

Republic of the Philippines

SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD

City Government of Naga

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-630

RESOLUTION STRONGLY EXPRESSING CONDEMNATION OF ALL ACTS OF RED-TAGGING AND THE PROLIFERATION OF FAKE NEWS AND DISINFORMATION PERMEATING OUR SOCIETY:-

Authors: Hon. Maria Jessaniel Buena

Hon. Jonacel Agarpao City Youth Councilors

Sponsors: Hon. Mila S.D Raquid-Arroyo

Hon. Elmer S. Baldemoro City Councilors

WHEREAS, enshrined in no less than the Philippine Constitution is the fundamental right to freedom of expression, the freedom we hold dear and protected by the community of nations in order that groups and individuals may express their beliefs, opinions, and positions on issues confronting them free from censorship and without fear;

WHEREAS, acts of red-tagging and the proliferation of fake news and disinformation which now permeate our society pose as serious threat against the enjoyment not only of the fundamental right to freedom of expression but to all other fundamental freedoms held sacred in a democratic society;

WHEREAS, as defined under Senate Bill No. 2121, the crime of red-tagging means any statement or act of labeling, vilifying, branding, naming, accusing, harassing, persecuting, stereotyping, or caricaturing individuals, groups, or organizations as state enemies, left-leaning, subversives, communists, or terrorists as part of a counter-insurgency or anti-terrorism strategy or program.

WHEREAS, when an individual, group, or organization is redtagged, regardless of whether true or not, or subjected to fake news and disinformation, the stigma of being an outlaw attaches and the harmful effects resulting therefrom is felt not just by the victims but by their families as well.

WHEREAS, the misuse of social media and any other media platform has been a strong, destructive tool in the proliferation, red-tagging, fake news, and disinformation.

WHEREAS, no less than the Vice-President of the Republic of the Philippines, and the students of the Ateneo de Naga University, had been victimized by such red-tagging thru fake news and disinformation;

WHEREAS, in the official statement of the Ateneo de Naga University which was published in Rappler and Bicol Mail on January 24, 2021, the University President, Fr. Roberto E.N. Rivera, SJ., clearly stated that the declaration of the NTF ELCAC is misguided in ignoring the rights of schools to promote academic freedom, to provide a venue where opposing views can be understood and discussed and has glossed over the fact that educational institutions can responsibly nurture activism while unequivocally rejecting insurgency;

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WHEREAS, the above-mentioned examples that point toward wholesale identification of certain groups and the summary branding of individuals as communists or communist-supporters are acts pointed to dangerous directions that could lead to baseless curtailment of the fundamental right to the freedom of expression and association and are anathema to our democratic principles as a nation;

WHEREAS, in the same manner that all efforts to curtail insurgency and nip it both in the root and in the bud, and that all efforts towards this end must be made and that our law enforcers must receive our support and assistance in order to achieve genuine and lasting peace, all efforts must likewise be exerted to ensure that in the pursuit of all these, fundamental rights and freedoms are at all times protected and upheld.

NOW, THEREFORE, on motion of Hon. Mila S.D. Raquid-Arroyo duly seconded by Hon. Elmer S. Baldemoro and Hon. Vidal P. Castillo;

BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved to express strong condemnation of all acts of red-tagging and the proliferation of fake news and disinformation permeating our society.

LET COPIES of this resolution be furnished to His Honor, the City Mayor, for his concurrence, the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict for its information and appropriate action, and the different media platforms in Naga City for their respective information and appropriate action.

APPROVED.

Adopted: June 28, 2022

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WE HEREBY CERTIFY to the correctness of the foregoing resolution.

LILIAN O. PASCUAL Acting Secretary to the Sangguniang Panlungsod

CECILIA B. VELUZ-DE ASIS

City Vice Mayor & Presiding Officer

CONCURRED:

NELSONS / LEGACION
Mayor 7/5/22 600