



Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF ISABELA
City of Ilagan
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PCAT-VAWC ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

Calendar Year 2023

In accordance with the policy, the Provincial Council Against Trafficking and Violence Against Women and their Children (PCAT – VAWC) of the province of Isabela was created and constituted in 2014 by an Executive Order issued by the Governor. The council regularly meets to plan for the programs, projects and activities to be undertaken by the Council. Below are several of the PCAT-VAWC's accomplishment under the 2023 Work and Financial Plan, which PPAs are geared towards addressing problems and issues confronting the women and children in the Province, to wit:

CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED

- **Training and Workshop on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Laws for the Protection of Women, Children, and LGBTQIA+**

The Provincial Government of Isabela in cooperation with the Zonta Club of Isabela observed the 18-day Campaign to End Violence Against Women through the conduct of Training and Workshop on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Laws for the Protection of Women, Children, and LGBTQIA+.

The program was funded under the Gender and Development Fund. It was a 1-day training and workshop aimed at capacitating the participants with awareness, knowledge and understanding of the different Laws for the protection of women and children, and LGBTQIA+, participated by a total of 305 participants from the: Provincial Local Council for the Protection of Children, Provincial council against trafficking and violence against women and their children, Provincial GAD Focal Point System, and Partners from the different cities/municipalities (Local Council for the Protection of Children, Local Council

Against Trafficking and Violence Against Women and their Children, Community Leaders, Educators, Social Workers, and Healthcare Professionals, Law Enforcement Personnel and Justice System Practitioners, representatives from Local NGOs and Civil Society Organizations).



- **Orientation on Safe Spaces Act (RA 11313)**

The Provincial Government of Isabela in coordination with the Civil Service Commission conducted an Orientation on Safe Spaces Act (RA 11313) on September 27, 2023 funded under Gender and Development (GAD) Fund to capacitate the Provincial Gender and Development Focal Point System (GFPS), Provincial Council Against Trafficking and Violence Against Women and their Children (PCAT-VAWC), and Local Council for the Protection of Children (LCPC).



- **Seminar Workshop on Gender Responsive LGU (GeRL) Assessment Tool**

The Provincial Government of Isabela conducted a 2-day Training and Workshop on Gender Responsive LGU (GeRL) Assessment Tool for the Gender and Development Focal Point System (GFPS), Provincial Council Against Trafficking and Violence Against Women and their Children (PCAT-VAWC), and Local Council for the Protection of Children (LCPC) on October 19-20, 2023 to measure the extent of its gender responsiveness as an organization and the delivery of basic services and facilities, funded under the Gender and Development (GAD) Fund.





- 3-Day Training on Enhanced Parent Effectiveness Service for Service-Providers**

As per statistical report of the PNP-Women and Children Protection Desk (WCPD) of Isabela Police Provincial Office, there is a high incidence of Gender-Based Violence, thus, a Training on Parenting Responsibility for the following: PNP-Women and Children Protection Desk Officer, City/Municipal Women Association Leaders, and Punong Barangays. The activity is aimed at training service-providers as partners in the advocacy/campaign against violence on women and children and importance of family bond.





- **Seminar on Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children**

The Provincial Legal Office (PLO) conducted ***Katarungang Pambarangay and Drafting of Resolutions and Ordinances in Ramon and Delfin Albano, Isabela on April 21, 2023 and August 3, 2023, respectively.*** The seminar was focused on the jurisdiction and role of barangay particularly on violation of laws affecting women’s rights to guide the officials of their duties and functions when complaints for violation of women and children’s rights are brought to their office.

The PLO also conducted ***Seminar on Protection of Women’s Rights at the Barangay Level in Ramon and Delfin Albano, Isabela on April 22, 2023 and***

August 4, 2023, respectively. The salient provisions of the following were discussed: Republic Act No. 9262 (Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children), Republic Act No. 11313 (Safe Spaces Act or the Bawal Bastos Law), and Republic Act No. 9995 (Anti-Photo and Video Voyeurism).

PROVISION OF LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO ABUSED WOMEN AND CHILDREN

The Provincial Legal Office conducted a Seminar on Protection of Women’s Rights anchored on the empowerment of women in the struggle to combat injustices by campaigning their concern advocacies and consciousness-raising. It was participated by three hundred eighty-one (381) women. Legal counselling was also conducted and hygiene kits were distributed to all participants.

AID TO INDIVIDUALS IN CRISIS SITUATION (AICS) PROGRAM

To contribute to a better and improved quality of life for the citizenry, the PSWD Office implements Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS) Program where priority attention is given to the poor, vulnerable and marginalized sectors of the society.



WOMEN'S MONTH PROVINCIAL CELEBRATION 2023

In the Philippines, the National Women's Month Celebration has become a platform to spotlight women's accomplishments and address ongoing and emerging issues related to women's empowerment and gender equality. The focus is on concrete activities aligned with national and international agreements, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the Beijing Platform for Action, the Philippine Plan for Gender-Responsive Development (1995-2025), the Framework Plan for Women, and the Sustainable Development Goals. This year's theme is "Lipunang Patas sa Bagong Pilipinas; Kakayahan ng Kababaihan, patutunayan!" which echoes the target outcomes of Chapter 15 in the Updated Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Plan 2019-2025 towards transforming gender norms and culture. The Provincial Government of Isabela through the GAD Focal Point System (GFPS) and Provincial Council Against Trafficking and Violence Against Women and their Children (PCAT-VAWC) had joined in the celebration through the following activities:

1. Hanging of tarpaulins to conspicuous places



2. Posting to Isabela PIO Facebook page regarding the National Women’s Month



3. Election of Isabela Provincial Women Council (IPCW) Board of Trustees

The chairpersons and representatives of the local councils for women elected the board of trustees of the IPCW on March 15, 2023.

Mary Ann A. Dy, the wife of Vice Governor Faustino G. Dy III, was chosen by the 15 trustees to be the IPCW chairperson who will lead in advocating the elimination of gender biases, discrimination, and inequalities in all policies, systems, and procedures within the province.





4. 2023 Women’s Month Culminating Program/Activity on March 30, 2023



Thanksgiving Mass



Delivery of Inspirational Message by Vice Governor Faustino G. Dy III



Delivery of Message from the Keynote Speaker, National Council of Women Chairperson Cecilia La Madrid Dy



Zumba



Oathtaking of the Newly Elected Officers of the Provincial Council of Women



Medical and Dental Mission



Beauty Care



Symposium/Forum re: Data, Challenges, and Issues concerning Girls and Women of Isabela discussed by Ms. Charmiya Rosalina L. Cruz, Social Welfare Officer IV



Symposium/Forum re: Resiliency discussed by Hon. Lourdes S. Panganiban, Chair, SP on Committee on Women’s Affairs

RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITIES

The Provincial Government of Isabela sustains and ensures the operation and maintenance of the Residential Care Facilities serve as Temporary Shelters for Women and Children in Especially Difficult Circumstances:

Women and Children Protection Center

The Women and Children Protection Center (WCPC) serves as haven to Women in Especially Difficult Circumstances (WEDC) ages 18-59 who are victims of violence against women and for Children Needing Special Protection (CNSP) ages 0-17 who are victims of sexual abuse, exploitation, child trafficking and also children age ranging from 0-6 (male and female) who are abandoned, neglected, maltreated, and dependent of clients are all equally eligible for temporary shelter and protective custody.

In CY 2023, there was a total of thirty-three (33) residents served, eleven (11) of which were victims of Violence Against Women and their Children (VAWC).



1. Home Life Services

- The Center has structured daily activities designed for women and children. The task assigned to every resident may vary according to their age and capability. As part of home life learning activities, the young residents will perform the light task while the teenagers and adult residents will carry out the household chores with the assistance and proper guidance from the house parents and other staff.
- Convened monthly meeting or setting up urgent meeting with the residents pertaining to their daily life experienced and other issues and concerns were immediately addressed and resolved.
- Inculcated character-building session to all residents as part of motivating positive behavior. Every month, the staff chose the Best Performer among the residents to recognized work life experience with simple incentive of token/gift for deserving client.
- Provision of food, complete set of clothes, under wears, school uniform, blanket, pillow & pillow case, toiletries and other essential needs have provided to all admitted clients.
- Inculcation of proper home management and simple household tasks were also discussed to all residents for them to become functional, responsible, and mindfulness.



2. Psycho-Social Services

- Out of 35 admitted clients, a total of 29 have undergone Psychological Testing Assessment & Evaluation. Likewise, individual counseling, psychotherapy session and group dynamics were provided to address manifestation of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and strengthened coping skills. Gender and Development (GAD) Fund was utilized in implementing these provisions with a total of P87,800.00. On the other hand, six (6) clients are not required for psychological testing like the two (2) dependents' babies, a person with disability, and the three (3) clients who stayed in the center for a short term.
- The center Psychometricians also conducted Growth Sessions about Mental Health and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder to the residents as well as a separate session for the staff.



3. Educational Services

- Among 35 admitted clients, there are 29 who were formally enrolled in formal education; one (1) in college, three (3) are in senior high school (modular class), twelve (12) are elementary graders (face to face class), and one (1) client enrolled in Alternative Learning System (ALS).
- Provision of school needs like supplies, projects, minimal contribution, daily transportation allowance and snacks were regularly provided to all elementary, secondary & college and for high school students, also provided expenses for projects,

transportation expenses in going to school for quarterly appearance, submission of answered modules, and picking-up summative/periodical test with their respective class advisers.

- The Center Head, Psychometrician, and House Parent also conducted regular school visitation to children in their respective classroom for monitoring of safety and protection as well as performance in their class. Likewise, continuous collaboration with the School Principal and Teachers on other issues and concerns for immediate action was also made.



