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ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

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**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AND INSTITUTIONALIZING THE "ABOT-KAYANG PAPUSTISO" PROGRAM, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE HEALTHY SMILE ORDINANCE", TO PROVIDE AFFORDABLE PROSTHETIC DENTURES AND PROSTHODONTICS SERVICES IN NAGA CITY**

Author: **City Councilor JESSIE R. ALBEUS, DMD**



**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Art. II, Sec. 15 of the 1987 Constitution provides that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. Thus, it is the policy of the State to ensure quality, affordable, accessible and available oral health care among its citizens.

According to the Department of Health, oral disease continues to pose a serious public health problem in the Philippines. Based on the 2011 National Monitoring and Epidemiological Dental Survey (NMEDS) about 87.4% of Filipinos have tooth decay or dental caries and 48.3% have gum or periodontal diseases. These two major dental conditions often cause permanent teeth to fall off if these conditions are not treated in its early onset, further causing damage to a person's overall health status.

According to the World Health Organization, almost 2 billion people with permanent teeth suffer from dental caries while more than 1 billion adults have periodontal or gum diseases globally. As these conditions worsen in every person, it results in losing some natural teeth or worse, they completely fall off.

For hundreds of years, dentures have been the go-to medical treatment for people with missing teeth. However, although it is made available as an immediate treatment, a lot of people still cannot afford to get one. Moreover, if left untreated, missing teeth could eventually cause serious drawbacks to a person's overall health condition and wellbeing.

Among the disadvantages caused by missing teeth, which either resulted from dental decay, periodontal diseases or an accident, are limitations in speech and chewing, shifting and misalignment of remaining teeth, premature facial aging caused by jaw bone loss, adequate impact on digestion and nutrition, and increased risks for serious gum diseases. In addition, partial and complete loss of teeth further affects a person's appearance and confidence, as well as it lowers the chance for employability among adults with missing teeth.

The City of Naga, through Ordinance No. 2019-052, known as the Oral Health Services Ordinance of Naga City, extended its efforts to strengthen the oral health program and promote oral health services in the City by establishing the oral health services department in the City

Health Office. Yet, despite these efforts, there is a need to expand the services provided for the City's constituents so as to ensure that the purpose of such efforts are met.

For this purpose, we ought to provide more affordable prosthetic dentures and prosthodontics services as part of the City's Oral Health Program to extend help to our constituents who are in dire need of dentures and to further combat the prevalence of serious oral health problems in the City. Thus, the passage of this Ordinance is earnestly sought.

**NOW THEREFORE**, be it ordained by the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Naga in session assembled, that:

**SECTION 1. – TITLE.** – This ordinance shall be known as "An Ordinance Establishing and Institutionalizing the "Abot-Kayang Papustiso" Program to Provide Affordable Prosthetic Dentures and Prosthodontics Services in accordance with Ordinance No. 2019-052 known as the Oral Health Services Ordinance of Naga City".

This ordinance may be known and cited as "The Healthy Smile Ordinance of Naga City".

**SECTION 2. – DEFINITION OF TERMS.** – As used in this ordinance, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings ascribed to them:

- (a) **ACRYLIC DENTURES** - are dentures that are made with a plastic type of material. Acrylic is a common material used for partial and complete dentures;
- (b) **COMPLETE DENTURE** - is a removable acrylic replacement for teeth, soft tissue, and bone loss in an interdental arch;
- (c) **DENTAL LABORATORY TECHNICIAN** - is a member of a dental team who designs and fabricates custom-made dental prosthesis under the supervision of a licensed dentist;
- (d) **DENTAL PROSTHESIS** - also known as 'dentures', is a custom fabricated appliance created specifically to replace missing teeth; it is commonly known as 'false teeth'.
- (e) **DENTAL TECHNOLOGIST** - refers to a person who is a holder of a valid certificate of registration and professional identification card and who renders technical services such as mechanical construction of artificial dentures and other oral devices under the supervision of a licensed dentist and has finished a two year certificate course in dental technology from any government recognized schools;

(f) **REMOVABLE PARTIAL DENTURE** - is a denture for a partially edentulous patient who desires to have replacement teeth for functional and/or aesthetic reasons;

(g) **PROSTHODONTICS** - is a specialized branch of dentistry dedicated to making dental prosthesis (artificial teeth). Prostho means "replace" and dontics means "teeth".

**SECTION 3. – IMPLEMENTING AGENCY.** – The Oral Health Service Center of the City Health Office shall be the lead agency of this program. They are responsible for conducting initial dental check-ups and providing prescriptions for the dental prosthetics.

