



Republic of the Philippines  
PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN  
Lingayen  
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**OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN SECRETARY**

# CERTIFICATION

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:**

*THIS IS TO CERTIFY that at the special session duly constituted of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, Province of Pangasinan, held on April 8, 2020 at Lingayen, Pangasinan, the following provincial ordinance was approved:*

Authored by SP Member Margielou Orange D. Humilde-Verzosa

**PROVINCIAL ORDINANCE NO. 236-2020**

**AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING ANY PERSON FROM COMMITTING ANY ACT WHICH CAUSES STIGMA, DISGRACE, SHAME, HUMILIATION, HARASSMENT OR OTHERWISE DISCRIMINATING AGAINST A PERSON INFECTED, UNDER INVESTIGATION OR MONITORING DUE TO THE COVID-19, INCLUDING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE DOCTORS, NURSES, HEALTH WORKERS, EMERGENCY PERSONNEL AND VOLUNTEERS, SERVICE WORKERS WHO ARE ASSIGNED TO HOSPITALS OR OTHER CENTERS WHERE THESE PERSONS ARE BEING TREATED, INCLUDING THEIR FAMILIES AND RELATIVES, AND RETURNING OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS, AND IMPOSING THE APPROPRIATE PENALTIES THEREIN, HEREIN OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ANTI-COVID-19 DISCRIMINATION ORDINANCE OF 2020**

**WHEREAS**, on March 8, 2020, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte signed Proclamation No. 922, Declaring a State of Public Health Emergency Throughout the Philippines, to contain the outbreak of Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in the Philippines, and on March 16, placed the entire Luzon area in the Philippines under "enhanced community quarantine" (ECQ) and likewise signed Presidential Proclamation No. 929, Series of 2020, Declaring a State of Calamity Throughout the Philippines Due to Corona Virus Disease 2019;

**WHEREAS**, with Code Red Sub-Level Two (2) hoisted in the country in accordance with the recommendation of the Department of Health (DOH) and the Inter-Agency Task Force for Emerging Infectious Disease (IATF), as of April 8, 2020, there are three thousand eight hundred seventy (3,870) confirmed cases of the COVID-19 in the Philippines, one hundred eighty two deaths and ninety six recoveries recorded, and subsequently prompted the Government to extend the Enhanced Community Quarantine until April 30 in an effort to contain the spread of COVID-19;



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**WHEREAS**, since the emergence of COVID-19, there have been reports of instances of public stigmatization and harmful stereotyping among persons who have contracted the disease, PUIs and PUMs wherein people are being labeled, stereotyped, separated and/or experience loss of status and discrimination because of a potential negative affiliation with the disease; further, stigmatization could drive people to hide the illness to avoid discrimination thereby preventing them from seeking health care immediately and discourage them from adopting healthy behaviors;

**WHEREAS**, in harmony with the statement of the Commission on Human Rights that “With the world confronted with a virus with little information known, it is human to be afraid. But we must not allow hysteria and paranoia to result to othering and irrational treatment of people”, the Department of Health (DOH) recently warned the public against discrimination against persons reported to have contracted COVID-19, PUIs and PUMs, health workers and all other emergency workers who are among those in the frontlines of the battle against the rapidly spreading COVID-19;

**WHEREAS**, there have been reports of incidents of health workers being evicted out of their residences, recovered patients prevented from returning back to their residences, people doused with water and bleach, support personnel being injured for allegedly transporting COVID-19 positive patients, refusal of service in eateries or transportations over fears of infection, some were shunned by local stores, boarding houses, and even from their own barangays and homes, and posting online of false and inaccurate social media posts circulating names of people alleged to have been infected with COVID-19 and urging the recipients to check if they had contact with those listed;

**WHEREAS**, the august Body has expressed concern over the gravity of the situation thereby recognizing an urgent need to combat this pervasive stigmatization and discrimination on the basis of one’s medical condition, to bring normalcy and order amidst the crisis, and to protect the constituency from unjust discrimination brought on by paranoia, fear and panic by the public;

**WHEREAS**, the 1987 Constitution provides that every person has the right to life, liberty and security of person and privacy, and the right to be free from discrimination, and further ensures the dignity of every person and guarantees full respect for human rights;

