

ORDINANCE NO. 2011-053

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AN ORDINANCE REVISING THE "ORDINANCE INSTITUTIONALIZING THE QUALITY UNIVERSAL ELEMENTARY AND HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION IN NAGA TO BE KNOWN AS QUEEN PROGRAM, PROVIDING MECHANISM FOR ITS REGULAR FUNDING SUPPORT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

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Chairman, Education Committee
Author

EXPLANATORY NOTE

After the lapse of four (4) years from the time Ordinance No. 2007-045 was enacted, certain challenges and concerns surfaced which necessitated a review and corresponding revision of the original ordinance in order to respond thereto and make more efficient the city's QUEEN and QUEEN plus program implementation. The time limitation therein set forth makes this action even more urgent. Hence, this legislation that nonetheless maintains the original rationale which is herein re-stated with minor modification.

The 1987 Philippine Constitution guarantees free public education in the elementary and high school levels. As a signatory to the Millennium Declaration, the Philippines is also duty bound to ensure that all school children have access to complete primary education by 2015 - the 2nd of eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that all members of the United Nations agreed upon.

Notwithstanding the above, the city of Naga is in danger of missing this goal, based on a fairly recent regional progress report commissioned by the NEDA Regional Office in Bicol. Of the eight MDGs and their close to 30 indicators, it is in cohort survival and completion that the city is failing, which reflect the weak holding power of our public schools.

Clearly, there is a need for a more focused and decisive intervention that will correct this situation and bring the city on track towards attaining this goal on or before 2015. The Quality Universal Elementary and High School Education in Naga or the QUEEN Program is the city government's response to this problem; hence, this legislative measure.

Article 1
Title, Policy and Objectives

SECTION 1. Title. This Ordinance shall be known as "The Revised QUEEN Ordinance of Naga City."

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. It is the expressed policy of the state to provide free public education from elementary up to high school. Towards this end, the city government of Naga is duty-bound to exhaust all means possible of realizing this specific constitutional mandate, especially in ensuring that all Nagueno school children will have full access to complete elementary and high school education.

Recognizing that education is a right of all children of school age and therefore with a correlative obligation on the part of their parents, a measure to ensure compliance to the latter which is herein provided is thus necessary.

SECTION 3. Objectives. This ordinance aims to ensure that all school children in Naga City will be able to access and complete quality elementary and high school education. Specifically, it seeks to:

- (a) Raise local consciousness about the challenges facing Naga in regard to completion of elementary and high school education among school children;
- (b) Provide the required funding support to ensure the provision of free elementary and high school education to children especially the underprivileged or those coming from financially handicapped families in the city; and
- (c) Mobilize local communities and other stakeholders in providing the necessary support system towards ensuring that no school children will be left behind.

Article 2
Definitions

SECTION 4. Definition of Terms. For purposes of this ordinance, the following terms shall be construed to mean as hereunder indicated:

- (a) **QUEEN** - means Quality Universal Elementary Education in Naga City. It refers to the QUEEN program in the elementary level.

- (b) **QUEEN Plus** - means the QUEEN program coverage at the high school level.
- (c) **QUEEN Management Team** (QMT, for brevity) - refers to that body herein created to oversee the implementation of the QUEEN program and address operational issues that will arise, with the end view of ensuring that its objectives are successfully carried out.
- (d) **Parents Teachers (Community) Association** (PTCA and PTA, for brevity) - refers to the private voluntary organization in all the public elementary and secondary schools under the Department of Education duly organized and existing pursuant to DepEd Order No. 23, s. 2002 and under other applicable laws and regulations.
- (e) **QUEEN Parents Association** (QPA, for brevity) - refers to the organization of parents of beneficiaries of the QUEEN program whether school-based or zone/community-based.
- (f) **QUEEN coordinator** - shall mean the person designated by the City Mayor in each barangay tasked with the duty to assist the city in the implementation of its QUEEN Program.

Article 3

The Program, Its Coverage, Mechanics, Availment and Maintenance

SECTION 5. The QUEEN Program. The Quality Universal Elementary and High School Education in Naga known as QUEEN Program is a non-political initiative that seeks to mobilize all stakeholders of the public school system, particularly at the community level, to ensure that all Nagueño school children will be able to complete quality basic education.

It has two components: (a) the basic QUEEN project, which focuses on the elementary level, and (b) QUEEN Plus project, which extends program coverage at the high school level.

