



Republic of the Philippines
Province of Laguna
MUNICIPALITY OF LOS BAÑOS
Special Science and Nature City
OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN
Municipal Hall, National Highway, Brgy. Timugan,
Los Baños, Laguna 4030 Philippines
Email: losbanos@laguna.net

EXCERPTS FROM THE MINUTES OF THE THIRTY-FIRST (31ST) REGULAR SESSION OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN HELD ON OCTOBER 19, 2020 AT THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN SESSION HALL, NATIONAL HIGHWAY, BRGY. TIMUGAN, LOS BAÑOS, LAGUNA.

Present :	Vice Mayor Antonio L. Kalaw, Presiding Officer S.B. Member Josephine S. Evangelista S.B. Member Janos S. Lapiz S.B. Member Geronimo A. Ciceron S.B. Member Marlo PJ A. Alipon S.B. Member Mike Dexter A. Concio S.B. Member Mark Lester B. Dizon S.B. Member Cris Dayril B. Bagnes S.B. Member Arlene P. delos Santos, Liga President Secretary Dona T. Alborida Ms. Felomina I. Lincallo, LLSO I
Absent :	S.B. Member Miko C. Pelegrina, (O.B.) S.B. Member Jozlyn N. Manansala, SK Fed. President, (O.B.)
Visitors :	INSP. Noemi O. Francisco, BFP-LB SFOS. Rodolfo Ang, BFP-LB FO1. Josalyn Miguel, BFP-LB

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-2067

AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING THE MALICIOUS AND WILLFUL DISSEMINATION OF FALSE INFORMATION CONCERNING CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) INFECTION, IMPOSING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Author : Councilor Cris Dayril B. Baganes

WHEREAS, under the 1987 Philippines Constitution and the Local Government Code of 1991, local government units are mandated to protect and advance, among other things, the right to health and safety of the people, and to endeavor to preserve the comfort and convenience of its citizens;

WHEREAS, the Section 16 of the Local Government Code of 1991 states that every local government unit shall exercise the powers expressly granted, those necessarily implied therefrom, as well as powers necessary, appropriate, or incidental for its efficient and effective governance, and those which are essential to the promotion of the general welfare;

WHEREAS, according to the World Health Organization (WHO) and as declared by the international organization aforementioned, Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is an infectious disease from a new strain of coronavirus and was declared as a global pandemic;

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WHEREAS, the threat of COVID-19 has affected the social and economic aspect of the Philippines since the first local case on 30th of January 2020 and first local transmission on 7th of March 2020;

WHEREAS, Section 6 (f) of RA No. 11469 of the “Bayanihan to Heal as One Act” punishes individuals or groups creating, perpetrating, or spreading false information regarding the COVID-19 crisis on social media and other platforms, such information having no valid or beneficial effect on the population.

WHEREAS, the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-MEID), upon the orders of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, has ordered the local government units to enforce and address such guidelines, policies, protocols, and regulation that shall address the needs of their constituents;

WHEREAS, a local measure that shall prohibit malicious and untruthful claims of infection or malicious imputation of sickness on another person is necessary to avoid panic, anxiety, and fear that may affect the general welfare of the public;

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN OF LOS BAÑOS, LAGUNA, in session assembled, THAT:

SECTION 1. **SHORT TITLE.** This Ordinance shall be known as “Anti -COVID-19 Joke Ordinance of 2020”;

SECTION 2. **PURPOSE.** It is hereby promulgated by for purposes of prohibiting untruthful claims of infection or malicious imputation of sickness on another person;

SECTION 3. **DEFINITION OF TERMS. As used in this Ordinance:**

a. **False information** - refers to any written or verbal statement of fact about Covid-19 infection that is not true and was made knowingly and intentionally, or made for the sake of discriminating against the person alleged to have been inflicted of Covid-19.

However, words and/or phrases used in the statement, which clearly rely on implied or suggested meaning, shall not fall under this term.

b. **Intervention Program** - refers to the conduct of counseling, rehabilitation program, and social or community services in the Municipality of Los Banos, such us, but not limited to, repacking or distribution of relief goods and other community services as may be authorized by the Municipal Mayor or his authorized representative or by the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Officer.