4. Health Services

- The In-House Nurse regularly conducted physical examination including checking of height and weight to all residents for health monitoring and for possible referral depending on the health status and findings.
- There are two (2) residents' babies were confined at the GFNDM Hospital who availed of free confinement, medicines, and laboratories. One among the babies also referred for Electroencephalogram (EEG) at the Isabela United Doctors Medical Center in Cauayan City. Likewise, they completed the basic required immunization such as BCG, Hepa. B, DPT-Hepa., B-HiB, OPV, IPV, & MMR at the nearby Barangay Alibagu Health Center.
- This year, there are about 25 clients who have spontaneously experienced stomach ache, prolonged cough, colds, on & off fever immediately catered by the In-House Nurse and Rescuers from the PDRRMC and assisted them in going to the GFNDM Hospital

for medical intervention: check-up, laboratories, ECG and CT-Scan at the private hospital. While 13 clients referred for dental services like tooth extraction at the FNDM Hospital and 1 client for filling/pasta at a private dental clinic.

- Provision of deworming to all residents as part of health protocol and prerequisite especially for newly admitted client for the purpose of monitoring health condition including weight & height using the Body Mass Index (BMI) Chart.
- For health promotion and intervention, at least twice a month in conducting health awareness session like hand washing, bathing, trimming of nails, tooth brushing and discussion of common illness like measles, sore eyes, skin disease, hair parasite and the like, was taught by the In-House Nurse to all residents for proper hygiene, home tips remedies, and prevention.
- Basic First-Aid and Safety Drill Training and Fire Safety Awareness was conducted by the Provincial Risk Reduction Management Office and Bureau of Fire Protection Provincial Office to all residents and staff.



5. Legal Services

- Relative to criminal cases filed by the victims/survivors, there are seven (7) clients have attained justice with fair decisions promulgated at the Regional Trial Court of Br. 4 Family Court Tuguegarao City, Br. 22, 18, 19, & 40 respectively. There are

nineteen (19) cases are still ongoing court proceedings, while five (5) clients whose perpetrators are fugitive in justice.

- The Center Head and the Social Workers are properly accredited by the DSWD Standards Bureau in handling court related cases. As Case Managers of 35 clients, they served and considered as prosecution witnesses, also assisted the Prosecutors in preparing the survivors in court appearance & proceedings, and psychologically preparing the victims especially during the direct & cross examinations inside the court room or chamber.
- At least twice a year, residents who are covered by the witness protection program of the Department of Justice were presented to the Office of the Regional Prosecutor/Dir. Rommel C. Baligod to give update on the court status, issues, and concerns on legal matter.



6. Spiritual Services

- All residents spiritually guided in their daily life experienced through daily group prayer and devotion every morning and evening, Bible sharing, and memorizing Bible verses facilitated by the religious groups, house parents, and other staff.
- With proper coordination, all religious organization came from different sectors (CWL, OFS, & other groups) are allowed to conduct spiritual formation but on limited number to enter and served in the WCPC.

- For spiritual enrichment of the residents and staff, Holy Mass Celebration was also commended inside the WCPC, presided by Fr. Gerry Sabado and Fr. Herman Bugakti.
- All staff and residents have undergone recollection in observation of Holy Week/Lenten Season.
- Residents' babies were also baptized, an important foundation of Christian life of every child.



7. Recreational, Sports, and other Socio-Cultural Activities

- Special events like birthdays, christening, Valentine's Day, Women's Month, Nutrition Month, Family Week, Children's Month, Christmas, and other related activities were celebrated for purpose of social awareness, interaction, socialization, and also developed life skills and talents of every client. A total amount of P97,222.00 was spend on this event and charged to GAD Fund.
- Recreational activity: Family Day was celebrated with the theme "kainang Pamilya Mahalaga Day" wherein all residents assisted by the staff and PGI Lady Guards have given opportunity to go out and buy their favorite stuffs, having leisure & fun activity and dining thereafter at the nearby North Star Mall, Alibagu, City of Ilagan, Isabela, sponsored by the Provincial Administrator, Atty. Noel Manuel R. Lopez.
- The residents have given opportunity in utilizing outdoor play ground facilities, playing ball games, and zumba dance, also provided some indoor board games like snake & ladder, chess, sungka, and scrabble for physical, mental, and social development.



- During Children's Month celebration, the WCPC conducted theater art competition composed of two (2) genres: interpretative dance and stage play. This activity somehow developed their artistic abilities and creative ideas. Also, the children were competitive, enthusiastic and have so much fun in joining "Laro ng lahi" like kadang-kadang, patintero, tumbang preso, breaking the pot, pabitin, sack race and trip to Jerusalem.



8. Economic and Livelihood Skills and Development

- For possible adeptness of skills learned (meat processing, beauty care, baking/pastry making, rug making, & others), return demo of skills acquired were accorded to some young adult residents. Likewise, inculcation on sharing of profits among residents out of their livelihood activity. Using of skills learned is very important to every client in preparation for their reintegration to augment family income or for possible independent living for adult client.
- All residents were motivated in joining income generating & skills/livelihood activity on baking and pastry, free training from the TESDA during the celebration of Women's Month conducted by Mrs. Leona Cayapan.



9. Financial Assistance/

- For parents and relatives who came to the WCPC to visit their children, provision of financial assistance was provided to them by the PGI-PSWDO.
- Provision of financial assistance also availed by the resident's baby for EEG and CT Scan for client having Seizure.



Lingap Center

The Lingap Center is a 24-hour residential facility that continuously reaches out and provides social work interventions to victims of neglect, abandonment, maltreatment, and street children. It provides protection and rehabilitation services through temporary residential care. The center was able to serve twenty-four (24) children for the year 2023, two (2) of which were victims of Violence Against Women and their Children.



1. SOCIAL SERVICES:

The social services are focused on case management processes for all clients admitted to the center. These include a collaborative process of assessment, planning, facilitation, care, coordination, evaluation, and advocacy for options to meet the needs of the clients. Case Management is the lifeblood of the center. All children have individual folders that contain all their records, like Social Case Study Report, Helping Plans, Progress Reports, Psychological Evaluations, Health Records, etc.

The Center Social Workers updated all recordings, conducted case conferences with the rehabilitation team, conduct home visitations, collateral interviews, and other activities that would fast-track the rehabilitation of every child. All activities conducted are properly documented.



Ten (10) clients were reintegrated to their respective families and communities. Meanwhile, three (3) are new admissions for the year 2023.

2. HOMELIFE CARE

The center provides homelife services to meet the basic needs of each resident, such as food, clothing, and toiletries, with well-balanced and organized activities that provide a wholesome family experience to meet their physical, emotional, mental, and social needs. It is a second home to the children operating 24/7. The center staff's functions as substitute parents who provide directions, guidance, and tender loving care to these children. They are guided in doing their task as well as in their dealings with co-children. They are treated equally and with respect.

A planned menu is followed in preparing for their daily meals, following the basic food groups of go, grow, and glow. A monthly health check is done to monitor their weight, height progress, and Body Mass Index (BMI). Based on the latest weighing and height measurements, all of them have increased in weight and height. As per their BMI, eleven (11) children are in the normal range, and three (3) are overweight.

Children are provided with their supply of clothing twice a year. Last July 2023, they were issued with school uniforms, bags and shoes and last December 2023, casual dresses, pants and other undergarments were provided. Their toiletries (bath soap, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, etc.) are given on a weekly basis for their personal hygiene. The conduct of Homelife meeting for directions and updates on their daily routine were done every Friday of the week. Giving and teaching the child daily chores and work assignments according to one's capability and readiness aimed at providing semblance of normal family life.



3. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES:

Education is one of the component services of the Lingap Center, wherein the children are enrolled in public school for them to continue their studies. Since the latter part of School Year (S.Y.) 2022-2023 until the beginning of S.Y. 2023 – 2024, the mode of learning in public schools has returned to the traditional five days of face-to-face classes a week.

For the S.Y. 2022-2023, three (3) children graduated from Kindergarten, two (2) in Junior High School (JHS) and one (1) in Senior High School (SHS). Moreover, some of them excelled in their class and were given medals and certificates of Academic Excellence.

SCHOOL YEAR 2022 - 2023	
KINDER	3
ELEMENTARY	9
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL	8
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL	1
TOTAL	21

The above data shows that all the children were in school for S.Y. 2022–2023, in which the Elementary level was the highest in number. Of the twenty-one (21) children served, three (3) were in kindergarten, nine (9) were at the elementary level enrolled at Alibagu Elementary School,

eight (8) were in JHS at Alibagu National High School, and one (1) was in SHS at Isabela Sports High School.

SCHOOL YEAR 2023 - 2024	
ELEMENTARY	13
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL	1
TOTAL	14

Meanwhile, for the S.Y. 2023 – 2024, the above data shows that all 14 residents were enrolled wherein thirteen (13) children are elementary in Alibagu Elementary School, while one (1) child is currently a JHS at Alibagu National High School.

Part of the educational services is the attendance of Lingap Center staff to Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) Meetings, Receiving of Report Cards and School Awards of residents.

Under these programs, the children were provided with their school needs like school uniforms, bags, shoes, and school supplies such as notebooks, papers, pens, pencils, colors, etc. They also have a tricycle service that picks them up from the center to school and vice versa.

There are also children who could hardly read, and they are being assisted on a tutorial basis by the Houseparents. Library is available in the center for reviewing and assignment needs.



4. SPIRITUAL ENHANCEMENT AND VALUES INCULCATION:

Spiritual enrichment is an important intervention to transform the child holistically and give due respect to his or her religious beliefs to become a God-fearing person. The Center designs activities that will help the children enrich their spiritual development. They also attend fellowship and bible studies in the center, conducted by Houseparent/Pastor Mario Valdez, which are done every Sunday at 9:00 in the morning.

