



Republic of the Philippines  
Province of Guimaras  
Municipality of San Lorenzo

**OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN**

**EXCERPTS FROM THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE HONORABLE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN OF SAN LORENZO, GUIMARAS HELD AT THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN SESSION HALL ON MARCH 31, 2021.**

**PRESENT:** Hon. Constantino Cordero, Jr. ....Vice Mayor  
(Presiding Officer)  
Hon. Ariel C. Zambarrano .....SB Member  
Hon. Jimmy O. Gajo .....SB Member  
Hon. John G. Garganera .....SB Member  
Hon. Peter Tanaleon .....SB Member  
Hon. Ercedita M. Espago.....SB Member  
Hon. Noel G. Tacadao .....SB Member  
Hon. Lino R. Galea.....SB Member  
Hon. Jimmy G. Gallego.....SB Member  
Hon. Nelly S. Rentoy ..... Liga President  
Hon. Pinky Marie E. Bercida.....SK Fed. Pres.

**MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 2021-06**

Series of 2021

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 2020-09, SERIES OF 2020, ENTITLED: AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING ANY ACT OF DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT OR SHAMING AGAINST PERSON ASSOCIATED WITH COVID-19 AND OTHER MEDICAL HEALTH CONDITIONS, RETURNING OFWs, FRONTLINE WORKERS AND LOCALLY STRANTED INDIVIDUALS (LSI) .**

Author: Hon. Lino R. Galea

**WHEREAS**, on March 8 2020, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte issued Proclamation No. 922, which declared a State of Public Health Emergency throughout the Philippine due to the Corona Virus Disease 2019 ("COVID-19") and raised the Code Alert System for COVID-19 to Code Red Sub Level (2) in accordance with the recommendation of the Department of Health and the Inter Agency Task Force for Emerging Infectious Disease ("IATF-EID"). Further, the President likewise issued Presidential Proclamation No. 929, series of 2020 declaring a State of Calamity throughout the Philippines due to COVID-19;

**WHEREAS**, on March 12, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a pandemic;

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

**WHEREAS**, with the emergence and continued spread of COVID-19, public stigma is also formed against the health workers taking care of them and others working on the frontliners, and also returning OFWs, who are considered as the Philippines modern day heroes.

**WHEREAS**, there have been reports of health workers being evicted out of their residences, recovered patients prevented from returning back to their homes, returning OFWs being denied entries in their own barangay, personnel being injured by for allegedly transporting and attending to COVID-19 patients, refusal of service in local stores, eateries or transportation with fears of contamination and posting online of false and inaccurate information, circulating names of people alleged to have been infected with COVID-19 and spreading unverified information causing panic and fear.

**WHEREAS**, there is an urgent need to combat this stigmatization and protect persons afflicted with COVID-19; PUMs and PUIs; returning OFWs; LSI; frontline workers, especially health workers and emergency responders from all forms of discrimination, harassment, and abuse;

**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."

**WHEREAS**, under Section 1, Article III of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, every person has the right to life, liberty, security of person, and the right to be free from discrimination. Furthermore, under Section 11 Article II thereof, the State values the dignity of every person and guarantees full respect for human rights.

**NOW THEREFORE**, Be it ordained by the Sangguniang Bayan of the Municipality of San Lorenzo, Guimaras in session assembled that:

**SECTION 1.TITLE.** This Ordinance shall be known as the "**ANTI COVID – 19 DISCRIMINATION ORDINANCE OF 2021**".

**SECTION 2.DEFINITION OF TERMS.** As used in this Ordinance:

- a.) "**Discrimination**" refers to any act or omission which withholds, excludes, restricts, curtails, impairs, or otherwise makes more difficult the access to services, goods, benefits, or privileges, including any act that causes or trends to cause any stigma, disgrace, shame, humiliation, harassment, or discrimination against frontline workers on the basis of their status as such.
- b.) **SUSPECT-** (MILD, SEVERE, CRITICAL) Individuals who show symptoms of influenza-like illness such as fever and dry cough, those with travel history to areas with confirmed local transmission of COVID – 19, and people with exposure to a confirmed case.
- c.) **PROBABLE-**(MILD, CRITICAL) Suspect cases who are awaiting COVID-19 test results, who are not yet tested, or whose throat and nasal swabs were examined in an unaccredited testing facility.