SECTION 4. **PROHIBITED ACTS.** No person shall willfully and maliciously convey, communicate, transmit, impart, pass on, or otherwise disseminate, by word of mouth or in written, printed, or video form,

through whatever form or medium of communication, including, but not limited to, telephone, cellular phone, electronic mail, text messaging, electronic chat in whatever platform; or internet-based social media platform, false information of COVID-19 infection or malicious imputation of COVID-19 sickness on another person, class, or groups of persons.

SECTION 5. PENALTY. (A) Any person who shall violate this Ordinance shall be fined as follows:

FIRST OFFENSE : A fine of One Thousand Pesos (P 1,000.00) or rendering of community service of at least three (3) hours as conducted by the barangays and other local government offices;

SECOND OFFENSE : A fine of One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P 1,500.00) or rendering community service of at least six (6) hours as conducted by the barangays and other local government offices;

THIRD OFFENSE : A fine of Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P 2,500.00) or imprisonment of not more than six (6) months or both in the discretion of the Court;

(B) In case of public official/s or employee/s, an administrative penalty shall be imposed after determination of guilt through administrative procedures provided under the 2017 Rules on Administrative Cases on Civil Service (RACCS). Otherwise, the administrative penalty shall be determined by a court of competent jurisdiction.

SECTION 6. MINOR OFFENDERS. The minor offenders who shall violate this Ordinance and who shall be taken into custody, the authority which will have an initial contact with the child shall be mandated to immediately release the child to the custody of his/her parents or guardian, or in the absence thereof, the nearest relative of the child. The said authority shall give notice to the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office (**MSWDO**) which shall determine the appropriate Intervention Program, as defined herein, in consultation with the child and to the person having custody over the child, to be provided the child.

If the parents, guardians, or nearest relatives cannot be located, or if they refuse to take custody, or the child is found to be abandoned, neglected, or abused by his parents, the child shall be released to MSWDO.

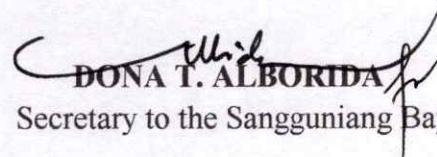
Should the child be caught under the influence of alcohol, illegal drugs, or has committed offenses punishable under the Revised Penal Code or other special penal laws, the child shall be turned over to

the MSWDO in accordance to with Republic Act No. 9344 or the "Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006";

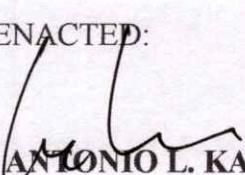
- SECTION 7.** **CRIMINAL LIABILITY.** In all cases not covered by Section 5 hereof, should the offender fail to comply with his/her obligation, a case shall be filed against the violator of this Ordinance. Upon conviction thereon, the offender shall be fined not more than Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P 2,500) or imprisonment of not more than thirty (30) days, or both, upon the discretion of the court, in addition to administrative penalty as herein provided;
- SECTION 8.** **IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITY.** The Office of the Municipal Mayor, the Philippine National Police, and such implementing officers as may hereafter be authorized by the Municipal Mayor shall implement this Ordinance.
- SECTION 9.** **REPEALING CLAUSE.** All ordinances contrary or inconsistent with this Ordinance shall be deemed replaced or modified accordingly.
- SECTION 10.** **SEPARABILITY CLAUSE.** If any part of this Ordinance is declared unconstitutional or unlawful, such declaration shall not affect the enforceability of the remaining provisions of the Ordinance.
- SECTION 11.** **EFFECTIVITY.** This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final approval of the local government authorities, as specified under Book 1, Title Two, Chapter 3 of the Republic Act No. 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991.

ENACTED : October 19, 2020

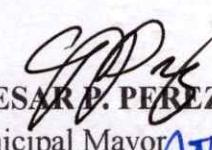
I HEREBY CERTIFY to the correctness of the above-quoted Ordinance.


DONA T. ALBORIDA
Secretary to the Sangguniang Bayan

CERTIFIED ENACTED:


HON. ANTONIO L. KALAW
Vice Mayor/Presiding Officer

APPROVED:


HON. CAESAR P. PEREZ
Municipal Mayor
(Signature)