The staff emphasizes the importance of establishing a closer relationship with the Lord, especially at all times. They were taught and encouraged to pray, read the Bible, reflect, and follow the Ten Commandments. The group prays before and after taking their daily meals and going to bed. The Catholic Women's League Gamu Chapter extended their time thru Catechism. The children and the center staff also attended advent masses at the Provincial Capitol.



5. RECREATIONAL, SPORTS /SOCIO-CULTURAL SERVICES:

Sports, recreational, and other socio-cultural activities are essential elements of human biology and psychology. It is a method of promoting camaraderie, unity, active and healthy being, character building, and physical fitness. Recreation & sports are programs of the center that all the children enjoy most as part of their physical education and development. These activities develop sportsmanship among the children, teaching them to accept loss and failure. The children play basketball, badminton, and volleyball and other outdoor games. The children also play Scrabble, Snakes and Ladders, and Chess after their tutorial. These games help them improve their vocabulary and planning. Facilitation of indoor and outdoor games are being done daily while Zumba/ physical exercises are done at 7:00 – 8:00 AM during weekends.



The center staff continue to celebrate annual events as part of socio-cultural activities namely:

- a) **Valentine's Day** – the staff and children celebrated Valentine's Day on February 10, 2023. The children have prepared a Cotillion dance wherein each of them gracefully showcased their talents in dancing while wearing formal attires and ballroom gowns. They also gathered the center staff, danced with them, and exchanged partners until they could dance with everyone. The program demonstrated the value of expressing love and appreciation to others.



- b) **Women's Month Celebration** – the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office (PSWDO) has joined the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority in their "Serbisyo Para Kay Juana" campaign to celebrate Women's Month on March 24, 2023. This includes Pastry-Making Training, in which the seven (7) girls from the Lingap Center have participated. They were taught to bake cakes, cupcakes, breads, and cookies. The trainers also let the children pipe icing and decorate their own cupcakes.



- c) ***Stations of the Cross*** – the center staff and children altogether went to the Ilagan Sanctuary, Serenity Hill Calvary in Sta. Victoria, City of Ilagan, on April 5, 2023. This is in observance of the Holy Week practice of Roman Catholics commemorating the sacrifices and love of Jesus Christ. The children were to lead a prayer in each station, followed by the elaboration of the teachings of HP/Pastor Mario Valdez.



- d) ***United Nation Celebration***- this is one of the activities of the Center that promotes the essence of patriotism, unity and camaraderie among other nations/countries. This celebration aims to foster the understanding and appreciation for different cultures of the nations. Through this, the children were able to showcase their confidence in presenting themselves by wearing costumes that represents their assigned countries with the provision and assistance of center staff.



e) **Monday Convocation and National Children's Month Kick-Off**

– in this program, the Lingap Center staff and children attended the Flag Raising Ceremony hosted by the PSWD Office on November 06, 2023. The Lingap Center residents were tasked to perform a song number and present it in front of the PGI employees and other officials of Isabela. Moreover, they were given a set of hygiene kits, seedlings and snacks. They have also received gifts from different PGI Department Heads, APDHs, and Government Officials from the province.



f) **Balik Sigla, Bigay Saya 2023** – in this year, the Lingap Center were invited to be one of the beneficiaries of the Office of the President's nationwide gift-giving program. Through the Zoom application, the center was able to virtually participate the said program. President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., through the Secretary's Office, gifted each resident with a traveling bag which includes a bath towel, pillow and blanket. They also provided the staff and residents with Jollibee meals for breakfast and lunch.



g) **Christmas Party** – aside from Christmas Parties and special events extended by donors/benefactors to residents, one-day celebration of Christmas Party for residents and staff was conducted last December 21, 2023.



Conducted Enhanced Parent Effectiveness Service Training for Parents of Lingap Center Residents

The conduct of Training on Enhanced Parent Effectiveness Service to the Parents of Lingap Center residents is aimed towards strengthening their knowledge and skills in responding to their duties and responsibilities. It was conducted on August 2 & 3, 2023 at Lingap Center which was attended by fifteen (15) parents of residents. Modules on Responsible Parenting were discussed to the participants.



Policy Issuances for the Protection of Women, Children, and Trafficked Persons for CY 2023 (see annexes)

- Ordinance No. 2023-07-03, series of 2023. An Ordinance Establishing Mechanisms for the Implementation of Republic Act No. 9208 or the “Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003” in the Province of Isabela and for other purposes
- Executive Order No. 11, series of 2023. An Order Organizing the Committee on Decorum and Investigation (CODI) to handle Sexual Harassment cases in the Provincial Government of Isabela
- Ordinance No. 2023-07-05, series of 2023. An Ordinance Updating the Gender Development Code of the Province of Isabela

- Ordinance No. 2023-07-02, series of 2023. An Ordinance Establishing Child Protection Policies for Private Establishments in the Province of Isabela.

Prepared by:



LUCILA M. AMBATALI

PSWDO / PCAT-VAWC, Co-Chairman & Head Secretariat

Noted by:



RODOLFO T. ALBANO III

Governor / PCAT-VAWC Chairman



Office of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 30th REGULAR SESSION OF THE 11th SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN OF ISABELA HELD AT PROVINCIAL CAPITOL, ILAGAN CITY, ISABELA ON MARCH 07, 2023.

PRESENT:

FAUSTINO G. DY III	Vice Governor & Presiding Officer
DELFINITO EMMANUEL L. ALBANO	Member (1 st District) & Floor Leader
EMMANUEL JOSELITO B. AÑES	Member (1 st District)
ED CHRISTIAN S. GO	Member (2 nd District)
EDGAR R. CAPUCHINO	Member (2 nd District)
MARY GRACE D. ARREOLA	Member (3 rd District)
RAMON JUAN N. REYES, JR.	Member (3 rd District)
CLIFFORD R. RASPADO	Member (4 th District)
VICTOR G. DY	Member (4 th District)
MANUEL FAUSTINO U. DY	Member (5 th District)
EDWARD S. ISIDRO	Member (5 th District)
MARCO PAOLO A. MERIS	Member (6 th District)
AMADOR A. GAFFUD, JR.	Member (6 th District)
ANTONIO S. HUI	Member, PCL Federation President
DANTE G. HALAMAN	Member, LnB Federation President
DAX PAOLO C. BINAG	Member, SK Federation President
ADRIAN PHILIP S. BAYSAC	Member, Agricultural Workers Sector Representative
LOURDES S. PANGANIBAN	Member, Women's Sectoral Representative
MARGARETTE U. CHIN	Member, Indigenous Cultural Communities Sector Representative
EVYN JAY C. DIAZ	Member, Labor Sector Representative

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-07-03
SERIES OF 2023

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING MECHANISMS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9208 OR THE "ANTI-TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS ACT OF 2003" IN THE PROVINCE OF ISABELA AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Sponsor: HON. LOURDES S. PANGANIBAN

Chairperson, Committee on Gender and Development, and Gender Equality

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This proposed measure stands as the province of Isabela's formidable legislative response to the insidious threat of human trafficking within its territorial bounds. Formulated within the framework of national legislation, particularly Republic Act 9208, this ordinance is a testament to the province's dedication to combatting trafficking while prioritizing the protection of human rights and dignity. Through its enactment, the province reaffirms and asserts its commitment to upholding international human rights standards and addressing the multifaceted challenges posed by human trafficking.

Nagkaisa para sa Isabela

At its core, this ordinance aims to establish effective mechanisms for the implementation of anti-trafficking measures in Isabela. By articulating clear policies and provisions, it endeavors to prevent trafficking activities, safeguard victims, prosecute offenders, and foster collaboration among stakeholders. This ordinance underscores the province's proactive stance in combating trafficking and its dedication to creating a safer, more equitable environment for all its residents.

Key provisions within this ordinance outline a comprehensive approach to addressing human trafficking. From the declaration of policy affirming the province's commitment to human dignity to the establishment of a Local Council Against Trafficking in Persons, each aspect is carefully crafted to facilitate coordinated efforts and provide support to victims. By defining terms and enumerating specific acts constituting trafficking, the ordinance ensures clarity and consistency in enforcement efforts.

Successful implementation of the ordinance hinges on robust collaboration and coordination among governmental agencies, law enforcement entities, civil society organizations, and community members. Strengthening inter-agency cooperation, enhancing law enforcement capabilities, and raising public awareness are critical components of enforcement efforts. By prioritizing proactive engagement at all levels, our province aims to prevent trafficking, protect vulnerable individuals, and hold perpetrators accountable for their actions.

In conclusion, this proposed measure serves as a beacon of hope in the fight against human trafficking. Through its enactment, the province reaffirms its commitment to justice, human rights, and the well-being of its residents.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate approval of this ordinance is earnestly sought.

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING MECHANISMS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9208 OR THE "ANTI-TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS ACT OF 2003" IN THE PROVINCE OF ISABELA AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

SECTION 1. Title. This Ordinance shall be known as "The Anti-Trafficking in Persons Ordinance of the Province of Isabela".

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. The Province of Isabela shall give the highest priority to the promotion of human dignity, protection of the people from any threat of violence and exploitation, eliminate trafficking in persons, and mitigation of pressures for involuntary migration and servitude of persons, not only to support trafficked persons but more importantly, ensure their recovery, rehabilitation and reintegration into the mainstream of society.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. For this Ordinance, the following words shall mean as follows:

- (a) **Child** – refers to a person below eighteen (18) years of age or one who is above eighteen (18) but is unable to fully take care of or protect himself/herself

from abuse, neglect, cruelty, exploitation, or discrimination because of a physical or mental disability or condition.

