



Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL
Old Capitol Building, Bacolod City
Tel. No. 707-8075 (Admin) * 435-7698 (Board Member) * 709-0121 (Legislative Division)
OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN OF THE PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL HELD IN THE CITY OF BACOLOD ON THE 25TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2025

PRESENT:

| | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Hon. Jeffrey P. Ferrer | Vice-Governor/Presiding Officer |
| Hon. Rommel T. Debulgado | Member - 1st District |
| Hon. Araceli T. Somosa | Member - 1st District |
| Hon. Sixto Teofilo Roxas V. Guanzon, Jr. | Member - 2nd District |
| Hon. Samson C. Mirhan | Member - 2nd District |
| Hon. Andrew Gerard L. Montelibano | Member - 3rd District |
| Hon. Jose Benito A. Alonso | Member - 4 th District |
| Hon. Rita Angela S. Gatuslao | Member - 5th District |
| Hon. Valentino Miguel J. Alonso | Member - 6th District |
| Hon. Jeffrey T. Tubola | Member - 6th District |
| Hon. Mayvelyn L. Madrid | Member - SKF Rep. |

ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS:

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Hon. Manuel Frederick O. Ko | Member - 3rd District |
| Hon. Andrew Martin Y. Torres | Member - 4 th District |
| Hon. Anthony Dennis J. Occeño | Member - 5 th District |
| Hon. Julius Martin D. Asistio | Member - PCL Rep. |
| Hon. Richard Julius L. Sablan | Member - ABC Rep. |

RESOLUTION NO. 0269
Series of 2025

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING GRAVE CONCERN OVER THE SUPREME COURT DECISION REMOVING LOCAL GOVERNMENT JURISDICTION OVER MUNICIPAL WATERS AND ALLOWING UNIMPEDED COMMERCIAL FISHING, AND CALLING FOR URGENT ACTION TO SAFEGUARD THE RIGHTS OF MUNICIPAL FISHERS AND PROTECT OUR FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court, in its recent ruling, has removed the preferential rights of municipal fisherfolk and allowed commercial fishing within the 15-kilometer municipal waters, disregarding long-standing legal protections under the Fisheries Code and the Local Government Code;

WHEREAS, the decision threatens the livelihoods of over two million small fisherfolk in the country, including those in Negros Occidental, who rely on municipal waters for their daily sustenance and economic survival;

WHEREAS, unregulated commercial fishing in municipal waters will deplete fish stocks, degrade marine ecosystems, and undermine local conservation efforts that have been successfully implemented by local government units and fisherfolk organizations;

WHEREAS, this ruling also undermines the constitutional mandate for local governments to exercise jurisdiction over their resources and ensure the welfare of their constituents;

[Signature]

[Signature]



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WHEREAS, it is imperative for the Province of Negros Occidental to take a strong stand in support of its municipal fisherfolk and advocate for the protection of fisheries resources for future generations;

NOW, THEREFORE, on motion of Hon. Andrew Gerard L. Montelibano and unanimously seconded by all the members present,

RESOLVED, as it hereby resolves, that the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Negros Occidental:

1. **Expresses its strong opposition** to the Supreme Court ruling and its adverse impact on small fisherfolk and marine resource sustainability.
2. **Calls upon the national agencies** to take immediate action in reversing or addressing the decision's consequences through legal and policy measures.
3. **Reaffirms the province's commitment** to the protection of more than 45,000 marginalized municipal fisherfolk with 472 fisherfolk associations in the 25 coastal cities and municipalities covering 187 barangays of Negros Occidental, and the conservation of marine resources through the continued enforcement of local fisheries laws, the establishment of additional marine protected areas or local conservation areas, and active participation in legal and policy actions to safeguard coastal communities.
4. **Urges all coastal Local Government Units in Negros Occidental and Inter-LGU Alliances** to adopt similar resolutions asserting their jurisdiction over municipal waters and protecting small fisherfolk from the threats posed by large-scale commercial fishing operations

RESOLVED FURTHER, that copies of this resolution be furnished to the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR), the League of Provinces of the Philippines, Coastal LGUs of Negros Occidental, and other concerned agencies for their information and appropriate action.

ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY.

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon approval.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:


HON. JEFFREY P. FERRER
Vice-Governor/Presiding Officer

ATTESTED:


ATTY. MAKI ANGEL O. ASCALON
Provincial Secretary

APPROVED:


HON. EUGENIO JOSE V. LACSON
Governor

Date: MAR 18 2025