

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-499
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RESOLUTION STRENGTHENING THE YOUTH'S PARTICIPATION IN LEGISLATIVE
PROCEDURES BY ALLOWING TERTIARY STUDENTS OF COLLEGES AND
UNIVERSITIES ENGAGED IN THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD STUDENT
PARTICIPATION PROGRAM (SP-SPP) TO EXPRESS THEIR SENTIMENTS AND
OPINIONS DURING THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD'S REGULAR SESSION:-

Hon. Nelson S. Legacion
Hon. Mila S.D. Raquid-Arroyo
Sponsors

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the City Government of Naga to promote people-empowerment and people-participation in governance, to establish a system of partnership between the governors and the governed and to guarantee that sovereignty effectively resides in the people;

WHEREAS, the Sangguniang Panlungsod Student Participation Program, conceptualized and introduced by Vice Mayor Nelson S. Legacion, is an effective tool to engage, as early as possible, the youth in nation-building;

WHEREAS, SP-SPP generally aims to educate the students on the legislative functions and processes of the city government, enhance the awareness of the students on the various developmental issues of the city and, consequently, empower them as proactive stakeholders and development partners of Naga via an interactive feedback mechanism between them and the city officials;

WHEREAS, first launched on November 19, 2013 with five participating universities, namely University of Nueva Caceres (UNC), Universidad de Sta. Isabel (USI), Ateneo de Naga University (ADNU), Naga College Foundation (NCF) and Bicol State College of Applied Sciences (BISCAST), SP-SPP is applauded and greatly welcomed by the academe as an innovative program in involving the students in the city's governance as manifested by the expansion of the program last June 17, 2014 to include five additional academic institutions, such as the Worldtech Resources Institute (WRI), Computer Communication Development Institute (CCDI), Philippine Computer Foundation College (PCFC), STI College Naga (STI) and AMA Computer College-Naga (AMA);

WHEREAS, at present, SP-SPP has two mechanisms - SP Watch and SP Forum;

WHEREAS, SP Watch gives students the opportunity to observe the proceedings of the Sangguniang Panlungsod's regular session by allowing one class per week per university to sit as audience and guests of the Sangguniang Panlungsod;

WHEREAS, SP Forum serves as an interactive feedback mechanism between the students and the city officials as it provides about 30-minutes of open forum where the students may clarify procedural measures of the Sanggunian, provide their thoughts and comments on certain developmental issues being faced by the city and are presently being deliberated by the SP, and/or offer suggestions on how to improve city mechanisms and projects;

WHEREAS, SP-SPP serves not only as a tool for the development of our communities' human resources, but also functions as an institutionalized system for the youth to actively partake in the governance processes of the city;

WHEREAS, the level of participation and engagement of the youth will still be enhanced by allowing the youth to express their sentiments and opinions on the matters being deliberated by the Sangguniang Panlungsod during the council's regular session;

WHEREAS, the City Government of Naga, by advocating people-participation in governance, understands that its officials and employees do not have monopoly of knowledge of what is best for the city and it recognises that great ideas for the city's betterment may come at the least expected venue and from the least expected person;

WHEREAS, the youth, with its dynamism, untainted principles and fresh views on life and governance, can offer to the Sangguniang Panlungsod innovative means to look into and scrutinize issues, formulate recommendations on mainstreaming government policies and systems and insights on making the city's legislative measures responsive and relevant to the changing times;

NOW, THEREFORE, on motion of Hon. Mila S.D. Raquid-Arroyo duly seconded by Hon. David Casper Nathan A. Sergio, Hon. Elmer S. Baldemoro, Hon. Ray-An Cydrick G. Rentoy and Hon. Cecilia Veluz-DE Asis;

BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to establish another mechanism in the Sangguniang Panlungsod Student Participation Program (SP-SPP), dubbed as SP Engage by allowing the students of colleges and universities involved in the program to express their sentiments and opinions during the city council's regular session, consequently strengthening the youth's participation in the City of Naga's legislation, which shall be conducted through the following guidelines:

SECTION 1. SP Engage. SP Engage is a mechanism that allows students of colleges and universities participating in the Sangguniang Panlungsod Student Participation Program (SP-SPP) to express their sentiments and opinions during the city council's regular session, consequently strengthening the youth's participation in the City Government of Naga's legislative procedures.