SECTION 6. Program Coverage. The QUEEN program shall cover all resident Nagueños enrolled in public elementary and high schools in the city especially the underprivileged or those coming from financially handicapped families. Provided, that they comply with standard DepEd school regulations. Provided, further that their parents or

guardians faithfully abide by the reasonable conditions that may be imposed under the program, such as but not limited to, attendance in brigada eskwela, rabuz, and parenting seminar.

SECTION 7. Mechanics. The QUEEN Program shall be guided by the following general implementation guidelines defining the respective role of each stakeholder:

- (a) The Program shall be implemented by the city government through the QUEEN Management Team herein created.
- (b) The Naga City School Board shall provide the necessary funding requirement under the QUEEN Program.
- (c) The Division of City Schools, together with all the public elementary and high schools in Naga, shall intensify efforts to monitor and track all pupils entering the system. During enrolment, there shall be zero unclaimed report cards.
- (d) The Barangay Councils shall coordinate with local schools within their respective jurisdiction and encourage all parents to send and maintain their children in school.
- (e) The Parents Teachers and Community Association and the Naga City People's Council shall find ways of helping financially handicapped parents overcome problems in regard to putting and maintaining their children in school.
- (f) The QUEEN Parents Association - shall assist in program implementation and in ensuring that the entitlements of the beneficiaries are duly received by them;
- (g) In joining the project, parents shall commit to see their children through elementary and high school, ensure their regular attendance, and refrain from sending them to work or on other errands.

SECTION 8. Enrollment in and Procedure for Program Availment. Those availing of the QUEEN program and the corresponding benefits herein provided must enroll or apply in the following manner, to wit:

- a. A parent applicant who must be a resident and registered voter of Naga City shall secure a QUEEN Application Form containing a Panunumpa/Pledge of Commitment from the QUEEN coordinator in the barangay where he resides and submits the same together with the photocopy of the birth certificate of the student as evidence that he/she is the biological and true parent of the student-beneficiary;
- b. In case the applicant is a guardian who must also be a resident and registered voter of Naga City, he/she shall submit the duly accomplished QUEEN Application Form together with (1) the Birth Certificate of the student/child, and (2) any proof that the student/child is his/her relative, or proof that the child/student is an orphan or abandoned by the biological parents as attested to by the Punong Barangay;
- c. The applicant must fill up only one prescribed form which must be carbonized and serialized whenever practicable containing such essential data of the applicant and the students-beneficiaries as well as the Panunumpa/Pledge of Commitment. The carbonized application form shall be distributed as follows: (1) the original [white] copy for the School Board, (2) the second copy for the Office of the QUEEN coordinator, and (3) the third [last] copy to be kept by the parent/guardian;
- d. The Office of the QUEEN coordinator, after verifying and determining that the applicant is a resident of the barangay and a registered voter of Naga City, shall issue QUEEN ID bearing the name of the children/students and name of school/s;
- e. The QUEEN coordinator shall collate all duly accomplished application forms and bring the same to the Head of School for signing by the latter. It shall likewise be his obligation to ensure that the copy intended for the parent/guardian is received by the latter;
- f. When enrolling, the parent/guardian shall present the duly accomplished form to the school together with the QUEEN ID for verification of the school's enrolment committee;
- g. The School Board shall provide the School Heads of the public schools the list of QUEEN beneficiaries enrolled in their school for record and reference purposes and as basis for fund allocation;

- h. The School Heads shall submit to the Naga City School Board the list of pupils with the corresponding name of parents/guardians and their addresses who did not enroll the following school year.

SECTION 9. Maintenance of Membership in the Program.

In order to maintain membership in and avail of the benefits under the QUEEN Program, the following must be observed:

- (a) The student must comply with the standard DepEd school rules and regulations;
- (b) The parent or guardian must faithfully comply with his parental obligations and the conditions being imposed under the program which shall include:
 - (i) Enrolling his child or ward in school until he/she completes his/her elementary and high school education;
 - (ii) Ensuring that his child or ward is regularly attending classes; and refraining from sending him/her for work or other errands;
 - (iii) Helping, assisting and guiding his child or ward in his/her studies;
 - (iv) Regularly attending and actively participating in meetings, seminars, and other activities called or sponsored by the PTCA/PTA, the school, the QPA or the City Government. In this regard:
 - (a) A parent or guardian shall be provided with QUEEN notebooks by the Naga City School Board, to be signed by the class adviser, principal, QUEEN coordinator or QUEEN president that will serve as proof of their attendance in the activities; and
 - (b) At the end of each school year, the QUEEN Parent's Association Officers shall check and determine the number of meetings/activities attended based on the QUEEN notebook;