(b) **Council** – shall be referred to those mentioned in Section 8 of this ordinance.

(c) **Debt Bondage** – refers to the pledging by the debtor of his/her personal services or labor or those of a person under his/her control as security or payment for a debt, when the length and nature of services are not clearly defined or when the value of the services as reasonably assessed is not applied toward the liquidation of the debt.

(d) **Forced Labor** – refers to the extraction of work or services from any person by means of enticement, violence, intimidation or threat, use of force or coercion, including deprivation of freedom, abuse of authority or moral ascendancy, debt-bondage, or deception including any work or service extracted from any person under the menace of penalty.

(e) **Involuntary Servitude** – refers to a condition of enforced and compulsory service induced by means of any scheme, plan, or pattern, intended to cause a person to believe that if he or she did not enter into or continue in such condition, he or she or another person would suffer serious harm or other forms of abuse or physical restraint, or threat of abuse or harm, or coercion including depriving access to travel documents and withholding salaries, or the abuse or threatened abuse of the legal process.

(f) **Pornography**– refers to any representation, through publication, exhibition, cinematography, indecent shows, information technology, or by whatever means, of a person engaged in real or simulated explicit sexual activities or any representation of the sexual parts of a person for primarily sexual purposes.

(g) **Prostitution** – refers to any act, transaction, scheme, or design involving the use of a person by another, for sexual intercourse or lascivious conduct in exchange for money, profit, or any other consideration.

(h) **Public Places** - a place accessible or visible to the public.

(i) **Sex Tourism** – refers to a program organized by travel and tourism-related establishments and individuals which consists of tourism packages or activities, utilizing and offering escort and sexual services as an enticement for tourists. This includes sexual services and practices offered during rest and recreation periods for members of the military.

(j) **Sexual Exploitation** – refers to participation by a person in prostitution, pornography, or the production of pornography, in exchange for money, profit, or any other consideration or where the participation is caused or facilitated by any means of intimidation or threat, use of force, or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, debt bondage, abuse of power or position or legal process, taking advantage of the vulnerability of the person, or giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having

control over another person; or in sexual intercourse or lascivious conduct caused or facilitated by any means as provided in this ordinance.

(k) **Slavery** – refers to the status or condition of a person over whom any or all of the powers attaching to the right of ownership are exercised.

(l) **Trafficking in Persons** – refers to the recruitment, obtaining, hiring, providing, offering, transportation, transfer, maintaining, harboring, or receipt of persons with or without the victim's consent or knowledge, within or across national borders by means of threat, or use of force, or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or of position, taking advantage of the vulnerability of the person, or, the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person for the purpose of exploitation which includes at a minimum, the exploitation or the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery, servitude or the removal or sale of organs.

The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, adoption or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation or when the adoption is induced by any form of consideration for exploitative purposes shall also be considered as 'trafficking in persons' even if it does not involve any of the means set forth in the preceding paragraph.

SECTION 4. Acts Constituting Trafficking in Persons. It shall be unlawful for any person, natural or juridical, to commit any of the following acts, to wit:

(a) To recruit, obtain, hire, provide, offer, transport, transfer, maintain, harbor, or receive a person by any means, including those done under the pretext of domestic or overseas employment or training or apprenticeship, for the purpose of prostitution, pornography, or sexual exploitation;

(b) To introduce or match for money, profit, material, economic or other consideration, any person or, as provided for under Republic Act No. 10906, any Filipino to a foreign national, for marriage for the purpose of acquiring, buying, offering, selling or trading him/her to engage in prostitution, pornography, sexual exploitation, forced labor, slavery, involuntary servitude or debt bondage;

(c) To offer or contract marriage, real or simulated, for the purpose of acquiring, buying, offering, selling, or trading them to engage in prostitution, pornography, sexual exploitation, forced labor or slavery, involuntary servitude or debt bondage;

(d) To undertake or organize tours and travel plans consisting of tourism packages or activities for the purpose of utilizing and offering persons for prostitution, pornography, or sexual exploitation;

(e) To maintain or hire a person to engage in prostitution or pornography;

(f) To adopt persons by any form of consideration for exploitative purposes or to facilitate the same for purposes of prostitution, pornography, sexual exploitation, forced labor, slavery, involuntary servitude, or debt bondage;

(g) To adopt or facilitate the adoption of persons for the purpose of prostitution, pornography, sexual exploitation, forced labor, slavery, involuntary servitude, or debt bondage;

(h) To recruit, hire, adopt, transport, transfer, obtain, harbor, maintain, provide, offer, receive or abduct a person, by means of threat or use of force, fraud, deceit, violence, coercion, or intimidation for the purpose of removal or sale of organs of said person;

(i) To recruit, transport, obtain, transfer, harbor, maintain, offer, hire, provide, receive or adopt a child to engage in armed activities in the Philippines or abroad;

(j) To recruit, transport, transfer, harbor, obtain, maintain, offer, hire, provide or receive a person by means defined in Section 3 of this Ordinance for purposes of forced labor, slavery, debt bondage and involuntary servitude, including a scheme, plan, or pattern intended to cause the person either:

(1) To believe that if the person did not perform such labor or services, he or she or another person would suffer serious harm or physical restraint; or

(2) To abuse or threaten the use of law or the legal processes;

(k) To recruit, transport, harbor, obtain, transfer, maintain, hire, offer, provide, adopt or receive a child for purposes of exploitation or trading them, including but not limited to, the act of baring and/or selling a child for any consideration or for barter for purposes of exploitation. Trafficking for purposes of exploitation of children shall include:

(1) All forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, involuntary servitude, debt bondage, and forced labor, including recruitment of children for use in armed conflict;

(2) The use, procuring, or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography, or pornographic performances;

(3) The use, procuring, or offering of a child for the production and trafficking of illegal drugs; and

(4) The use, procuring, or offering of a child for illegal activities or work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm their health, safety, or morals;

(l) To recruit, transport, harbor, obtain, transfer, maintain, hire, offer, provide, adopt or receive a child for purposes of engaging in begging alms in Highways, Terminals, Markets, and other public places.

(m) To organize or direct other persons to commit the offenses defined as acts of trafficking under this ordinance.

SECTION 5. Acts That Promote Trafficking in Persons. The following acts which promote or facilitate trafficking in persons shall be unlawful, to wit:

(a) To knowingly lease or sublease, use or allow being used any house, building, or establishment for the purpose of promoting trafficking in persons;

(b) To produce, print and issue or distribute unissued, tampered or fake counselling certificates, registration stickers, overseas employment certificates, or other certificates of any government agency which issues these certificates, decals, and such other markers as proof of compliance with government regulatory and pre-departure requirements for the purpose of promoting trafficking in persons;

(c) To advertise, publish, print, broadcast or distribute, or cause the advertisement, publication, printing, broadcasting or distribution by any means, including the use of information technology and the internet, of any brochure, flyer, or any propaganda material that promotes trafficking in persons;

(d) To assist in the conduct of misrepresentation or fraud for purposes of facilitating the acquisition of clearances and necessary exit documents from government agencies that are mandated to provide pre-departure registration and services for departing persons for the purpose of promoting trafficking in persons;

(e) To facilitate, assist or help in the exit and entry of persons from/to the country at international and local airports, territorial boundaries, and seaports who are in possession of unissued, tampered, or fraudulent travel documents for the purpose of promoting trafficking in persons;

(f) To confiscate, conceal, or destroy the passport, travel documents, or personal documents or belongings of trafficked persons in furtherance of trafficking or to prevent them from leaving the country or seeking redress from the government or appropriate agencies;

(g) To knowingly benefit from, financial or otherwise, or make use of, the labor or services of a person held to a condition of involuntary servitude, forced labor, or slavery;

(h) To tamper with, destroy, or cause the destruction of evidence, or to influence or attempt to influence witnesses, in an investigation or prosecution of a case under this ordinance;

(i) To destroy, conceal, remove, confiscate or possess, or attempt to destroy, conceal, remove, confiscate or possess, any actual or purported passport or other travel, immigration or working permit or document, or any other actual or purported government identification, of any person in order to prevent or restrict, or attempt to prevent or restrict, without lawful authority, the person's liberty to move or travel in order to maintain the labor or services of that person; or

(j) To utilize his or her office to impede the investigation, prosecution or execution of lawful orders in a case under this ordinance.

SECTION 6. Qualified Trafficking in Persons. The following are considered as qualified trafficking, to wit:

(a) When the trafficked person is a child;

(b) When the adoption is effected through Republic Act No. 8043, otherwise known as the "Inter-Country Adoption Act of 1995", and said adoption is for the purpose of prostitution, pornography, sexual exploitation, forced labor, slavery, involuntary servitude, or debt bondage;

(c) When the crime is committed by a syndicate, or in large scale. Trafficking is deemed committed by a syndicate if carried out by a group of three (3) or more persons conspiring or confederating with one another. It is deemed committed in large scale if committed against three (3) or more persons, individually or as a group;

(d) When the offender is an ascendant, parent, sibling, guardian, or a person who exercises authority over the trafficked person or when the offense is committed by a public officer or employee;

(e) When the trafficked person is recruited to engage in prostitution with any member of the military or law enforcement agencies;

(f) When the offender is a member of the military or law enforcement agencies;
and

(g) When by reason or on occasion of the act of trafficking in persons, the offended party dies, becomes insane, suffers mutilation, or is afflicted with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) or the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

SECTION 7. Attempted Trafficking in Persons. Where there are acts to initiate the commission of a trafficking offense but the offender failed to or did not execute all the elements of the crime, by accident or by reason of some cause other than voluntary desistance, such overt acts shall be deemed as an attempt to commit an act of trafficking in persons.

