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## OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN SECRETARY

# CERTIFICATION

### TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

*THIS IS TO CERTIFY that at the regular session duly constituted of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, Province of Pangasinan, held on January 29, 2024 at the Session Hall, Capitol Building, Lingayen, Pangasinan, the following provincial ordinance was approved:*

Authored by SP Members Shiela Marie F. Baniqued  
and Rosary Gracia P. Perez-Tababa

### PROVINCIAL ORDINANCE NO. 316-2024

#### AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A PROGRAM FOR THE REDUCTION OF TEEN PREGNANCY CASES AND OTHER RISKY BEHAVIORS IN THE PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREOF

**WHEREAS**, teenage pregnancy affects 5.99 percent of Filipino girls which is the second highest rate in Southeast Asia based on Save the Children's Global Childhood Report (2019). An estimated 538 babies are born to Filipino teenage mothers every single day, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority (2017);

**WHEREAS**, according to Klaus Beck, country representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) "The Philippines is the only country in Asia and the Pacific where we have not seen a decrease in teenage pregnancy in the last two decades. In fact, we are seeing an increase," he said;

**WHEREAS**, early pregnancy forces girls to take on an adult role while their bodies are often not ready. It can also trap girls in an escapable cycle of poverty, stigmatized by society for being teenage mothers or forced into early marriage. It also creates a greater risk in terms of maternal complications that affect the mother and the child they bear resulting in low survival rates. Teenage Pregnancy, therefore, robs a girl of a better future not only for herself but also for her children. This must be addressed. Not by moralizing and telling young people not to have sex, but by coming together around empowering young people to make informed decisions about their lives;

**WHEREAS**, the current rate of adolescent pregnancy is regarded as a national social emergency, a problem that affects the holistic health and total development of an individual, including profound implications on the family, community and the country's overall socio-economic development; thereby necessitating implementation of holistic high impact social welfare projects centering on the family and the well-being of their children to address the issue on adolescent pregnancy;

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**WHEREAS**, there is no single cause for the rising rate of teenage pregnancy, but rather a combination of factors ranging from biological, social, and cultural. These factors include the following, but are not limited to, (1) early sexual debut; (2) lack of access to comprehensive sex information and education; (3) Parents, who are identified by adolescents as one of their preferred source of information on Sexual Reproductive Health have limited communication skills; (4) lack of access to family planning services; (5) cultural practices of early union; and (6) lack of adolescent sexuality and reproductive health (ASRH) policies and its full-implementation;

**WHEREAS**, as presented by the Adolescent Health and Youth Development Program under Family Health Cluster of the Provincial Health Office during one of the committee hearings, there is a steady rise in the number of recorded teenage pregnancy in Pangasinan and most are in the 3rd to 5th income class municipalities;

**WHEREAS**, since the proposed bills in Congress and in the Senate (HB 4742 and SB 1482) that aim to deal on the issue of teen pregnancies in the country are still pending, there is a need for the provincial government to come up with a comprehensive program to prevent early pregnancies among adolescents especially at the local level. The efforts to combat teenage pregnancy should come from all the sectors of society. It requires a joint effort of government, private sectors, civil society organizations, communities, parents, caregivers and the entire citizenry, including youth themselves;

**WHEREAS**, the immediate passage of this piece of legislation is therefore deemed imperative;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, on motion of SP Members Shiela Marie F. Baniqued and Rosary Gracia P. Perez-Tababa, duly seconded, it was -

**BE IT ORDAINED** by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Pangasinan in session duly assembled that:

**Section 1. Title** - This Ordinance shall be known as "The Teen Pregnancy Reduction Program Ordinance of the Province of Pangasinan."

**Section 2. Declaration of Policy** - In the pursuit of sustainable development, the Province of Pangasinan shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive reproductive health care, to include adolescents, focused on time honored value of respect for human dignity, people's rights and their families.

It is founded on the principle of upholding the right of every person, including the right to equality and equity, the right to development, the right to reproductive health, the right to education and the right to choose and make independent decisions about their sexuality so that they can be better informed and empowered to take care of their own selves and decide a better way to reach their goals for a better life in the future.