- (c) Parents or guardians who fail to attend at least three (3) of the following activities, namely: Brigada Eskwela, Rabuz, Parenting Seminar, PTA General Assembly, QUEEN Family Day, and QUEEN Assembly without valid reasons, shall render community service to be scheduled by the QUEEN Parent's Association Officers in coordination with the School Heads to offset their absences;
- (d) A parent/guardian who fails to attend all activities or refuses to render community service shall be considered to have waived the rights and privileges being offered by the program. Consequently, his/her name and those of his children/wards shall be stricken off from the list of the QUEEN beneficiaries effective the ensuing school year without prejudice to reinstatement upon application after one year;
- (e) If the QUEEN ID is lost, the parent or guardian must make a written request to the QUEEN coordinator who, upon ascertainment of its merits, shall re-issue a new QUEEN ID card.

Article 4
Funding and Entitlements

SECTION 10. Funding. Full funding support for the QUEEN Program shall be provided for under the annual budget of the Naga City School Board chargeable against the Special Education Fund (SEF). The School Board shall prioritize the programs pursuant to its mandate of providing operational support to the public school system under the Local Government Code.

SECTION 11. Fund per Student. The fund allocation for each student shall be computed and determined by the Office of the Naga City School Board based on the number of QUEEN beneficiaries enrolled in the program. Provided, that QUEEN beneficiaries have at least eighty (80%) percent school attendance. It shall include the following items with their corresponding amounts representing the benefits or entitlements that shall be granted under the program, to wit:

- (a) Anti-Tuberculosis Fee (P5.00);
- (b) Phil. Nat'l. Red Cross Fee (P35.00);
- (c) BSP/GSP Fee (P50.00);
- (d) Escoda Thinking Day Fee (P1.00);
- (e) Test Paper Fees (P25.00);
- (f) Athletic Fee (P5.00);
- (g) School Publication Fee (P25.00);

- (h) SSG/SSC/Pupil's Government Fee (P50.00); and
- (i) Library/Laboratory Fee (P10.00).

SECTION 12. Payment to Supplement Basic Operational Needs of Public Schools. In addition to the above items, the School Board shall allocate such amount herein stated or necessary for the following basic operational needs, to wit:

- (a) For internet fee of P899.00 per month for each of the 27 public elementary and high schools in urban centers and P1,399.00 per month for each of the 9 public elementary and high schools in upper barangays;
- (b) For security guard or utility worker of P3,000.00 per month per public elementary and secondary school;
- (c) For school supplies including bags which must be distributed to QUEEN beneficiaries not later than the month of June of any given year;
- (d) For Empowerment Fund Assistance for school improvement projects including those that will improve the quality of performance of learners and their completion of basic education computed at P75.00 per student;
- (e) For Brigada Eskwela Fund Assistance of P10,000.00 per school;
- (f) For recognition fee assistance of P10,000.00 per school;
- (g) For graduation fee assistance of P300.00 per graduating pupil or student for items such as but not limited to toga, yearbook, rental of sound system, ribbons and corsages, and meals and snacks for guests and teachers;
- (h) For class memorial fee assistance of P100.00 per graduating pupil or student;
- (i) For rice distribution of at least four (4) kilograms every month of March, August and December of a given year in favor of all QUEEN beneficiaries, subject to the attendance requirement in Sections 9 and 11 hereof;

- (j) For parenting seminar and capability development in order to inculcate among the parents of public school children their obligations and the manner and ways to become effective parents, the sum of at least P5,000.00 per school;
- (k) For Task Force Dunong and/or related school-based projects aimed at raising the level and quality of education in the city in the sum of P10,000.00 per school and/or Dunong Center;
- (l) For meals and other expenses on the occasion of QUEEN meetings and assemblies called to evaluate, plan and address program concerns in the beneficiaries' respective schools or areas in the sum of P5,000.00 per school.

SECTION 13. Authority to Increase Funding Allocation.

Upon the recommendation of the QUEEN Management Team herein referred to and when the fund source so permits, the School Board shall increase the fund allocation for each of the above items and include such items it deems essential.

SECTION 14. Current Funding. The budget for the current year that the School Board had allocated for the above items shall be deemed as compliance with the herein mandate. For ensuing budget years, it shall ensure that all items enumerated above are given their corresponding budgetary allocations.