(a) Facilitating the travel of a child who travels alone to a foreign country or territory without valid reason therefore and without the required clearance

or permit from the Department of Social Welfare and Development, or a written permit or justification from the child's parent or legal guardian;

- (b) Executing, for a consideration, an affidavit of consent or a written consent for adoption;
- (c) Recruiting a woman to bear a child for the purpose of selling the child;
- (d) Simulating a birth for the purpose of selling the child; and
- (e) Soliciting a child and acquiring the custody thereof through any means from among hospitals, clinics, nurseries, daycare centers, refugee or evacuation centers, and low-income families, for the purpose of selling the child.

SECTION 8. Council. The Local Council Against Trafficking in Persons shall be composed of the following:

Chairperson: The Governor as Chairman of the Council or duly authorized Representative.

Vice Chairperson: The Provincial Social Welfare and Development Officer

Action Officer: Provincial Director, PNP-Isabela

Members:

1. Chairperson, Committee on Women and Family Affairs of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan or duly authorized representative.
2. Chairperson, Committee on Social Welfare, Housing, Senior Citizen and Person with Disability of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan or duly authorized representative.
3. Provincial Administrator or duly authorized representative.
4. Provincial Information Officer
5. Provincial Planning and Development Coordinator
6. Provincial Health Officer
7. Provincial Public Safety Officer
8. Provincial Youth Development Officer
9. Human Resource Management Officer
10. DepEd Schools Division Superintendent Province of Isabela
11. Provincial Director DILG
12. Provincial Prosecutor

13. Provincial Director Civil Service Commission
14. PESO Isabela
15. Provincial Legal Officer
16. President, League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP), Province of Isabela or duly authorized representative.
17. President, Liga ng mga Barangay Province or duly authorized representative.
18. Sangguniang Kabataan Provincial Federation President or duly authorized representative
19. Regional Director, Commission on Human Rights (CHR) or duly authorized representative.
20. Provincial Director, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) or duly authorized representative.
21. Provincial Culture, Arts, History, and Tourism Officer
22. Secretariat of Regional Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking /Child Pornography/Violence Against Women and their Children.
23. Regional Director, Land Transportation Office – Regional Office II.
24. Regional Director, Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board-Regional Office II
25. Chief, Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP)- Isabela
26. CSOs/NGOs duly accredited by the Province of Isabela whose advocacy is related to Anti-trafficking in Persons
27. Or any other agencies of Government or Non-government which may be identified by the Council Anti-trafficking in Persons

SECTION 9. Powers, Duties, and Functions of the Council. The following shall be the powers, duties, and functions of the Council:

1. Monitor and oversee the strict implementation of Republic Act No. 9208 as amended and other related laws for the protection of women and children in the component city and municipalities in the Province of Isabela.
2. Create and establish a system of surveillance, investigation, and rescue to ensure effective and efficient coordination.
3. Institute policies and programs to protect men and women and children who are victims of trafficking and violence (assist in the formulation of local ordinances).

4. Undertake information, education, and advocacy campaign against trafficking in person and VAWC.
5. Submit to the Regional IACAT-VAWC a comprehensive report on the programs undertaken on a semestral basis, to be submitted every 15th of July and January of the following year, or in synchrony with the reporting schedule to the president by the National IACs on VAWC and trafficking.
6. And perform other duties necessary to carry out the provisions of this ordinance.

SECTION 10. Secretariat. The Secretariat of the Council shall be the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office.

SECTION 11. Functions of the Secretariat. The functions of the secretariat shall be as follows:

1. Oversee the technical and administrative preparation for convening regular Council meetings and special meetings, technical working committee meetings, as necessary.
2. Prepares minutes of the meetings.
3. Prepare timely reports about progress in the implementation of Anti-trafficking in Persons related programs, projects, activities, and other reportorial requirements.
4. Guide the preparation and finalization of reports/documents/resolutions for review and approval of the Secretariat Head and Council members.

SECTION 12. Confidentiality. For this Ordinance, the provisions of RA No. 9208 as amended must be strictly observed for confidentiality.

SECTION 13. Declaration of Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day. Every 30th day of July of every year is hereby declared as the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day of the Province of Isabela. The Provincial Government in coordination with the Council shall hold a program in line with such declaration for awareness of the public.

SECTION 14. Coordination. The component cities/municipalities in the Province of Isabela are hereby directed to pass their city/municipal ordinance and create their own Council for Anti- Trafficking in Persons to address trafficking cases in the Province of Isabela.

Further, the component cities/municipalities are hereby mandated to include a seminar on trafficking in person as one of the requirements to grant a business permit to be conducted by the respective Anti-Trafficking in Persons Council of an LGU for awareness purposes.

Finally, the component cities/municipalities in the Province are hereby encouraged to observe the Provincial Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day every 30th day of July every year and enjoined to conduct activities in line with the celebration.

SECTION 15. Anti-Trafficking in Persons Desk. All Airports, Seaports, and Public terminals in the territorial jurisdiction of the Province of Isabela shall establish the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Desk.

The Anti-Trafficking in Persons Desk shall monitor and receive a complaint from a trafficked persons and report to the Provincial Council for Anti-Trafficking in Persons or to any concerned Agency of the Government for appropriate action.

SECTION 16. Monitoring and Data Gathering. The Anti-Trafficking in Persons Council of the respective component city and municipalities in the Province of Isabela shall coordinate with its provincial counterpart relative to the monitoring and gathering of data on human trafficking cases. Each City/Municipal Council shall submit its monthly report to the Provincial Council for monitoring purposes.

SECTION 17. Function of the Line Agencies. All the line agencies who are members of the Local Council Against Trafficking in Persons shall perform their respective functions under the Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA 9208, which is adopted in this Ordinance.

SECTION 18. Trainings. Regular training and seminars shall be conducted to enable the members of the LCAT to function efficiently. Similar trainings shall also be provided to officials and volunteers in the City/Municipal and Barangay levels for the purpose of capacitating them with the necessary knowledge and skills to preempt and prevent trafficking in persons in the Province of Isabela and to effectively assist in the monitoring, investigation and prosecution of anti-trafficking in persons cases.

SECTION 19. Internal Rules and Procedures. The Local Council of Anti-Trafficking in Persons is authorized to create and adopt its own internal rules and procedures to govern them in their policy and decision-making process subject to the ratification of at least three-fourths of the Council. All other decision of the Council shall be governed by simple majority vote.

SECTION 20. Presumption. Common provisions to Sections 4, 5, 6, and 7 of this Ordinance: If an offender having been caught in the act of being in the presence of a victim or a would-be victim of trafficking in persons is a prima facie evidence and considered guilty of an offense in Trafficking in Persons.

SECTION 21. Appropriation. The Provincial Government of Isabela shall appropriate funds from the Annual Budget for the initial implementation of this Ordinance and shall be charged out of the budget of the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office (PSWDO). Its implementation for the succeeding years shall be included in the subsequent Annual Appropriation Ordinance or supplemental budget of the Province of Isabela.

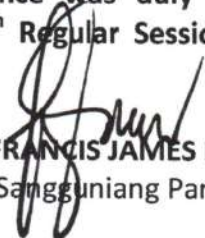
SECTION 22. Separability Clause. If for any reason or reasons, any part or provision of this Ordinance shall be held to be unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING MECHANISMS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9208 OR THE "ANTI-TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS ACT OF 2003" IN THE PROVINCE OF ISABELA AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

SECTION 23. Repealing Clause. All ordinances, resolutions, executive orders, and other issuances which are inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.


SECTION 24. Effectivity Clause. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately after approval.

I hereby certify that the foregoing ordinance was duly enacted by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Isabela during its 30th Regular Session on March 07, 2023.


ATTY. FRANCIS JAMES E. MEER
Secretary, Sangguniang Panlalawigan


ATTESTED:



DELFINITO EMMANUEL L. ALBANO
Member (1st District)



EMMANUEL JOSELITO B. ANES
Member (1st District)

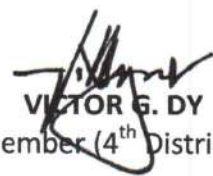

ED CHRISTIAN S. GO
Member (2nd District)


EDGAR R. CAPUCHINO
Member (2nd District)



MARY GRACE D. ARREOLA
Member (3rd District)


RAMON JUAN N. REYES, JR.
Member (3rd District)



CLIFFORD R. RASPADO
Member (4th District)



VICTOR G. DY
Member (4th District)


MANUEL FAUSTINO U. DY
Member (5th District)


EDWARD S. ISIDRO
Member (5th District)


MARCO PAOLO A. MERIS
Member (6th District)


AMADOR A. GAFFUD, JR.
Member (6th District)


ANTONIO S. HUI
Member, PCL Federation President


DANTE G. HALAMAN
Member, LNB Federation President

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING MECHANISMS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9208 OR THE "ANTI-TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS ACT OF 2003" IN THE PROVINCE OF ISABELA AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES



DAX PAOLO C. BINAG
Member, SK Federation President



ADRIAN PHILIP S. BAYSAC
Member, Agricultural Workers
Sector Representative



LOURDES S. PANGNIBAN
Member, Women's Sectoral Representative



MARGARETTE U. CHIN
Member, Indigenous Cultural Communities
Sector Representative



EVYN JAY C. DIAZ
Member, Labor Sector Representative



FAUSTINO G. DY III
Vice Governor

APPROVED:



RODOLFO T. ALBANO III
Governor



Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF ISABELA
City of Ilagan

Office of the Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO 11 Series of 2023

AN ORDER ORGANIZING THE COMMITTEE ON DECORUM AND INVESTIGATION (CODI) TO HANDLE SEXUAL HARASSMENT CASES IN THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF ISABELA

WHEREAS, Section 4, paragraph (b) of RA 7877, otherwise known as the Anti-Sexual Harassment Act of 1995, mandates the creation of the Committee on Decorum and Investigation (CODI) to handle sexual harassment cases both government and private sectors;

WHEREAS, CSC Resolution No. 2100064 strengthens the role of the Committee on Decorum and Investigation (CODI) in a government agency and averts possible delays in their investigation of complaints of sexual-harassment;

WHEREAS, pursuant to said mandate, the Committee on Decorum and Investigation (CODI) in the Provincial Government of Isabela created by virtue of Executive Order;

WHEREAS, The CSC MC No. 11 s. 2021 "Revised Administrative Disciplinary Rules on Sexual Harassment Cases (Amendment to the Sexual Harassment Provisions in 2017 Revised Rules on Administrative Cases in the Civil Service)", Section 14 (b) paragraph 4, in relation to Section 33 (c) of RA 11313 (Safe Spaces Act) IRR states that *"Every CODI shall be headed by a woman and not less than half of its members shall be women"*.