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**Section 3. Objectives** - In pursuit of the policies mentioned above, the Provincial Government of Pangasinan aims to:

- (i) Provide accurate information through counselling and education on reproductive health plan and sexuality to all adolescents in the province;
- (ii) Promote the involvement and participation of different service providers - line agencies, local government units, non-government organizations, sectoral groups, communities and families through an integrated and comprehensive course of action to prevent or address issues on teen pregnancies and other risky behaviors;
- (iii) Provide access to safe and quality reproductive health care services to pregnant adolescents who need RH services;
- (iv) Ensure that financial support is provided to implement the comprehensive programs of actions that will be formulated to address the issues;
- (v) Strengthen the capacities of service providers and youth facilities such as teen centers to ensure adolescent friendly, age-appropriate sexuality education and information including safe, high quality, accessible and affordable reproductive health counselling and services; and
- (vi) Ensure the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of appropriate and effective reproductive health care and family planning programs for adolescent parents at the provincial, municipal and barangay levels.

**Section 4. Definition of Terms** - As used in this Ordinance, the following terms are defined as such:

- a. *Adolescents* - refer to individuals who are within the ages 10-19 years of age.
- b. *Adolescent Sexuality* - refers to the reproductive system, gender identity, values or beliefs, emotions, relationships and sexual behavior of young people as social beings.
- c. *Gender Equality* - the absence of discrimination on the basis of a person's sex and gender, in opportunities, in the allocation of resources or benefits or in the access to services.
- d. *Gender Equity* - refers to the fairness and justice in the distribution of benefits and responsibilities between men and women and often requires women specific projects and programs and existing inequalities.



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e. *Reproductive Health* - the state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity in all matters relating to the reproductive system and to its functions and processes.

f. *Reproductive Health and Sexuality Education* - is the process of acquiring complete, accurate and relevant information on all matters relating to the reproductive system, its functions and processes and human sexuality, and the forming of attitudes and beliefs about sex, sexual identity, interpersonal relationships, affection, intimacy and gender roles. It also includes developing the necessary skills to be able to distinguish between facts and myths on sex and sexuality and critically evaluate and discuss the moral, religious, social and cultural dimensions of related sensitive issues such as contraception and sensitive reproductive health issues.

g. *Reproductive Health Rights* - The rights of individuals and couples, subject to applicable laws, to decide freely and responsibly the number, spacing and timing of their children, to make other decisions concerning reproduction free of discrimination, coercion, violence, to have the information and means to do so and to attain the highest standard of sexual and reproductive health.

**Section 5. Creation of the Council** - There is hereby created in the Provincial Government of Pangasinan a Provincial Adolescent Health Development Council (PAHDC) to carry out the policies and the objectives as mandated under Sections 2 and 3 hereof.

**Section 6. Composition of the PAHDC** - The Provincial Adolescent Health and Development Council shall be composed of the following:

Chairperson : The Provincial Governor

Co-Chairperson : The Chairperson  
 SP Committee on Health

The Chairperson  
 SP Committee on Children, Women, Senior  
 Citizens, Family Affairs and Social Welfare

Vice Chairperson : The Provincial Health Officer

Members: (anyone from the following groups)

1. Heads or concerned representatives of the following Departments or divisions of the PGLU:



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- a) Provincial Population Cooperative Livelihood Development Office (PPCLDO)
- b) Provincial Health Office- PHO Technical and Adolescent Health and Youth Development Program
- c) Provincial Planning and Development Office
- d) Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office
- e) Provincial Federation of the Sangguniang Kabataan

2. Heads or concerned representatives of National Line Agencies

- a) Provincial Dept. of Health Office (PDOHO)
- b) Department of Education Schools Division (DepED) and City Schools Division
- c) Pangasinan State University (PSU)
- d) Pangasinan Provincial Police Office (P-PPO)
- e) Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Field Office
- f) Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Field Office
- g) Philippine Information Agency
- h) Commission on Population Regional Office I
- i) National Youth Commission (NYC)

3. Heads of Sectoral Groups/NGOs related and/or whose nature of operation is for social services

4. Municipal Representatives (Either SB Chairperson, Committee on Health or Municipal Health Offices or Youth Coordinator or MPOs)

5. The Chairperson Provincial Sangguniang Kabataan Federation; and

6. The Provincial Youth Development Council

7. The Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society (POGS), Inc. North Western Luzon Chapter

**Section 7. Functions of the PAHDC:** The PAHDC shall be the overall coordinating Body for the formulation and implementation of the Adolescent Health Development Program Strategy and Plan of the province with emphasis on the reduction of unintended teen pregnancies and adolescent child births. In addition, the members of the Council shall perform and exercise the following duties and responsibilities:

