



Republic of the Philippines
City of Surigao

OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD

ORDINANCE NO. 547
Series of 2026

“AN ORDINANCE REQUIRING ALL COASTAL BARANGAYS IN SURIGAO CITY TO EMPLOY AND MAINTAIN TRAINED LIFEGUARDS OR BAYWATCHERS, PROVIDING FOR THEIR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES, AND INCORPORATING PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD GUIDELINES ON THE DESIGNATION OF SWIMMING AREAS, PROHIBITED ZONES, AND THE INSTALLATION OF BUOYS AND SAFETY MARKERS”

AUTHORED/SPONSORED BY: **HON. NOEL P. CATRE**
Chairman, Committee on Rules and
Chairman, Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

WHEREAS, Section 16 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the *Local Government Code of 1991*, mandates local government units to exercise powers necessary and appropriate for the promotion of the general welfare, including the preservation of life, health, and safety of its inhabitants;

WHEREAS, Section 458 of the *Local Government Code* authorizes the Sangguniang Panlungsod to enact ordinances to protect the lives and properties of its constituents and to regulate activities within the territorial jurisdiction of the city;

WHEREAS, Surigao City is a coastal city with numerous barangays fronting the sea and frequented by residents, tourists, swimmers, and fisherfolk, thereby necessitating effective coastal safety and rescue measures;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) has issued guidelines and safety standards relating to beach safety, swimming zones, maritime incident prevention, and the installation of buoys and navigational markers;

WHEREAS, there is a need to institutionalize a localized **Baywatch and Lifeguard Program** in all coastal barangays to prevent drowning incidents, enhance maritime safety awareness, and ensure prompt response to coastal emergencies;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Surigao City, in session assembled, that:

SECTION 1. Title. This Ordinance shall be known as the **“Surigao City Coastal Baywatch and Lifeguard Ordinance.”**

SECTION 2. Coverage. This Ordinance shall apply to **all coastal barangays of Surigao City**, particularly those with beaches, swimming areas, resorts, wharves, or areas customarily used for swimming and recreational water activities.

SECTION 3. Mandatory Employment of Lifeguards / Baywatchers. All coastal barangays are hereby **required to employ, designate, or maintain trained lifeguards or baywatchers**, either on a full-time, part-time, or seasonal basis, depending on the extent of beach use and risk assessment as determined by the City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (CDRRMO).

(Handwritten signatures and initials)



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SECTION 4. Qualifications and Training. Lifeguards or baywatchers shall:

- (a) Be physically fit and of good moral character;
- (b) Have undergone basic water rescue, first aid, and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training;
- (c) Be trained or certified by recognized institutions, including but not limited to the Philippine Coast Guard, Philippine Red Cross, Bureau of Fire Protection, or other accredited training providers;
- (d) Participate in periodic refresher courses and drills as may be required by the City Government.

SECTION 5. Duties and Responsibilities. Lifeguards or baywatchers shall perform the following duties:

- (a) Monitor designated swimming areas and ensure the safety of swimmers and beachgoers;
- (b) Conduct rescue operations during water-related emergencies;
- (c) Administer basic first aid and provide immediate assistance to victims of drowning or injuries;
- (d) Enforce swimming regulations and safety rules within their areas of responsibility;
- (e) Coordinate with the Barangay Council, CDRRMO, Philippine Coast Guard, and other concerned agencies during maritime incidents;
- (f) Conduct public safety awareness and information campaigns on beach and water safety.

SECTION 6. Designation of Swimming and Prohibited Areas. Each coastal barangay, in coordination with the City Engineering Office, CDRRMO, and the Philippine Coast Guard, shall:

- (a) Clearly **designate safe swimming areas**, taking into consideration tides, currents, seabed conditions, and proximity to navigation routes;
- (b) Identify and declare **prohibited or restricted areas for swimming**, including but not limited to areas near wharves, navigation channels, rocky zones, deep waters, and areas with strong currents;
- (c) Ensure that such designations conform with applicable Philippine Coast Guard guidelines, rules, and advisories.

SECTION 7. Installation of Buoys, Markers, and Signages. Coastal barangays shall install and maintain:

- (a) Buoys, ropes, and floating markers to demarcate swimming areas and restricted zones;
- (b) Warning signs indicating dangerous areas, no-swimming zones, and emergency contact information;
- (c) Such navigational and safety markers as may be required or recommended by the Philippine Coast Guard.

SECTION 8. Funding. The funding requirements for the implementation of this Ordinance shall be charged against the respective barangay funds, including but not limited to the barangay general fund and disaster risk reduction and management fund, without prejudice to augmentation by the City Government or grants from national agencies.

SECTION 9. Supervision and Monitoring. The City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office, in coordination with the City Mayor's Office and the Philippine Coast



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Guard, shall monitor compliance by coastal barangays and provide technical assistance, training, and evaluation.

SECTION 10. Non-Compliance. Failure of a coastal barangay to comply with the provisions of this Ordinance, without justifiable reason, shall subject the responsible barangay officials to appropriate administrative action in accordance with existing laws, rules, and regulations.

SECTION 11. Implementing Rules and Regulations. The City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office, in coordination with the Philippine Coast Guard and other concerned agencies, shall promulgate the necessary Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Ordinance.

SECTION 12. Separability Clause. If any provision of this Ordinance is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 13. Repealing Clause. All ordinances, resolutions, or parts thereof inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 14. Effectivity. This Ordinance shall take effect after compliance with the publication and posting requirements under applicable laws.

ENACTED, this 12th day of February 2026 at the City of Surigao.



ARNOLD A. GO
City Councilor

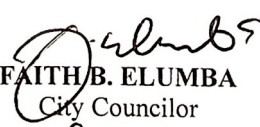

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City Councilor


JOSE EXPEDITUS B. BAYANA
City Councilor


FLORENILLO B. RAVELO
Liga ng mga Barangay President


JENELYN EDULZURA
SK Federation President



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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS ORDINANCE
HAS BEEN DULY APPROVED BY THE
SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD ON February 12, 2026.


EDNA B. SIEGA

City Government Department Head I
Secretary, Sangguniang Panlungsod

ATTESTED:

~~ALONSO S. CASURRA~~

City Vice Mayor
Presiding Officer

FEB 13 2026

APPROVED:

PABLO YVES L. DURLAO II

City Mayor

FEB 19 2026

