

MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 2020-12
Series of 2020

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AN ORDINANCE REQUIRING ALL BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS, GOVERNMENT OFFICES, HOSPITALS, SCHOOLS, BARANGAY LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, PUBLIC TRANSPORT GROUPS, AND OTHER PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS TO STRICTLY ADOPT AND IMPLEMENT PHYSICAL DISTANCING PROTOCOL AND OTHER STRINGENT PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES TO PREVENT AND CONTAIN THE TRANSMISSION OF CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BONGABONG, ORIENTAL MINDORO AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 virus, which can be transmitted from one person to another through hands, mouth, eyes and nose, has infected a large number of people and resulted in an alarming rise of death rates from different countries all over the world;

WHEREAS, Sec. 9, Article II – Declaration of Principles and State Policies of the Constitution of the Philippines provides that the state shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provided social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved life for all;

WHEREAS, Section 16 of Republic Act No. 7160 also known as the Local Government Code of 1991, gives local government units such 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, the Municipality of Bongabong in line with the regulations and guidelines provided for by national government and other concerned agencies, render full assistance and cooperation and mobilizes the necessary precautionary measures through the issuance of a series of executive orders to undertake critical, urgent and appropriate response and measures to curtail and eliminate the COVID-19 threat;

WHEREAS, it is imperative upon this Sanggunian to require the strict observance of physical distancing protocol and other precautionary measures by all citizens of the municipality, business establishments, hospitals, schools, barangay local government units, public transport group, government offices, and other public and private institutions.

WHEREAS, the strict implementation of stringent physical distancing has been proven by local and foreign researchers and medical experts as an effective tool to fight the spread and to flatten the curve of the COVID-19 pandemic, thus, the same should be strongly adopted to protect all constituents of Municipality of Bongabong;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AS IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED by the Sangguniang Bayan in session duly assembled;

SECTION 1. **SHORT TITLE.** This Ordinance shall be known as the “**Physical Distancing Protocol Ordinance of the Municipality of Bongabong**”

SECTION 2. **DEFINITION OF TERMS.** As used in this Ordinance, the following terms shall mean:

Physical Distancing – is a precautionary measure that involves the observance of a physical distance of at least one (1) meter radius between and among persons/individuals to avoid physical /social contact.

Mass gathering – is a planned or spontaneous event where the number of people brought together to attend the event has the potential to strain the planning and response resources of the health system in the community where it takes place.

SECTION 3. **STRINGENT PHYSICAL DISTANCING PROTOCOL AND GUIDELINES.** All natural and juridical persons in the Municipality of Bongabong are hereby required to adopt stringent physical distancing protocol to manage the COVID-19 situation, including but not limited to the following:

- a. Classes and all school activities in all levels shall be temporarily suspended until the community quarantine shall have been lifted either by the Local Government Unit of the Municipality of Bongabong or through as Executive Order issued by the President of the Philippines. In this regard, all schools, and universities and other educational or training institutions shall provide adequate arrangement or alternative innovative strategies to allow students to fulfill their requirements and to continue learning activities in their homes during the said period;
- b. All students shall remain in their homes during class suspension;
- c. Mass gatherings shall be prohibited until such time that the community quarantine shall have been lifted. These include fiestas, sporting events, community assemblies and other recreational events that encourage mass gathering which are not related to disaster risk reduction management and delivery of basic welfare necessities;
- d. Essential work-related meetings may be allowed for as long as strict physical distancing is maintained and strict precautionary measures are observed during the entirety of the event or activity;
- e. Business establishments which are allowed under the executive orders issued by the Local Chief Executive to operate during the community quarantine period shall observe strict physical distancing protocol and other precautionary measures.

