementing guidelines.

The Sangguniang Barangay shall likewise craft and adopt its own Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) based on the particular needs and circumstances of the barangay concerned. However, the penalties and violations to be imposed shall remain consistent with those prescribed under the Municipal Ordinance.

An additional subsection on penalties was also proposed, providing that the Barangay Chairman shall be authorized to collect penalties arising from violations of the ordinance. Moreover, a provision on the sharing of collected penalties between the Municipal Government and the barangays may likewise be included.

It was clarified that all the foregoing recommendations remain subject to further review and reconsideration by the Committee. It was also stated that the official receipt to be utilized for the enforcement process shall be in the form of a citation ticket.

The Secretary to the Sanggunian then proceeded to read *Municipal Ordinance No. 05, Series of 2026. An Ordinance Prohibiting the Act of Being Topless or Half-naked in Public Places*. During the discussion thereof, no concerns, objections, or recommendations were raised.

Thereafter, the Secretary to the Sanggunian read *Municipal Ordinance No. 06, Series of 2026. An Ordinance Regulating the Use of Videoke Machines and Other Amplified Audio Devices*.

During the deliberations, the Punong Barangay of Batug MacArthur, Leyte, Hon. Iluminada Ruba inquired whether the prescribed time period under the ordinance could still be amended.

A recommendation was likewise raised concerning Section 3 on Prohibited Acts specifically that the phrase *"except when duly authorized by the Municipal Mayor"* be revised to read *"except when duly authorized by the Barangay Chairman"*.

The Punong Barangay of Romualdez further suggested the inclusion of a provision requiring the minimization or regulation of sound volume. In response, Hon. Barquin explained that such a provision may be subjective in nature, considering that the perception of loudness may vary from one person to another.

Another recommendation raised in relation to Municipal Ordinance No. 06 was the amendment of the prescribed prohibited hours, proposing that the period be changed from 10:00 P.M. to 6:00 A.M.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no more business to be discussed, Hon. Jesus A. Branda declared the hearing adjourned at 12:12 noon.

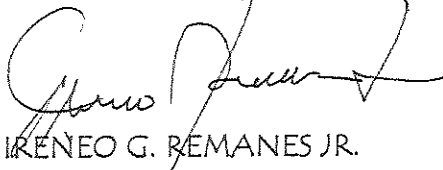
I HEREBY CERTIFY to the correctness of the foregoing minutes.



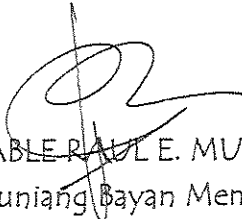
HANNAH G. ENCLUNA

Temporary Secretary

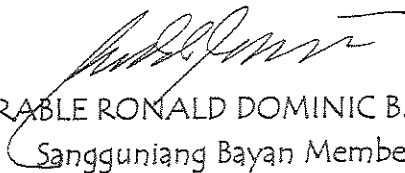
Committee on Rules, Public Order and Security on Grievances



HONORABLE IRENEO G. REMANES JR.
Sangguniang Bayan Member
Chairman/Presiding



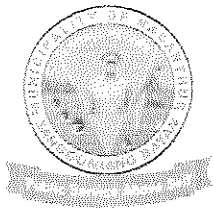
HONORABLE PAUL E. MUNDALA
Sangguniang Bayan Member
Co-Chairman



HONORABLE RONALD DOMINIC B. BABANTE
Sangguniang Bayan Member



HONORABLE JONATHAN T. BARQUIN
Sangguniang Bayan Member



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MUNICIPALITY OF MACARTHUR

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Office of the Sangguniang Bayan