1. Spearhead the formulation of a Comprehensive Program Framework and Operational Plan and oversee its implementation;



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2. Ensure provision of financial resources from the provincial/municipal government and different agencies/organizations for the implementation of their own initiatives for their adolescent and youth;
3. Provide data / status report on the various youth issues and concerns that their agency is addressing for presentation and discussion and possible areas for convergence during PAHDC council meetings;
4. Provide support in organizing the Municipal level AHDP Council, strengthening existing AHDP initiatives and strengthening the capacities of various service providers through the conduct of capacity building activities and trainings;
5. Establish and maintain linkages with local, national, including international organizations/institutions that support Adolescent and Youth development initiatives;
6. Establish sustainable programs/projects/activities related to adolescent health and development focused on the abovementioned elements provided in the Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health (RPRH) Law and other issuances to include spiritual learning sessions and other mobile services for adolescents;
7. Form a committee, if needed, from representatives of the different member agencies that shall perform specific tasks in support to the implementation of the AHO program in the provincial and municipal levels.
8. Require secondary schools to conduct Adolescent Reproductive Health orientations/sessions to incoming Grade Seven in all public and private secondary schools
9. The Council shall formulate rules and regulations for the operation and implementation of the PAHD Program and Plan.

**Section 8. PAHDC Technical Working Group** - The PAHDC shall have a functional Technical Working Group which shall be composed of the following members:

- i. The Division head of the PHO Technical Division;
- ii. A Technical Staff of the SP Committee on Health / SP Committee on Youth /SP Committee on Social Services;
- iii. The Adolescent Reproductive Health Coordinator of the Dept. of Education, Pangasinan Schools Division and City Schools Division;
- iv. The Guidance Counselor of a premier secondary school in the province;
- v. One identified school nurse of DepEd;
- vi. One Public Health Nurse to be identified by the Council from MLGUs;



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- vii. One Municipal Population Officer to be identified by the Council from the MLGUs;
- viii. One Municipal Social Welfare Officer to be identified by the Council from the Municipalities/City LGUs;
- ix. A technical staff of the PPDO;
- x. A technical staff of the PSWDO; and
- xi. A representative of the Provincial Sangguniang Kabataan Federation.

**Section 9. Functions of the PAHDC Technical Working Group -** The Technical Working Group (TWG) of the PAHDC shall have the following functions:

1. Provide technical inputs, needed data and reports on matters related to the comprehensive AHO program especially during the formulation and implementation of the AHO courses of actions and Investment Plans;
2. Undertake program monitoring and evaluation and provide a program feedback mechanism;
3. Participate in various service provider training courses and other advocacy activities in municipalities and adolescent/youth institutions/facilities;
4. Recommend measures/ propose policies/legislations related to the issue on teen pregnancies to be presented during PAHDC Council meetings for deliberation and endorsement to the Legislative Body for enactments: and
5. Help in the documentations of adolescent cases and best practices.

**Section 10. PAHDC Secretariat-** The Secretariat shall be composed of the following heads or staff of the PHO divisions: Population and Sustainable Development/La Union Youth Development Division (PPSD-IYDD) and PHO Technical Division, including support staff of PDOHO-Pangasinan Field Office and the DepEd Pangasinan Division - ARH Coordinator. The Secretariat shall undertake coordination of the members, documentation of proceedings of meetings, consolidation of reports and other necessary documents needed by the Council.

**Section 11. Schedule of Meetings -** The PAHDC shall convene within 60 days from the effectivity of this ordinance, thereafter, the Council shall meet regularly twice a year during the last week of January and last week of July of each year. The PAHDC Technical Working Group shall meet regularly every last month of the quarter of each year or as often as maybe necessary to discuss and tackle matters regarding issues affecting the adolescents and youth.



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**Section 12. The PAHD Comprehensive Program of Action and Investment Plan** - The PAHDC shall establish and formulate a Provincial AHO Program of Action and Investment Plan with the corresponding appropriation and budgetary support needed for the operation and implementation of its programs, and which program shall be subjected for review and approval of the Provincial Governor and the Sangguniang Panlalawigan.

**Section 13. Annual Appropriation** - The financial and logistics support needed for the operation and implementation of its programs shall be included yearly in the annual budget of the Provincial Government under the statutory fund in the amount of One Million Five Hundred Thousand Pesos Only (Php 1,500,000.00) with yearly adjustment.

**Section 14. Separability and Repealing Clause** - In the event that any provision, section, paragraph, sentence, clause or word in the ordinance is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions thereof not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect. thereby. All provisions of existing ordinances, resolutions and executive orders of the Provincial Government of Pangasinan inconsistent with this ordinance are hereby deemed repealed.

**Section 15. Effectivity** - This Ordinance shall take effect upon its approval, copies thereof shall be furnished to the Provincial Governor, members of the Council and other concerned organizations for their information and basis of actions.

CERTIFIED BY:

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

ATTESTED:

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

APPROVED:

**RAMON V. GUICO III**  
Governor