

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 26th REGULAR SESSION OF THE 10th SANGGUNIANG
PANLALAWIGAN OF ISABELA HELD AT PROVINCIAL CAPITOL, ILAGAN CITY, ISABELA
ON March 10, 2020.

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)
RANDOLPH JOSEPH P. ARREOLA	Member (3 rd District)
RAMON JUAN N. REYES, JR.	Member (3 rd District)
CLIFFORD R. RASPADO	Member (4 th District)
ABEGAIL V. SABLE	Member (4 th District)
FAUSTINO U. DY IV	Member (5 th District)
EDWARD S. ISIDRO	Member (5 th District)
ALFREDO V. ALILI	Member (6 th District)
MARCO PAOLO A. MERIS	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 /Industrial Workers Labor Sector Representative
VENUS T. BAUTISTA	Member, Women's Sectoral Representative
GRETCHEN F. VALDEZ	Member, Indigenous Cultural Communities Sector Representative

EXPLANATORY NOTE

WHEREAS, the Province of Isabela has adopted the policy of the State under the 1987 Philippine Constitution in recognizing the vital role of the youth in nation-building and to promote their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being;

WHEREAS, the Province of Isabela recognizes its duty under the Local Government Code to protect and promote the right of the people to health and instill health consciousness among them;

WHEREAS, it is alarming that Region 02 has been found as having one of the highest incidences of teenage pregnancies in the Philippines, based from a recent survey from the Population Commission;

WHEREAS, it is disheartening to know that such young people has to experience the physical and psychological hardships of pregnancy and the social and financial difficulties of raising a child at a very early age;

WHEREAS, teenage pregnancies have serious consequences. Early parenthood increases the likelihood that the would-be parents will drop out of school and is therefore less likely to pursue further education or skills training, and the chances of committing abortion due to the unplanned, unwanted, and untimely pregnancy which poses great health risk to the pregnant teenager;

WHEREAS, at the initiative of Vice Governor Faustino G. Dy III, the Sanggunian was tasked to formulate a government intervention program that will help curb this alarming trend and to institutionalize a comprehensive assistance program that will uplift the psyche of teenage parents;

WHEREFORE, premises considered, and by virtue of the powers vested by law, it is hereby resolved to enact –

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-09-1
SERIES OF 2020

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A PROVINCIAL POLICY IN PREVENTING TEENAGE PREGNANCIES, INSTITUTIONALIZING SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR TEENAGE PARENTS, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

Sponsored by: **HON. VENUS T. BAUTISTA**
Chairperson, Committee on Women's Affairs

Be in enacted by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan duly assembled:

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Ordinance shall be known as the “Ordinance Preventing Adolescent Pregnancy”.

SECTION 2. DEFINITION OF TERMS. – For purposes of this Ordinance, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

- (a) **Adolescents** – refers to the population aged ten to nineteen years old;
- (b) **Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH) Care** – refers to the access to a comprehensive service that contribute to the reproductive health and well-being of young people by preventing and solving reproductive health problems;
- (c) **Adolescent Sexuality** – refers to the reproductive system, gender identity, values or beliefs, emotions, relationships, and sexual behavior of young people as social beings;
- (d) **Comprehensive Sexuality Education** – hereinafter referred to as CSE, refers to the educational process of providing an accurate, relevant, and age-appropriate information on all matters relating to the reproductive system, its functions and processes, human sexuality, attitudes and beliefs about sex, sexual identity, interpersonal relationship, affection, intimacy, and gender roles, and other related topics. It has the purpose of developing the maturity of young people regarding sex and reproduction.
- (e) **Teenage Parent** – refers to persons between the age of ten to nineteen years old who are either expecting to have or have an offspring.

SECTION 3. AGE-APPROPRIATE CSE. – The Provincial Health Office, in collaboration with the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office, Provincial Youth Development Office, Isabela Youth Development Council, and in consultation with agencies and institutions concerned with the development of the youth, shall develop educational materials and modules that will promote CSE. A program during the BUWAN NG KABATAAN and Provincial Youth Summit shall be dedicated for the presentation of such medium to its youth attendees.

SECTION 4. TRAINING OF BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS ON CSE. – All Barangay Health Workers within the Province of Isabela shall undergo a Skills Enhancement Training Program aimed at equipping them with knowledge on CSE and basic counseling skills.

SECTION 5. PROMOTING THE CSE ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND OTHER DIGITAL OR ONLINE COMMUNICATION PLATFORMS. – The Provincial Government of Isabela, with the assistance of the Isabela Youth Development Council, shall utilize the social media and other online platforms to provide adolescents with accurate information and messages regarding CSE.

SECTION 6. MANDATORY ESTABLISHMENT OF FUNCTIONAL LOCAL TEEN CENTERS FOR ADOLESCENT HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT. – The PGI shall establish and operationalize a Teen Center for Adolescent Health and Development. Such teen center shall serve as a facility where adolescents and youth can access appropriate information and services on ASRH and other concerns relevant to their holistic development.

The Center shall also serve as peer helping, counseling, and treatment center especially for adolescents in crisis or victims of abuse and violence.

SECTION 7. REGULATING ACCESS OF MINORS TO PORNOGRAPHIC MATERIALS AND OBSCENE SHOWS. Existing laws penalizing pornography and obscenity in the Province shall be strengthened by the following regulatory provisions:

- a. All business establishments providing computer and internet access shall strictly restrict or prohibit minors from accessing pornographic websites by setting-up filters or parental control programs to block or filter-out pornographic internet contents in all their computer units and by posting a signage prohibiting minors from access to pornographic materials. Non-compliance to this provision shall cause the cancellation of the business permit of the said establishment.
- b. Selling, distribution, or exerting influence to minors to access to pornographic printed materials or videos in any format shall be prohibited and penalized under pertinent laws.
- c. Any business establishment that causes the participation and access in minors in obscene shows shall be penalized and shall be ground for the cancellation of the business permit of such establishment.

