



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 ON NOVEMBER 9, 2021 AT THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD SESSION HALL,
SORSOGON CITY

PRESENT:

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

BACON DISTRICT

Hon. Hilario D. Dioneda
Hon. Danilo A. Deladia

EAST DISTRICT

Hon. Mary Ellen D. Jamisola
Hon. Franco Eric O. Ravanilla
Hon. Joven Francis J. Laura

WEST DISTRICT

Hon. Nestor J. Baldon
Hon. Erwin J. Duana
Hon. Fernando David H. Duran, III
Hon. Rebecca D. Aquino

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

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

ABSENT:

Hon. Jo Abegail C. Dioneda – on official business
Hon. Melchor P. Atutubo – sick leave
Hon. Ralph Walter R. Lubiano

Resolution No. 348, Series of 2021

(Authors: Hon. Rebecca D. Aquino and Hon. Franco Eric O. Ravanilla)

RESOLUTION ENACTING AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING THE HARASSMENT, VIOLENCE, AND/OR ANY FORM OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST PERSONS WHO ARE CONFIRMED COVID 19 CASES, PERSONS WHO HAVE RECOVERED FROM COVID 19, PERSONS UNDER INVESTIGATION (PUIS), AND PERSONS UNDER MONITORING (PUMS), AND AGAINST HEALTH WORKERS, FRONTLINERS, OR PERSONS WHOSE EMPLOYMENT HAS CALLED THEM TO REPORT FOR DUTY DURING THIS TIME OF NATIONAL HEALTH EMERGENCY, AND THEREBY IMPOSING PENALTIES TO PROVEN/CONFIRMED POSITIVE FOR COVID 19 WHO JUST STAYED AT HOME, PUMS/PUIS FOR VIOLATION OR NON OBSERVANCE OF HOME QUARANTINE PROTOCOLS

WHEREAS, it is a state policy to value the dignity of every human person and to guarantee full respect for human rights;

WHEREAS, on March 8, 2020, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte issued Proclamation No. 922, entitled "Declaring a State of Public Health Emergency throughout the Philippines;

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, the President approved Resolution No. 11, Series of 2020 by the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) for the Management of Emerging Infectious Disease which imposed wide-ranging emergency health measures, including community quarantine on the entire Metro Manila, prohibition of mass gatherings, class suspensions and imposition of stringent social distancing, among others;

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the President declared a State of Calamity throughout the entire Philippines and placed Luzon under Enhanced Community Quarantine, as part of its continuous campaign to halt the COVID 19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, under SP Resolution No. 075 and thru an Executive Order No. 13, Series of 2020 issued by the Hon. City Mayor Ma. Ester E. Hamor, Sorsogon City was declared under a State of Calamity following the sharp increase in the number of confirmed COVID 19 cases throughout the country;

WHEREAS, based on Section 16 of the Local Government Code , every local government unit, including the barangay, has the implied power to do all things necessary, appropriate, or incidental to govern efficiently and effectively, promote general welfare, promote health and safety, maintain peace and order, and preserve the comfort and convenience of their inhabitants;

WHEREAS, the rapid increase of COVID 19 cases has struck fear and paranoia in people so much so that it has brought forth biases and prejudices against persons who are confirmed COVID 19 cases, who have recovered from COVID 19, Persons Under Investigation (PUI's) and Persons Under Monitoring (PUM's), and against health workers, frontliners, repatriated overseas Filipino workers and seafarers, or other persons whose employment has called them to report for duty this time of national health emergency (Covered Individuals);

WHEREAS, these biases and prejudices have resulted in unwarranted actual and virtual vilification, discrimination, and violence towards these Covered Individuals;

WHEREAS, there has been an alarming rise of reported crimes against Covered Individuals, such as unauthorized publication of their names in social media, unlawful eviction from their homes, prohibition from their return to their residences, refusal of services in eateries or transportation, and even dousing with water or bleach;

WHEREAS, both the DOH and the IATF called for the protection of these Covered Individuals, and sought the assistance of the LGUs to enact measures to prevent these crimes;

WHEREAS, it is the City's mandate to keep peace and order within its territorial jurisdiction and to bring before the law those who violate the same;

NOW THEREFORE, on motion of **Hon. Rebecca D. Aquino**, duly seconded by **Hon. Franco Eric O. Ravanilla**, resolve as it is hereby resolved to prohibit the harassment, violence, and/or any form of discrimination against persons who are confirmed covid 19 cases, persons who have recovered from covid 19, Persons Under Investigation (PUI's), and Persons Under Monitoring (PUM's), and against health workers, frontliners, or

persons whose employment has called them to report for duty during this time of national health emergency, and imposing penalties therefor, also includes those proven/confirmed positive for COVID 19 who just stayed at home but did not comply on the minimum health protocols imposed by the Local IATF.

