

ORDINANCE NO. 2013-003

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AN ORDINANCE CREATING A SOLO PARENTS' OFFICE, PROVIDING WELFARE SERVICES, SPECIAL PRIVILEGES AND BENEFITS TO SOLO PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN, APPROPRIATING FUNDS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES: -

Authors:

Hon. Nelson S. Legacion

Hon. Raoul T. Rosales

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Solo Parents bear the heavy burden of raising the family and providing their children a better future. They single-handedly do parental duties in the face of privation and poverty.

Notwithstanding the special benefits and privileges provided under the Solo Parents' Welfare Act of 2000 or Republic Act No. 8972, the Solo Parents and their children are unable to avail or enjoy them due, among others, to accessibility issues and/or absence of effective mechanism implementing the law.

It is learned that out of about 94 million Filipinos there are 13.9 million solo parents. In the City of Naga, the number of solo parents is expected to be very substantial and must therefore be attended to if the city is really serious in preventing the consequent problems of solo parenthood such as poverty, lack of employment, children deprived of education and juvenile delinquents.

The enactment of this ordinance is therefore imperative.

ARTICLE 1

TITLE, POLICY AND OBJECTIVE

SECTION 1. Title. This local legislation shall be known as the "Solo Parents' Ordinance of Naga".

SECTION 2. The City's Policy and Objective. The City of Naga adheres to the declared policy of the State as provided in Section 2 of Republic Act No. 8972, otherwise known as the Solo Parents' Welfare Act of 2000.

The City shall therefore assist in every way possible the solo parents in the raising of their families and in providing their children a better future hoping that such efforts will contribute greatly to the continued realization of a "maogmang lugar".

**ARTICLE 2
DEFINITIONS**

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. For purposes of this ordinance and pursuant to Republic Act No. 8972, the following terms shall mean:

- (a) **Solo parent** - refers to unmarried, separated, annulled and widowed individual as well as any other person possessing the qualification under Section 3 (a) (9) and (10) of RA 8972 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations who has taken the responsibility of parenthood alone including women who became pregnant due to sexual abuse and those whose spouses are detained or are physically or mentally incapacitated.
- (b) **Indigent Solo parent** - is one whose income falls below the poverty threshold set by the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) and is not receiving a monthly pension or allowance from a concerned public or private entity beyond such poverty threshold.
- (c) **Children** - refer to those living with and dependent upon the solo parent for support who are unmarried, unemployed and not more than eighteen (18) years of age, or even over eighteen (18) years but are incapable of self-support because of mental and/or physical defect/disability.

**ARTICLE 3
WELFARE SERVICES AND
ADDITIONAL PRIVILEGES AND BENEFITS**

SECTION 4. Incorporation of Welfare Services, Privileges and Benefits - Notwithstanding that the mandate under Republic Act No. 8972 is unto the national government, its agencies and instrumentalities, by this local legislation the City of Naga formally imposes upon itself the obligation to provide the solo parents and their children the welfare services and special privileges and benefits that the law has enumerated such as livelihood assistance, counselling, parent effectiveness, critical incidence stress debriefing, among others.

Accordingly, the pertinent provisions of Republic Act No. 8972 are hereby considered written in this ordinance.

SECTION 5. Additional Services, Privileges and Benefits - In addition to the welfare services, privileges and benefits provided by law, solo parents and/or their children shall be entitled to the following privileges and benefits, to wit:

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- (a) Tertiary Scholarship Assistance - Subject to compliance with the requirements under Ordinance No. 2010-063, at least ten (10%) percent of every batch of incoming scholars shall come from the ranks of the children of indigent solo parents;
- (b) Basic Educational Services - Children of indigent solo parents are priority for inclusion in the city's SANGGAWADAN program. Moreover, such children of solo parents shall be included as members of the city's QUEEN program;
- (c) Housing Services - No less than five (5%) percent of the beneficiaries in any new housing site under the city's Socialized Housing Program should come from the ranks of the solo parents subject to the program's requisites. Provided, that the beneficiaries' equity requirement shall be reduced to fifty percent (50%) of the prescribed amount but the remaining half shall nonetheless be paid in the manner set by applicable city ordinance, regulation or policy;
- (d) Death or Burial Assistance - An indigent solo parent and his/her unemancipated child shall be entitled to a death benefit or burial assistance of Two Thousand Pesos (PhP2,000.00) without prejudice to increasing the same at the Mayor's discretion when the city's budget so permits;
- (e) Medical Assistance - An indigent solo parent or his/her unemancipated child shall be prioritized in all the medical assistance programs of the City Government;
- (f) Livelihood Assistance - Solo parents shall have priority in the grant of livelihood assistance under any of the city's applicable programs or projects, subject to the qualification requirements under existing ordinance, rule and regulation;
- (g) Other services, privileges and benefits that the city is currently giving or may subsequently offer.