SECTION 2. Subject Matter of SP Engage. With the assistance of their class professor or teacher, the students shall choose one topic from the matters indicated in the SP Preliminary Agenda that they would study, research on and prepare for deliberation comes next regular session of the Sangguniang Panlungsod.

SECTION 3. SP Preliminary Agenda. To give the students sufficient time for preparation, the Committee on Rules and Privileges shall prepare and furnish not only the members of the Sangguniang Panlungsod but also the concerned professor or teacher a preliminary agenda every Thursday before the scheduled regular session. The preliminary agenda will be the basis of the students for selecting the topic for SP Engage.

The final agenda or order of business of the Sangguniang Panlungsod shall be prepared in accordance with the existing Rules of Internal Procedure but shall contain, among others, all the subject matters contained in the Preliminary Agenda.

SECTION 4. Students' Preparation. The professor or teacher in charge of the student participants in the SP-SPP shall ensure that the students are prepared for the SP Regular Session. For this purpose, s/he shall facilitate the students' selection of the topic/agenda in the SP Calendar or Order of Business on which the students will share their views, opinions or recommendations. The Professor/teacher shall also ensure that the student participants have chosen who among themselves will serve as the primary spokesperson and the alternate during the regular session of the SP. Prior to the start of the regular session, the professor or teacher will inform the Chair of the Committee on Rules and Privileges of the Sangguniang Panlungsod of the students' names and the topic/agenda chosen.

The student/s will be advised by the professor/teacher to be critical of the issues at hand, but will be cautioned to avoid comments that are off the topic, personal attacks, offensive, destructive, vulgar and others of similar nature.

SECTION 5. Conduct of the SP Engage. During the regular session of the SP where students are participating under the SP-SPP, when the topic chosen by the students for the SP Engage is being discussed in the plenary, the Chairman of the Committee on Rules and Privileges, or any member of the Sangguniang Panlungsod, shall move for the suspension of the Rules to allow the student representative to speak on the topic/agenda. This motion shall need no second and the Presiding Officer shall immediately suspend the Rules.

The chosen spokesperson, or the alternate student-representative, shall be given five (5) minutes to present his/her preliminary statement on the topic. Afterwards, the members of the Sangguniang Panlungsod may raise questions on the opinion of the student-representative which the latter or any student present may respond to.

SECTION 6. Recognition. If a passed resolution or ordinance by the Sangguniang Panlungsod has a portion therein that is culled from the opinion or idea of the student-participant in the SP Engage, same legislative measure shall include a reference to the student and the school where he or she is enrolled.

SECTION 7. Amendment to the Internal Rules of Procedure. For purposes of this program, Item No. 1 of Rule VIII of the Rules of Procedure of the 11th Sangguniang Panlungsod is hereby amended now to read as follows:

- "1. All matters proposed for included in calendar and order of business of Sangguniang Panlungsod shall be submitted to the SP Secretariat on or before 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon of Thursday prior to the scheduled Regular Session. A Preliminary Agenda containing the matters received, together with their pertinent attachments, shall be prepared and approved by the Committee on Rules and Privileges, copy furnished by email no later than 5:00 p.m. of the same date, the professor or teacher concerned of the school scheduled to join the Student Participation Program in the next regular session of the SP.

All other agenda or business proposed to be included in the Calendar and Order of Business of the Sangguniang Panlungsod shall be submitted (in writing and with all the pertinent attachments) to the SP Secretary not later than 8:30 a.m. of the Monday prior to the scheduled SP regular session."

LET COPIES of this resolution be furnished His Honor, the City Mayor, for his concurrence, and all concerned for their information and guidance.

APPROVED.
Adopted: December 19, 2014.

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WE HEREBY CERTIFY to the correctness of the foregoing resolution.

GIL A. DE LA TORRE
Secretary to the
Sangguniang Panlungsod

GABRIEL H. BORDADO JR.
City Councilor &
Temporary Presiding Officer

NELSON S. LEGACION
City Vice Mayor

CONCURRED:

JOHN G. BONGAT
City Mayor