SECTION 4. **PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES.** All business establishments government offices, barangay local government units, hospitals, schools, public utility

vehicles (PUV), markets, terminals and other institutions within the Municipality of Bongabong are hereby required to adopt stringent physical distancing protocol to prevent and contain the spread of transmission in their respective areas and facilities. Other safety precautions are likewise encouraged to include, but not limited to the following:

- a. **“No contact/No Handshake”** policy or touchless greetings;
- b. **“No face mask, No face shield, No entry”** policy in all establishments, PUVs, markets and likewise require all personnel who will be attending to clients/customers, and for public utility drivers to wear protective face mask and face shield;
- c. Mark or provide signages to the designated area for customers and employees in line to maintain the appropriate distance or spacing requirement of at least (1) meter;
- d. Make regular announcements or place signages reminding the employees and customers of the physical distancing protocol;
- e. Ensure the availability of alcohol, hand sanitizer, or other sanitizing products in the entry and exit of the buildings and/or establishments, offices and other institutions;
- f. Provide thermal scanner to monitor the temperature of visitors, employees, and passengers;
- g. Require frontline personnel and employees, customer support and others of similar functions to wear face masks during their duty or shift;
- h. Ensure regular cleaning and disinfecting of offices, spaces, public utility vehicles and other area accessible to the public;
- i. Ensure the availability of soap and water in public comfort rooms and washrooms;
- j. Disinfect contact points that may carry the virus; including but not limited to, buildings, government offices, private and public establishments;
- k. Encourage alternative working arrangement including but not limited to work from-home, compressed workweek, staggered working hours, and creation of skeletal workforce as well as flexible work arrangement;
- l. Adopt and observe other safety precautions to ensure the prevention and containment of COVID-19 transmission.
- m. The use of face shield whenever practicable is strongly encouraged.

SECTION 5. CURFEW. Curfew is hereby implemented in the Municipality of Bongabong. All constituents should be at home from 10:00 pm to 4:00 am of the following day except for medical personnel, authorized government officials and employees, Philippine National Police, Armed Forces of the Philippines, Emergency Response Team, barangay personnel, volunteers manning checkpoints and other essential workers. A 24-hour curfew is also implemented to senior citizens, pregnant women, children, immune compromised persons and those with chronic medical conditions, students and out-of-school youth below 18 years of age, except for those senior citizens who are public officials or authorized government officials who have vital role in the implementation of the community quarantine, and those who will have to undergo medical interventions.

SECTION 6. SAFE DISTANCING TASK FORCE. The Safe Distancing Task Force is a crowd control and monitoring group which shall be composed of members of the PNP and deputized barangay officer headed by the Municipal Mayor, to monitor the implementation of physical distancing measure in all contact point areas in the Municipality of Bongabong. Any report of mass gathering or convention of people which provokes unsafe physical distancing shall be immediately dispersed by the Safe Distancing Task Force.

SECTION 7. PENALTY CLAUSE. Any person violating Section 3, 4 and 5 of this Ordinance shall be penalized by P1,000.00 or community service of three (3) days. Any business establishment or entity violating this ordinance shall be subjected to the revocation or suspension of its business permit and license to operate after due notice and hearing. Violation of this ordinance is without prejudice to other applicable penal and administrative laws violated by the perpetrator. The Barangay Local Government Unit (BLGU) shall also be strongly encouraged to establish the Barangay Safe Distancing Task Force headed by the Barangay Captain of each barangay. For efficient implementation of this Ordinance, citizen's arrest is strongly encouraged.

SECTION 8. REPEALING CLAUSE. All ordinances, resolutions, other issuances, and their provisions inconsistent or contrary with this Ordinance is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 9. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. If any provision of this Ordinance is declared unlawful or unconstitutional, any provision not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 10. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE. This Ordinance shall take effect after compliance with the publication or posting requirement.

Certified true:

REMUEL N. ISLER

Temporary Secretary to the Sanggunian

Attested by:

Hon. RICHARD S. CANDELARIO

Vice-Mayor/Presiding Officer

Approved:

Hon. ELEGIO A. MALALUAN, O.D.

Municipal Mayor

Date: _____