ATTENDANCE SHEET

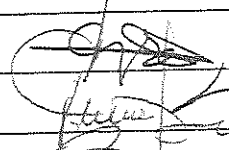
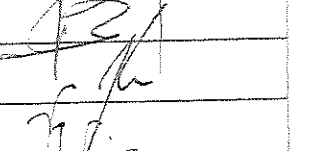
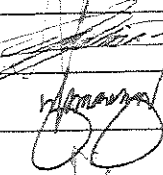
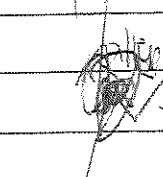
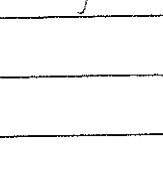
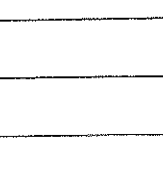
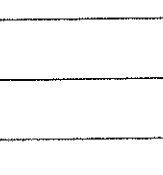
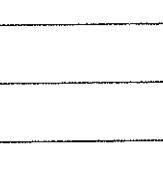
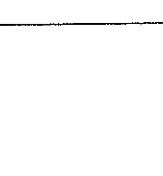
PURPOSE: PUBLIC HEARING

- Municipal Ordinance No. 05, Series of 2026 "AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING THE ACT OF BEING TOPLESS OR HALF-NAKED IN PUBLIC PLACES
- Municipal Ordinance No. 04, Series of 2026 "AN ORDINANCE BANNING DRINKING OF LIQUOR AND INTOXICATING BEVERAGES IN PUBLIC AREAS
- Municipal Ordinance No. 06, Series of 2026 "AN ORDINANCE REGULATING THE USE OF VIDEOKE MACHINES AND OTHER AMPLIFIED AUDIO DEVICES

VENUE: ABC HALL, Municipal Compound, Macarthur, Leyte

DATE & TIME: May 07, 2026 (Wednesday) @ 9:00 In the morning

NO.	NAME	DESIGNATION & BUSINESS NAME	SIGNATURE
1.	RUEL A. RAPADA	P.B	
2	MA. TERESA A. MATAHUTE	P.B	
3	JARED P. MILAR	P.B	
4	PIET E. BELMERA	P.B	
5	ANTHONY L. CAYANAN	P.B	
6	BEDE E. MUNDALA	P.B	
7	ROLY D. TACAPULOT	P.B	
8	RENA B. OSANAS	P.B.	
9	CHARMEY F. MUÑOZ	P.B.	
10	DESS NELLO C. SANDRISTIS	P.B	
11	RAMIL G. LERIN	P.B.	
12	EDWIN D. CASANO	P.B	
13	JOCELYN M. ECITACER	P.B.	
14	ILUMHADA RUBA	P.B.	
15	ROBERTO C. TONOR	P.B	
16	SUNYA R. CONRADO	P.B	
17	Ma. Teresa A. Alegarido	Presy. Treasurer	
18	NICKY S. MATOL	P.B.	
19	Zyra A. Caire	P.B.	
20	Romy A. Belloza	P.B.	
21	MC ARENCE ALGODON	P.B	
22	PEPITO C. GUMMALAN	P.B.	
23	EDGARDO D. GUTIERAS	P.B	
24	BO KEVIN C. JATO	P.B	
25	JOC A. BAKHANAN	P.B	
26	Donald D. B. B. B. B.	S.S	

28	VICTORIANO T. UTECH	SBM	
29	ERENIO S. REMUNES 1/2	SBM	
30	RAUL E. MUNDALA	SBM	
31	JESUS A. BARANDA	VICE MAYOR	
32	JONATHAN T. BARBUIN	SBM	
33	HANNAH ENCUINA	LEGISLATIVE STAFF	
34	CLARISS BRAD	LEGISLATIVE STAFF	
35	JOHN MARK ARELLA	LEGISLATIVE STAFF	
36	Pille, Lea Freyre R.	Summer Job	
37	WILKOT, JEREMIAH ZED C.	SPES	
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Republic of the Philippines
Province of Leyte
MUNICIPALITY OF MACARTHUR

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Office of the Sangguniang Bayan

DOCUMENTATION

Public Hearing Hearing
(Thursday, May 7, 2026)