NOW THEREFORE, I, HON. RODOLFO T. ALBANO III, by virtue of powers vested in me by law as the Provincial Governor of Isabela, do hereby organize the Committee on Decorum and Investigation (CODI) to handle sexual harassment cases in the Provincial Government of Isabela, as follows:

Section I. COMPOSITION. The Committee on Decorum and Investigation (CODI) shall composed of the following:

Chairperson	: ATTY. ELIZABETH C. BINAG Provincial Information Officer and Head EAs
Co-Chairperson	: ATTY. NOEL MANUEL R. LOPEZ Provincial Administrator
Members	: HON. LOURDES S. PANGANIBAN SP Committee Chairman on Women : MS. LUCILA M. AMBATALI Provincial Social Welfare and Development Officer : MS. JANETTE A. CASTILLEJO Provincial Human Resource Management Officer

: DR. NELSON O. PAGUIRIGAN

Provincial Health Officer II

: MS. ELSA M. PASTRANA

Provincial Budget Officer

Secretariat

: CHARMIYA ROSALINA L. CRUZ

SWO IV

: MITOS C. CABRERA

SWO III

Section II. The Committee on Decorum and Investigation (CODI) shall have the following **FUNCTIONS**:

1. The CODI shall receive complaints of sexual harassment.
2. The CODI shall investigate sexual harassment complaints in accordance with the prescribed procedure.
3. The CODI shall submit a report of its findings with the corresponding recommendation to the Office of the Provincial Governor for decision.
4. The CODI shall lead in the conduct of discussions about sexual harassment within the agency to increase understanding and prevent incident of sexual harassment.

Section III. EFFECTIVITY

This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

Done this 21st day of March 2023 at the City of Ilagan,
Isabela.


RODOLFO T. ALBANO III
Provincial Governor





Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF ISABELA
City of Ilagan
-oOo-

Office of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 30th REGULAR SESSION OF THE 11th SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN OF ISABELA HELD AT PROVINCIAL CAPITOL, ILAGAN CITY, ISABELA ON MARCH 07, 2023.

PRESENT:

FAUSTINO G. DY III	Vice Governor & Presiding Officer
DELFINITO EMMANUEL L. ALBANO	Member (1 st District) & Floor Leader
EMMANUEL JOSELITO B. AÑES	Member (1 st District)
ED CHRISTIAN S. GO	Member (2 nd District)
EDGAR R. CAPUCHINO	Member (2 nd District)
MARY GRACE D. ARREOLA	Member (3 rd District)
RAMON JUAN N. REYES, JR.	Member (3 rd District)
CLIFFORD R. RASPADO	Member (4 th District)
VICTOR G. DY	Member (4 th District)
MANUEL FAUSTINO U. DY	Member (5 th District)
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DAX PAOLO C. BINAG	Member, SK Federation President
ADRIAN PHILIP S. BAYSAC	Member, Agricultural Workers Sector Representative
LOURDES S. PANGANIBAN	Member, Women's Sectoral Representative
MARGARETTE U. CHIN	Member, Indigenous Cultural Communities Sector Representative
EVYN JAY C. DIAZ	Member, Labor Sector Representative

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-07-05

Series of 2023

AN ORDINANCE UPDATING THE GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT CODE OF THE PROVINCE OF ISABELA, AS AMENDED, THEREBY AMENDING SECTIONS 2, 10, 12, 13, 14, 22, 27, 33, 34, 35, AND 36, AND INSERTING SECTIONS 2.1.6, 2.1.7., 2.1.8, 3.11.11, 3.12, 3.113, 4.52, 4.53, 4.54, 4.56, 21-A, AND 42.4

Sponsor: HON. LOURDES S. PANGANIBAN

Chairperson, Committee on Gender and Development, and Gender Equality

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Gender and Development (GAD) Code of the Province of Isabela is a fundamental legislative framework designed to promote gender equality, protection, and empowerment of all individuals within the province. This proposed ordinance seeks to amend the existing GAD Code to incorporate essential and timely provisions from the Safe Spaces Act (RA 11313), the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act (RA 9208), and the Anti-OSAEC and Anti-CSAEM Act (RA 11930). These amendments aim to enhance safety, security, mental health, and overall well-being for all genders, addressing contemporary challenges in both physical and digital spaces.

Nagkaisa para sa Isabela



The integration of the Safe Spaces Act provisions is crucial for creating environments free from gender-based sexual harassment. The Act mandates protection against harassment in streets, workplaces, educational institutions, and online spaces. By embedding these provisions into the GAD Code, the Province of Isabela will ensure a comprehensive approach to preventing and responding to gender-based harassment across all areas.

Human trafficking remains a severe issue, and the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act provides robust measures for its prevention, protection of victims, and their rehabilitation. The proposed amendments to the GAD Code will strengthen the provincial government's efforts to combat trafficking, provide alternative livelihoods for survivors, and train law enforcement officials to enforce anti-trafficking laws effectively.

The rise of online sexual abuse and exploitation, particularly of children, necessitates stringent protective measures. The Anti-OSAEC and Anti-CSAEM Act addresses these challenges, and by incorporating its provisions, the GAD Code will better protect children from online exploitation, ensure safe digital environments, and support victims of online sexual abuse.

Recognizing the critical importance of mental health, the proposed amendments also integrate provisions from the Mental Health Act. These include establishing comprehensive mental health services, conducting regular awareness campaigns, and providing mental health support in workplaces, schools, and communities. Training for local government employees and law enforcement officers on mental health awareness and support is also emphasized.

Key amendments to the GAD Code include the introduction of secured environments for investigating violence cases, comprehensive anti-trafficking programs, and strict enforcement of safety policies in public and private spaces. The Code will also mandate regular mental health promotion activities and the establishment of support mechanisms for mental health care. Moreover, the Code includes strict regulations and penal provisions to ensure compliance and protect the rights and privacy of victims and offenders.

By establishing the GAD Council, the proposed amendments ensure effective implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of gender and development initiatives. The Council will be responsible for policy formulation, advocacy, coordination with national and international agencies, and regular monitoring to ensure timely and effective responses to all GAD concerns.

In conclusion, these amendments to the GAD Code are vital for addressing the evolving challenges of gender-based violence, online exploitation, human trafficking, and mental health issues. The proposed ordinance aims to create a safer, more inclusive, and supportive environment for all genders in the Province of Isabela. The Provincial Government of Isabela is committed to implementing these changes to ensure the well-being and empowerment of its constituents.

AN ORDINANCE UPDATING THE GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT CODE OF THE PROVINCE OF ISABELA, AS AMENDED, THEREBY AMENDING SECTIONS 2, 12, 13, 14, 22, 27, 33, 34, 35, AND 36, AND INSERTING SECTIONS 2.1.6, 2.1.7., 2.1.8, 3.11.11, 3.12, 3.113, 4.52, 4.53, 4.54, 4.56, 21-A, AND 42.4 AND 42.4

SECTION 1. Title - This ordinance shall be known and cited as the "Gender and Development Code of the Province of Isabela , hereinafter referred to as the GAD Code as amended".

Section. 1. Short Title. This Ordinance shall be known as the "2023 Updated Gender and Development Code of Isabela".

Section 2. Amended Provisions. The following sections of the Gender and Development of Isabela, as amended, are hereby amended to read as follows:

- i. **"SECTION 2. Declaration of Principles and Policies** - It is the general principle and policy of the Provincial Government of Isabela to promote all gender empowerment, equality, and gender-responsive development. Specifically, the principles include recognizing all gender rights as human rights, ensuring equal participation in all spheres of life, and promoting gender equality in all aspects of local governance to ensure that all genders equally contribute to and benefit from development.
- ii. **"SECTION 10. Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Trafficking Survivors.** The Provincial Government shall establish and maintain shelters and rehabilitation centers for trafficking survivors, providing comprehensive services including medical care, psychological counseling, legal assistance, and skills training for reintegration into society.
- iii. **SECTION 12. Prostitution and Trafficking as a Violation of Women's Right** - Prostitution and trafficking are considered exploitation and a violation of human rights. To prevent the proliferation of prostitution and trafficking, the Provincial Government shall:
 - a. Conduct advocacy and capacity-building activities.
 - b. Provide alternative sources of livelihood to women victim-survivors.
 - c. Develop and implement comprehensive anti-trafficking programs, including prevention, protection, and rehabilitation services.
 - d. Train law enforcement officials to effectively enforce anti-trafficking laws.
- iv. **SECTION 13. Media Monitoring Board** - A local monitoring board for print broadcast, electronic, film, and other forms of media shall be set up to oversee and recommend measures against acts degrading to women, children, and indigenous people in all forms of media. This includes setting up a reporting mechanism and working with media organizations to promote gender-sensitize content.