City Ordinance No. 22, Series of 2021

AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING THE HARASSMENT, VIOLENCE, AND/OR ANY FORM OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST PERSONS WHO ARE CONFIRMED COVID 19 CASES, PERSONS WHO HAVE RECOVERED FROM COVID 19, PERSONS UNDER INVESTIGATION (PUIS), AND PERSONS UNDER MONITORING (PUMs), AND AGAINST HEALTH WORKERS, FRONTLINERS, OR PERSONS WHOSE EMPLOYMENT HAS CALLED THEM TO REPORT FOR DUTY DURING THIS TIME OF NATIONAL HEALTH EMERGENCY, AND THEREBY IMPOSING PENALTIES TO PROVEN/CONFIRMED POSITIVE FOR COVID 19 WHO JUST STAYED AT HOME, PUMs/PUIS FOR VIOLATION OR NON OBSERVANCE OF HOME QUARANTINE PROTOCOLS

Be it ordained by the 7th Sangguniang Panlungsod in session duly assembled that:

SECTION 1: SHORT TITLE. This ordinance shall be known as “**Anti-Discrimination Ordinance Due to Covid 19**”.

SECTION 2: DECLARATION OF POLICY. It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instil health consciousness among them. It shall endeavour to protect the people from public health threats through the efficient and effective disease surveillance of notifiable diseases including emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases, diseases for elimination and eradication, epidemics, and health events including chemical, radio-nuclear and environmental agents of public health concern.

The State recognizes epidemics and other public health emergencies as threats to public health and national security, which can undermine the social, economic and political functions of the State.

SECTION 3: DEFINITION OF TERMS. As used in this ordinance, the following terms were adopted from Republic Act 11332 or the “Mandatory Reporting of Notifiable Diseases and Health Events of Public Health Concern Act of 2019” and from Senate Bill 1430 authored by Hon. Imee R. Marcos.

- (a.) **Disease** – refers to an illness due to a specific toxic substance, occupational exposure or infectious agent, which affects a susceptible individual, either directly or indirectly, as from an infected animal or person, or indirectly through an intermediate host, vector, or the environment;
- (b.) **Disease Control** – refers to the reduction of disease incidence, prevalence, morbidity or mortality to a locally acceptable level as a result of deliberate efforts and continued intervention measures to maintain the reduction;
- (c.) **Disease Surveillance** – refers to the ongoing systematic collection, analysis, interpretation, and dissemination of outcome-specific data for use in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of public health

practice. A disease surveillance system includes the functional capacity for data analysis as well as the timely dissemination of these data to persons who can undertake effective prevention and control activities;

- (d.) **Emerging or Re-emerging Infectious Diseases** – refer to diseases that: (1) have not occurred in humans before; (2) have occurred previously but affected only small numbers of people in isolated areas; (3) have occurred throughout human history but have only recently been recognized as a distant disease due to an infectious agent; (4) are caused by previously undetected or unknown infectious agents; (5) are due to mutant or resistant strains of a causative organism; and (6) once were major health problems in the country, and then declined dramatically, but are again becoming health problems for a significant proportion of the population;
- (e.) **Epidemic/Outbreak** – refers to an occurrence of more cases of disease than normally expected within a specific place or group of people over a given period of time;
- (f.) **Epidemiologic Investigation** – refers to an inquiry to the incidence, prevalence, extent, source, mode of transmission, causation of, and other information pertinent to a disease occurrence;
- (g.) **Health Event of Public Health Concern** – refers to either a public health emergency or a public health threat due to biological, chemical, radio-nuclear and environmental agents;
- (h.) **Infectious Disease** – refers to a clinically manifested disease of humans or animals resulting from an infection;
- (i.) **Notifiable Disease** – refers to a disease that, by legal requirements, must be reported to the public health authorities;
- (j.) **Public Health Authority** – refers to the DOH (specifically the Epidemiology Bureau, Disease Prevention and Control Bureau, Bureau of Quarantine and International Health Surveillance, Health Emergency Management Bureau, Food and Drug Administration, government hospitals, Research Institute of Tropical Medicine and other National Reference Laboratories, and DOH Regional Offices), the local health office (provincial, city or municipality), or any person directly authorized to act on behalf of the DOH or the local health office;
- (k.) **Public Health Emergency** – refers to an occurrence or imminent threat of an illness or health condition.
- (l.) **Public Health Threat** – refers to any situation or factor that may represent a danger to the health of the people.
- (m.) **Response** – refers to the implementation of specific activities to control further spread of infection, outbreaks or epidemics and prevent re-occurrence. It includes verification, contact tracing, rapid risk assessment, case measures, treatment of patients, risk communication, conduct of prevention activities, and rehabilitation.