SECTION 8. ACCESS TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES (ARHS). Sexually active adolescents or those who have already engaged in sexual activities shall be allowed to access modern family planning methods with proper counseling. For this purpose, the staff of local health centers shall be trained in the provision of adolescent-friendly and responsive information and services. Furthermore, local health centers and their employees shall ensure the confidentiality of the identity of adolescents who avails services under this Section.

SECTION 9. SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR TEENAGE MOTHERS OR PARENTS. A comprehensive social protection service shall be provided to teenage mothers or adolescents who are currently pregnant and their partners to prevent repeat of unplanned pregnancies and to ensure the well-being of adolescents while assuming the responsibilities of being young parents. Such services shall include the following:

- a. Maternal health services including antenatal check-ups and facility-based delivery;
- b. Post-partum family planning, counseling, and services for either or both parents;

SECTION 10. DESIGNATING FEBRUARY OF EVERY YEAR AS THE MONTH OF RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS ON PREVENTING TEENAGE PREGNANCY AND CONDUCT OF PROVINCE-WIDE COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN. To raise public consciousness on the issues on teenage pregnancy and generate support from various stakeholders, the entire month of February shall be designated as *Month for Public Awareness on Preventing Teenage Pregnancy* which shall be observed province-wide. Schools and other stakeholders shall hold activities with the objective of raising awareness and generate critical actions to address the issues of increasing teenage pregnancy.

SECTION 11. INTEGRATION OF LOCAL PROGRAM FOR THE PREVENTION OF TEENAGE PREGNANCY IN YOUTH COUNCIL PLANS. Strategies and programs which aim to prevent incidence of teenage pregnancies shall be integrated in the youth development plan of the Isabela Youth Development Council.

SECTION 12. PREVENTING ADOLESCENTS' INVOLVEMENT IN OTHER RISKY BEHAVIORS THAT ARE FACILITATIVE OF ENGAGEMENT IN SEXUAL ACTIVITIES. All local government units shall implement measures to prevent adolescents from engaging in risky behaviors, particularly drinking alcoholic beverages, illegal drug use, hanging-out at late hours doing risky behaviors and other behaviors that may lead them to sexual activities or engaging in sexual assault or violence.

All LGUs shall also strictly prohibit the access of minors to videoke bars, beer houses, night clubs, and other similar facilities that may encourage adolescents to engage in any criminal or sexual activities, or sex-related violence.

SECTION 13. DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS. In accordance with their existing mandates, the following local government agencies and departments shall perform the following duties and functions in relation to the implementation of this Ordinance.

a. Provincial Government of Isabela

- i. Ensure the availability and provision of ASRH services for adolescents in all its public health facilities;
- ii. Ensure the training of its medical and health service providers and barangay health workers in providing adolescent-friendly and responsive health services;
- iii. Support and provide technical assistance to local government units in their establishment of information and service delivery networks;
- iv. Ensure the integration of social protection services in teen centers;
- v. Promote CSE to adolescents and their parents;
- vi. Capacitate the Isabela Youth Development Council in the implementation of programs aimed at providing and promoting CSE to adolescents;
- vii. Allocate funds necessary for the strategies in preventing teenage pregnancy.

b. Local Government Units

- i. Ensure the development of local strategies for the prevention of teenage pregnancies in their localities;
- ii. Ensure the promotion of CSE in their communities;
- iii. Mobilize the Sangguniang Kabataan for key strategies in the prevention of teenage pregnancy in their locality;
- iv. Set-up database on teenage pregnancy for programming and planning;
- v. Support the CSE programs of the PGI.

c. Sangguniang Kabataan

- i. Integrate in their annual plans programs or other measures that minimize the incidence of teenage pregnancy in their locality;
- ii. Exhibit tangible and technical support to the PGI and their LGU on activities relative to the implementation of this Ordinance;
- iii. Assist the Province in the dissemination of information regarding CSE, ARHS, and other matters relative to the implementation of this Ordinance.

SECTION 14. INCENTIVE AND AWARDS SCHEME. The PGI shall provide LGUs and local Sangguniang Kabataans which comply with this Ordinance recognition for their efforts in limiting the teenage pregnancy incidences in their community.

SECTION 15. ANNUAL ALLOCATIONS. The PGI shall include in its annual budget any amount as may be necessary for the effective implementation of this Ordinance.

SECTION 16. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND PROCEDURES. Within 120 days upon the effectivity of this Ordinance, the Provincial Social Welfare and Development in partnership with the Provincial Youth Development Council shall lead the creation of a Technical Working Group which is tasked to formulate the Implementing Rules and Procedures of this Ordinance.

SECTION 17. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. If any part, section, or provision of this Ordinance is held invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 18. REPEALING CLAUSE. All other Ordinances, Orders, and other issuances contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed, or modified or amended accordingly.

SECTION 19. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE. This Ordinance shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in newspapers of general circulation, and posting in at least two (2) conspicuous places in the Provincial Capitol Building.

I hereby certify that the foregoing ordinance was duly enacted by the Sangguninang Panlalawigan of Isabela during its 26th Regular Session on March 10, 2020.

ATTY. FRANCIS JAMES E. MEER
Secretary, Sangguniang Panlalawigan

ATTESTED:

FAUSTINO G. DY III
Provincial Vice Governor & Presiding Officer

APPROVED:

RODOLFO T. ALBANO III
Provincial Governor