ARTICLE 4

REGISTRATION AND AVAILMENT OF BENEFITS

SECTION 6. Registration - The Solo Parent Office herein created shall undertake a city-wide registration of all the solo parents and their children in the twenty seven (27) barangays of the city for purposes of obtaining, among others, information on their names, ages, addresses, income including the source thereof, number of children per solo parent and the circumstances of being solo.

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SECTION 7. Issuance of ID - The Office by itself or in coordination with the appropriate government agency shall cause the issuance of a Solo Parent Identification Card which shall be considered as competent evidence of identity and membership in the sector as well as to the entitlement to the benefits under this ordinance or existing law.

SECTION 8. Availment - Proof of membership and entitlement shall be presented by the solo parent and/or his/her children to avail of the above benefits granted under this ordinance.

SECTION 9. Disqualification - Change of civil status shall automatically result to disqualification from any of the entitlements under this ordinance except under Section 5, paragraph c hereof or when the beneficiary remains qualified under other existing or applicable ordinance, rules, policies and programs of the city.

**ARTICLE 5
OFFICE CREATION AND SOLO PARENT ORGANIZATION**

SECTION 10. Solo Parents' Office - A Solo Parent Office is hereby created which shall be under the direct supervision of the City Social Welfare and Development Office with the following functions:

- (a) Develop a comprehensive social development and welfare program for solo parents and their children which shall include those herein listed;
- (b) Coordinate and work with appropriate offices and agencies of the government in providing such welfare services, privileges and benefits to the intended beneficiaries;
- (c) Assist in the organizational matters of the solo parents organization;
- (d) Exercise such other powers and perform such other duties and functions as may be assigned by the mayor or as may be prescribed by law or ordinance.

SECTION 11. Personnel Requirement - The City Mayor shall appoint or assign a personnel in the Solo Parents' Office who shall be primarily responsible in the over-all management of the program and accomplishment of the law's objectives.

SECTION 12. Right to Organize - The city encourages, and gives its full support to the solo parents' right to organize themselves for purposes beneficial to its members.

The Solo Parents Federation shall assist the city in the effective implementation of the program. Prior consultation with it and its members shall be done in the management of the funds allocated for solo parents.

SECTION 13. Honorarium and/or Allowance - Solo Parents Federation Officers shall be entitled to a monthly honorarium under applicable rules and policies of the city. Likewise, each president or head of barangay solo parents organization shall be entitled to an allowance for their attendance to the meetings called by the city upon authority of the City Mayor.

ARTICLE 6
APPROPRIATION AND FINAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 14. Appropriation. For purposes of the mandates of this ordinance, the amount equivalent to One Percent (1%) of the city's total budget for Socio-Economic Development shall be provided for in the 2013 Annual Budget and in every succeeding budget year thereafter. From said amount, the sum of at least Three Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php300,000.00) shall be allocated yearly for purposes of the Solo Parents Federation.

SECTION 15. Barangay Solo Parent Program. All twenty seven (27) barangays of this City are highly encouraged to establish their respective Solo Parent Program and to support as well as provide necessary funding assistance thereto by including it in their respective annual budget.

SECTION 16. Implementing Rules and Regulations. A rules committee, composed of the City Legal Officer as chairman and the City Social Welfare and Development Officer, a representative of the City Mayor's Office, the President of the Solo Parents Federation and the Chairman of the SP Committee on Family, Women and Children, as members, is hereby constituted to promulgate rules and regulations to effectively carry out the purposes of this Ordinance, subject to the approval of the City Mayor and the ratification of the Sangguniang Panlungsod. But notwithstanding the absence of implementing rules and regulations, this Ordinance shall be considered self-executory.

SECTION 17. 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 18. 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.

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SECTION 19. Effectivity. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its approval.

ENACTED: January 15, 2013.

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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