- (n.) **Person who is Confirmed COVID 19 Patient** – a person with laboratory confirmation of COVID 19 infection, irrespective of clinical signs and symptoms;
- (o.) **Person Under Investigation (PUI)** – a person showing symptoms of COVID 19 within 14 days after travelling to a country or area with local transmission of COVID 19, or after having close contact with a confirmed COVID 19 case;
- (p.) **Person Under Monitoring (PUM)** – an asymptomatic person with appropriate exposure history who is either quarantined at home or in an isolation unit for 14 days to monitor the development of symptoms;
- (q.) **Recovered Person** – a person who was either a confirmed COVID 19 patient or a PUI who has made a recovery, and who was subsequently discharged from the public or private hospital, clinic, or center by the attending physician;
- (r.) **Health Workers** – persons who deliver care and services to the sick and ailing, either directly or indirectly. Health workers include, among others, doctors, nurses, aides, barangay health workers, first-responders, ambulance drivers, and laboratory technicians, in public and private hospitals, clinics and centers;
- (s.) **Frontliners** – are persons who are:

Officers and members of PNP, AFP, PCG and other government instrumentalities rendering emergency frontline services; border control, and other critical services; barangay officials and their Bantay Bayan; local government officials and employees called upon to render service during this period of national health emergency; service workers in private establishments providing basic necessities and such activities related to food and medicine production, i.e. public markets, supermarkets, groceries, convenience stores, hospitals, medical clinics, pharmacies and 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, including their security guards and janitors, garbage collectors and street sweepers; employees of publicly and privately-owned crematorium and funeral parlors; repackers for the City's food distribution program and the drivers for the trucks used in the distribution; drivers of the City and City Council's shuttle services; sellers and drivers for the City's mobile market program; Repatriated Overseas Filipino Workers and Seafarers; other persons whose employment has called them to report for duty this time of national health emergency.

SECTION 4: PREVENTION, DETECTION, ISOLATION, TREATMENT AND REINTEGRATION (PDITR) STRATEGIES FOR COVID 19

For purposes of this ordinance DOH Department Circular No. 2021-0122 dated April 15, 2021 is hereby adopted:

1. Minimum public health standards shall be strictly implemented across ALL settings. This shall include engineering controls, such as proper ventilation, visual cues and barriers, administrative controls, such as symptoms screening and temperature check at points of entry, physical distancing, hand hygiene, cough etiquette, and wearing of masks, among others.
2. All suspect, probable, and confirmed cases shall be isolated in the appropriate facility depending on the severity of symptoms. Asymptomatic confirmed and mild cases shall be admitted and isolated in Temporary Treatment and Monitoring Facilities (TTMFs). Moderate cases shall be isolated and managed in Level 1 or Level 2 hospitals. Severe and critical cases shall be isolated and managed in Level 2 or Level 3 hospitals. Step-down care and proper inter-health facility referral system shall be applied to all cases whenever applicable. Regardless of results, the appropriate 10 or 21-day isolation period shall be strictly completed (**see item 6**).
3. Contact tracing shall be initiated after case investigation of every reported probable and confirmed COVID 19 case. Active contact tracing shall also be initiated after identification of suspect cases. All close contacts shall be placed under quarantine for monitoring. Regardless of test results, the 14-day quarantine period shall be strictly completed (**see item 6**).
4. RT-PCR remains to be the gold standard for diagnostic testing for COVID 19 or determining the presence of SARS-CoV-2.
5. To facilitate the swift confirmation of cases, rapid antigen testing may be used by local government units in accordance with Department Memorandum 2021-0169.
6. Repeat testing shall NOT be required for the discharge criteria of suspect, probable and confirmed COVID 19 cases, provided that a licensed medical doctor certifies or clears the patient.
 - a. Patients with mild symptoms who have completed at least 10 days of isolation from the onset of illness and have been asymptomatic or clinically recovered for 3 consecutive days may already be discharged.
 - b. Patients with moderate, severe or critical symptoms who have completed at least 21 days of isolation in a hospital from the onset of illness and have been asymptomatic or clinically recovered for 3 consecutive days may already be discharged.
 - c. Asymptomatic confirmed cases who remained asymptomatic for at least 10 days from date of specimen collection may already be discharged.
 - d. Close contacts who remain asymptomatic for at least 14 days from date of exposure may already discontinue their quarantine.
7. All entities involved in the provision of public and private services shall develop and implement COVID 19 prevention, response and communication plan to

operationalize the PDITR strategies in their respective settings including households, communities, and workplaces, among others.

