



Office of the Mayor

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2026-66

AN EXECUTIVE ORDER ESTABLISHING, DEPUTIZING, AND OPERATIONALIZING THE BANTAY ILOG OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF MARILAO, BULACAN; DEFINING ITS LEGAL BASIS, ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE, POWERS, FUNCTIONS, DUTIES, LIMITATIONS, STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES, SUPERVISION, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, Section 16 of Local Government Code of 1991 empowers local government units to promote the general welfare, including the protection and preservation of the environment and natural resources;

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Marilao recognizes the need to protect, conserve, and rehabilitate the Marilao River and other inland water systems against illegal fishing, illegal dumping, pollution, and other environmentally destructive activities;

WHEREAS, community participation and inter-agency coordination are essential in ensuring effective enforcement of fishery and environmental laws and in supporting the continuing rehabilitation of river systems within the Municipality;

WHEREAS, Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998 and other environmental laws encourage the participation of local communities and volunteer enforcement groups in the protection and conservation of aquatic resources;

WHEREAS, the Municipal Government of Marilao seeks to institutionalize and operationalize a Bantay Ilog Unit composed of trained and deputized River Wardens to assist in river patrol, environmental monitoring, reporting, and enforcement coordination;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ATTY. JEMINA M. SY, Municipal Mayor of Marilao, Bulacan, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. TITLE. This Executive Order shall be known as the “BANTAY ILOG EXECUTIVE ORDER OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF MARILAO, BULACAN.”

SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY. It is hereby declared the policy of the Municipality of Marilao to protect, conserve, and sustainably manage its river systems and aquatic resources, through community-based and inter-agency fishery and environmental law enforcement, consistent with national laws, local ordinances, and environmental principles, particularly as part of the Manila Bay Rehabilitation Strategy (MMORS).

SECTION 3. LEGAL BASES. This Executive Order is issued pursuant to:

1. Article II, Section 16 of the 1987 Constitution;
2. Republic Act No. 8550, as amended by Republic Act No. 10654 (Philippine Fisheries Code);
3. Republic Act No. 7160 (Local Government Code of 1991), particularly Sections 16 and 149;
4. Republic Act No. 9275 (Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004);
5. Applicable rules, regulations, and issuances of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).





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ARTICLE I ESTABLISHMENT AND ORGANIZATION

SECTION 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BANTAY ILOG. There is hereby established a Bantay Ilog Unit in the Municipality of Marilao, Bulacan, as a community-based auxiliary river and fishery law enforcement body.

SECTION 5. COMPOSITION. The Bantay Ilog shall be composed of deputized River Wardens who have completed the required training and are duly approved by the Municipal Mayor.

SECTION 6. LIST OF DEPUTIZED RIVER WARDENS. The following individuals are hereby deputized as River Wardens (Bantay Ilog):

1. Jimmy Deato
2. Freddie Melgarejo
3. Nestor Sereno
4. Vergilio Abiera
5. Emerson Dela Cruz
6. Leoncio Rapsing
7. Leonel Rapsing
8. Ariel Monterde
9. Fernando Ramos
10. Jun Hilario
11. Jayson Goiz
12. Juny Goiz
13. Eric Dela Cruz

SECTION 7. AREA OF JURISDICTION. The authority of the Bantay Ilog shall be limited to the Marilao River and municipal inland waters of Marilao, Bulacan, unless otherwise allowed by law or upon lawful coordination.

ARTICLE II NATURE AND STATUS OF DEPUTATION

SECTION 8. NATURE OF DEPUTATION. The deputation granted herein is:

1. Voluntary and revocable;
2. Non-plantilla and non-compensated, unless otherwise authorized and provided that incentives, honoraria, or financial assistance may be granted if funds are available;
3. Not constitutive of an employer-employee relationship with the Municipality.

SECTION 9. TERM OF DEPUTATION. The deputation shall be coterminous with the pleasure of the Municipal Mayor and subject to periodic performance evaluation.

ARTICLE III POWERS AND FUNCTIONS

SECTION 10. GENERAL POWERS. The Bantay Ilog shall assist the Municipality in the enforcement of all fishery and environmental laws within municipal river systems.