**WHEREAS**, in consonance with the Doctrine of *Parens Patriae*, the Province of Pangasinan shall provide protection to people during these trying times by showing compassion, empathy and tolerance towards its affected constituents as this virus can infect any person regardless of race, age, sex or social standing because it is only through a united front can they fight and end the pandemic;

**WHEREFORE**, in view of the foregoing, on motion of SP Member Margielou Orange D. Humilde-Verzosa, duly seconded -



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*Be it enacted by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan in session assembled:*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE** – This ordinance shall be known as “ANTI-COVID-19 DISCRIMINATION ORDINANCE OF 2020.”

**SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS OF TERMS.** –

1. **Persons infected, Patients Under Investigation (PUIs) and Persons under Monitoring (PUMs)** are those defined by the protocols and guidelines for COVID-19 released by the Department of Health.
2. **Health workers** – are those in the health sector who deliver care and services to the sick and ailing, either directly or indirectly, and include doctors, nurses, laboratory technicians, health management and support workers in hospitals or health care facilities.

All people in the health sector who are engaged in actions or activities whose primary intent is to enhance health.

2. **Front liners** – include officers and members of the PNP, AFP, PCG and instrumentalities of the government rendering emergency frontline services, border control and other critical services. It also include service workers who are working in private establishments providing basic necessities and such other activities related to food and medicine production and distribution, i.e., public markets, supermarkets, groceries, convenience stores, hospitals, medical clinics, pharmacies and drug stores, food preparation and delivery services, water refilling stations, manufacturing and processing plants of basic food products and medicines, banks, money transfer services, power, energy, telecommunications and water supplies and other related facilities.
3. **Returning/Repatriated Overseas Filipino Worker** - Filipino citizen who works abroad for a limited and definite period who was brought back to the Philippines from a COVID 19-affected country through emergency repatriation.

**SECTION 3. UNLAWFUL ACTS.** – It shall be unlawful for any person, whether natural or juridical, to commit any act or make utterances which cause to tend to cause stigma, disgrace, shame, humiliation, harassment or otherwise discriminating against a person infected, under investigation or monitoring due to COVID-19, health worker or front liner as defined under this Ordinance.

If any public officer refuses or fails to give assistance to a person infected, under investigation or monitoring due to COVID-19, health worker or front liner who intends to return to his place or residence or domicile, after obtaining clearance of the COVID-19 infection from the proper health officials, he/she shall be equally liable under this section.



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Any person who shall publicly claim, post on social media, spread or announce that a person that a person is infected, in under investigation or monitoring due to COVID-19 whether or not the same has been confirmed or validated from the list given by authorized proper health officials, agency or department, shall also be liable under this section. If the person violating is a public officer, the penalty imposed shall be in its maximum and can also be a ground for filing an administrative case against said official EXCEPT when the patient concerned waived his/her right to privacy and for purposes of contact tracing and other medical purposes;

**SECTION 4. PENALTIES.** – Any person caught in violation of Section 3 hereof shall be fined with Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000.00) or imprisonment not exceeding six (6) months or both at the discretion of the court. If the offender is a public officer, the maximum penalty herein shall be imposed.

Juridical person – If committed by a juridical person, the President, General Manager, Corporate Secretary or person with related interest in the Corporation or Partnership or Association shall be held liable or penalized accordingly.

**SECTION 5. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE.** – If, for any reason or reasons, any part or provision of this Ordinance shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof, which are not affected thereby, shall continue to be in full force and effect.


**SECTION 6. REPEALING CLAUSE.** – All ordinances, rules or regulations in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed; PROVIDED, that the rights already vested under those ordinances, rules and regulations shall not be impaired.

**SECTION 7. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE.** – This Ordinance shall take effect upon its approval.

CERTIFIED BY:

  
**VERNA T. NAVA-PEREZ**  
Secretary to the Sanggunian

ATTESTED:

  
**MARK RONALD DG. LAMBINO**  
Vice Governor  
(Presiding Officer)

APPROVED:

  
**AMADO I. ESPINO III**  
Governor