



Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF NUEVA ECIA
Provincial Capitol Bldg.
Brgy. Singalat, City of Palayan
Tel. No.: (044) 940-7793

OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 14th REGULAR SESSION OF THE SANGGUNIANG
PANLALAWIGAN OF NUEVA ECIA HELD VIA ZOOM, VIRTUAL ONLINE SESSION, ON

APRIL 7, 2020

PRESENT:

VG. EMMANUEL ANTONIO M. UMALI	- Vice Governor (P.O.)
BM. RAFAEL ANDREW R. VILLANUEVA	- Member
BM. EMARY JOY D. PASCUAL	- Member
BM. JO MARIO ANGELO E. MATIAS	- Member
BM. NAPOLEON P. INTERIOR, JR.	- Member
BM. EDUARDO JOSE B. JOSON, VII	- Member
BM. TERESITA A. PATIAG	- Member
BM. ERIC DANIEL F. SALAZAR	- Member
BM. ESMERALDO B. ABALOS	- Member
BM. ROSELLER T. DE GUZMAN	- Member
BM. JOSEPH R. ORTIZ	- Member
BM. BELINDA E. PALILIO	- Member (President-PCL)
BM. ARIEL L. MATIAS	- Member (President-Liga ng mga Barangay)
BM. MARY SWEET LIBERTY N. CRUZ	- Member (President-SK Federation)

ABSENT:

ORDINANCE NO. 30-s-2020

“ORDINANCE PROHIBITING ANY PERSON FROM COMMITTING ANY ACT WHICH CAUSES STIGMA, DISGRACE, SHAME HUMILIATION, HARASSMENT AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST A PERSON INFECTED, UNDER INVESTIGATION OR MONITORING DUE TO COVID 19 INCLUDING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE DOCTORS, NURSES, HEALTH WORKERS AND VOLUNTEERS/WORKERS ASSIGNED TO HOSPITALS AND IMPOSING FINE AND PENALTIES TO THOSE WHO WILL VIOLATE THE SAME.”

WHEREAS, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte on March 09, 2020 issued Proclamation No. 922 declaring a State of Public Health Emergency throughout the Philippines due to the Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID – 19) wherein the Code Alert System for COVID-19 was raised to Code Red Sub Level 2 in accordance with the recommendation of the Department of Health (DOH) and the Inter-Agency Task Force for Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF);

WHEREAS, Presidential Proclamation No. 929 series of 2020 was issued declaring a State of Calamity throughout the Philippines due to COVID-19;

WHEREAS, as of April 7, 2020 there were 3,764 number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the Philippines, the number of Patients Under Investigation (PUI) and of Persons Under Monitoring (PUM) are continually rising, and out of the 3,764 number of confirmed cases, 177 deaths were already been recorded;

WHEREAS, since the emergence of COVID-19 we have seen instances of public stigmatization among persons who have contracted the disease including PUIs and PUMs and the rise of harmful stereotypes. People who are infected, under investigation or monitoring are being labeled, stereotyped separated and/or experience loss of status and discriminated because of the disease. Stigmatization could cause people to hide the illness, prevent people from seeking health care immediately and discourage them from adopting healthy behavior;

WHEREAS, in addition, the Department of Health (DOH) recently warned the public against discrimination against persons reported to have contracted COVID-19 as well as PUIs and PUMs, including health workers who are among those in the frontlines of the battle against the rapidly spreading COVID-19. The DOH stated that “with the world confronted with a virus with little information known, it is human to be afraid, but we must not allow hysteria and paranoia to result in irrational treatment of people.”;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to combat this pervasive stigmatization on the basis of one’s medical condition. There is a need for the Provincial Government to bring normalcy and order amidst the crisis, and protect its constituency from unjust discrimination brought on by fear and panic by the public;

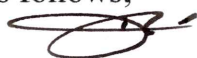
WHEREAS, there were various reported incidents of discrimination suffered by COVID-19 patients and health workers alike including being evicted out of their homes, refused service in eateries and public transportation, and shunned by their own barangays and homes over fear of infection, some were even doused with water and chlorine. Several false and inaccurate social media posts even circulated online spreading names of people alleged to have been infected with COVID-19 and urging the recipients to check if they had contact with those listed;

WHEREAS, at this trying times, families who are affected by this pandemic suffer severe anxiety and social humiliation, hence, it is the policy of the Provincial Government of Nueva Ecija to act as “*parens patriae*” during this trying times by showing compassion, empathy and tolerance towards its affected constituents as this virus can afflict any person regardless of race, age, sex or social standing;

WHEREAS, only through a united front strengthened by our religious conviction that we can fight and end this pandemic;

WHEREAS, under Article III, SECTION 1 and Article II, SECTION 11 of the 1987 Constitution, “No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law, nor shall any person be denied the equal protection of the laws and the State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights.”

