



Republic of the Philippines
Province of Sorsogon
CITY OF SORSOGON



Office of the Sangguniang Panlungsod

EXCERPTS FROM THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE SEVENTH CITY COUNCIL HELD AT THE SESSION HALL ON MARCH 10, 2020.

PRESENT:

HON. MARK ERIC C. DIONEDA
City Vice Mayor/Presiding Officer

BACON DISTRICT

Hon. Jo Abegail C. Dioneda
Hon. Danilo A. Deladia

EAST DISTRICT

Hon. Ralph Walter R. Lubiano
Hon. Mary Ellen D. Jamisola
Hon. Franco Eric O. Ravanilla
Hon. Joven G. Laura

WEST DISTRICT

Hon. Nestor J. Baldon
Hon. Erwin J. Duana

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Hon. Ma. Teresa D. Perdigon
Hon. Lorenz S. Abenion

ABSENT:

Hon. Fernando David H. Duran, III – sick leave
Hon. Rebecca D. Aquino – on official business
Hon. Melchor P. Atutubo
Hon. Hilario D. Dioneda

Resolution No. 070, Series of 2020

(Author: Hon. Mary Ellen D. Jamisola)

A RESOLUTION STRONGLY DENOUNCING THE 2020 PCL CONVENTION FIASCO WHICH RENDERED HUNDRED OF MILLIONS OF PESOS OF PUBLIC FUNDS WORTHLESS TO THE PREJUDICE OF THE FILIPINO PEOPLE, CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE RESIGNATION OF THE NATIONAL BOARD OFFICERS OF THE PHILIPINE COUNCILORS LEAGUE CHAIRED BY HON. DANILO DAYANGHIRANG, RECOGNIZING THE CONSTITUTION OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BY THE MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING CONSTITUTING A QUORUM PURSUANT TO THE PCL CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS, FURTHER RECOGNIZING AND RESPECTING THE FORCE OF THE RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, URGING THE SENATE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION IN RELATION TO THE FAILURE OF THE AUTOMATED ELECTIONS, URGING THE COMMISSION ON AUDIT TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION ON THE USE OF PUBLIC FUNDS FOR THE SAID CONVENTION, DEMANDING FULL ACCOUNTABILITY UNDER

EXISTING LAWS FROM THE OFFICIALS AND INDIVIDUALS RESPONSIBLE THEREFOR, AND CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE CONDUCT OF A NATIONAL ELECTION

WHEREAS, on February 26-28, 2020, the Philippine Councilors League (PCL) Convention was held, with the national election scheduled on the second day, February 27, at the SMX Convention Center in Pasay City;

WHEREAS, some 13,000 councilors from the different provinces, cities, and municipalities all over the country participated in the said national convention, representing their respective constituents whose collective interest and welfare they swore to uphold and protect as public servants;

WHEREAS, from the accommodation of the participants up to the conduct of the national election, the PCL Convention was a complete fiasco;

WHEREAS, the persons responsible for the national election were clearly remiss in their duties of ensuring the integrity of the said election, considering that the inspection and testing of the system for the automated election was only conducted 4 hours prior to the election, which is indicative of a failure to exercise due diligence to foresee and preempt the possible occurrence of any problem relative to the automated election system;

WHEREAS, during the actual inspection and testing, it was found that while votes were cast in favor of Hon. Salceda for the position of National Chairman, these votes where conducted by the system in favor of Hon. Dayanghirang and while there were only 10 persons who actually cast their votes, the system showed that 15 votes were cast, showing irregularities in the automated system and creating suspicions of electoral fraud and sabotage thereby trampling on the integrity of the PCL national election and the PCL as a whole;

WHEREAS, the councilors demanded that a manual election be conducted instead, of which the National Board was in favor in its decision at around 4 o'clock in the afternoon on the day of the election, prompting the Department of Interior and Local Government to inform the participating councilors to wait for another 2 long hours in view of the need to prepare for the manual election;