- v. **SECTION 14. Reproductive Health Care Approach** – The Provincial Government shall ensure reproductive health care services to men and women, anchored on the following elements:
- a) Maternal, infant, and child health and nutrition.
 - b) Family planning information and services.
 - c) Prevention of abortion and management of its complications.
 - d) Adolescent and youth health.
 - e) Prevention and management of Reproductive Tract Infections (RTIs), HIV/AIDS, and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs).
 - f) Elimination of violence against women.
 - g) Education and counseling on sexuality and sexual health.
 - h) Treatment of breast and reproductive tract cancers and other gynecological conditions.
 - i) Male involvement in reproductive health.
 - j) Comprehensive mental health care, including prevention, promotion, treatment, and rehabilitation services for all genders.
- vi. **SECTION 22. Gender-Mainstreaming at all Levels of Governance** – The Provincial Government shall endeavor to establish mechanisms to ensure that gender issues and concerns are addressed in legislation, public policies, programs, and projects. This includes integrating gender perspectives into planning, budgeting, and implementing processes at all levels of governance.
- vii. **SECTION 27. Criteria for Hiring in Government Positions** - The Provincial Government shall ensure that criteria for hiring, recruitment, selection, and appointment to government positions are transparent, relevant, and not discriminatory against gender and sexual orientations. Affirmative actions shall be implemented to promote equal opportunities for all genders.
- viii. **SECTION 33. HUMANE AND JUST TREATMENT OF FEMALE AND MINOR OFFENDERS AS WELL AS LGBTIQ COMMUNITY** - To promote humane and just treatment of females apprehended for light offenses and minor offenders, they shall not be handcuffed unless the rules of engagement of the PNP provide otherwise. Separate facilities for female and minor detainees shall be provided, ensuring appropriate programs designed to respond to their specific needs.
- ix. **Section 34. Protection Against OSAEC and OSAEM and Enforcement of Security and Safety Policies in Public and Private Spaces.** The Provincial Government of Isabela shall strictly enforce policies to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation, and ensure the security and safety of all individuals in the community, not only in private spaces but also on public streets, public spaces, online platforms, workplaces, and educational and training institutions. These policies shall include but are not limited to the following:

- a) Establishment of safe and secure public spaces free from gender-based harassment and violence.
- b) Implementation of safety measures and surveillance systems in public areas to deter criminal activities.
- c) Mandatory training for all local government employees, law enforcement officers, and public officials on gender sensitivity, anti-harassment policies, and handling cases of gender-based violence.
- d) Development of online safety protocols to protect individuals, especially children, from online sexual abuse and exploitation.
- e) Creation of dedicated reporting mechanisms for cases of harassment, abuse, and trafficking, including hotlines, online platforms, and physical offices.
- f) Regular monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of safety and security measures, with reports submitted to the GAD Council and made accessible to the public. Establishing a dedicated unit within the local law enforcement agencies to monitor, investigate, and act on cases of OSAEC.
- g) Providing training for law enforcement personnel on identifying and handling cases of online sexual abuse and exploitation.
- h) Collaborating with national and international organizations to combat OSAEC.
- i) Developing and implementing public awareness campaigns to educate parents, guardians, and children about online safety.

x. **Section 35. Reporting Mechanisms for OSAEC and CSAEM.** The Provincial Government shall establish and enforce mechanisms for reporting cases of online sexual abuse and exploitation of children, including hotlines, online reporting platforms, and designated offices. These mechanisms shall ensure confidentiality and immediate action on reports.

xi. **Section 36. Support Services for Victims of OSAEC and CSAEM** The Provincial Government shall provide comprehensive support services for victims of online sexual abuse and exploitation, including:

- a. Medical and psychological care.
- b. Legal assistance.
- c. Safe shelters for immediate protection.
- d. Long-term rehabilitation programs to aid in the recovery and reintegration of victims.

xii. **SECTION 55. Socialized Reproductive Health Services** - No hospital in the province, public or private, shall deny any person the right to avail themselves of appropriate health care at all times. Non-compliance by any health facility shall result in penalties, including non-renewal of business permits or administrative charges for government officials.

Section 3. New Sections. The following sections are hereby included and integrated to the Gender and Development Code of Isabela, as amended:

- i. **Section 2.1.6)** That special protections are provided to children to protect them from all forms of sexual violence, abuse and exploitation especially those committed with the use of information and communications

technology (ICT), provide sanctions for their commission and carry out programs for the prevention, deterrence and intervention in all situations of online sexual abuse and exploitation of children in the digital and non-digital production, distribution or possession of child sexual abuse or exploitation material.

- ii. **Section 2.1.7)** That safe spaces free from gender-based sexual harassment in all public and private institutions are created and maintained.
- iii. **Section 2.1.8)** That mental health and well-being are promoted through the provision of comprehensive mental health services and support systems.
- iv. **Section 3.1.11)** Safe Spaces Act or Republic Act No. 11313
- v. **Section 3.1.12)** Anti-Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children and Anti-Child Sexual Abuse Exploitation Materials Act or Republic Act No. 11930
- vi. **Section 3.1.13)** Mental Health Act or Republic Act No. 11036
- vii. **Section 4.52) Online Sexual Abuse or Exploitation of Children (OSAEC):** Refers to any act of sexually exploiting a child through the use of information and communication technology.
- viii. **Section 4.53) Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAEM):** Any visual, video, audio, written, or any combination thereof by electronic, mechanical, digital, optical, magnetic, or any other means that involves a child in real or simulated sexual activities.
- ix. **Section 4.54) Gender-Based Sexual Harassment:** Any unwanted and unwelcome sexual behavior that occurs in public spaces, workplaces, or online, creating a hostile environment for the victim.
- x. **Section 4.55) Safe Spaces:** Environments where individuals can be free from harassment, discrimination, and any form of abuse.
- xi. **4.56) Mental Health:** A state of well-being in which every individual realizes their own potential, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively, and is able to make a contribution to their community.
- xii. **SECTION 21-A. Promotion of Mental Health.** To promote mental health and well-being in the community, the Provincial Government shall:
 - a) Establish mental health programs that provide comprehensive mental health services, including prevention, promotion, treatment, and rehabilitation.
 - b) Ensure access to mental health services in all public health facilities.

AN ORDINANCE UPDATING THE GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT CODE OF THE PROVINCE OF ISABELA, AS AMENDED, THEREBY AMENDING SECTIONS 2, 10, 12, 13, 14, 22, 27, 33, 34, 35, AND 36, AND INSERTING SECTIONS 2.1.6, 2.1.7., 2.1.8, 3.11.11, 3.12, 3.113, 4.52, 4.53, 4.54, 4.56, 21-A, AND 42.4


- c) Conduct regular mental health awareness campaigns to educate the public on mental health issues, reduce stigma, and promote mental well-being.
- d) Provide mental health support and counseling services in workplaces, schools, and communities.
- e) Train local government employees, educators, health workers, and law enforcement officers on mental health awareness and support.

xiii. Section 42.4 The Provincial Government of Isabela, in collaboration with the Department of Interior and Local Government, Philippine Information Agency, Commission on Filipinos Overseas, National Government Agencies, and other concerned agencies, shall strengthen its Migrants Advisory Information Network Desks to ensure that its mandates and functions are effectively attained.

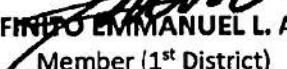
Section 4. Repealing clause. All ordinances, orders, and other issuances inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.


Section 5. Effectivity. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its approval.

I hereby certify that the foregoing ordinance was duly enacted by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Isabela during its 30th Regular Session on March 07, 2023.

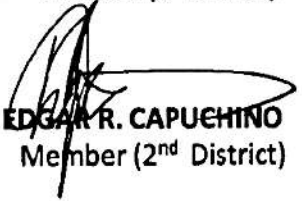

ATTY. FRANCIS JAMES E. MEER
Secretary, Sangguniang Panlalawigan


ATTESTED:



DELFINO EMMANUEL L. ALBANO
Member (1st District)



EMMANUEL JOSELITO B. ANES
Member (1st District)


ED CHRISTIAN S. GO
Member (2nd District)


EDGAR R. CAPUCHINO
Member (2nd District)


MARY GRACE D. ARREOLA
Member (3rd District)


RAMON JUAN N. REYES, JR.
Member (3rd District)



CLIFFORD R. RASPADO
Member (4th District)

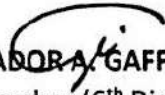

VICTOR G. DY
Member (4th District)

AN ORDINANCE UPDATING THE GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT CODE OF THE PROVINCE OF ISABELA, AS AMENDED, THEREBY AMENDING SECTIONS 2, 10, 12, 13, 14, 22, 27, 33, 34, 35, AND 36, AND INSERTING SECTIONS 2.1.6, 2.1.7., 2.1.8, 3.11.11, 3.12, 3.113, 4.52, 4.53, 4.54, 4.56, 21-A, AND 42.4


MANUEL FAUSTINO U. DY
Member (5th District)


EDWARD S. ISIDRO
Member (5th District)


MARCO PAOLO A. MERIS
Member (6th District)


AMADOR A. GAFFUD, JR.
Member (6th District)


ANTONIO S. HUI
Member, PCL Federation President


DANTE G. HALAMAN
Member, LnB Federation President


DAX PAOLO C. BINAG
Member, SK Federation President


ADRIAN PHILIP S. BAYSAC
Member, Agricultural Workers
Sector Representative


LOURDES S. PANGANIBAN
Member, Women's Sectoral Representative

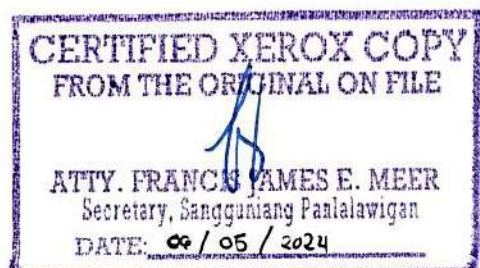

MARGARETTE U. CHIN
Member, Indigenous Cultural Communities
Sector Representative


EVIN JAY C. DIAZ
Member, Labor Sector Representative


FAUSTINO G. DY III
Vice Governor

APPROVED:


RODOLFO T. ALBANO III
Governor





Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF ISABELA
City of Ilagan
-oOo-

Office of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 30th REGULAR SESSION OF THE 11th SANGGUNIANG
PANLALAWIGAN OF ISABELA HELD AT PROVINCIAL CAPITOL, ILAGAN CITY, ISABELA
ON MARCH 07, 2023.