**Article 5
The QUEEN Organization**

SECTION 15. The QUEEN Management Team. (a) A Management Team is hereby created to oversee the implementation of the QUEEN program and address operational issues that will arise, with the end view of ensuring that its objectives are successfully carried out. The City QUEEN Management Team shall be comprised of the following:

- (a) The City Mayor, as program director;
- (b) The Vice-Mayor, as deputy program director;
- (c) The Chairperson of the Committee on Education of the Sangguniang Panlungsod, as executive officer;
- (d) The Division of City Schools Superintendent, as member;
- (e) The city PTA league president, as member;
- (f) The NACITEA president, as member;
- (g) The QUEEN Federation president, as member;
- (h) The city social welfare and development officer, as member;

- (i) The Association of Barangay Council president, as member;
- (j) The Naga City People's Council chair, as member;
- (k) The Naga City School Board project coordinator, as member.

It shall have the necessary support staff headed by the Naga City School Board Administrator which shall be in-charge of carrying out the action plans formulated by the City QUEEN Management Team.

(b) A school-level QUEEN Management Team shall also be organized to oversee implementation of the QUEEN initiatives thereat. It shall comprise of the school head as team leader, and the PTCA/PTA and faculty club presidents, representative of the barangay council and the QUEEN Parents' Association president, as members.

SECTION 16. The QUEEN Parents Association. (a) A QUEEN Parents' Association (QPA) in every school as well as a city-wide QUEEN Federation shall be organized to help assist in addressing program concerns.

(b) A QUEEN Parents' Association (QPA) in every zone or community in each barangay in the city shall likewise be organized for the same purpose and to assist in ensuring that the entitlements due the beneficiaries are duly received by them. To augment family income and to help empower QUEEN beneficiaries, relevant projects towards this end shall be initiated in coordination with appropriate offices of the city.

Article 6 Offenses and Penalties

SECTION 17. Prohibited Acts. (a) Save for medical and valid reasons, it is unlawful for a parent, guardian or any person entrusted with the care and custody of a child of school age to forbid, prevent or disallow the latter to enroll and/or attend school in the elementary and high school.

(b) It is likewise unlawful for any person to demand payment and/or collect from the parents, guardians, pupils or students for the items and corresponding amounts stated in Section 11 hereof.

(c) Finally, it is unlawful for any person to impose as condition for any examination and/or release of report cards the payment for such items and amounts mentioned in Section 11 hereof as well as such other items and amounts that may be demanded of the pupils and students.

SECTION 18. Penalties. For committing any of the above prohibited acts, the violator shall be penalized as follows:

- (a) For the first offense - a fine of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) or an imprisonment of thirty (30) days, or both at the discretion of the Court;
- (b) For the second offense - a fine of Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00) or an imprisonment of sixty (60) days, or both at the discretion of the Court; and
- (c) For the third and succeeding offenses - a fine of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) or an imprisonment of ninety (90) days, or both at the discretion of the Court.

SECTION 19. -- Compromise - The prosecution of any acts or offenses under the immediately preceding sections may be compromised upon application of the offender and the conformity of the City Mayor, subject further to the following conditions, to wit: (a) the offender undertakes in writing within a period of fifteen (15) days from commission not to do the same offense; (b) he shall render community service, such as planting trees, as may be directed by the School Board Administrator; and (c) a majority vote of the city QUEEN Management Team is obtained for purposes of giving validity thereto.

Article 7 Final Provisions

SECTION 20. Program Implementation Review and Success Indicators. Every year before the start of the enrolment period, the QUEEN Management Team shall meet to review the detailed mechanics to identify problem areas, propose appropriate solutions, and promulgate revisions that will improve overall program implementation.

The primary indicators for measuring program success shall be the participation, cohort survival and completion rates which form part of the 2nd Millennium Development Goal. These indicators shall be computed annually by the Division of City Schools and shall be made available to the team prior to every review.

SECTION 21. Implementing Rules and Regulations.- This Ordinance shall be self-executory. But should there be a further need to promulgate rules and regulations to effectively carry out the purposes hereof, the QUEEN Management Team shall draft and recommend such for the approval of the City Mayor subject to the ratification of the Sangguniang Panlungsod.

SECTION 22. Repealing Clause. Any provision of ordinance, rules and regulations and/or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed and/or modified accordingly.

SECTION 23. Separability Clause. Should any portion or provisions of this ordinance be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other parts or provisions thereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 24. Effectivity. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its approval and after publication in a newspaper of local circulation.

ENACTED: November 15, 2011.

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WE HEREBY CERTIFY to the correctness of the foregoing ordinance.

GIL A. DE LA TORRE
Secretary to the
Sangguniang Panlungsod

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

APPROVED:

JOHN G. BONGAT
City Mayor