WHEREAS, at around 5 p.m., the National Board convened once again and finally decided to declare "failure of elections" causing disenfranchisement, dismay, and inconvenience to the 13,000 councilors whom they have kept waiting;

WHEREAS, the councilors who painstakingly waited for the election decided to constitute themselves as the PCL National Assembly pursuant to the PCL Constitution and Bylaws which provides that the presence of 400 members in good standing shall constitute a quorum, and thereby passed the following resolutions, all of which the **Sangguniang Panlungsod of Sorsogon** recognizes:

1. Resolution declaring all the positions up for election during the 2020 PCL National Convention as vacant;
2. Resolution constituting all the running candidates in the 2020 PCL National Election as ad hoc officers who will serve until such time that the officer shall have been elected and qualified, together with the other officers whose

positions are not subject of the 2020 National Elections, with the following mandates:

- a. Perform functions relevant only to ensuring that election be conducted within 30 days as provided under the PCL Constitution and Bylaws;
 - b. Not to disburse any amount not directly needed for the national elections that will be called, except only for employees' salaries, rents, and utilities expenses;
3. Resolution Instructing the PCL Executive Director to convene the ad hoc officers within five days from receipt of this resolution and upon convening the ad hoc officers will decide among themselves how to proceed with the mandate given to them by the general assembly;
 4. Resolution mandating that the ad hoc officers shall decide only by unanimous vote;
 5. Resolution requesting the DILG to spearhead the conduct of an investigation to get to the bottom of the cause of the failed election and hold accountable those who are responsible therefor; and
 6. Resolution Requesting the DILG to conduct a manual PCL National/Island Election within 30 days from receipt of the Resolution of the PCL national Assembly;

WHEREAS, the councilors who attended paid Fifteen Thousand (Php 15,000.00) Pesos as registration fee which was charge against local government funds and Thirteen Thousand (13,000) councilors in attendance, the said fees amounted to One Hundred Ninety Five Million (Php 195,000,000.00) Pesos in all;

WHEREAS, the failure of the automated election made the PCL Convention a complete fiasco and rendered hundred of millions of pesos of public funds from hard-earned taxpayers' money worthless to the prejudice of the Filipino people as a whole;

WHEREAS, the constitution provides that "public office is a public trust and that public officers and employees must at all times be accountable to the people";

WHEREAS, the disenfranchisement of thousand of councilors as well as the inconvenience and indignation as a result thereof is a mockery of our democracy, the lofty ideals and principles of which no less than the Philippines Constitution protects;

WHEREAS, the Honorable Sangguniang Panlungsod of Sorsogon cannot and will not countenance such fiasco, and deems an investigation by the Senate, the House of Representatives, the Department of the Interior and Local Government, and the Commission on Audit necessary, as the whole exercise is imbued with public interest.

WHEREAS, the Honorable SP deems the immediate conduct of a national election necessary for the collective welfare of the filipino people.

NOW THEREFORE, on motion of **Hon. Mary Ellen D. Jamisola**, duly seconded by **Hon. Lorenz S. Abenion**, resolved as it is hereby resolve to respectfully call upon the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) to hold accountable the interim national leadership of the Philippine Councilors League (PCL) for failing to take the available courses of action in ensuring that the 2020 PCL national/island elections was successfully carried out so that wastage of millions of government resources could have been prevented.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that copies of this resolution be furnished to the Hon. Ma. Ester E. Hamor, City Mayor, Sorsogon City for her information, the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) for its information and appropriate action and the different Sangguniang Bayan/Panlungsod nationwide for their information and appropriate action.

DATE APPROVED: March 10, 2020

I HEREBY CERTIFY to the correctness of the foregoing resolution.



DAN G. ALCALA

Acting Secretary to the Sangguniang Panlungsod

Attested:



MARK ERIC C. DIONEDA

City Vice Mayor/Presiding Officer