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SECTION 11. SPECIFIC ENFORCEMENT FUNCTIONS. River Wardens are authorized to:

1. Conduct river patrols, inspections, and surveillance; in coordination with concerned authorities such as but not limited to;
2. Monitor activities and compliance with environmental, waste disposal, and gear regulations;
3. Detect and document illegal fishing and dumping activities;
4. Assist in apprehension and evidence preservation;
5. Perform citizen's arrest when legally warranted; provided it is conducted in the presence of, or in immediate coordination with, Barangay Officials or Law Enforcement Officers;
6. Coordinate with law enforcement agencies during joint operations;
7. Ensure priority access to fishing rights for Marilao-based fisher folks and enforce rules to regulate and limit fishing by individuals from other town / municipality.

ARTICLE IV DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

SECTION 12. OPERATIONAL DUTIES. River Wardens shall:

1. Conduct scheduled and unscheduled river patrols; in conjunction with proper authorities (e.g., Barangay Patrols, DENR, etc.)
2. Maintain patrol logs and incident reports;
3. Submit timely written reports to the Municipal Agriculture Office (MAO) or MENRO;
4. Attend meetings, briefings, and trainings;
5. Act as resource persons in community education and river rehabilitation.

SECTION 13. REPORTING AND DOCUMENTATION. All apprehensions and incidents shall be properly documented, photographed when possible, and reported within twenty-four (24) hours.

ARTICLE V ETHICAL STANDARDS AND DISCIPLINE

SECTION 14. CODE OF CONDUCT. River Wardens shall observe the highest standards of integrity, impartiality, courtesy, and respect for human rights.

SECTION 15. PROHIBITED ACTS. It shall be prohibited for River Wardens to:

1. Abuse authority;
2. Solicit or accept bribes;
3. Engage in partisan political activities while on duty;
4. Misuse official identification or authority.

ARTICLE VI LIMITATIONS OF AUTHORITY

SECTION 16. LIMITATIONS. River Wardens shall not:

1. Carry firearms without lawful authority;
2. Impose fines or penalties;





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3. Conduct searches without legal basis;
4. Operate outside their jurisdiction.

ARTICLE VII SUPERVISION AND ADMINISTRATION

SECTION 17. SUPERVISING OFFICE. The Bantay Ilog shall be under the technical supervision of the Municipal Agriculture Office (MAO), in coordination with the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO).

SECTION 18. FUNCTIONS OF THE OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL AGRICULTURIST. The OMA shall:

1. Maintain official records and registry;
2. Issue and revoke IDs;
3. Coordinate with BFAR, PNP, DENR, and other agencies;
4. Monitor performance and compliance;
5. Recommend policy and disciplinary actions.

SECTION 19. FUNCTIONS OF THE MUNICIPAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE. The MENRO shall:

1. Collect and report data on the environmental conditions and natural resources;
2. Protect and conserve the environment and natural resources through the implementation and enforcement of environmental laws and programs.

ARTICLE VIII SUPPORT, INCENTIVES, AND FUNDING

SECTION 20. SUPPORT AND LOGISTICS. The Municipality may provide logistical support, uniforms, and equipment subject to availability of funds.

SECTION 21. FUNDING. Funding shall be sourced from available municipal funds, subject to budgeting, accounting, and auditing rules.

ARTICLE IX ACCOUNTABILITY AND DISCIPLINARY MECHANISMS

SECTION 22. GROUNDS FOR SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION. Deputation may be suspended or revoked for misconduct, inefficiency, violation of law, or loss of trust and confidence.

SECTION 23. DUE PROCESS. River Wardens shall be afforded due process prior to suspension or revocation, except in cases requiring immediate action.





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ARTICLE X FINAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 24. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. If any provision is declared invalid, the remaining provisions shall continue in full force and affect.

SECTION 25. EFFECTIVITY. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE and EXECUTED this 7th day of May 2026, at the Municipality of Marilao, Province of Bulacan.


ATTY. JEMINA M. SY
Municipal Mayor 

