

AN ORDINANCE REGULATING THE OPERATION OF BINGO AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF:-

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Be it ordained by the Sangguniang Panlungsod of the City of Naga, that:

SECTION 1. Title. - This ordinance shall be known as the City of Naga's "Bingo Regulatory Ordinance" and it shall be enforced in conjunction with pertinent national laws, rules, and regulations already promulgated or may later be promulgated regarding the matter.

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. - The city of Naga considers gambling generally inimical to the interests of the people. Habitual gambling, in fact, is a cause of laziness and ruin. It is for this reason that the Sangguniang Panlungsod had passed a moratorium ordinance providing that no gambling of any form shall be permitted within a period of five years from its effectivity. However, said ordinance cannot apply to any game of chance which had been authorized by the national government and which the city of Naga cannot prohibit given the fact that it is a mere agent in the lower echelon of government.

Nonetheless, the city is not that helpless in cushioning and/or protecting its constituents against the adverse impact of legal gambling especially the minors and students who may be drawn into it. Given its regulatory powers and the regulatory mechanisms herein provided, the city of Naga sees legal gambling within its territorial jurisdiction as an amusement as well as a recreational and social activity.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. - As used in this Ordinance, the term:

- (a) Bingo shall mean the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) sanctioned game of chance played for prizes generally by using cards or sheets bearing from "1" to "75" and with letters B, I, N, G, O appearing in the order thereon. The game is won when a predetermined pattern or arrangement of numbers on such cards or sheets is covered. It may be conventional, electronic or in such other form that may be adopted through modern gaming technologies.
- (b) Bingo Venue shall mean the venue as defined in the PAGCOR grant of authority and as specified in the ordinance granting franchise, whose purpose or use is especially intended and devoted to the playing of all kinds of bingo games.

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SECTION 4. Rights, Privileges and Authority. – Subject to the provision of applicable national law, rules and regulations, the Sangguniang Panlungsod shall grant rights, privileges and authority to operate bingo in favor only of an applicant who meets the following requirements:

- (a) If a natural person, the applicant is at least 21 years of age, Filipino and preferably a resident of this city. If a juridical person, the applicant is organized and existing under Philippine laws, with proof thereof, and preferably with principal office in this city; and
- (b) The applicant possesses the requisite valid and subsisting authority from the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR).

Provided, that no more than two (2) franchises for bingo shall be granted, established or operated within the city's jurisdiction.

SECTION 5. Permit or License. – No person shall start bingo operation without first obtaining a Mayor's Permit which may be issued only after showing that the Sangguniang Panlungsod had issued the requisite authority and the applicant has complied with the regulatory measures herein provided.

SECTION 6. Regulatory Mechanisms. – Any right, privilege or authority to operate bingo shall be conditioned on the grantee's faithful, continued and strict compliance with the following regulations, to wit:

(a) On Location and Distance –

No bingo hall shall be established or allowed to operate within Three Hundred (300) meters from any place of worship or learning, except if the site is within a shopping center or enclosed structure hidden from the view of people outside thereof.

(b) On Age Limit –

No person below 21 years of age and no students shall be allowed to place a bet or play bingo or to enter the premises where such game is held. Notice shall be posted in the entrance and/or exit door and in at least two other conspicuous places in the bingo venue. In case of doubt on age, the operator or owner shall require of such person necessary identification document that will ascertain his true age to qualify him to place a bet or play such game of chance or enter the premises where the same is being held.

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(c) On Date and/or Time of Operation –

Playing of bingo shall start no earlier than 11:00 o'clock in the morning of any given day; except on special occasions and as may be permitted by the City Mayor. Provided, that no bingo shall be held during Holy Thursday and Good Friday.

(d) On soundproofing device –

Soundproofing device and such necessary enclosure shall be installed and maintained in the bingo venue to ensure that the proceedings within do not attract minors, create noise or cause disturbance to the public, particularly the adjacent or nearby establishment of learning and worship.

(e) On Advertisement –

No advertisement or streamer concerning herein game of chance shall be placed or hang up in front of or within one hundred (100) meters radius of any place of worship or institute of learning in the city, except in or about the premises of the bingo venue.

SECTION 7. Enforcement and Inspection. To ensure compliance with applicable laws and the regulatory measures herein provided, the public safety office of the city government of Naga is hereby empowered to enforce applicable laws, rules and regulations and/or to conduct inspection of any of the premises where the game of chance subject hereof is held on such date

and time as it may deem necessary or as may be directed by the City Mayor. Its report shall be submitted to the City Mayor's Office and the Sangguniang Panlungsod for their appropriate action.

SECTION 8. Penalty. In addition to or aside from the penalty under applicable national laws, rules and regulations, violation by the grantee or franchisee of any of the above regulations as well as any of the provisions hereof shall be punished as follows:

- 1. For the first offense administrative fine of Php5,000.00;
- 2. For the second offense suspension of operation for a period of thirty (30) days; and
- 3. For the third offense cancellation or revocation of the authority granted to the franchisee or grantee.

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Provided, that the penalty above provided shall be imposed after observance of due process in a summary hearing that the City Legal Officer shall conduct for and in behalf of the City Mayor. Provided further, that decision shall be rendered within five (5) days from the date the case is submitted for resolution. Provided finally, that the entire proceedings shall not last beyond thirty (30) days from commencement thereof. Decision rendered pursuant thereto shall be immediately final and executory.

SECTION 9. Repealing Clause. - All ordinances, orders and regulations in conflict hereof, if any, are hereby modified, repealed and/or superceded.

SECTION 10. Separability Clause. - The provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared to be separable and, if any clause, sentence provision or section of this ordinance or application thereof to any person or circumstances should for any reason be held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the other provisions or application of the Ordinance.

SECTION 11. -- Effectivity. -- This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its approval.

ENACTED: February 26, 2008.

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WE HEREBY CERTIFY to the correctness of the foregoing ordinance.

JOSE L. GRAGEDA Secretary to the Sangguniang Panlungsod

GABRIEL H. BORDADO, JR. City Vice Mayor & Presiding Officer

APPROVED:

JESSE M. ROBREDO City Mayor