SECTION 5: UNLAWFUL ACTS – It shall be unlawful for any person, whether natural or juridical, to commit any of the following act/s against Covered Individuals as defined under this Ordinance:

1. *Make utterances which cause or tend to cause the Covered Individuals' discrimination, stigma, disgrace, shame, insult, or harassment, including the unauthorized disclosure of their names and/or place of residence to other people;*
2. *Unauthorized disclosure of their names and/or place of residence in social media;*
3. *Commit any act of violence against them or any of their family member/s;*
4. *Prohibit their return to their residences even after obtaining clearance from the proper health officials;*
5. *Refuse to render them service or assistance solely due to their status as Covered Individuals as defined herein;*
6. *Refuse to allow them entry in private establishments providing basic necessities solely due to their status as Covered Individuals as defined herein;*
7. *LGU officials disobeying national government policies or directives in imposing quarantines; (Sec. 6 (a) R.A. 11469)*
8. *Owners and possessors of privately-owned hospitals, medical and health facilities, including passenger vessels, and other establishments who unjustifiably refuse to operate pursuant to the directive of the President; (Sec. 6 (b) R.A. 11469)*
9. *Engaging in hoarding, profiteering, injurious speculations, manipulation of prices, product deceptions, and cartels, monopolies or other combinations in restraint of trade, or other pernicious practices affecting the supply, distribution and movement of food, clothing, hygiene and sanitation products, medicine and medical supplies, fuel, fertilizers, chemicals, building materials, implements, machinery equipment and spare parts required in agriculture, industry and other essential services, and other articles of prime necessity, whether imported or locally produced or manufactured; (Sec. 6 (c) R.A. 11469)*
10. *Refusal to prioritize and accept contracts for materials and services necessary to promote the herein declared national policy; (Sec. 6 (d) R.A. 11469)*
11. *Refusal to provide thirty (30) day grace periods provided under Section 4 of Republic Act No. 11469 or the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act of 2020;*

12. Individuals or groups creating, perpetrating, or spreading false information regarding the Covid 19 crisis on social media and other platforms, such information having no valid or beneficial effect on the population, and are clearly geared to promote chaos, panic, anarchy, fear, or confusion; and those participating in cyber incidents that make use or take advantage of the current crisis situation to prey on the public through scams, phishing, fraudulent emails, or other similar acts; (Sec. 6 (f) R.A. 11469)
13. Failure to comply with reasonable limitations on the operation of certain transportation sectors or sectors, whether land, sea, or air, be it private or public; (Sec. 6 (g) R.A. 11469) and
14. Impeding access to roads, streets and bridges; putting up prohibited encroachments or obstacles; and maintenance of illegal constructions in public places that have been ordered to be removed; (Sec. 6 (h) R.A. 11469)
15. Any person who is proven/confirmed positive for COVID 19 who just stayed at home for quarantine purposes but did not comply on the minimum health requirements and home quarantine protocols imposed by the Local IATF;
16. Any person considered as PUMs/PUIs undergoing home quarantine but did not comply on the minimum health requirements and home quarantine protocols imposed by the Local IATF;

SECTION 6: ENFORCEMENT – This Ordinance shall be primarily implemented by the Punong Barangay and their Barangay Tanods, to be assisted by the following authorities:

- a.) PNP – Sorsogon City
- b.) TMECS/SK 3
- c.) City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office
- d.) Office of the City Mayor

SECTION 7: PENALTIES – Any person who commits any of the acts under Section 5 of this ordinance shall be penalized with a fine indicated below.

First Offense:	One Thousand (₱1,000.00) pesos
Second Offense:	Three Thousand (₱3,000.00) pesos
Third Offense:	Five Thousand (₱5,000.00) pesos and imprisonment of 3 to 6 months at the discretion of the court

If any of the acts under Section 5 herein is committed by a juridical person, the President, General Manager, its directors or any person with related interest in the corporation, partnership, or association shall be held liable. In addition, the business permit and license to operate of the concerned facility, institution, agency, corporation, school, or legal entity shall be cancelled.

The Professional Regulation Commission shall have the authority to suspend or revoke the license to practice of any medical professional for any violation hereof.

The Civil Service Commission shall have the authority to suspend or revoke the civil service eligibility of a public servant who is in violation of this ordinance.

SECTION 8: SEPARABILITY CLAUSE – If, for any reason or reasons, any part or provision of this Ordinance shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provision hereof, which are not affected thereby, shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 9: REPEALING CLAUSE - All ordinances, resolutions, rules and regulations, or any part(s) thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 10: EFFECTIVITY - This ordinance shall take effect upon its approval by the Sangguniang Panlungsod and after compliance with the law on public dissemination and of publication as prescribed under Sec. 511 (a) of R.A. 7160.

DATE APPROVED: November 9, 2021

I HEREBY CERTIFY to the correctness of the foregoing resolution and ordinance.


ROVAN E. DOMASIAN
Secretary to the Sangguniang Panlungsod

Attested:


MARK ERIC C. DIONEDA
City Vice Mayor/Presiding Officer

Approved:


MA. ESTER E. HAMOR
City Mayor