**SECTION 4. – THE ABOT-KAYANG PAPUSTISO PROGRAM** – The need for proper dental health care has always been under prioritized. For many years, local government units in the country have focused on basic dental healthcare such as dental check-up and tooth extraction for adults and oral prophylaxis (dental cleaning) for school-age children. Extended dental health services such as providing affordable, if not free, dental prostheses have always been on the back burner. Although discounts have been given to senior citizens and PWD patients, it is most likely not enough for them to afford dental prostheses from private dental practitioners.

The Abot-Kayang Papustiso Program is an extended dental healthcare program to be incorporated under the Oral Health Services of the City of Naga. Aside from dental check-ups and basic dental services, the Oral Health Services Department of the City Health Office shall provide assistance to Nagueños who are suffering from partial or complete loss of natural teeth through fabrication of a dental prosthesis commonly known as "false teeth". The beneficiary, on the other hand, shall be the one to purchase and provide the materials which will then be made into dental prosthesis by the City Health Dental Technician. This system ensures the affordability of dental prosthesis to indigent residents of Naga. In addition, the program is self-liquidating considering that the Fabrication Fees can augment the budgetary requirements for the salaries and benefits of the Dental Laboratory Technician.

**SECTION 5. – AVAILMENT PROCEDURE.** - The following guidelines shall be observed in the availment of the Abot-Kayang Papustiso Program:

**5.1. APPLICANTS TO THE PROGRAM**

1. They must present a valid ID indicating their residence in Naga City;
2. They must present an updated Certificate of Indigency issued by the barangay where the applicant/patient is residing, with the date of issuance within one (1) month of the date of availment;
3. If the applicant/patient is eligible to the program, the attending dentist will issue an Order of Payment that the applicant/patient will pay at the City Treasurer's Office.

## **5.2. FABRICATION FEES**

1. For Partial Removable Acrylic Dentures:
  - a. Upper - Php 500.00
  - b. Lower - Php 500.00
2. For Complete Acrylic Dentures:
  - a. Upper - Php 1,000.00
  - b. Lower - Php 1,000.00
3. Senior citizens, persons with disabilities (PWDs), and solo parents are entitled to the mandatory 20% Discount.

**5.3. COST OF MATERIALS** - The attending dentist shall prescribe a list of dental materials to be purchased by the patient for the fabrication of the dentures.

**5.4. INSTALLATION PERIOD** - The fabrication and installation of the denture shall not exceed one month from the first dental appointment.

**SECTION 6. – FUNCTIONS OF THE DENTAL TEAM** – The following shall be the tasks of the Dental Resource of the City Health Office:

- a. **DENTISTS** shall conduct check-up, diagnosis, and formulate the treatment plan, and do impression taking and bite regulation of the oral cavity
- b. **DENTAL AIDE** shall assist the dentists in attending to the prosthodontic patients and in pouring the impression with dental stone;
- c. **DENTAL LABORATORY TECHNICIAN** shall perform tasks as directed by the attending dentist and shall take charge in the fabrication of the denture from mounting of the cast, setting and resetting of pontics, processing and polishing of acrylic dentures. A minimum of 2 years experience as Dental Laboratory Technician is required..

**SECTION 7. – CREATION OF DENTAL LABORATORY TECHNICIAN POSITIONS. –** Two (2) positions of dental laboratory technician shall be created with Salary Grade 8 as soon as the position of Dental Laboratory Technician has been included in the Qualification Standards of the Civil Service Commission.

**SECTION 8. – FUNDING AND APPROPRIATION. –** For the initial implementation of this Program for the year 2023, a dental laboratory technician shall be hired as a Contract of Service (CoS) and shall be appropriated, chargeable against the 2022 surplus and/or from the Salary savings.

For the ensuing years, the amount of Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P500,000.00) shall be appropriated for the dental laboratory and implementation of the program. The said amount shall be incorporated in the annual budget of the City Health Office.

**SECTION 9. – EFFECTIVITY. –**This Ordinance shall take effect 45 days upon its approval.

ENACTED: \_\_\_\_\_

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**WE HEREBY CERTIFY** to the correctness of the foregoing ordinance.

**GIL A. DE LA TORRE**

Secretary to the  
Sangguniang Panlungsod

**CECILIA B. VELUZ-DE ASIS**

City Vice Mayor  
& Presiding Officer

CONCURRED:

**NELSON S. LEGACION**

City Mayor