- d.) **CONFIRMED** - people who tested positive for COVID-19 (RT-PCR test).
- e.) **"Frontline Workers"** – refers to persons, whether in the private or public sector, who are required or allowed to leave their physical residence in order to report for or go to work during the period of community quarantine, enhanced community quarantine, and/or community lockdown in order to render frontline, critical, and other essential services, including, but is not limited to, doctors, nurses, midwives laboratory technicians, medical technologists, radiation technologists, radiologists, public health workers, barangay health workers, other health care workers and medical staff, as well as their non-medical or administrative staff or support and utility workers, bank employees, security guards, social workers, LGU emergency responders, Barangay Officials, BHERTS, Contact Tracers, members of the Philippine National Police, members of the Bureau of Fire Protection, members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and other authorized instrumentalities, offices, or agencies of the government, persons engaged in the production, delivery, distribution, and sale of food, medicine, and other essential goods or services, and such other persons performing similar functions.
- f.) **Returning/ Repatriated Overseas Filipino Worker (OFW)** – 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 or end of contract that has followed the DOH required protocol of 14 day quarantine and tested negative upon arrival.
- g.) **LSI**– refers to locally stranded individuals

**SECTION 3. PROHIBITED ACTS.** Any form of discrimination, as defined in this Ordinance, shall be unlawful. The following acts are considered discriminatory:

- a.) Refusal to provide services or goods and denying access to, or use of establishments, facilities, utilities, or services, open to the general public.
- b.) Evicting or forcing to leave, temporarily or otherwise, or preventing a worker from entering his or her quarters or accommodation in a house, resort, restaurant, eatery for reason of his or her status.
- c.) Humiliating, ridiculing, insulting, or harassing any frontline worker, recovered patients, patients afflicted with COVID-19, PUMs or PUIs, returning OFWs, LSI, either verbally, physically, or in writing, including posting or messaging in social media applications, any frontline worker by reason of such worker's job, position, or occupation. This will also apply to persons afflicted with COVID-19, PUIs, PUMs, returning OFWs and LSI.
- d.) Performing or failing to perform any other analogous act which demeans the dignity and self-respect of frontline workers, recovered patients, persons afflicted with COVID – 19, suspect probable and confirmed COVID-19 patients, returning OFWs and LSI or which causes any form of discrimination, harassment, and abuse against them.

**SECTION 4. PENALTIES.**

**Persons violating the provisions of this ordinance shall be penalized in the following manner:**

First Offense – P 500.00

Second Offense – P 1, 000.00

Third Offense – P 2, 500.00 or an imprisonment of six (6) months or both fine and imprisonment at the discretion of the court

**SECTION 5. Citation Ticket System** – Violators of this Ordinance shall be informed of their violation and the penalty associated with it by means of a citation Ticket System with the following guidelines:

- a.) Official booklet of Citation Tickets shall be issued by the Treasurer to duly authorized enforcers within [ninety (90)] calendar days of the effectivity to this Ordinance.
- b.) A Citation Ticket shall be issued to the person/s liable for any violations of this Ordinance upon finding of the violation by duly authorized enforcers.
- c.) A Citation Ticket shall contain the following information:
  1. Checklist of the violations under this Ordinance;
  2. The fines associated with each violation;
  3. Due date for compliance with the obligations imposed by the ticket
- d.) When a Citation Ticket is issued to a violator, the violator shall report to the Treasurer's Office or it's duly authorized collecting agent, within [three (3)] regular business days after such issuance, where he or she shall either pay the fine imposed. The Treasurer's Office shall keep a duplicate of all Citation Tickets issued to violators as well as all other records of violations of this Ordinance.
- e.) Failure or refusal to settle the fine as provided by Section 5 (d), the task force assisted by the PNP shall file the case in court. There will be no settlement after the case has been filed in court.

**SECTION 6.** The Local Chief Executive of the Municipality of San Lorenzo and duly authorized officers, employees or authorities will be responsible for the apprehension of anyone violating the provisions of this ordinance.

**SECTION 7. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE.** If any portion or provision of this Ordinance is declared void or unconstitutional, the remaining portions hereof shall not be affected thereby and shall remain in full force and effect.

**SECTION 8. REPEALING CLAUSE.** All previous ordinances, resolutions, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this ordinance are hereby revoked, amended or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 9. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE.** This ordinance shall take effect the day following its posting and publication as provided by Section 59 of RA 7160 and Article 114 of its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), whichever occurs later.

**APPROVED:**

**I HEREBY CERTIFY** to the correctness of the foregoing municipal ordinance which was duly adopted by the Sangguniang Bayan during its regular session held on March 31, 2021.

X-----X

  
**LIZA DE LA TORRE GALLENTES**  
Secretary to the Sangguniang Bayan

**ATTESTED:**

  
**CONSTANTINO T. CORDERO, JR.**  
Vice Mayor  
Presiding Officer

  
**ARIEL C. ZAMBARRANO**  
SB Member

  
**JIMMY O. GAJO**  
SB Member

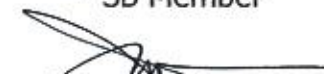
  
**JOHN G. GARGANERA**  
SB Member

  
**PETER T. TANALEON**  
SB Member

  
**ERCEDITA M. ESPAGO**  
SB Member

  
**NOEL G. TACADAO**  
SB Member

  
**LINO R. GALEA**  
SB Member

  
**JIMMY G. GALLEGO**  
SB Member

  
**NELLY S. RENTOY**  
Liga President

  
**PINKY MARIE E. BERCI DA**  
SK Federation President

**APPROVED:**

  
**NINFA G. GAJO**  
Municipal Mayor