PRESENT:

FAUSTINO G. DY III	Vice Governor & Presiding Officer
DELFINITO EMMANUEL L. ALBANO	Member (1 st District) & Floor Leader
EMMANUEL JOSELITO B. AÑES	Member (1 st District)
ED CHRISTIAN S. GO	Member (2 nd District)
EDGAR R. CAPUCHINO	Member (2 nd District)
MARY GRACE D. ARREOLA	Member (3 rd District)
RAMON JUAN N. REYES, JR.	Member (3 rd District)
CLIFFORD R. RASPADO	Member (4 th District)
VICTOR G. DY	Member (4 th District)
MANUEL FAUSTINO U. DY	Member (5 th District)
EDWARD S. ISIDRO	Member (5 th District)
MARCO PAOLO A. MERIS	Member (6 th District)
AMADOR A. GAFFUD, JR.	Member (6 th District)
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DAX PAOLO C. BINAG	Member, SK Federation President
ADRIAN PHILIP S. BAYSAC	Member, Agricultural Workers Sector Representative
LOURDES S. PANGANIBAN	Member, Women's Sectoral Representative
MARGARETTE U. CHIN	Member, Indigenous Cultural Communities Sector Representative
EVYN JAY C. DIAZ	Member, Labor Sector Representative

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-07-02 SERIES OF 2023

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING CHILD PROTECTION POLICIES FOR PRIVATE ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE PROVINCE OF ISABELA

Sponsor: HON. CLIFFORD R. RASPADO
Chairperson, Committee on Children's Affairs

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This ordinance seeks to enforce child protection policies in private establishments within the Province of Isabela, recognizing the fundamental rights and welfare of children as paramount concerns that require proactive measures from all sectors of society.

Child abuse, exploitation, and neglect remain prevalent issues affecting children globally, necessitating concerted efforts to create safe environments where children can thrive and develop to their full potential. While existing laws and regulations provide frameworks for child protection within government agencies, there is a need to extend

Nagkaisa para sa Isabela



these principles to private entities, including businesses and establishments, to ensure comprehensive protection for children.

The enactment of this ordinance is guided by the principles enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and other relevant international instruments, as well as national laws and policies aimed at promoting and safeguarding children's rights. It underscores the Province of Isabela's commitment to upholding these principles and translating them into concrete actions that protect children from all forms of abuse, exploitation, and neglect.

Key provisions of this ordinance include the requirement for private establishments to develop and implement child protection policies consistent with the principles outlined herein. These policies are aimed at preventing, reporting, and responding to cases of child abuse or exploitation within the establishment's premises and operations. Additionally, establishments are encouraged to designate a Child Protection Officer responsible for overseeing the implementation of these policies and serving as the point of contact for reporting and addressing cases of child abuse or exploitation.

Compliance with this ordinance is essential to ensure the effective implementation of child protection measures in private establishments. Mechanisms for monitoring and enforcement are established to uphold compliance and address instances of non-compliance accordingly, including the imposition of sanctions or penalties as provided for by applicable laws and regulations.

Through this ordinance, the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of the Province of Isabela reaffirms its commitment to promoting the rights and welfare of children and underscores the importance of collective action in creating safe and nurturing environments where children can grow, learn, and thrive.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate approval of this ordinance is earnestly sought.

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING CHILD PROTECTION POLICIES FOR PRIVATE ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE PROVINCE OF ISABELA

Section 1: Declaration of Policy. The Provincial Government of Isabela hereby declares the following as its policies:

a. The Provincial Government of Isabela recognizes that children are entitled to special protection and assistance by virtue of their vulnerability and inherent rights as enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and other relevant international instruments.

b. It is the policy of the Province of Isabela to uphold and promote the rights and welfare of children, ensuring that they are protected from all forms of abuse, exploitation, and neglect, regardless of their socio-economic status or circumstances.

c. The Province of Isabela affirms its commitment to creating a safe and nurturing environment conducive to the holistic development of children, where their physical, emotional, psychological, and social well-being are prioritized and safeguarded.

d. Private establishments operating within the Province of Isabela are integral partners in the realization of child protection goals and are therefore enjoined to uphold the principles of this ordinance, implement child protection policies, and collaborate with relevant authorities to ensure the effective implementation of child protection measures.

e. The Province of Isabela recognizes the importance of comprehensive and coordinated efforts involving government agencies, civil society organizations, the private sector, and the community at large in safeguarding the rights and welfare of children, and commits to fostering partnerships and collaborations to this end.

Section 2: Definitions. For the purpose of this ordinance, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

a. Child - refers to a person below eighteen (18) years of age, or one who is 18 or over but is unable to take care of or protect himself/herself from abuse, neglect, cruelty, exploitation, or discrimination because of a physical or mental disability or condition.

b. Child Abuse - refers to the maltreatment of a child, whether habitual or not, which includes any form of psychological or physical abuse, neglect, cruelty, sexual abuse, and emotional maltreatment.

c. Child Protection Policy - is an articulation of the commitment of an organization or agency to promote and fulfill the rights of the child to protection as enshrined in international conventions and national laws. It aims to safeguard children from all forms of abuse, violence, and exploitation.

d. Private Establishment - refers to any business, commercial, or non-governmental entity operating within the territorial jurisdiction of the Province of Isabela.

Section 3: Policy Statement and Commitment. Private establishments operating within the Province of Isabela shall adhere to the following principles:

a. Ensure the protection of children against all forms of abuse, exploitation, and neglect within their premises and operations;

b. Advocate for children's rights and promote their welfare and development in alignment with international standards and national laws;

c. Establish and implement child protection policies and procedures consistent with the principles outlined in this ordinance;

d. Provide appropriate assistance to children in need without discrimination or expectation of favor in return;

e. Prohibit the participation or tolerance of any acts of child abuse, neglect, exploitation, discrimination, or any analogous or similar acts within their premises;

f. Create a safe and child-friendly environment conducive to the well-being and development of children.

Section 4: Requirements for Private Establishments. Private establishments within the administrative jurisdiction of the Provincial Government of Isabela are hereby enjoined to adhere or perform the following:

a. Develop and implement child protection policies and procedures consistent with the principles outlined in this ordinance. Child protection policies shall include provisions addressing the prevention, reporting, and response to cases of child abuse, exploitation, and neglect within the establishment's premises and operations.

c. Designate a Child Protection Officer responsible for overseeing the implementation of child protection policies and procedures and serving as the point of contact for reporting and addressing cases of child abuse or exploitation.

d. Child protection policies shall be communicated to all employees, contractors, and stakeholders of the establishment through orientation programs, training sessions, or written materials.

Section 5: Compliance and Monitoring. The Provincial Government of Isabela shall establish mechanisms for monitoring and enforcing compliance with this ordinance, including conducting regular inspections and assessments of private establishments' adherence to child protection policies.

Section 6: Appropriation of Funds. The Provincial Government of Isabela shall allocate adequate financial resources to ensure the efficient enforcement and implementation of the provisions of this ordinance.

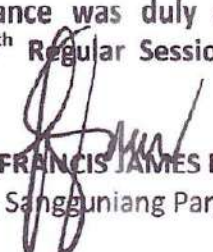
Section 7. Separability Clause. If any provision of this ordinance is declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions hereof.

Section 8. Repealing Clause. All resolution, ordinances, and other local legislative measures and issuances contrary to or inconsistent with this ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

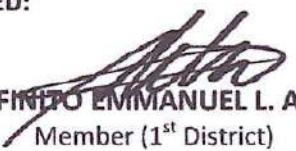
Section 9. Effectivity. This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its approval.


AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING CHILD PROTECTION POLICIES FOR PRIVATE ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE PROVINCE OF ISABELA


I hereby certify that the foregoing ordinance was duly enacted by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Isabela during its 30th Regular Session on March 07, 2023.

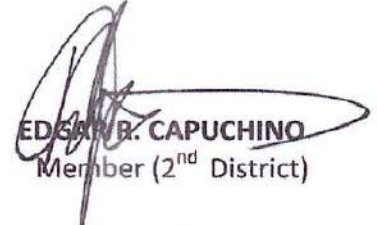

ATTY. FRANCIS JAMES E. MEER
Secretary, Sangguniang Panlalawigan


ATTESTED:

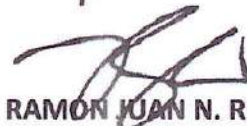

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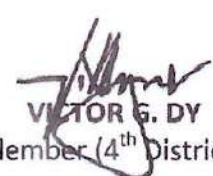

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FAUSTINO G. DY III

Vice Governor

APPROVED:



RODOLFO T. ALBANO III

Governor