IT WAS DECIDED, on this day, by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan to enforce this ordinance in the manners as follows;



SECTION 1 – This ordinance shall be known as the “ANTI COVID-19 DISCRIMINATION ORDINANCE OF 2020”

SECTION 2. – DEFINITIONS:

1. **Persons Infected (PI), Patients Under Investigation (PUI) and Persons Under Monitoring (PUM)** are persons defined under the protocols and guidelines of the DOH;
2. **Health Workers** – those who deliver care and services to the sick and ailing, either directly or indirectly which include among others, doctors, nurses, hospital and clinic aides and laboratory technicians including hospital therapists.
3. **Frontliners** – include officers and members of the AFP, PNP, PCG and instrumentalities of the government rendering emergency frontline services, border control and other critical services. It also includes service workers who are working in private establishments providing basic necessities such as food and medicine production, i.e. public markets, supermarkets, groceries, convenience stores, hospitals, medical clinics, pharmacies, drug stores, food preparation and delivery services, water refilling stations, manufacturing and processing plants of basic food products and medicines, banks, money transfer services, power, energy, telecommunications and water supplies and other related facilities;

SECTION 3. – Unlawful Acts. It shall be unlawful for any person whether natural or juridical to commit any act of or make utterances which may cause stigma, disgrace, shame, humiliation, harassment or otherwise discriminating against a person infected with COVID-19 or those under investigation or monitoring for the disease or against a health worker or frontliner as defined in this Ordinance.

Any public officer who refuses or fails to give assistance to a person infected, under investigation or monitoring due to COVID-19 or to any health worker or frontliner who intends to return to his/her place of residence after obtaining clearance from proper health officials is likewise liable under this Ordinance.

Any person who will publicly claim, post on social media, spread or announce publicly that a person is infected or under investigation or monitoring or any public dissemination of any sensitive information pertaining to a positive or suspected COVID-19 patient, whether through social media or any other means shall also be liable under this Ordinance. If the person violating is a public officer, the penalty imposed shall be in the maximum and can also be a ground for filing of an administrative case against said public officer EXCEPT when the person/patient concerned waived his/her right to privacy for purposes of contact tracing and other medical purposes.

SECTION 4. Penalties: Any person in violation of Section 3 of this Ordinance shall be fined in the amount of five thousand pesos (Php5,000.00) and/or imprisonment not exceeding six (6) months or both at the discretion of the court.

If violation is committed by a juridical person, the President, General Manager or owner of the corporation/entity shall be held liable.

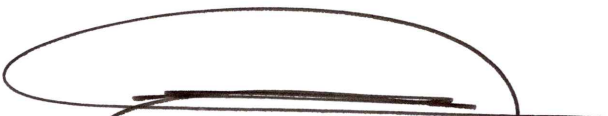
SECTION 5. Repealing Clause: that any prior law already passed with similar provisions and purpose in any part, in the province of Nueva Ecija, is hereby repealed;

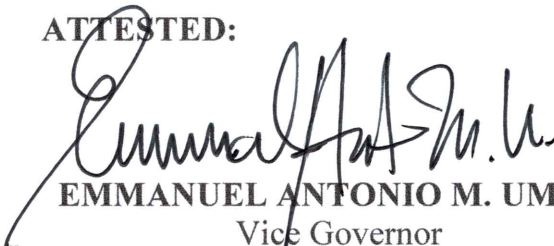
SECTION 6. Separability Clause. If, for any reason/s any part of provision of this Ordinance is held to be unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof that are not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 7. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its approval.

APPROVED, this day 7th day of April 2020.

I HEREBY certify to the correctness of the foregoing ordinance.


ATTY. NORBERTO D. CORONEL
Secretary to the Sang. Panlalawigan

ATTESTED:

EMMANUEL ANTONIO M. UMALI
Vice Governor
Presiding Officer

Approved:


AURELIO M. UMALI
Governor

Date